

POLICY JUSTIFICATION**Czech Republic – F-16A/B Block 10/15 Aircraft**

The Government of Czech Republic has requested a possible sale of 12 F-16A Block 15 Air Defense Fighter aircraft, 2 F-16B Block 10 Operational Capabilities Upgrade (OCU) aircraft, 2 F-16A Block 10 OCU aircraft for cannibalization, 16 Pratt and Whitney F-100-PW-220 engines including 2 spare engines, and 35 LAU-129 launchers. This possible sale could include 20 AIM-120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and 4,000 rounds of 20mm cannon ammunition. Also provided will be F-16 associated support equipment, spare and repair parts, devices, simulators, ammunition, AMRAAM training missiles, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services and other related elements of logistics support to ensure full program supportability for up to 10 years of operational use. The estimated cost is \$650 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the military capabilities of the Czech Republic and further weapon system standardization and interoperability with U.S. forces.

The Czech Air Force currently operates MiG-21 aircraft. These former Warsaw Pact fighters are expensive to operate and maintain, lack essential NATO interoperability capabilities, and are nearing the end of their useful service lives. The Czech Republic will use the F-16 aircraft to perform its air defense mission and be a viable air defense provider for its National commitments. It will also enhance NATO interoperability and simultaneously provide operational capabilities. This proposed sale would not impact regional military balance of power.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems of Fort Worth, Texas; Pratt and Whitney of East Hartford, Connecticut; Raytheon Corporation of Lexington, Massachusetts; and United Fastners of Bayshore, New York. One or more proposed offset agreements may be related to this proposed sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of 1 U.S. Government and 4 contractor representatives for up to 10 years to the Czech Republic.

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