



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

FEB 11 2009

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting
The COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION to:

AMBROSE CHANNEL EXTENSION PROJECT TEAM

For service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious service from November 2007 to October 2008 in the extraordinary execution of the largest and fastest restructuring of Ambrose Channel since its creation in 1899. In November of 2007, the Motor Vessel AXEL SPIRIT allided with Ambrose Light causing catastrophic damage to the light and its structure. Civil Engineering Unit Providence along with the First Coast Guard District and Coast Guard Sector New York immediately responded by conducting extensive surveys to assess the damage and identify corrective action to minimize impact on port operations in the busy Port of New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ). A team comprised of personnel from the First District, Sector New York, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Sandy Hook Pilots, and the NY/NJ Harbor Operations and Safety Committee undertook a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of Ambrose Light as a viable aid to navigation. The outstanding teamwork by these stakeholders resulted in a plan to extend Ambrose Channel, relocate the Pilot Area, modify the approach areas to New York Harbor, and create a Shallow Draft Vessel Route to better facilitate tug and barges transits near Ambrose Channel. This intensive, rapid, and comprehensive coordination among all units ensured the safest and most efficient channel extension to aid shipping while thoughtfully addressing the sensitive political nature of disestablishing Ambrose Light. USCGC JUNIPER, USCGC KATHERINE WALKER and Aids to Navigation Team New York then partnered to establish, relocate, and re-number 42 aids to navigation in only four days during an already demanding operational period in October 2008. Additionally, USCGC KATHERINE WALKER also deployed a new offshore NOAA Weather Buoy to replace the loss of critical weather data availability suffered by removal of Ambrose Tower. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by the AMBROSE CHANNEL EXTENSION PROJECT TEAM reflect credit upon each team member, unit and the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. G. Gabel", written over a circular stamp.

D. G. GABEL

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, First Coast Guard District