

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

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Corporation, Tewksbury, MA. The purchaser normally requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-26

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 PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical Ballistic Missile (GEM-T) is the latest in-production series of the highly successful Raytheon Patriot missile variants available to both U.S. forces and international customers. GEM-T deliveries to the U.S. Army began in 2006. This capability adds a low-noise oscillator for improved acquisition and tracking performance in clutter. The GEM-T missile provides an upgraded capability to defeat tactical ballistic missile (TBM), aircraft and cruise missile threats in complement to the PAC-3 missile.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to note that, during this coming recess, we will mark the somber occasion of the 1-year anniversary of the fall of Kabul and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. I want to draw the attention of the Senate and the American people to one of our most urgent priorities in Afghanistan: providing immediate assistance for Afghan citizens that risked their lives to further U.S. interests and whose lives now stand in jeopardy should we not act soon.

Nine days—in the short span of 9 days after seizing control of the first province to fall on August 6, 2021—Nimruz—a whirlwind of chaos ensued. The world watched as, one by one, all of the country's provinces fell to Taliban forces until finally reaching the capital Kabul on August 15. With little resistance from the Afghan forces

we had trained and equipped over two decades, the Taliban simply entered and took control. In terrified desperation, many Afghans gathered what they could carry with them and fled. People left their whole lives behind—their houses, their jobs, their friends and family—risking their lives to flee the country in the wake of the Taliban takeover. Shocking images of Afghans clinging to U.S. evacuation flights as they took off could not have shown a clearer picture of the despair of so many Afghans.

Amid this panic, the Biden administration acted swiftly to evacuate American personnel and most American citizens.

We joined our international allies to call for a new Afghan Government that is united, inclusive, and representative, including with full participation of women. We joined international voices to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. And along with our NATO allies, we committed to evacuate at-risk Afghans.

And make no mistake, we as Americans remain committed to all these priorities. We stand united with our allies to further these goals and ensure a stable and secure Afghanistan. Central to the Taliban's beliefs is the Pashtun code of ethics, "Pashtunwali," in which "nang"—which means honor—stands as the central tenet. It is with "nang" in mind that we call on the Taliban to honor their commitment to provide an accountable and inclusive government. We urge them to honor their original and oft-repeated promise to uphold human rights and support education for women and girls—commitments that recent reporting suggests they are not fulfilling.

We call on them to honor their commitment to provide a safe and secure Afghanistan for all Afghans. We join our allies in the international community in these calls for action.

Yet in the aftermath of the fall of Afghanistan, there remains one priority for the U.S. alone to undertake: ensuring the well-being of Afghan citizens who put their lives on the line to serve our country. These are the Afghans who worked at our Embassy and other diplomatic facilities, served as our translators, helped us engage with the Afghan Government, and provided us information and assistance. They are the Afghans that served and studied in U.S.-affiliated centers and universities. They are the Afghans who worked tirelessly to promote our principles as journalists working for U.S.-affiliated outlets, like the Afghan services of RFE/RL, Radio Azadi, and Ghandara. Without their assistance, U.S. lives would have been lost. Without their support, we would have been unable to talk about our U.S. values and priorities to the Afghan people.

Without them, we would not have been able to work with the Government of Afghanistan to promote our shared goal of regional stability and se-

curity. To these individuals and their families, we owe a great debt for their assistance. The 77,000 Afghans currently in the pipeline for special immigrant visas, the 44,000 that await processing for their P1/P2 visas, and yet another almost 5,000 that seek humanitarian parole, these individuals are all counting on us. So I call on the State Department to make renewed efforts to expedite these cases.

I would like to recognize that, to date, our government has made enormous strides in this herculean effort; tens of thousands of these individuals were evacuated from Afghanistan following the collapse of the government. Yet tens of thousands more remain stranded in limbo, both in Afghanistan as well as in third countries—among others, in Pakistan, Qatar, UAE, Georgia, Albania, and the Kyrgyz Republic. They wait patiently, many of them running through their personal savings, many unable to work.

We continue to support these individuals, oftentimes maintaining a delicate dialogue with the host countries about the long-term plans for these individuals.

I would like to share with you the story of one such individual whose life hangs in the balance. It is with her permission that I share this story, and I will call her "Arezo" to safeguard her anonymity. Arezo is a bright young Afghan woman of Hazara heritage who studied at a U.S. university and later worked for an international human rights NGO. By all accounts, up until the collapse of Afghanistan, she was one of the many Afghans working to build a bright future for Afghanistan. When Kabul fell, like so many others, Arezo shred all the documents tying her in any way to the United States. She knew that if the Taliban discovered this connection, both her life and her family's lives could be at risk.

While attempting to flee, Arezo and her brother were discovered by the Taliban and taken in for questioning about their reasons for wanting to leave the country. Arezo's brother was savagely beaten. Arezo was subjected to a humiliating virginity test. They were both taken into custody for several weeks, during which they endured brutal and inhumane treatment, often ridiculed by the Taliban guards for their Shi'a faith as "untrue Muslims."

While incarcerated, Arezo witnessed the brutal rape of a 12-year-old girl at the hands of the Taliban. The crime of this child? She had been imprisoned for riding in local transport without a male family member escort. Miraculously, after external pressure, Arezo was released, but not without the threat hanging over her head that the Taliban would keep tabs on her. Arezo now waits for the United States to process her visa. Hers is one of the over 44,000 cases that remain backlogged, while her life hangs in the balance.

I tell you this: It is in our direct, immediate interest to dedicate and re-allocate resources to resolve pending cases like those of Arezo.

