

By Representative Lacasa

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the positive influence of permanently locating the United States Southern Command in Miami-Dade County.

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 House of Representatives of the State of
11 Florida:

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13 That the House of Representatives recognizes and
14 appreciates the positive influence, at present and in the
15 future, of Southcom's presence at its current location in
16 Miami-Dade County towards the furthering of this nation's
17 relationship with its Latin American neighbors, the fostering
18 of international trade opportunities, and the strengthening of
19 the defense of our southern borders.