

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Pentagon could realize significant savings by
2 relocating the United States Africa Command from Germany to
3 Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston; and

4 WHEREAS, When AFRICOM was created in 2007, the Department of
5 Defense chose a temporary location in Stuttgart; it intended to
6 select a permanent headquarters in Africa, but set this plan aside
7 due to cost projections and the sensitivities of African nations;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense conducted a study in 2012
10 that found maintaining AFRICOM headquarters stateside would cost
11 \$60 million to \$70 million less per year; although relocation would
12 involve expense, this expense could be recouped within two to six
13 years; moreover, the relocation would create as many as 4,300
14 additional jobs for U.S. residents, and it would have an annual
15 impact on the local economy ranging from \$350 million to \$450
16 million; and

17 WHEREAS, Should the defense department decide to relocate
18 AFRICOM, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston would be an
19 ideal home for the headquarters; the base features strong joint
20 service military value of active duty, reserve, and guard units
21 from all five U.S. armed services, some of which presently conduct
22 training and operational missions for AFRICOM; it is also equipped
23 to handle military aircraft, and the city boasts one of the nation's
24 most vibrant ports; moreover, the community is exceptionally

1 supportive of the military, and the Greater Houston area has strong
2 cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties with Africa;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office has concluded
5 that the relocation of AFRICOM to the United States would generate
6 tremendous cost savings and economic benefits, and Ellington Field
7 Joint Reserve Base offers advantages that would enhance the
8 effectiveness of the headquarters; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the
11 Department of Defense to relocate the United States Africa Command
12 to Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
14 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
15 the secretary of the Department of Defense, to the president of the
16 Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
17 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to
18 Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the
19 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
20 States of America.