

By Senator Jones

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Senate Resolution No. _____

A resolution urging the Federal Government to ensure that the United States Southern Command is permanently situated in Miami.

WHEREAS, the United States Southern Command (Southcom) is responsible for all United States military interaction in Central and South America and the Caribbean, and

WHEREAS, the Southcom headquarters relocated to Miami from the Republic of Panama because of Miami's unique ability to support and complement the mission requirements of the command, and

WHEREAS, the economic, political, cultural, and social impact of the Southern Hemisphere on the United States and this state is critically important and will only continue to grow, and

WHEREAS, this state is fully involved in trade and cultural relations with the Southern Hemisphere, and has the complementary resources available in the Miami area to work with that region, and

WHEREAS, for the same reasons that the permanent Secretariat of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas should be located in Miami, as espoused by Congress in its joint concurrent resolutions dated November 19, 1999, and April 11, 2001, Miami and this state are uniquely situated geographically and possess the infrastructure, resources, and culture necessary for the success of both organizations, and

WHEREAS, the Southcom headquarters building and land is currently operated through a limited term lease, and any action to extend the Southcom headquarters beyond the terms of the current lease requires Congressional approval, and

1 WHEREAS, this state has provided the Federal Government
2 with a no-cost, 50-year lease of land abutting the Southcom
3 headquarters, satisfying long term security requirements and
4 enhancing its current limited term lease, and

5 WHEREAS, any delay in resolving the long term presence
6 of Southcom headquarters fails to signal the commitment of the
7 United States and this state to our partner nations in the
8 region, NOW, THEREFORE,

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10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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12 That the Federal Government is strongly urged to ensure
13 that the requirements to permanently situate Southcom in Miami
14 through the purchase or long-term lease of the headquarters
15 and the land are fully funded in the fiscal year 2003 federal
16 defense budget, or as soon as possible thereafter.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
18 be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
19 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
20 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
21 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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