



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

DEC 5 2002

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

USCGC BISCAYNE BAY (WTGB 104)  
CAPTAIN OF THE PORT CHICAGO SAFETY ZONE PATROL TEAM

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For exceptionally meritorious service from 1 June 2002 to 31 August 2002 for the extraordinary execution of 61 Safety Zones ensuring the safety of the public during numerous high profile marine events in the Chicago area. The Team also included members of the following state and local agencies: the Illinois Conservation Police, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Chicago Police and Fire Departments, the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, and the Gary, Indiana Fire and Police Departments. Additional local support was given by Chicago Air-Sea Rescue, the Chicago Park District, the Mayor of Chicago’s Office of Special Events, the Chicago Yachting Association, Sea Scout Ship 352, and the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center. The combined actions of all these organizations totaled an astonishing 2500 shore and afloat safety patrols. Following the terrible terrorist attacks on American soil on September 11, 2001 integrated port safety and security planning with federal, state, and local law enforcement assets was essential to the continued support of traditional marine events and to bolster public confidence. These marine events included the Chicago 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, the Chicago Air and Water show, the Chicago Mackinac race, and Chicago’s Venetian Night. Millions of spectators and thousands of recreational and commercial passenger boats gathered to enjoy these events on the Lake Michigan waterfront, greatly increasing the risk of potential accidents. Boat operators who were suspected of operating while intoxicated, operating their vessels in an unsafe manner, or in violation of the established Safety Zones were boarded to ensure they complied with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. These professionally conducted boardings helped prevent accidents and promoted safe boating by the public. Through excellent operational coordination and use of communications these marine events were all executed safely and obtained positive media coverage for all organizations involved. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by Captain of the Port Chicago Safety Zone Patrol Team reflects credit upon each team member, USCGC BISCAYNE BAY (WTGB 104), and the United States Coast Guard.”

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. E. Seebald".

R. E. SEEBALD

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office Chicago