



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

Office of the Assistant Secretary

27 APR 2004

SAF/IEI
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1665

The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2811, this letter is to notify you that I have approved an \$8.2M center runway repair project at Laughlin AFB, TX. The Air Force is currently working to identify funds in the Operation and Maintenance appropriation for this project.

This runway was originally constructed in 1943. Currently over 70% of the runway surface does not meet the minimum standards for airfield pavements. The pavement is experiencing high levels of Foreign Object Debris (FOD) and structural failure of the underlying sub base. FOD is prevalent and requires continuous sweeping and monitoring by airfield personnel. High skid potential and accidents from FOD are imminent, and total failure is expected to occur within a two-year time period. This work will include the repair and replacement of runway surfaces, correcting the existing grade to allow for adequate drainage, replacing the antiquated runway lighting, and repairing the overruns (mill and overlay).

We have chosen to accomplish this project under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2811. The work is classified as repair and the use of operation and maintenance funds provides the flexibility to plan the work with minimum disruption to operations while balancing our operation and maintenance and military construction programs.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred W. Kuhn", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

FRED W. KUHN
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations)