

By: Taylor of Galveston, et al.

S.C.R. No. 41

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense conducted a study in 2012
11 that found maintaining AFRICOM headquarters stateside would cost
12 \$60 million to \$70 million less per year, and now those savings
13 would be even greater due to significant increases in Overseas Cost
14 of Living Allowances rates; although relocation would involve
15 expense, this expense could be recouped within two to six years;
16 moreover, the relocation would repatriate about 1,400 direct jobs
17 and create as many as 4,300 additional jobs for United States
18 residents, and it would have an annual impact on the local economy
19 ranging from \$400 million to \$500 million; and

20 WHEREAS, Should the defense department decide to relocate
21 AFRICOM, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston would be an
22 ideal home for the headquarters; the base features strong joint
23 service military value of active duty, reserve, and guard units
24 from all five United States armed services, some of which presently

1 conduct training and operational missions for AFRICOM; it is also
2 equipped to handle large military aircraft, and the city boasts one
3 of the nation's most vibrant ports, which handles 40 percent of all
4 United States trade with Africa; moreover, the community is
5 exceptionally supportive of the military, and the Greater Houston
6 area has strong cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties
7 with Africa; and

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

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

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