Until we resolve their cases, we continue to expend enormous U.S. resources to support them in third countries, with no clear end in sight. We continue to ask much of our bilateral partners that have generously agreed to take in these evacuees. Our Embassies and government Agencies will continue to struggle with the overload caused by the burden of managing these extra cases. But most importantly, we owe it to these individuals who put their own lives on the line for our county to process their cases quickly.

It is no accident that I chose the name “Arezo” as a stand-in for the young Afghan woman who, like so many others, awaits our action. Arezo is a Hazara name that means “hope” or “faith.” And like so many others, she has taken it on faith that the U.S. Government will make good on its promise to take care of the Afghans like her that have served—and continue to serve—U.S. interests and who still believe in the American dream and still believe that America will fulfill her promises.

I encourage that at all levels of government, we work to identify resources to reallocate towards this goal. We have the resources, but we must redirect these resources and make it a top priority. I call on our State Department and USCIS colleagues to elevate the task of processing cases to a high priority status. I propose that we convene in committee to discuss additional ways that Congress can support the successful resolution of their cases and permanent resettlement. On the eve of the 1-year anniversary of an ignominious American withdrawal from Afghanistan, after a two-decade effort, I urge that across all lines of government, we recognize this priority and work promptly to resolve the cases of the many Afghans who have put their lives on the line for our country.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER SUPPORT ACT

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, this week, the U.S. Senate acted, unanimously, to honor our Nation’s dedicated law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency responders by passing the Public Safety Officer Support Act, known as PSOSA.

I was proud to author the bipartisan Public Safety Officer Support Act and want to thank Senator CORNYN and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman DURBIN for their steadfast leadership and hard work in helping pass this vital legislation that seeks to modernize the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program by recognizing that, when a public safety officer dies by suicide, there should be a rebuttable presumption that the loss should be designated as a line of duty death.

I look forward to President Joe Biden signing the bipartisan Public Safety Officer Support Act into law and remain confident in the U.S. Department

of Justice’s readiness to effectively implement this important new law. My confidence is rooted in the Department’s productive engagement and helpful technical assistance that was provided throughout the development of the final version of PSOSA.

Of course, the Public Safety Officer Support Act would never have passed without the steadfast support and dedication of a wide range of organizations, such as the Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD, National Association of Attorneys General, National District Attorneys Association, Major County Sheriffs Association, National Sheriffs Association, National Border Patrol Council, United States Capitol Police Labor Committee, BLUE H.E.L.P., The Wounded Blue, American Psychological Association, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, International Union of Police Associations, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Prison Council, National Narcotics Officers Associations’ Coalition, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health, International Society for Psychiatric Nurses, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, SMART Recovery, Kennedy Forum, Inseparable, National Council for Mental Wellbeing, National Association for Rural Mental Health, American Mental Health Counselors Association, National Association of Social Workers, Postpartum Support International, National Association of State and Mental Health Program Directors, American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, and the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

This impressive array of support for PSOSA reflects the importance and urgency of fixing a specific flaw in the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program. Under current law, despite public safety officers facing a heightened risk for developing posttraumatic stress and having trauma-induced suicides, family member survivors of police officers and firefighters that commit suicide are excluded from the program. This means that surviving families are often left without any Federal support, State and local survivor annuities, or continued access to their loved ones’ health insurance.

Comparatively, the U.S. Armed Forces recognizes that servicemember suicides are line-of-duty deaths. More than 90 percent of the 1,107 Active-Duty Army suicides between 2005 and 2012 were determined to be in the line of duty. Just like our servicemembers, our first responders should be recognized and supported for the mental distress they endure while protecting our communities and responding to emergencies. That includes supporting their surviving families after they are gone.

Once signed into law and implemented, the bipartisan Public Safety Officer Support Act will finally provide grieving families the benefits their loved ones earned while serving their communities as public safety officers and, equally important, help us eliminate the harmful stigma and infliction of emotional distress and pain on survivors that stems from misguided and outdated policies that refuse to designate public safety officer suicides as line of duty deaths.

Now, I want to be clear. Ensuring that public safety officer suicides are considered line of duty deaths for purposes of participating in the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program is about honoring a fallen police officer’s or firefighter’s life of service. It is about honoring these Americans and caring for their families, just as we do when a public safety officer dies from heart disease or COVID in the line of duty.

Simply put, our bipartisan law will ensure surviving families of fallen public safety officers receive the support their loved ones earned through a life of service.

We are seeking to ensure eligibility for the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program no longer allows the manner of death to negate a career devoted to public service and serving one’s community. And that is why it is also important to emphasize that a presumption of a line of duty death is not an absolute.

Just as committing suicide should not deny a public safety officer and their family a line-of-duty death designation, in and of itself, taking one’s life would not entitle a disgraced public safety officer who violated their oath of office to receive a Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program benefit.

It is our intent that the U.S. Department of Justice will review and take into account the potential contributing factors to the officer or firefighters’ death or injury and consult the agency investigating the cause and manner of death and the agency of the police officer or firefighter, just as the Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program Office is empowered to do in all other claims submitted to the program.

Moving forward, I hope enactment of the Public Safety Officer Support Act inspires the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and other State and local law enforcement memorials to update their respective line-of-duty death criteria to match the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program. After all, our Nation’s support of first responder families is particularly critical following the tragic loss of a police officer, a firefighter, or an emergency responder, and these grieving families deserve to be included among the families of the fallen.

In closing, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible courage, resilience, and strength of the late Officer Jeffrey Smith’s widow, Erin Smith,