habitat of various age and sex classes of fur seals. The information collected under this permit is important for assessing the recovery of this depleted species and for evaluating management actions.

The current knowledge base regarding reasons for the continued decline of the northern fur seal population would benefit from direct longitudinal studies on mother pup pairs and comparative studies on habitat use and success of individuals from the decreasing Pribilof Islands population and the increasing Bogolof Island population. In this regard, the Holder is requesting an amendment to the Permit to: collect a blubber sample, use tritiated water on 70 of the adult females already authorized to be taken, and to hold them up to 2.5 hours; include gastric intubation, use of deuterated water on 60 pups already authorized to be taken, recapture them twice, and hold pups for up to 2.5 hours. Both isotope procedures would be conducted simultaneously on mother-pup pairs. After the final blood sample, pairs would be released together. The proposed amendment would allow research that will contribute information needed for long term studies of adult female fur seals through their pupping, lactation, and annual migration periods. When combined with studies of their pups throughout the lactation period, this would provide important insight into female/pup body condition, female reproductive success, and habitat use during the breeding season and the winter migration. The differences in population trends, foraging locations, and diets between the Pribilof Island and Bogoslof Island populations will be addressed in the proposed study.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination (dated August 28, 2004) has been made that the Permitted activities are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 10, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04–20887 Filed 9–15–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 04–15]

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 Pub. L. 104–164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/OPS–ADMIN, (703) 604–6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 04–15 with attached transmittal and policy justification.

Dated: September 9, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

BILLING CODE 5001–06–M

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

7 SEP 2004

In reply refer to:
I-04/006795

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

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. 04-15, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost $99 million. Soon after this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to notify the news media.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY B. KOHLER
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, USAF
DIRECTOR

Enclosures:
1. Transmittal No. 04-15
2. Policy Justification

Same ltr to: House Committee on International Relations
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
House Committee on Armed Services
Senate Committee on Armed Services
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Transmittal No. 04-15

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: Israel**

(ii) **Total Estimated Value:**

Major Defense Equipment*	**$ 0 million**
Other	**$99 million**
TOTAL	**$99 million**

(iii) **Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: 103 Textron troop carrier armored vehicles, testing, spare and repair parts, support equipment, contractor engineering and technical support, and other related elements of program support.**

(iv) **Military Department: Army (ZCB)**

(v) **Prior Related Cases, if any: none**

(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: none**

(viii) **Date Report Delivered to Congress:** 7 SEP 2004

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel – Troop Carrier Armored Vehicles

The Government of Israel has requested a possible sale of 103 Textron troop carrier armored vehicles, testing, spare and repair parts, support equipment, contractor engineering and technical support, and other related elements of program support. The estimated cost is $99 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 that has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

Israel plans to upgrade its fleet of armored vehicles and requires a smaller, more maneuverable vehicle for use in urban settings. These vehicles were selected after an evaluation of proposals from several manufacturers. Israel, which already has light armored vehicles in its inventory, will have no difficulty absorbing these additional vehicles.

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

The prime contractor will be Textron Corporation of Providence, Rhode Island. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of up to three contractor representatives to Israel for a period of one year or more.

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

[FR Doc. 04–20814 Filed 9–15–04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5001–06–C

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 04–16]

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 Pub. L. 104–164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/OPS–ADMIN, (703) 604–6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 04–16 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: September 9, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

BILLING CODE 5001–06–M