



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 4 June 2002

Transmittal No. 02-20

KUWAIT – AMRAAM Air to Air Missiles

On 4 June, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Kuwait of AIM 120C AMRAAM air-to-air missiles and associated equipment and services. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$58 Million.

The Government of Kuwait has requested a possible sale of 80 AIM-120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), 60 AIM-120C Launch Rails, two Captive Air Training Missiles, flight test instrumentation, software updates to support AMRAAM operational and training devices, missile containers, aircraft modification and integration, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, maintenance and pilot training, contractor support, other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated cost is \$58 million.

This sale will strengthen the military ties between the U.S. and the State of Kuwait (Kuwait). Strategically located in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait has been a friendly nation for over thirty years. In the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, Kuwait further opened access to vital port facilities and air bases necessary for future coalition success in the region. Kuwait's location at the northwestern corner of the Persian Gulf makes it an essential partner in preserving freedom of navigation in the Gulf and a key participant in regional strategic planning. This sale will strengthen Kuwait as a coalition partner by providing greater interoperability with U.S., and other coalition forces in the region.

Kuwait is threatened by hostile neighbors with credible air, land, and sea forces. While the nation depends on external support, the Kuwaiti Air Force (KAF) must have adequate numbers and capabilities to protect its vital resources (runways, support facilities, pre-positioned materials, petroleum production and storage, etc.) during the early part of a possible invasion until allies can arrive with reinforcements.

Due to its limited population, Kuwait requires a multi-role fighter aircraft that is capable of performing all missions while maintaining readiness with an efficient maintenance and support infrastructure. A large portion of the force must be allocated to defend against an aerial attack. To defend against large-scale attacks and attacks by high speed, low-flying cruise missiles, these aircraft must be able to detect, track, and engage targets accurately at long range.

The KAF must be able to respond immediately to any potential aggression, regardless of the time of day or weather because of the close proximity of the threat. The systems should be fully capable of finding and destroying air, maritime, and ground targets at night and in poor weather.

While Kuwait does not have the resources to protect itself against a prolonged invasion, they are attempting to equip their air force with sufficient resources and capabilities to stall an invasion long enough for other coalition forces to arrive. Protection of critical assets such as air and sea port facilities is essential to complete this reinforcement.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Company of Goleta, California. There are no offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

This notice of a potential sale is required by law; it does not mean that the sale has been concluded.