



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

10 April 1986

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

COAST GUARD AIR STATION KODIAK
OPERATION CLOSE LOOK TASK FORCE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 1 November 1985 to 28 February 1986 while serving as part of the multi-agency and international Pacific Coast drug law enforcement effort focusing on source countries and trans-shipment points off the Central American coasts of Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. Titled operation CLOSE LOOK, its primary objective was the disruption of international smugglers by denying them their traditional smuggling routes as well as depriving them of a "wait it out" position by increased in-country law enforcement pressure from cooperative host governments. To achieve this purpose required a massive effort by many agencies, including detailed planning and in-country participation by Commander Pacific Area staff, continuous surface patrols by Coast Guard Cutters BOUTWELL and MORGENTHAU with embarked aviation detachments from Air Stations North Bend and Los Angeles, patrols by USS SCHOFIELD, MAHLON S. TISDALE, OCALAHAN and LANG with embarked Coast Guard law enforcement detachments, and daily fixed wing surveillance flights by P3 aircraft from PATRON 65 and 69 as well as Coast Guard C-130's from Air Stations Kodiak and Sacramento. In addition, Coast Guard Cutters conducted joint operations with surface units and naval personnel from Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia to enhance training opportunities and intergovernmental cooperation. Because of the outstanding contribution of all participants, CLOSE LOOK, in conjunction with HAT TRICK II, its east coast counterpart, had a major impact on drug traffickers, reenforced our ongoing commitment to combat this insidious social problem, and bolstered participating local governments in their own in-country eradication and interdiction programs. The professional skill, enthusiasm and long hours of dedicated service so selflessly delivered by all members of the Operation CLOSE LOOK Task Force are most heartily commended 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 "John D. Costello", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN D. COSTELLO
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area