



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Hunter Statement on Awarding of Presidential Helicopter Contract**

Washington, D.C. – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) made the following statement about the Pentagon announcement today awarding the VXX Program contract to Lockheed Martin. The VXX Program will develop the replacement aircraft for the current Presidential Helicopter fleet. The System Development and Demonstration (SDD) value is estimated to be approximately \$1.8 billion and will consist of engineering design and integration activities.

“I am very disappointed that the Pentagon selected the Lockheed Martin/Agusta Westland candidate for the Presidential Helicopter Replacement program. The Sikorsky proposal would have been entirely designed and built in the United States, as opposed to only 64 percent of the Lockheed offering. Further, those helicopter technologies of most competitive value will be designed and produced by the European partners.

“This decision is all the more unfortunate given the continued atrophy of the United States helicopter industrial base. The European helicopter manufacturers already have a commanding position in the global helicopter marketplace. A competitive and viable American helicopter technology base remains of vital importance to U.S. national security. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why we would use U.S. tax dollars to fund the further development of foreign helicopter technology.”