



**DIRECTOR
JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE SOUTH
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040**

February 18, 2014

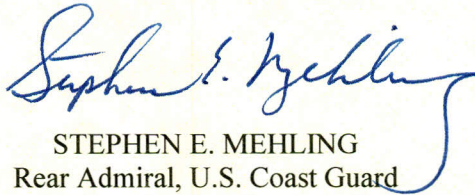
Admiral Train,

On February 23rd, JIATF South marks its 25th year as a task force charged to combat illicit trafficking and foster national and hemispheric security. Over the last quarter-century, we have fought the corrosive influence and destructive consequences of illicit trafficking together. Our mission is complex and our enemies continually evolve in order to evade our efforts. Only through the steadfast commitment of international and interagency partners have we achieved great success in this noble struggle, and indeed, only through the fostering and expansion of these partnerships can JIATF South continue this legacy.

On the advent of our 25 year milestone, I congratulate and thank you for the steadfast commitment of the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office. I am filled with pride when I think about the great partnership our two organizations share, and our achievements in the fight against the scourge of illicit trafficking. This success would not be possible without the contributions of the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office and the dedication of your men and women, who have committed their lives to the service of their country to bring about a safer world.

Despite our many successes, there remains much to do. We must continue to evolve our mission to combat the convergence of criminal, terrorist and nation-state threats. Your organization's devotion to duty, professionalism, and unique capabilities are critical in our mission to interdict, disrupt and dismantle the illicit trafficking organizations that plague our world. Without you, our first 25 years would not have been possible. I look forward to celebrating another 25 years of close partnership with the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office. By expanding our cooperation, we will curb the flow of illicit narcotics and enhance international order.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN E. MEHLING
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Rear Admiral Elizabeth Train
Director, National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office
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