

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Switzerland - F/A-18 Upgrade 21 Program

The Government of Switzerland intends to purchase "Upgrade 21 Program" equipment to enhance survivability and communications connectivity and to extend the useful life of Swiss Air Force (SAF) F/A-18 aircraft. This phase of the F/A-18 "Upgrade 21 Program" will include continued procurement of 34 Fleet Retrofit Kits as follows: 6 AN/APX-111 Combined Interrogator Transponders, 6 Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability Systems, 5 Multi-functional Information Distribution Systems/Low Volume Terminals (Airborne Link-16), 68 Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems, 36 Enhanced Interference Blanking Units and 31 Digital Communications to Wingtips. Also included will be related support and test equipment, engineering technical services, supply support, operation and maintenance training, documentation, and program management support. The estimated cost is \$110 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The SAF has extensive experience operating the F/A-18 aircraft and should have no difficulties incorporating the upgraded capabilities into its forces. The SAF needs this upgrade to keep pace with high tech advances in sensors, weaponry, and communications.

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

The prime contractor will be Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems of St. Louis, Missouri. There are no offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any contractor representatives in-country; however, it is estimated that U.S. Government representatives will be required in Switzerland for approximately four months during the preparation, equipment installation, and equipment test and checkout of the equipment.

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