

your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-25

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$0 million.

Other \$181 million.

Total \$181 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE): The Iraqi Air Force requests a five-year sustainment package for its AC-208 fleet that includes: operational, intermediate, and depot-level maintenance; spare parts; component repair; publication updates; maintenance training; and logistics. Also included in this sale are Contract Logistics Services (CLS), training services, and Contract Engineering Services. There is no MDE associated with this possible sale. The total overall estimated cost is \$181 million.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IQ-D-QAH-\$20M-13 FEB 09, IQ-D-QAF-\$5M-26 OCT 08.

(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: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 14, 2016.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Government of Iraq—AC-208 Sustainment, Logistics, and Spares Support

The Government of Iraq has requested a possible sale of a five-year sustainment package for its AC/RC-208 fleet that includes: operational, intermediate, and depot-level maintenance; spare parts; component repair; publication updates; maintenance training; and logistics. Also included in this sale are Contract Logistics Services (CLS), training services, and Contract Engineering Services. There is no MDE associated with this possible sale. The total overall estimated value is \$181 million.

The purchase of this sustainment package will allow the Iraqi Air Force (IqAF) to continue to operate its fleet of eight C-208 light attack and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft beyond the June 2016 end of its existing CLS contract. Limited IqAF maintenance capability necessitates continued CLS. Ultimately, the goal is for the IqAF to become self-sufficient in the areas of aircraft maintenance and logistics training. Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing this support.

The proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security goals of the United States by helping to improve a critical capability of the Iraq Security Forces in defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

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

The principal contractors will be Orbital ATK in Falls Church, Virginia, and Flight Safety International in Flushing, New York. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional

U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Iraq.

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

All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Iraq.

#### FLAG DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, 100 years ago, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation which established June 14 as Flag Day, the day during which we commemorate the 1777 adoption of our great Nation's flag. In 1949, an act of Congress established National Flag Day. Today I wish to recognize and celebrate Flag Day and remember all those who have fought in defense of our flag and everything it symbolizes.

The Flag Act of 1777 established that the first flag of the United States would have 13 red and white stripes, as well as 13 white stars in a blue field in order to recognize the Thirteen Original Colonies. Since then, our flag has grown to include 50 stars which represent all 50 States in our Union today. The final star, representing the State of Hawaii, was added in 1960. Since then, our flag has flown proudly throughout the United States and in embassies around the world, celebrating our Nation's history of freedom and liberty. The evolution of our flag is representative of our evolution as a nation and how far we have come over the past 239 years.

In Maryland, Flag Day is also a day to remember the important contributions made by our State to our Nation's development in the early days of the Union.

In the midst of the War of 1812, General Samuel Smith asked Baltimore resident Mary Pickersgill to make a flag "so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance." That flag, 30 feet tall and 42 feet wide, was raised and flown over Fort McHenry during the famous Battle of Baltimore in 1814. Mary Pickersgill's flag also became the inspiration for the poem written by Francis Scott Key, which would eventually become our country's national anthem.

That night, our flag stood as a symbol of the strength of our union and the bravery and resilience of those willing to fight for it. Today it continues to serve as a reminder of the courage and commitment of those willing to give all in defense of the freedoms granted to every American. On this day, we remember not only the history and growth of this Nation, but also the men and women who gave that ultimate sacrifice in order to uphold the liberties for which our flag stands.

For over two centuries, our flag has meant hope, freedom, and liberty to all those who enter this country, and it will continue to uphold this meaning for many years to come. Since 1777, the flag has been a reminder to every American of the work and sacrifices

made to keep our Nation great. This Flag Day, it is important to remember everything our flag symbolizes. We must reflect on the history of our Nation and the growth of its unity—from our geographic expansion over time to the evolution of our population and the definition of what it means to be an American. We must also commemorate the lives of those who have served our Nation and its people in pursuit of the values for which the flag—and we—proudly stand.

Our banner waves in the name of the freedom of every American, and we join together on this day in order to commemorate every contribution which has kept that freedom alive.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES F. JACKSON

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I recognize Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson upon his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 38 years of military service to our great nation. General Jackson's distinguished military career culminated as Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command.

General Jackson is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He completed 14 years on Active Duty, including flying tours in Europe and the Pacific before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1992. General Jackson has held numerous wing leadership and command positions, as well as staff assignments at Eighth Air Force and Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters U.S. Pacific Command, and Headquarters U.S. Air Force. A career instructor pilot and evaluator, the general is a command pilot with more than 3,600 hours in the F-4 Phantom II, F-16 Fighting Falcon and KC-135R Stratotanker.

In his role as Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, in Washington, DC, General Jackson served as principal adviser on Reserve matters to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, General Jackson was responsible for approximately 70,000 citizen airmen and all Air Force Reserve units worldwide, including 36 wings, 10 standalone groups, and a myriad of mission support units located at 54 joint and Active component bases and nine Reserve bases and stations.

As the Air Force Reserve's chief advocate within the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, General Jackson defended an annual President's budget request amount for the Air Force Reserve of more than \$5 billion, which enabled the component to remain ready to support combatant commander taskings as an integral component of the Air Force team. General Jackson's articulate