



**UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101**

1 July 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of Commerce
Office of the Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Room 5516
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your leadership role in the Ocean for Life program. As Commander of U.S. Central Command, I strongly support programs such as Ocean for Life (OFL). OFL represents a tremendous opportunity for the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS), U.S. State Department, academia, and other agencies to lead an effective whole of government approach to improve long-term relationships and consistent engagement among broad populations, particularly youth, in the U.S., Western, and Muslim world through science education.

Our efforts to combat violent extremism and promote mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and the Central Region absolutely require the type of whole of government approach that OFL offers. Coordination among lead agencies in the U.S. Government is essential to successfully engage the states and peoples of the region to further our common goals.

Again, let me extend my sincere thanks along with the men and women serving at U.S. Central Command for your leadership in the Ocean for Life program. I look forward to continued cooperation in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Petraeus".

DAVID H. PETRAEUS
General, U.S. Army

cc:

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., Under Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Administrator
Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Ms. Nancy H. Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Michael I. Weiss, White House Council on Environmental Quality