



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

NOV 19 2019

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your October 21 letter expressing continued concerns regarding media reports alleging retransfer of U.S.-origin defense articles by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to armed Yemeni groups with potential terrorist affiliations. The Department of State takes these allegations very seriously and is working closely with the partner nations to determine whether there were any such unauthorized retransfers and, while doing so, to reaffirm their commitment to all of the provisions of the underlying agreements supporting the sale or transfer of such equipment.

As the allegations appear to be limited to Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, the Department focused its efforts on those inventories. The State Department and the Department of Defense conducted a joint MRAP Focused Verification Check (FVC) and Blue Lantern in the UAE from September 15-21 to establish the vehicle accountability baseline. The Blue Lantern program monitors the end-use of defense articles, technical data, services, and brokering activities exported through commercial channels and subject to Department of State licenses or other approvals. Both Departments are planning a similar oversight visit to Saudi Arabia in November 2019.

The FVC is a mechanism used by the Department of Defense to specifically address end-use concerns. This engagement process and continued insufficient responses by the governments have prolonged the investigation into the matter. Once the Departments of State and Defense complete the visits and any necessary follow-up discussions with the two governments, the Department expects to have a full account of the circumstances related to the disposition of this equipment and any potential violation of the agreements. The Department will update you once it has finalized the investigation. The Department understands that the Department of Defense may respond separately to your letter.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs