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

Defense chose a temporary location in Stuttgart; it intended to

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

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10 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense conducted a study in 2012

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
- 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.

| President of the Senate | Speaker of the House |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| I hereby certify that S.C. | R. No. 41 was adopted by the Senate |
| on April 19, 2017, by the followi | ng vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. |
| | Secretary of the Senate |
| I hereby certify that S.C. | .R. No. 41 was adopted by the House |
| | wing vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two |
| present not voting. | |
| | |
| | Chief Clerk of the House |
| Approved: | |
| | |
| Date | |
| | |
| Governor | |