

September 1, 2010

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Request for Transfer of Operational Control of MC-12 Aircraft to the Texas Air National Guard

Dear Mr. President:

With the conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the corresponding reduction in military forces and assets in Iraq, the group of undersigned members of the Texas House of Representatives respectfully request that all available military assets be utilized to help better secure the border. The level of violence and bloodshed on the Mexican side of the border is tragic. Texas does not have the resources needed to address this public safety and humanitarian crisis.

Specifically, we ask that as MC-12 aircraft are no longer needed in Iraq, that one to two of those aircraft be transferred to the operational control of the Texas Air National Guard along with related support and maintenance resources. The MC-12 is a military version of the King Air that is packed with electronic surveillance equipment. That surveillance platform, built by L-3 Communications in Greenville, Texas, has tremendous capability on the U.S.-Mexico Border. It has the potential to be a "virtual" wall and a force multiplier to assist in interdiction operations.

Assuming an OPCON transfer is not a possibility now, we alternatively ask that crew training for MC-12 be transferred to the Texas Air National Guard. Current crew training is conducted by the Mississippi Air National Guard. We believe it is a better use of resources for those crews to use the Texas-Mexico border to train for their overseas counter-insurgency surveillance and interdiction operations.

We appreciate the steps taken to date by your Administration to help Texas secure the border. If we may answer any questions, please contact Representative Allen Vaught, below, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Border Security, Health and School Centered Emergencies or Representative Veronica Gonzales, who chairs the House Border & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

Respectfully,



Representative Allen Vaught



Representative Jose Menendez



Representative Allan Ritter



Representative Donna Howard



Representative Veronica Gonzales



Representative Valinda Bolton

Representative Jim McReynolds



Representative Stephen Frost

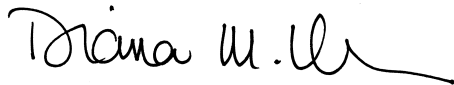


Representative Eric Johnson



Representative Ellen Cohen

Representative Mark Homer



Representative Diana Maldonado



Representative Paula Pierson



Representative Chris Turner



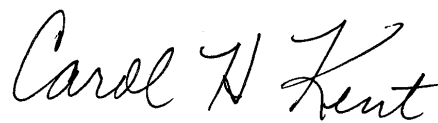
Representative Robert Miklos



Representative Kirk England



Representative Kristi Thibaut



Representative Carol Kent

cc:

The Honorable Robert M. Gates

Secretary, United States Department of Defense

The Honorable Michael Donley

Secretary, United States Air Force

The Honorable Harry Reid

United States Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Ike Skelton

Chairman, United States House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Howard Berman

Chairman, United States House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Bennie Thompson

Chairman, United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Carl Levin

Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable John Kerry

Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman

Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs

The Honorable Rick Perry

Governor, State of Texas

The Honorable David Dewhurst

Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas

The Honorable Joe Straus

Speaker, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte

Chairwoman, Texas Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations

The Honorable Tommy Williams

Chairman, Texas Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security