



March 1, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

A recent review of budget constraints and mission capabilities has resulted in the Coast Guard's recommendation to decommission five of the 12 MSST units as a cost-saving measure. The MSST unit based at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Camden County, Georgia (MSST 91108), is one of the five selected for elimination. The unit employs 85 personnel, and has an economic impact reported at \$8.6 million annually.

Camden County understands the very difficult budgetary environment facing the Coast Guard and recognizes cost-saving measures must be implemented. However, we believe the decision to eliminate MSST 91108 should include a careful and impartial analysis of the economic impact this decision will inflict on the community.

The following chart demonstrates the negative impact this decision will have on economic development in Camden County. In fact, it proves the decision will impact Camden County at a significantly greater level than any other MSST based community. During these current perilous economic times, the MSST 91108 based in Camden County must not be closed. The data below reflects the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of each MSST site as reported by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis (2008 data sorted by economy size):

<b>AREA</b>	<b>2008 GDP</b>
Brunswick, GA MSA	\$ 3,297,000,000
Anchorage, AK MSA	\$ 26,316,000,000
Honolulu, HI MSA	\$ 48,095,000,000
New Orleans, LA MSA	\$ 72,395,000,000
San Diego, CA MSA	\$ 169,325,000,000
Seattle, WA MSA	\$ 218,771,000,000
Miami, FL MSA	\$ 261,263,000,000
Boston, MA MSA	\$ 299,590,000,000
San Francisco, CA MSA	\$ 310,825,000,000
Houston, TX MSA	\$ 403,202,000,000
Los Angeles, CA MSA	\$ 717,884,000,000
New York, NY MSA	\$ 1,264,896,000,000

Camden County is part of the Brunswick, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports this local economy had the smallest GDP of any MSST based economy at only +/- \$3.3 billion. In contrast, the next smallest economy is Anchorage, AK, which is nearly nine times as large as the Brunswick, GA economy. In addition, the largest MSST based economy is New York, NY, which is 385 times (38,400%) larger than the Brunswick, GA economy. As a result, with the loss of the MSST Unit in Camden County, the economic impact will be far more detrimental to our community than the economic impact felt by any other MSST based community. In comparison to the east coast missions not slated for decommissioning, the economic impact is 9,000% greater than Boston; 8,000% greater than Miami.

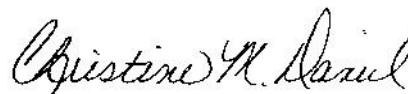
With the legislation for the creation of a Jobs Bill (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) currently in the House and Senate, it appears the decision to eliminate any MSST Unit is in direct contradiction to what the President is trying to accomplish...reduce unemployment.

We sincerely request the current level of services of the Coast Guard be maintained in the 2011 budget. If elimination of any MSST Unit is necessary, we recommend not eliminating MSST 91108 at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, but rather consider a larger community which would be more economically diversified and able to absorb the impact.

Sincerely,



David M. Keating  
Executive Director  
Camden County Joint Development Authority



Christine M. Daniel  
President/CEO  
Camden County Chamber of Commerce