



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

01 JUL 2003

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

**USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)  
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

“For exceptionally meritorious service from 6 February 2003 to 25 May 2003 while engaged in Coalition Maritime and Fifth Fleet Missions in the North Arabian Gulf in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. CGC BOUTWELL’s skillful execution of multiple, simultaneous tasks under wartime conditions in the Northern Arabian Gulf resulted in a well-earned reputation for operational excellence. CGC BOUTWELL’s vigilance and professional patrolling in support of combat personnel securing two pivotal crude oil export platforms helped avert a major maritime environmental disaster and protected a vital economic resource for the people of Iraq. As the Sea Echelon Commander for force protection for the Iraqi oil platforms, CGC BOUTWELL’s presence served as a highly visible and credible deterrent to hostile forces. As Operation IRAQI FREEDOM commenced, CGC BOUTWELL quickly assumed a combat position in the vicinity of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, preventing use of that waterway as an escape route for Iraqi leadership and for asymmetric terrorist attacks on Coalition forces. Skillfully maintaining position between Iranian territorial waters and the two major Iraqi oil terminals, CGC BOUTWELL launched an unprecedented 181 air sorties conducting air reconnaissance of the North Arabian Gulf and Shatt Al Arab waterway. These air missions also provided escort to Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship SIR GALLAHAD, the first humanitarian aid vessel to deliver badly needed supplies to the people of southern Iraq. The professionalism, pride, and devotion to duty displayed by the CGC BOUTWELL crew 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 "T. M. Cross", written over a circular stamp or seal.

T. M. CROSS

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