



**E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.**  
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

From the Office of E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

1000 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 3105  
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

TEL: (703) 527-5380  
FAX: (703) 528-5795

E-MAIL:

DATE: February 1, 1999 *fax'd*

TO: Ryan Henry  
Office of Congressman Larry Combust

FAX NUMBER: 202-225-9615

FROM: Admiral Zumwalt

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

JOHN T. MONTFORD  
Chancellor

Box 42013  
Lubbock, Texas 79409-2013  
(806) 742-0012  
FAX (806) 742-8050

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

TO: Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

PHONE NUMBER: 703/527-5380

FAX NUMBER: 703/528-5795

DATE: January 28, 1999

FROM: John T. Montford

Chancellor

PHONE NUMBER: 806/742-0012

FAX NUMBER: 806/742-8050

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NOTES:

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY****TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER****JOHN T. MONTFORD**  
ChancellorBox 42013  
Lubbock, Texas 79409-2013  
(806) 742-0012  
FAX (806) 742-8050

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January 27, 1999

Congressman Larry Combest  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Rm. 1026, Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Combest:

I want to bring to your attention our efforts at Texas Tech University to implement a program of "countermeasures to chemical and biological (CB) emergencies" through The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, a joint venture of Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. This initiative comes forward at the request of Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., who is a member of the Special Oversight Board for the Department of Defense investigations of Gulf War chemical and biological incidents. We made a formal briefing to Admiral Zumwalt on January 25, 1999, and he strongly encouraged us to contact you about implementing a program at Texas Tech University to address chemical and biological emergencies.

Larry, we plan to include "Chemical and Biological Emergencies" as one of Texas Tech's federal initiatives for which we will seek earmarked funds during this congressional session. Our discussions with Admiral Zumwalt lead us to believe this can be achieved, and the Admiral has pledged his full support and cooperation to assist us. We certainly will need your commitment and agreement with these efforts, and seek your advice on how to proceed this year. We strongly believe that this project is important to national security and that Texas Tech can make a significant contribution to its success.

Texas Tech has developed a working infrastructure for on-site interdisciplinary research and training and countermeasures to address CB agents and countermeasures. Goals of our program will be to improve:

1. Detection of CB agents
2. Understanding of basic biological mechanisms
3. Implementation of physical and medical countermeasures for use on a regional/national scale
4. Real time and rapid time modeling (epidemiological, toxicological, and physical)

5. Education and training with on-site High Performance Computing capability with a Virtual Reality Center

Our overall goal will be to integrate environmental and human health issues in the identification and resolution of any perceived or actual CB threat. The strengths of our program at Texas Tech University are many, including:

1. Centralized geographic location, regionally and nationally
2. Year round operational capability at Reese Center with permanent buildings for on and off-site education, training, and response capability
3. State-of-the-art facilities for toxicological research at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health
4. Integrated university system, including medical and law school
5. Strong track record of interdisciplinary work with universities, government, military, and community groups
6. Texas Department of Health and community support
7. Secure facility
8. Room for development and expansion
9. State-of-the-art communication capability for medical and training outreach
10. An on-site Supercomputer, interfaced with a Virtual Reality Center, which can be satellite linked to the Department of Defense and the Pentagon
11. Accountability in research with experience in quality control and GLP studies.
12. Nationally recognized research faculty at The Institute for Environmental and Human Health.

This letter follows up an earlier visit to you by Admiral Zumwalt and will formally announce to you our priority in establishing this project as a major federal initiative for Texas Tech University. We will provide you with a formal project proposal, including a FY 2000 budget, in the very near future. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



John T. Montford  
Chancellor

cc: Dr. Donald Haragan  
Dr. David Schmidly  
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr.  
Dr. Ronald Kendall