



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0150
Washington DC 20528-0150

Dear Madam Secretary,

On behalf of the nearly ten million Georgians, I wish to add my voice to those of United States Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Representative Kingston in strongly opposing the proposed budget reductions for the United States Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSSTs), and specifically those reductions for MSST 91108 stationed in St. Mary's, Georgia.

Given the mission of the MSST, the benefits of retaining Team 91108 are obvious. First consider its strategic location. The Team is situated along the I-95 North-South corridor and the I-10 East-West corridor, between two ports in Savannah and Jacksonville, 30 minutes from the international airport in Jacksonville, and 45 minutes south of the Port of Brunswick. The Team is within four hours of any point between the Ports of Charleston and Jacksonville, not the least of which includes the high profile nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay and the Mayport Naval Station where a nuclear aircraft carrier will be stationed. Secondly, training opportunities are abundant. The Team's co-location with the Navy's Trident Training Facility, abundant local river systems, and weapons ranges, as well as joint training with Navy and Marine Corps personnel and at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, provide a unique array of training environments not available elsewhere. Finally, being proximate to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay provides access to military exchange, medical and commissary support, all of which complement the low cost-of-living in Camden County, a duty station of choice for USCG personnel. These factors all have contributed to a resolution drafted by the Georgia Legislature specifically asking you, the Congress, and the President, not only to fully fund the United States Coast Guard for 2011 but to consider increasing its budget thus enhancing its ability to secure our nation as threats continue to surface.

I strongly urge reconsideration of any action to eliminate the Maritime Safety and Security Teams. Given its mission and strategic location, I feel strongly that retaining the Team 91108 is in the best interest of Georgia and the United States. Thank you for your consideration and most importantly, your support of the United States Coast Guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".
Sonny Perdue