By: Taylor of Galveston

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Should the defense department decide to relocate the United States Africa Command, the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston would be an ideal home for the headquarters; the base features strong joint service military value of active duty, reserve, and guard units from all five United States armed services, some of which presently conduct training and operational missions for the command; it is also

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equipped to handle military aircraft, and the city boasts one of the nation's most vibrant ports; moreover, the community is exceptionally supportive of the military, and the Greater Houston area has strong cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties with Africa; and

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

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

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

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