



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

7 JUL 2006

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

**USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC-719)
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA**

for service set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service during the period October 2004 to February 2006 while through the use of innovative tactics and the unwavering dedication of the crew, CGC BOUTWELL exemplified operational excellence as she seized or disrupted more than 58,700 pounds of cocaine, detained 44 suspected drug smugglers and saved 4 mariners in distress. CGC BOUTWELL made expert use of her embarked Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron Jacksonville MH-68 aircraft to safely stop four non-compliant go-fasts smuggling vessels. Demonstrating great tenacity and innovation, CGC BOUTWELL successfully interdicted the non-compliant F/V ANGIE MAR using a combination of warning shots from the cutter and an improvised entangling device deployed from the cutter's small boats. CGC BOUTWELL compelled F/V ANGIE MAR to stop without exposing the vessel's crew to the danger of disabling fire, resulting in the seizure of 5,040 pounds of cocaine and 12 smugglers and the successful test case of the U.S. - Colombian Joint Boarding Standard Operation Procedure. The execution and case package preparation for the fishing vessels ISIS, PRINCESSA DE DRAKE, and ANGIE MAR played a significant role in fostering the bi-lateral counternarcotics efforts with Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Colombia. In the summer of 2005, CGC BOUTWELL performed an unusually productive Alaska Patrol, safely and professionally conducted 19 fisheries law enforcement boardings, prosecuted 5 search and rescue cases, performed a proof of concept for the Area Commander's OPERATION EXTENDED REACH homeland security initiative, and served as the Beirng Sea surface interdiction asset for the NORTHERN EDGE 2005 joint exercise. Showing exceptional planning, initiative, and hard work, the crew ensured the nearly 40-year-old cutter was at the highest readiness level for every mission and contingency. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by the CGC BOUTWELL 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 cursive script, appearing to read "C. D. Wurster".

C. D. WURSTER
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area