



# TRADITION BANK

**Downy Vickery**  
*President & CEO*

1515 S. Grand Parkway  
Katy, Texas 77494-8256

*direct* 713-663-8487

*tel* 713-666-2511

*fax* 281-693-1400

[www.traditionbank.com](http://www.traditionbank.com)

**November 9, 2009**

**To: The Honorable Robert Gates**  
**Secretary of Defense**  
**1400 Defense Pentagon**  
**Washington, DC 20301-1400**

**The Honorable John McHugh**  
**Secretary of Army**  
**1400 Defense Pentagon**  
**Washington, DC 20101-1400**

**Dear Honorable Robert Gates and Honorable John McHugh,**

The purpose of my letter is to express my disappointment in the U.S. Army's announced plans to move the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) contract from the BAE Systems plant in Sealy, Texas to the Oshkosh Corporation located in Wisconsin.

As you are aware, this contract has been admirably filled by BAE Systems for the past 17 years and represents 3,000 Texas jobs and an annual economic impact in excess of \$500 million. As President & CEO of a locally owned community bank just down the road in Katy, Texas I can assure you that losing an employer of this magnitude will have a significant negative impact on many businesses and families in numerous communities surrounding the BAE Systems plant.

Of even more importance, I am concerned that moving this contract away from BAE Systems may have a negative impact on the safety and lives of the courageous men and women serving this great country in our armed forces. The U.S. Army itself used the term "ultra-reliable" to describe the FMTV's built in Sealy. What better recommendation could you have than one from our own U.S. Army? In addition, many of the dedicated workforce employed at BAE Systems have sons, daughters, friends and family serving in our military who depend on these FMTV's every day for protection against the forces that would do them harm. Who better to build these vehicles than men and women with such a personal connection to ensure the quality of every vehicle that leaves their plant?

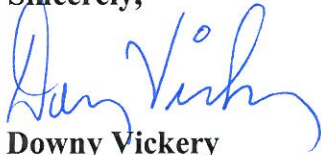
**Honorable Robert Gates**  
**Honorable John McHugh**  
**November 9, 2009**

**Page 2**

In matters such as this, I think a long-term proven track record of dedicated performance and excellent results should be of prime importance in decisions affecting the well-being of our dedicated soldiers. It is my hope that you will reconsider the decision to move this contract and leave it with the men and women in Sealy, Texas who have earned the honor of building these FMTV's for those who put their lives on the line every day to protect the freedoms we enjoy.

Thank you for your time and for all you do for our country. God Bless America and the men and women who serve it.

**Sincerely,**



**Downy Vickery**  
**President & CEO**

**Cc: Congressman Michael McCaul**  
**Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson**  
**Senator John Cornyn**