

Tauscher Meets with Head of U.S. Transportation Command; Discuss Travis AFB

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Ellen Tauscher Meets with Head of U.S. Transportation Command; Discusses Future of Strategic Airlift at Travis Air Force Base Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ellen Tauscher met with Air Force General Norton A. Schwartz, Commander of U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). The two spoke about the future of strategic airlift, specifically how it relates to future missions at Travis Air Force Base. “Strategic airlift is the engine that keeps our military running, and Travis Air Force Base is the heart of strategic airlift,” said Rep. Ellen Tauscher. “I appreciated the opportunity to sit down with General Schwartz and let him know that the Air Force needs to better define the role airlift will be playing over the coming years so that bases like Travis can always be prepared to execute their missions in the future. I also urged General Schwartz to join us in the fight to ensure that sufficient funds for strategic airlift are in the President’s budget so that the men and women who execute these missions have all the tools they need.” President Bush’s budget proposal sent to Congress last week sets aside zero funding for C-17 aircraft and \$700 million for C-5 production. Rep. Tauscher has consistently fought for a blended approach to airlift that includes the use of both these integral aircraft. She is concerned that the President’s budget request does not reflect this vital, blended strategy. Travis Air Force Base is located within Fairfield, California. Known as the “Gateway to the Pacific”, Travis Air Force Base handles more cargo and passenger traffic through its airport than any other military air terminal in the United States. The Base has a long and proud history of supporting humanitarian airlift operations at home and around the world. Today, the Base includes approximately 7,260 active military personnel, 3,770 civilians and 4,250 reservists. USTRANSCOM is responsible for creating and implementing world-class global deployment and distribution solutions in support of the President, Secretary of Defense, and Combatant Commander-assigned missions. Three component commands include: the Air Force’s Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.; the Navy’s Military Sealift Command, Washington, D.C.; and the Army’s Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Alexandria, Va. ###