



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

01 May 2008

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to:

**U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON**

for service set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 1 April to 30 September 2007 while flawlessly executing all Coast Guard missions under extraordinary operational demand. Sector Houston-Galveston managed over 9,000 vessel port calls, the highest number of any Sector in the nation, responded to over 180 marine casualties, 200 pollution incidents, and serviced over 1,000 aids to navigation during this period. Of particular note was the 24 hour reconstitution of 58 aids after the passage of Hurricane HUBERTO. Simultaneously with the HUBERTO response, the Sector was aggressively responding to the release of ten million gallons of phosphoric acid and successfully averted a catastrophic release of 350 million gallons of the acid. While performing over 6,000 vessel inspection activities, eight times the average Sector workload, Sector Houston-Galveston Inspectors and investigators aggressively pursued three illegal oil discharge cases with the Department of Justice. Prosecution of one of these companies resulted in a \$37 million dollar fine—the largest monetary penalty in U.S. history paid by a shipping company for criminal violation of environmental laws. Additionally, the Sector conducted two major multi-agency, multi-mission surge operations; a nine agency, 70 person Intra-coastal waterway surge operation, and "Operation Red Phoenix", which included over 400 vessel escorts and security zone patrols, 450 vessel boardings and 2,000 facility access point checks. These operations resulted in over 150 arrests, 50 citations, 75 vessel terminations, and 10 weapons seizures. Responding to nearly 500 search and rescue cases, Sector Houston-Galveston personnel saved over 150 lives. The Sector also performed more than 100 outreach events, including hosting the nation's largest Sea Scout Jamboree and Operation SAFE BOAT, a recreational boating safety and education effort on Lake Texoma. Moreover, the Sector conducted over 900 sorties to secure vital military outloads, which represented 46 percent of all military outload activity in the nation over this period. In support of these outstanding efforts, the Sector managed over \$6.75 million in facility repairs and provided superb logistical support to over 1,000 Team Coast Guard members. The professionalism, pride, and devotion to duty displayed by the men and women of Sector Houston-Galveston are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

D. B. PETERMAN  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Atlantic Area