



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

6 January 1995

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the COAST GUARD UNIT COMMENDATION to:

GREAT LAKES ICE BREAKING FORCES

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service during the Great Lakes ice breaking season from 28 December 1993 to 1 May 1994. The coldest winter in a decade, with record setting low temperatures, caused unusually thick and widespread ice to form across the Great Lakes severely hampering commercial vessel traffic carrying critical cargo. Demonstrating outstanding coordination, resource management, and operational expertise, Great Lakes Ice Breaking Forces, comprised of seven U.S. Coast Guard cutters, three Canadian Coast Guard vessels, and several operational and support commands ashore, kept critical shipping lanes open, assisted commercial vessels beset in the ice, and provided prompt flood relief operations throughout the Great Lakes. Serving as assets to Operations COAL SHOVEL, OIL CAN, and TACONITE, ice breaking vessels expended over 2,350 operational hours providing direct assistance and escorts, and over 3,200 operational hours maintaining shipping tracks. All totaled, 224 direct assists and 158 escorts to commercial vessels carrying an estimated total cargo value of over \$130 million were documented. Additionally, 274 operational hours were conducted for aerial ice reconnaissance and 169 operational hours on flood control and prevention. National and international coordination efforts among U.S. and Canadian operational and support commands proved invaluable. The daily coordination required and reliable flow of information ensured wise transportation decisions were made during ever-changing conditions and significantly enhanced the partnership between the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards. By the efforts of the Great Lakes Ice Breaking Forces, communities in the region significantly benefited by commercial vessels reaching their ports and were assured that the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards had a strong and effective ice breaking response capability on the Great Lakes. The professionalism and dedication exhibited by the Great Lakes Ice Breaking Forces are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. LOY".

J. M. LOY
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Atlantic Area