

By: Paul, Miller, Gonzales of Williamson

H.C.R. No. 87

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, security, and the sensitivities of African  
8 nations; 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, and now those savings  
12 would be even greater due to significant increases in Overseas Cost  
13 of Living Allowances rates; although relocation would involve  
14 expense, this expense could be recouped within two to six years;  
15 moreover, the relocation would repatriate about 1,400 direct jobs  
16 and create as many as 4,300 additional jobs for U.S. residents, and  
17 it would have an annual impact on the local economy ranging from  
18 \$400 million to \$500 million; and

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

1 to handle large military aircraft, and the city boasts one of the  
2 nation's most vibrant ports, which handles 40 percent of all U.S.  
3 trade with Africa; moreover, the community is exceptionally  
4 supportive of the military, and the Greater Houston area has strong  
5 cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties with Africa;  
6 and

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

12 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
13 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the  
14 Department of Defense to relocate the United States Africa Command  
15 to Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston; and, be it further

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