



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

8 March 1991

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

USCG MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
GALVESTON, TEXAS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 8 June to 27 July 1990 while engaged in response to the major fire and oil spill of the motor vessel MEGA BORG in the Gulf of Mexico. On 8 June, while lightering, MEGA BORG's pumproom exploded leaving the vessel on fire, crippled and leaking oil. MSO Galveston responded rapidly by supervising the fire fighting and protecting the threatened cargo tanks. These efforts prevented the fire from destroying the vessel. Responding to an event occurring 60 miles offshore, MSO Galveston personnel solved complex logistical problems to mount an effective fire fighting, salvage and pollution cleanup campaign. To meet this challenge eight cutters, 10 aircraft, numerous small craft and 500 Coast Guard personnel were used to avert a catastrophic 38 million gallon oil spill. Once the fire was out, MSO Galveston oversaw the lightering of the structurally damaged vessel to ensure safe operations. MSO GALVESTON led the response to the fifth largest oil spill in U. S. history. Marshalling the resources of the federal government and the private sector, an armada of cleanup equipment converged on the spill. Due to these efforts, no significant environmental damage occurred as a result of this spill. Throughout the cleanup, MSO Galveston personnel worked in the media spotlight bringing great credit upon themselves and the service by their professionalism. MSO Galveston provided the common bond among the numerous government agencies and commercial resources while coordinating their efforts. The professionalism, devotion to duty and exceptionally meritorious performance reflect highly on each individual, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. B. Thorsen".

H. B. THORSEN

Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area
By direction of the Commandant