



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

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Finland - F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade Program

On 14 June, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale of equipment and services to upgrade the F-18 Aircraft of the Finnish Air Force.

The Government of Finland has requested a possible upgrade of their Finnish Air Force (FAF) F/A-18 aircraft. The F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade Program consists of 64 F/A-18C/D Fleet Retrofit Kits, 37 AN/APX-111 Combined Interrogator Transponders, and two AN/APX-111 Combined Interrogator Transponder Mode IV Kits for Validation and Verification. Also, Validation and Verification Kits of the following systems: two Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability systems, two Multi-functional Information Distribution System/Low Volume Terminals (Airborne Link-16), two Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems, two Enhanced Interface Blanker Units and two Digital Communications to Wingtips. The proposed program support includes spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical data, personnel training and equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and other related elements of logistics and program management support. The estimated cost is \$100 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 which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The FAF intends to purchase the Mid-Life Upgrade Program equipment to enhance survivability, communications connectivity, and extend the useful life of its F/A-18 fighter aircraft. It has extensive experience operating the F/A-18 aircraft and should have no difficulties incorporating the upgraded capabilities into its forces. The FAF needs this upgrade to keep pace with high tech advances in sensors, weaponry, and communications.

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

The prime contractor will be Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems in St. Louis, Missouri. There are no offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any contractor representatives in-country; however, it is estimated that U.S. Government representatives will be required in Finland for approximately six months during the preparation, equipment installation, and equipment testing and checkout of the equipment.

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

