

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea - MK 41 Vertical Launch Systems

The Republic of Korea Government has requested the possible sale of three MK 41 Vertical Launch System Baseline VI ship sets (includes 30 modules), U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services, personnel training and training equipment, support and test equipment, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, launch system software development and maintenance and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$600 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 Northeast Asia.

The missile launchers will be installed on new construction destroyers and are intended for use with Standard missiles as the principal air defense armament of these new vessels. Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these additional missile launch systems into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Marine Systems of Middle River, Maryland and United Defense Limited Partnership of Minneapolis, Minnesota. One or more proposed offset agreements might be related to this proposed sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of three U.S. Government and six contractor representatives in Korea for approximately 18 months during the preparation, equipment installations, and equipment test and checkout of the MK 41 Vertical Launch Systems on the ships.

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