The Camden Partnership, Inc.
Supporting Our Military Community

P. O. Box 5222
St. Marys, GA 31558
912-227-2148

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: **MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD**

Encl: (1) Maintain the Current Level of Funding for the U.S. Coast Guard
(2) Retain MSST (91108) St. Marys, GA
(3) Letter from the Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor State of Georgia
(4) Joint Letter from Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator Saxby Chambliss and Congressman Jack Kingston
(5) Resolution from the Georgia House of Representatives
(6) Joint Resolution from the Cities of St. Marys, Kingsland, and Woodbine, Camden County Board of Commissioners and Camden County Board of Education
(7) Letter from St. Marys City Council
(8) Joint Letter from Camden County Joint Development Authority and Camden County Chamber of Commerce
(9) Letter from Camden Kings Bay Council Navy League of the U.S.
(10) Distribution List - Attachment I

Dear President Obama,

On February 2, 2010, the Coast Guard, in response to a budget reduction for FY11, stated they would decommission five of the 12 Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSSTs). The MSSTs were established after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in response to heightened security levels. The current threat assessment is as high, if not higher, than when the teams were commissioned after the 9/11 attacks. Now is the wrong time to be reducing any anti-terror units. The number of MSSTs should remain at twelve.

As you well know, before the 9/11 terror attacks, 38% of the Coast Guard's operational hours were devoted to homeland and maritime security missions. Today, because of the 9/11 terror attacks, it spends more than 57% of its operational hours on homeland security missions.

The facts on their face are startling: the Coast Guard is being driven well below what is needed, especially in this post-9/11 world. It should be obvious how critical funding is for the Coast Guard.

We urge and request that the current level of services of the United States Coast Guard be maintained in the 2011 budget, adjusted for inflation, and we retain all twelve (12) MSSTs. We ask for a true augmentation of funds and that no reapportionment of the already scarce funds be made. A decrement of funds is not warranted.

We respectfully request, as citizens of America, that the country does not lose this battle to save our Coast Guard. However, if any MSSTs are to be decommissioned, we, as concerned citizens from Camden County, request reconsideration of the extensive attributes MSST 91108 offers.

Respectfully,

Sheila M. McNeill

Sheila M. McNeill, President
Past National President
Navy League of the United States