



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593  
13 December 95

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

USCG MARINE SAFETY OFFICE  
GALVESTON, TEXAS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 5 to 17 February 1995 while responding to the major marine casualty and subsequent oil spill which occurred when the tank ship SKAUBAY collided with the 1,135 foot VLCC BERGE BANKER in the lightering zone 50 miles off Galveston, Texas. As a result of the collision, the BERGE BANKER's starboard deep tank and #1 cargo tank were breached. Approximately 900 barrels of #6 fuel oil was released into the sea and with over two million barrels of crude oil onboard, immediate actions had to be undertaken to prevent an uncontrolled release of cargo and additional fuel oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Assuming the role of Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC), MSO Galveston immediately commenced the emergency phase, establishing an Incident Command System (ICS), deploying personnel on-scene to rapidly assess the situation, mobilizing pollution response organizations and equipment, and evaluating the use of dispersants and in-situ burning. Members of the Command worked long arduous hours, routinely putting in 15+ hour days providing valuable expertise and insight to the responsible party, and keeping District and area units apprised of events as they transpired. Marine Safety Office personnel demonstrated an exceptional level of technical skill and competence in assessing the extent of damage, determining the amount of #6 oil spilled, and supervising the safe lightering of bunkers and crude oil. MSO Galveston's ability to maintain an outstanding working relationship with the Texas General Land Office and the responsible party contributed in no small measure to the speedy and successful lightering and salvage of the BERGE BANKER. MSO Galveston was extremely persuasive in prompting the Norwegian Government to conduct a formal investigation with Coast Guard participation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. MSO Galveston's devotion to duty and excellent performance is 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 dark ink, appearing to read "R. C. North", written over a faint circular stamp.

R. C. NORTH  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District