

the Hood Canal region. The plans were submitted from November 2012 to September 2013, pursuant to limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The hatchery programs release ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead and non-listed fall Chinook, coho, fall chum, and pink salmon into the Hood Canal region. Nine of the ten programs are currently operating; the Hamma Hamma Chinook Supplementation program is expected to resume in the near future.

As required by the ESA 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005), the Secretary is seeking public comment on her pending determination as to whether the joint plans for hatchery programs in Hood Canal would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the ESA-listed Puget Sound salmon and steelhead.

Under section 4(d) of the ESA, the Secretary is required to adopt such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. NMFS has issued a final ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead, adopting in Limit 6 regulations necessary and advisable to harmonize statutory conservation requirements with tribal rights and the Federal trust responsibility to tribes (50 CFR 223.209).

This 4(d) Rule applies the prohibitions enumerated in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA. NMFS did not find it necessary and advisable to apply the take prohibitions described in section

9(a)(1)(B) and 9(a)(1)(C) to artificial propagation activities if those activities are managed in accordance with a joint plan whose implementation has been determined by the Secretary to not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the listed salmonids. As specified in limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule, before the Secretary makes a decision on the joint plan, the public must have an opportunity to review and comment on the pending determination.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. Limit 6 of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(6)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to activities associated with a joint state/tribal artificial propagation plan provided that the joint plan has been determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005).

Dated: February 29, 2016.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-04669 Filed 3-2-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 15-61]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104-164 dated July 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah A. Ragan or Heather N. Harwell, DSCA/LMO, (703) 604-1546/(703) 607-5339.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 15-61 with attached Policy Justification and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: February 29, 2016.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.



DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY

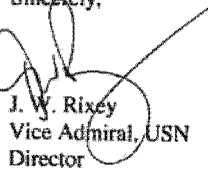
201 12TH STREET SOUTH, STE 203
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-6408

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

OCT 28 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 15-61, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Thailand for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$26,943,445. After this letter is delivered to 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:
1. Transmittal
2. Policy Justification
3. Sensitivity of Technology



Transmittal No. 15-61

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 Thailand

(ii) *Total Estimated Value:*

Major Defense Equipment *	\$18,570,385
Other	\$ 8,373,060
TOTAL	\$26,943,445

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE) includes:

Sixteen (16) Evolved Seasparrow Missiles (ESSM) (Fourteen (14) tactical missiles and two (2) telemetry missiles)

Three (3) MK25 Quad Pack canisters
Ten (10) MK783 shipping containers

Also included with this request is additional equipment; training; and technical services.

(iv) *Military Department:* U.S. Navy (XX-P-AKO)

(v) *Prior Related Cases, if any:* FMS case AKM—\$18,186,188—29 Sep 2014

(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 Annex attached

(viii) *Date Report Delivered to Congress:* 28 October 2015

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION*Government of Thailand—Evolved Seasparrow Missiles (ESSM)*

The Government of Thailand requested a possible sale of Major Defense Equipment for its Evolved Seasparrow Missile (ESSM) program. The total estimated value of MDE is \$18,570,385. The total overall estimated value is \$26,943,445.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE) includes:

Sixteen (16) Evolved Seasparrow Missiles (ESSM) (Fourteen (14) tactical missiles and two (2) telemetry missiles) Three (3) MK25 Quad Pack canisters Ten (10) MK783 shipping containers Also included with this request is additional equipment; training; and technical services.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by increasing the ability of Thailand to contribute to regional security and improving interoperability with the U.S. Navy.

Thailand will use the ESSM to provide ship battlespace self-defense and firepower, which will improve its capability to meet current and future naval threats.

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

The principal contractors are:

Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS), Tucson, Arizona
BAE Systems, Aberdeen, South Dakota

SAAB, 9LV MK4 Combat Management System, Sweden

Lockheed Martin, Baltimore, MD

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 Thailand.

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

Transmittal No. 15–61

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. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to Thailand. The Evolved Seasparrow missile weapons system is classified up to CONFIDENTIAL. The missile includes the guidance section, warhead section, transition section, propulsion section, control section and Thrust Vector Control (TVC), of which the guidance section and transition section are classified CONFIDENTIAL. Documentation to be provided to Thailand includes:

- a. Parametric documents (CONFIDENTIAL)
- b. Missile Handling/Maintenance Procedures (UNCLASSIFIED only)
- c. General Performance Data (CONFIDENTIAL)
- d. Firing Guidance (CONFIDENTIAL)
- e. Dynamics Information (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. The sale of the Evolved Seasparrow Missiles under this FMS case will result in the transfer of sensitive technological information and or/restricted information contained in the missile guidance section. Certain operating frequencies and performance characteristics are classified SECRET because they could be used to develop tactics and/or countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, primarily performance characteristics, engagement algorithms and transmitter specific frequencies, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness.

4. A determination has been made that Thailand 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 of the defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Thailand.

[FR Doc. 2016–04683 Filed 3–2–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary**

[Transmittal No. 15–62]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104–164 dated July 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah A. Ragan or Heather N. Harwell, DSCA/LMO, (703) 604–1546/(703) 607–5339.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and corrected Transmittal 15–62 with attached Policy Justification and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: February 29, 2016.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.