



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

JUN 10 2002

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

**USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719), ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA,
USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715), SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, and
HELICOPTER INTERDICTION TACTICAL SQUADRON TEN,
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For meritorious service from 1 November 2001 to 15 March 2002 during the first Operation New Frontier deployment to the Eastern Pacific. Prior to sailing, the CGC HAMILTON, CGC BOUTWELL and Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron TEN worked tirelessly, equipping and training to successfully execute this complex dual cutter, dual aircraft, and over-the-horizon small boat force package. Orchestrating all units into a synchronous team to interdict fast-boats suspected of smuggling narcotics and exercise new aircraft and small boat use of force capabilities, required a focused, dedicated effort by everyone on the cutters and the aircraft detachments. This deployment proved extremely successful and validated the force package capability for the area of operations, resulting in the seizure of approximately 12-tons of cocaine and 3,350 pounds of marijuana, apprehension of 13 narcotics traffickers, and rescue of 211 undocumented migrants. The street value of the drugs intercepted is estimated at over 780 million. The incredible success of this multi-unit deployment provided visibility of the Coast Guard’s new law enforcement capability to many government agencies and resulted in extensive favorable media network attention for the Coast Guard’s counter-drug efforts. The outstanding achievements of this deployment are directly attributed to the proactive attitude and outstanding mission performance of these units. The professionalism, pride, and devotion to duty displayed by the command and crews of CGC BOUTWELL, CGC HAMILTON, and Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron TEN 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 "E. R. Riutta", written over a horizontal line.

E. R. RIUTTA

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area