DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

20 AUG 2003

Office of the Assistant Secretary

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 the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations) has approved a $12.9M repair project at Pope AFB, NC to repair the Alpha Taxiway. The Air Force is currently working to identify funds in the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) appropriation for this project.

Taxiway Alpha is the main taxiway used on Pope AFB and is currently the largest source of Foreign Object Debris (FOD) on the airfield. The taxiway was completed in 1969 and has never had a major overhaul. This taxiway is a prime candidate for repair due to its significant weight restrictions and pavement condition index, which indicates that this taxiway should be restricted to C-130 and C-141 traffic. This restriction prevents usage of the taxiway for Pope's frequent C-5 and C-17 traffic. Over time, the FOD problem will only increase, potentially resulting in aircraft damage. This project provides for concrete slab replacement, asphalt shoulders, taxiway lighting, filling in grass ovals, storm drainage, joint sealant, restriping, and demolition.

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

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