



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

17 December 1993

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

U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
GALVESTON, TEXAS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 21 December 1992 to 14 March 1993 while responding to the collision between the motor vessel JUARAJ DALMATINAC and barge DUVAL 2 in the Houston Ship Channel. The collision, which resulted in the sinking of the DUVAL 2, created an extreme hazard to navigation and restricted marine commerce to the Port of Houston, Texas, for almost two months. Through extensive coordination with Federal, State, local, and private interests, Marine Safety Office (MSO) Galveston worked round the clock through the Christmas and New Years holiday season to oversee salvage operations and to coordinate a high volume of marine traffic in three major shipping channels. With the main channel to Houston blocked, a large backlog of deep draft ships rapidly developed and industry tensions ran high as carriers threatened to direct shipments to other ports. At one point, a major Houston refinery faced a critical shortage of petroleum feedstock. In the face of conflicting pressures, MSO Galveston provided a common bond among the numerous agencies and commercial resources to facilitate critical vessel shipments without jeopardizing safety or unduly delaying salvage efforts. As a result, complex salvage operations were completed without incident and with the least possible disruption to marine transportation. Throughout the response, MSO Galveston maintained an extremely proactive public relations posture in an intense media spotlight. Virtually no unit deadlines were missed, and the unit further distinguished itself during the extended response effort by staging a flawless multi-unit, highly publicized dedication ceremony for the nation's first OPA-90 prestaged pollution response equipment. The professionalism, devotion to duty, and meritorious performance reflect highly on each individual, their command, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

PAUL A. WELLING
Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Atlantic Area