



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593
4 March 1991

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

COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
GALVESTON, TEXAS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 28 July 1990 through 17 August 1990, while engaged in response to the major pollution incident resulting from a collision between the M/V SHINOUSSA and tank barges APEX 3417 and APEX 3503 in the Houston Ship Channel, Galveston Bay, Texas. The rapid response of personnel from Marine Safety Office Galveston provided for immediate mobilization of the spill response organization. The unit launched a massive effort to establish lines of communication with concerned state, county and local officials. Marine Safety Office Galveston personnel located and alerted available cleanup contractors. The large on-the-water recovery effort was actively engaged in a coordinated oil pick-up and recovery operation in minimum time. In addition, even before the oil came ashore, beach cleanup operations had been organized, equipment staged, and personnel readied. Due to these efforts, when the oil did come ashore, vigorous cleanup commenced immediately. Throughout the cleanup, the unit's efforts proved the necessary catalyst to bring the diverse industry, government and private interest groups together. Marine Safety Office Galveston personnel coordinated the ever changing equipment and personnel requirements. When traditional cleanup techniques could no longer be used, MSO Galveston responded with the very first application of bioremediation in any estuarine setting involving living organisms. By applying the bioremediation agent using strict scientific protocols, a scientific study as to its true benefits was able to be conducted. Working under the glare of intense media presence, MSO personnel demonstrated a high degree of professionalism that brought a positive light to the response. During this spill MSO Galveston personnel worked long hours in adversely hot weather conditions that caused heat stress exceeding normally safe levels. Through close monitoring and support of personnel, an effective response was safely maintained. Marine Safety Office Galveston's effectiveness in this massive response effort is directly attributable to the tenacity, versatility and special perseverance of all involved Coast Guard personnel. This professionalism, devotion to duty and exceptionally meritorious performance reflects highly on each individual and the command and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

J. M. LOY

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