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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4323

October 6, 2015

Mr. Paul F. Paine
Chairman
Texas Military Preparedness Commission
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Chairman Paine,

I write in support of Val Verde County and the City of Del Rio's grant application for the construction of a Defense Control Center at Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB) through the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG).

Laughlin Air Force Base is home to the 47th Flying Training Wing and plays a critical role in Air Education and Training Command's production of pilots. The mission of LAFB is to graduate the world's best pilots, deploy mission-ready airmen, and develop professional and disciplined leaders. It is crucial that the base maintains their infrastructure to uphold the highest level of security and protection for the over 4,000 personnel on the base.

In order to provide optimal security on LAFB, base leadership has identified the need for a new Defense Control Center that will eventually replace the current main entrance to the base, which is in need of updates and is currently located in a location that has several security and logistical defects. Val Verde County and the City of Del Rio have already identified a lead architect, engineer, and have developed construction plans beyond the 35% minimum completion requirement. This multi-million public-private partnership to help strengthen LAFB as well as improve its military value is a great example of the public and private sector working together to strengthen our national defense infrastructure, while ensuring that future generations of student pilots as well as all base personnel are provided the security they need to preserve appropriate levels of readiness.

I appreciate your consideration of Val Verde County and the City of Del Rio's grant application to receive funds from the DEAAG for a new Defense Control Center at LAFB.

Sincerely,



WILL HURD
Member of Congress