



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

18 May 2005

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

**TOPOFF-3 REAL-WORLD MISSION TEAM**

For services as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For exceptionally meritorious service from April 3 through 8 as a member of the TOPOFF-3 Real World Mission Team. Demonstrating superior work ethic, ingenuity, and inspired teamwork, the TOPOFF-3 Real World Mission Team successfully completed all Group/Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound missions over the course of six days despite a 85% reduction in available personnel. The TOPOFF-3 exercise was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and included over 200 federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and international agencies and organizations. The 10,000 participants were spread over 4 venues and were responding to a biological agent release in New Jersey, a chemical agent and high-yield explosive incident in Connecticut and the United Kingdom, and post-incident effects of the biological incident in the United States and Canada. Realizing the scope of TOPOFF-3 would require the response actions of the vast majority of Group/Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound, a small cadre composed of Coast Guard active duty, civilian, reserve, and Auxiliary personnel was hand picked to plan for and execute all real world missions, including marine safety, search and rescue, port security, and all logistical support functions. This group organized itself so that it had the appropriate capacity and capability by ensuring the right number of people and right skill sets were present in each of its teams. The TOPOFF-3 Real World Mission Team developed real life response scenarios and potential missions assignments, and then drafted appropriate contingency plans. Lines of command and control were established and exercised between the core group at New Haven and each of the subordinate units located throughout the Group/Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound area of responsibility prior to the start of TOPOFF-3. For the six days of TOPOFF-3, the Real World Mission Team flawlessly executed all missions – prioritizing assignments when necessary to direct resources at the highest risk mission areas, but always providing the level of customer service and operational excellence the public has come to expect from the Coast Guard and the support our subordinate units have come to expect from their operational commander. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by the members of the TOPOFF-3 Real World Mission Team reflect credit upon each team member and the United States Coast Guard."

The operational distinguishing device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Boynton".

P. J. BOYNTON

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard

Commander, Group and Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound