

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206-526-6150).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

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.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The application requests authorization to capture, restrain, tag, and release up to 125 Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*) and to unintentionally harass up to 300 Dall's porpoise during capture operations, in Washington and Oregon waters, over a five-year period. The purpose of the research is deploy, monitor, and evaluate improved tag designs in order to obtain movement and dive behavior information on Dall's porpoise.

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

Dated: March 18, 1997

**Art Jeffers,**

*Acting Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-7530 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 97-08]

#### 36(b) Notification

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, Defense Security Assistance Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b) 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, DSAA/COMPT/FPD, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 97-08, with attached transmittal and policy justification pages.

Dated: March 19, 1997.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

**BILLING CODE 5000-04-M**



## DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

10 MAR 1997

In reply refer to:  
I-04135/97

Honorable Newt Gingrich  
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, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 97-08 and under separate cover the classified annex thereto. This Transmittal concerns the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Italy for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$116 million. Soon after this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to notify the news media of the unclassified portion of this Transmittal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Rhame".

Thomas G. Rhame  
Lieutenant General, USF  
Director

Attachments	Same ltr to:	House Committee on International Relations Senate Committee on Appropriations Senate Committee on Foreign Relations House Committee on National Security Senate Committee on Armed Services House Committee on Appropriations
Separate Cover: Classified Annex		

## Transmittal No. 97-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer  
Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1)  
of the Arms Export Control Act

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Italy
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Major Defense Equipment* | \$ 98 million        |
| Other                    | <u>\$ 18 million</u> |
| TOTAL                    | \$116 million        |
- (iii) Description of Articles or Services Offered:  
Two hundred thirty-three AIM-120B Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), missile containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, software support, publications and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and other related elements of logistics and program support.
- (iv) Military Department: Air Force (YAC)
- (v) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None
- (vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold:  
See Annex under separate cover.
- (vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: 10 MAR 1997

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATIONItaly - AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Italy has requested the purchase of 233 AIM-120B Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), missile containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, software support, publications and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$116 million.

This sale will contribute to the achievement of the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the military capabilities of Italy and enhancing weapon system standardization and interoperability with the NATO coalition.

Italy will use these missiles to upgrade the air-to-air capabilities of its AV-8B aircraft. Italy will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be the Hughes Missile Systems Company, Tucson, Arizona, and the Raytheon Company, Bedford, Massachusetts. One or more proposed offset agreements may be related to this proposed sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government personnel or contractor representatives to Italy.

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