



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

JUN 26 2009

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

**U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY UNIT GALVESTON
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS**

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from February 2009 to October 2009, while managing multiple high-profile operations in the ports of Galveston, Freeport, Texas City, and on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. In February 2009, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Galveston investigators discovered piping installation onboard the towing vessel GEORGIOS M designed specifically for the illegal discharge of waste oil. The unit subsequently conducted a comprehensive investigation, praised by the Department of Justice, that led to a \$1.25 million fine. While conducting the initial investigation onboard GEORGIOS M, the towing vessel YASA GOLDEN DARDANELLES ran aground 22 miles offshore. MSU Galveston personnel expertly managed the lightering of over 3.5 million gallons of oil from the grounded tanker to successfully refloat the vessel and prevent a major offshore oil spill. In March 2009, the towing vessel SKS SATILLA, a fully laden 900-foot tank ship, struck the submerged Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit ENSCO 74, sustaining significant structural damage. Lauded by Congressional and senior Coast Guard leaders, the Unified Command led by MSU Galveston worked around-the-clock to evaluate salvage and lightering plans, then successfully lightered over 41 million gallons of oil to prevent a major offshore oil spill. The unit then managed the removal of all accessible oil from the sunken oil rig. In October 2009, while responding to a collision between the Offshore Supply Vessel AET ENDEAVOR and the towing vessel KRYMSK that resulted in a 14,000 gallon oil spill 40 miles offshore, the unit's decisive use of dispersants in the early hours of the response operation was credited with preventing shoreline impacts and injury to marine life. During this period, MSU Galveston personnel lightered over 70 million gallons of petroleum, recovered over 25,000 gallons of oil, conducted over 1,600 vessel inspections, 225 marine casualty investigations, and 400 high interest vessel boardings. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by MSU Galveston are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

R. C. PARKER.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area