

Diana Dillard, in Brookings, said:

On March 27, we mailed our Verizon and Geico payments as usual.

On April 10, we received notification that our payments had not been received and . . . we were facing [a] cut-off of services.

We made arrangements to pay over the phone and were shocked and angered when Verizon charged us \$10 to speak to a customer service agent. . . . Extremely frustrating.

A woman in Baker City said:

I pay my estimated taxes quarterly. . . . More than one time, checks I have mailed never reached their addresses. . . . Local services recommend using a credit card to avoid late payment because of poor USPS service—even just across town.

Another constituent, Denise Brooks, wrote to say:

I work with a non-profit organization in Medford that provides assistance to the working poor and [to the] homeless. The one-week delivery time can have catastrophic outcomes to families [who are] already struggling.

The delays cause late fees of \$75 added onto . . . families' rent obligations and the potential for eviction from their rental.

Late deliveries are a massive problem for one of the Postal Service's most important customers: newspapers. Timeliness is essential for newspapers. In this fast-changing world, nobody wants to read news that happened 3 or 4 days earlier. That seems like it is almost a month old. It just feels that way. But most small, local, and regional newspapers can't afford to hire a delivery service. So they rely on the Postal Service to deliver the papers.

But since July of 2022, the Postal Service has jacked up the delivery prices for newspapers by about 42 percent. It makes it a lot more expensive for small newspapers that are often already struggling from the loss of advertisements for local goods in this electronic age, the loss of classified ads. It makes it much more expensive to deliver their newspapers.

We need these smalltown newspapers to thrive. But if the newspapers are delivered late and if the cost of delivery is going up, that is just one more challenge affecting them and making it harder for them to thrive.

And when people get their papers late, it isn't just that they are frustrated; it is that they start canceling their subscriptions—again, hitting our small newspapers hard.

Publisher Joe Warren, with Country Media, which has community papers up and down the Oregon coast, told my team:

Delivery is sporadic. Some weeks local mail—which is guaranteed the same day if we get papers to them by a certain time [of day]—is not happening. . . . Some weeks it's the next day or two.

Other publishers have told me that they have taken it upon themselves to hand-deliver papers to some subscribers because the Postal Service simply did not deliver, while still charging them an arm and a leg.

Perhaps Matt Hall, who has multiple newspapers in Southern Oregon, said it best when he said to my office:

The USPS treats newspapers like a mine.

They know we are a reliable source of revenue, but they keep extracting, and soon there will be nothing left.

Postmaster DeJoy claims that their service changes are necessary to run the Postal Service like a profitable business. But here is the thing: Profitable businesses thrive by delivering good service. If they don't deliver good service, they don't stay profitable, and, very soon, they are out of business.

That is the challenge. This is not a sustainable situation. The challenges reported by my constituents back home in Oregon: late deliveries of life-saving medications; small businesses and individuals struggling to pay their vendors, struggling to get their checks delivered on time to avoid late fees; newspapers losing subscribers; mail taking weeks to go to a house just down the street because it has to go hundreds and hundreds of miles to be sorted, instead of going to a more local regional sorting facility.

Now, we need to reverse DeJoy's downgrades. Now, we need to restore reliable, affordable mail delivery. Now is the time to take the Delivery for America plan and return it to the sender.

Let's restore the vision that is so powerful in the USPS—U.S. Postal Service—motto: that rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall stop courageous couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds.

Let's not accept a world where there is no "joy" in "DeJoyville" and our constituents are so poorly served.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of

the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-23 of April 19, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-24

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1). AECA Transmittal No.: 22-23; Date: April 19, 2022; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On April 19, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-23 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) terminals; fifteen (15) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) retrofit kits. Also included were Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM). The estimated total cost was \$42 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$40 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: fifty (50) MIDS JTRS (5) terminals; six (6) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and three (3) MIDS JTRS (7) terminals. The estimated total value of the new items is \$20 million. The non-MDE value will remain at \$2 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$20 million to a revised \$62 million. MDE constitutes \$60 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original report. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Australia in maintaining its current force projection capability and enhances interoperability with U.S. forces well into the future.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 18, 2024.

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