



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

5 March 1984

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

USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious and exemplary service from 15 October 1982 to 12 August 1983 while performing missions involving Search and Rescue, Military Preparedness and Law Enforcement. In March 1983, while on patrol in the Bering Sea, BOUTWELL diverted at full speed through blizzard conditions to the capsized F/V SEAHAWK. Despite a 20 mile error in reported distress position, BOUTWELL located five crew members who had been in 33-degree water for one hour and fifteen minutes, and brought them promptly on board. During a later patrol, BOUTWELL rescued three survivors from the sinking F/V COMET, 20 miles north of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. So complete were BOUTWELL's preparations that the survivors were in the water only four minutes. Further, during the course of these two patrols, BOUTWELL conducted three MEDEVACS requiring coordinated ship/helicopter operations, a 300 mile tow in the Bering Sea and saved the Canadian F/V TRACEY LEE and crew by pumping the vessel dry after approximately one-third of the engine room was flooded. BOUTWELL was praised by Commander, Navy Training Command, Pacific Fleet for near perfect training readiness evaluation upon arrival for refresher training. For subsequent superior performance at refresher training, BOUTWELL was selected as the Ship of the Year for obtaining an exceptionally high overall score while earning every Excellence award. During the summer ALPAT, BOUTWELL conducted three separate joint exercises with the Canadian Navy and the United States Air Force. BOUTWELL met or exceeded all training objectives, employing all sensors and weapons systems to produce a highly effective offensive capability. As a law enforcement vessel, BOUTWELL continually sought out and reported both tactical and strategic intelligence concerning clandestine methods of the foreign fishing vessels, conducted high quality boardings and displayed innovative fisheries enforcement concepts. BOUTWELL's sustained superior performance reflects great credit upon her entire crew and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

C. E. LARKIN
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Pacific Area