

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2019

Admiral Craig S. Faller
Commander
U.S. Southern Command
9301 NW 33 Street
Doral, FL 33172

Dear Admiral Faller:

This letter is to express our support for Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-South) to remain in the State of Florida. This critical mission requires JIATF-South to retain proximity to the region as the center of excellence for all-resource fusion and employment of joint, interagency, and international capabilities to eliminate illicit trafficking posing a threat to national security and regional stability.

As you know, JIATF-South is essential to our national security through the detection and monitoring of illicit trafficking across all domains, disruption, and dismantlement of illicit and converging threat networks in support of national and hemispheric security. This past November, the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) United States Interdiction Coordinator (USIC) recognized JIATF-South as an exceptional performer from the interagency interdiction community due to its innovation, tactics, aggressiveness, and results in the efforts to stem the flow of drugs into the United States.

As you continue the process of identifying the optimum location for JIATF-South, we urge JIATF-South's headquarter remain in Florida. This will continue to provide excellent quality of life for servicemembers and their families, and is home to the U.S. Combatant Command which oversees this key region. Given the extensive history Florida and JIATF-South share, it is only fitting that Florida remains the home to JIATF-South.

We hope the additional positive benefits Florida brings to the JIATF-South team will be determinative in your upcoming decision relative to JIATF-South's next location. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership of U.S. SOUTHCOM. We stand ready to continue these important discussions, as well as the mutual benefit of retaining JIATF-South in Florida.



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator