



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

29 June 2009

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

**U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)  
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA**

for service set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

“For exceptionally meritorious service from January to July 2009 while serving as a component of the USS BOXER Expeditionary Strike Group in support of U.S. Central Command. Completing a 41,000 nautical mile deployment circumnavigating the globe, CGC BOUTWELL bolstered international cooperation while providing extensive capability to combat illegal narcotics trafficking and anti-piracy efforts. While patrolling the Gulf of Aden as part of the newly-established Commander Task Force 151, CGC BOUTWELL demonstrated her unique capabilities to combat the real time threat of high-seas piracy. Following a distress call from the M/V SKAFTAFELL, which was under small arms attack from a skiff aggressively maneuvering with the intent to board, BOUTWELL immediately diverted their embarked helicopter to interrupt the attack. Acting on a French Maritime Patrol Aircraft’s vectoring, CGC BOUTWELL intercepted and boarded the suspicious skiff outside of Somali territorial waters. CGC BOUTWELL’s steadfast mission execution enabled the disruption of a dangerous pirate attack, the interdiction and deterrence of seven suspected pirates, and ensured the safety of SKAFTAFELL’s crew and cargo. Committed to strengthening international maritime relationships, she actively participated in six Theater Security Cooperation events, including Pakistan’s multi-national naval exercise AMAN ’09. CGC BOUTWELL modeled boarding techniques, search and rescue procedures and skillfully directed defense tactics against fast attack craft to a dozen naval ships where these methods were later employed to ward off pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden. Additionally, CGC BOUTWELL helped to reestablish diplomatic relationships with LIBYA as the first U.S. Naval warship to visit this country in over 40 years. Throughout the deployment, she exemplified the humanitarian nature of our service by rehabilitating a wetland in Malaysia, refurbishing a retirement home in India and rescuing 22 people found adrift for over three days without food or water in the Gulf of Oman. The professionalism, pride, and devotion to duty displayed by 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 blue ink that reads "D. Pekoske".

D. PEKOSKE

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area