

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.C.R. No. 41

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.