

*Coed Ballenger*  
TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

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One Hundred Seventh Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Committee on International Relations**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

(202) 225-5021

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**December 20, 2002**

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**The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld**  
**Secretary of Defense**  
**U.S. Department of Defense**  
**The Pentagon**  
**Washington, DC 20301-1300**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to advise you that I have authorized Congressman Cass Ballenger (R-NC), a Member of the House Committee on International Relations (HIRC), to lead a congressional delegation on official business to Nicaragua, Honduras and Colombia, from January 10-16, 2003. For purposes of protocol, Members' spouses will be authorized to accompany the delegation at no additional expense to the U.S. Government. A final list of participating Members and staff will be furnished at a later date.

The purpose of this trip is to discuss with leaders of these nations issues related to drug trafficking, trade, immigration and other issues of regional significance.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. It is also requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned to escort this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

**HENRY J. HYDE**  
Chairman

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