EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 88-12

WHEREAS, IT IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED THAT OVER ONE-HALF OF ALL CRIMES COMMITTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO DRUGS; AND

WHEREAS, SOUTH CAROLINA RANKS EIGHTH IN THE NATION IN THE NUMBER OF MARIJUANA PLANTS SEIZED BY DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; AND

WHEREAS, THERE HAS BEEN A 24% INCREASE IN ARRESTS FOR COCAINE USE AND A 50% INCREASE IN HEROIN ARRESTS; AND

WHEREAS, THIS INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSE HAS CAUSED A PROLIFERATION OF "DRUG HOUSES" OR ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE PURCHASE AND SALE OF NARCOTICS OCCUR ON A CONTINUING BASIS; AND

WHEREAS, THESE ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDE RETAIL BEVERAGE OUTLETS LICENSED BY THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION AND HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS; AND
WHEREAS THE RECENT INCREASE IN STREET CRIME CAN BE LIMITED TO THE PROLIFERATIONS OF THESE DRUGHOUSES; AND

WHEREAS, THESE DRUG OPERATIONS ARE RESULTING IN CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ORGANIZING INTO GANGS WITH GREATER DEPENDENCE ON VIOLENCE TO PROTECT THEIR AREAS OF CRIMINAL INFLUENCE; AND

WHEREAS, THESE ORGANIZED EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH FOREIGN DRUG CONNECTIONS, ARE NOT ONLY A NATIONWIDE PROBLEM, BUT ALSO ARE FAST BECOMING A PROBLEM IN SOUTH CAROLINA; AND

WHEREAS, SOUTH CAROLINA DESIRES TO TAKE DEFINITIVE ACTION TO ALLEVIATE THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS BY REMOVING THESE DRUG HOUSES, MARIJUANA FIELDS, AND THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY RESULTING FROM THESE DRUG PROBLEMS; AND

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA NEEDS A CONCERTED STATEWIDE EFFORT TO COMBAT THESE PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE USE OF LOCAL AND STATE POLICE AUTHORITIES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED UPON ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE, I HEREBY CREATE THE RETALIATION AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS (RAID) TEAM.

THE RAID TEAM WILL INVOLVE AGENTS FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (SLED), ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION (ABC), WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION (WILDLIFE), AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL (SCHP).

THE TEAM WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH SLED AND EACH OF THE FOUR AGENCIES WILL HAVE A SUPERVISORY AGENT LOCATED AT SLED.

THE TEAM WILL COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH COUNTY SHERIFFS AND/OR POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

THE FUNDING FOR THE TEAM WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, THE ABC COMMISSION, AND FROM WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON SIGNATURE.


CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOHN T. CAMPBELL
SECRETARY OF STATE