

- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$60 million.
Other \$3 million.
Total \$63 million.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Thirty-two (32) AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).
Non-MDE: Also included are containers, weapon support and support equipment, spare and repair parts, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support.
- (iv) Military Department: Air Force (JA-D-YAO).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-D-YAK, JA-D-YAI, JA-D-YAH.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2018.
- * As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)

The Government of Japan has requested to buy thirty-two (32) AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM). Also included are containers, weapon support and support equipment, spare and repair parts, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$63 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States. Japan is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia and the Western Pacific and is a key partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

The proposed sale of these missiles will provide Japan a critical air defense capability to assist in defending the Japanese homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these additional missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Arizona.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor personnel in Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-45

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The AIM-120C-7 Advance Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a radar guided missile featuring digital technology

and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high flying, low flying, and maneuvering targets. The AMRAAM All Up Round is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The major components and subsystems are classified from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technology data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary obtained knowledge of the specific hardware or software in the proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Japan.

RECOGNIZING DR. LEVESQUE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Dr. Levesque Elementary School in Frenchville, ME, on being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. This outstanding school is one of only 349 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education this year.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award continues a tradition of quality education at Dr. Levesque Elementary School, which first received a Blue Ribbon in 1999. Serving 128 students from the small rural communities of Frenchville and St. Agatha in northern Aroostook County, this school is succeeding in its mission to encourage engaged lifelong learners. As a native of Aroostook County, I am especially proud of this accomplishment.

Faculty and staff are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. They work to ensure a safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members. Teachers emphasize math and reading, while also giving students rich and diverse opportunities, from art and music to robotics and physical education. The Franco-American communities of Frenchville and St. Agatha are bilingual, and the school provides daily instruction in the French language and Acadian culture.

The school's name is a tribute to Dr. Romeo Levesque, who provided expert, dedicated, and compassionate medical care to these communities for many decades. The strong school community, where students are encouraged to pursue their interests and to be of service to others, honors his memory.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Dr. Levesque Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to build students' confidence and generate momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH HIGH
SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Falmouth High School of Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. This outstanding high school is one of only 349 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of Falmouth High School's students, faculty, and staff. This is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and its strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers, staff, and students are lifelong learners. This recognition adds to the town's record of achievement in education; its middle and elementary schools were awarded Blue Ribbons in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Falmouth High School is known for its extensive extracurricular activities, which help forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. In addition to music, theater, and art presentations, the school provides the community with such offerings as robotics demonstrations, a film festival, a science Olympiad, poetry slams, and math team competitions. A new school garden and greenhouse and a student technology team provide hands-on learning experiences. Many high school students serve their community by mentoring students in the town's elementary and middle schools.

The school strives to address the varying needs of individual students. Falmouth's innovative student centered team brings together students, teachers, administrators, and counselors to provide a support network to

help ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed academically and socially.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth High School. Together, they are accomplishing their mission to help students succeed in the classroom and as engaged citizens. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING YARMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Yarmouth Elementary School in Yarmouth, ME, on being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. Serving 358 students from second through fourth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 349 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Yarmouth. The graduation rates and assessment test scores for the town's K-12 school district consistently are among the highest in the State of Maine.

Yarmouth Elementary School's mission statement, "Empowering all students to create fulfilling lives in a changing world," is carried out daily. Students focus on the core values of fairness, citizenship, respect, and caring. The core curriculum has a strong focus on math, literacy, science, and social studies, with special programs that recognize each student's individual learning style.

Rich and diverse learning opportunities are a part of every child's experience, from art and music, to library skills and physical education. The school involves all students in extra-curricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. Throughout the curriculum, students are also taught to use technology both effectively and responsibly.

Faculty, parents, and community members are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. Faculty work to ensure a safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members. An active parent-teacher or-

ganization supports enriching educational activities, and the Yarmouth School Foundation promotes excellence and innovation by funding a number of projects and initiatives.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Yarmouth Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to build students' confidence and generate momentum for learning. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Yarmouth Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD "RICK" BERNDT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Wednesday, November 28, 2018, the Sisters of Mercy will be celebrating 50 years of service to Mercy Health Services provided by one of my longest and dearest friends, Richard O. Berndt. That is right: half a century of service.

Rick is a senior partner at Gallagher, Evelius & Jones, LLP, a firm he joined after he assisted the firm's founder, Francis X. Gallagher, at the Maryland Constitutional Convention in 1967. That was the year Rick earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. That was where we met, and he has remained one of my closest and most trusted advisers ever since. He earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University in 1964 and went on to earn a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1970. His continued devotion to all three institutions—but, perhaps, especially his beloved "Nova"—knows no bounds.

Rick, the son of German immigrant bakers, is actively and productively engaged in Maryland's business community, and he currently serves on the boards of Mercy Health Services, Inc., and Johns Hopkins Medicine. Over the last five decades, Rick has served on the boards of Associated Catholic Charities, Inc., Baltimore Community Foundation, Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Equitable Society Insurance Company, Center Stage, Inc., Maryland Academy of Sciences (Maryland Science Center), Goucher College, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland Higher Education System, and for-profit companies such as Mercantile Bankshares Corp.

Rick has never sought the spotlight. Perhaps that is one of the reasons he has been so influential over the course of his career. As the Baltimore Sun reported in 2001, "Without making headlines, Berndt played an important role in moving the Baltimore Archdiocese into the foreground on civil rights, rebuilding the Inner Harbor in the 1970s, shaping the campaigns and policies of leading Democrats, pushing a major statewide gun control measure and ne-

gotiating the huge Inner Harbor East waterfront development." Then-Delegate Howard P. "Pete" Rawlings referred to Rick as "the political pope of Baltimore." That was nearly 20 years ago; I can assure you Rick hasn't slowed down since.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Rick has been successful as an attorney and in life because his ethical compass has always been pointed to true north. He may be modest about his service, but it hasn't gone unnoticed. Rick is the recipient of numerous public service awards including not one, but two, papal medals from Pope John Paul II; the Pro Bono Service Award from the University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Association; the Frances Morton Froelicher Civic Statesmanship Award from the Citizens Planning and Housing Association; and the Greater Baltimore Committee Award for Outstanding Service. In 1994, then-Cardinal William Keeler bestowed on Rick one of the highest honors the Roman Catholic Church can give to a layperson: the rank of Knight Commander in the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great.

One of the blessings of my life is to count Rick Berndt as a mentor, adviser, and friend. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me, along with the Sisters of Mercy, Rick's innumerable other friends, and his family in celebrating his career and his legacy of selfless devotion to the service of others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 20, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3554. An act to extend the effective date for the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 20,