



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON 20593

30 April 1990

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

COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from July 1987 to September 1988 while engaged in a broad spectrum of Coast Guard operations and cooperative missions with federal, state and local agencies. The personnel of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City consistently demonstrated unusual determination, stamina and dedication as flight operations exceeded program hours and the unit surpassed the performance of other similarly sized HH3F units in the Coast Guard. During this period, operations increased twenty percent, with 238 search and rescue missions, and 53 lives saved. On one day alone, the air station responded to 32 distress calls. During this period, the air station observed twenty-five years and 65,000 hours of accident-free flying. While sustaining this high tempo of operations, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City projected a superb public image through numerous, highly visible events. The air station hosted and coordinated all support for the "Blue Angels" as part of the National Cherry Festival. Air Station crews represented the Coast Guard at major international air shows at various locations in the United States and Canada, and patrolled major maritime events on the Great Lakes. The air station developed the operating procedures and technical requirements for servicewide use of Night Vision Goggles in the HH3F helicopter, and solved two major engineering problems plaguing the HH3F community - engine oil loss and engine bellmouth blistering. The unit's recommendations were adopted Coast Guard wide, saving considerable time, expense and aircraft damage. The unit also provided critical logistics for National Park Service scientific studies on Isle Royale; worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in a wilderness fish-stocking program; and assisted Marquette County in restoring a remote monument. The skill, courage and dedication demonstrated by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit and the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.



R. A. APPELBAUM

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District  
By direction of the Commandant



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593  
26 July 1990

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

COAST GUARD AIR STATION  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 4 December 1989 to 16 December 1989 while engaged in rescue, salvage and recovery operations for Coast Guard Cutter MESQUITE (WLB 305). When notified of the cutter's grounding, Air Station Traverse City immediately launched two helicopters to the scene. Once on scene, four injured MESQUITE crew members were hoisted from the Merchant Vessel MANGAL DESAI (IN) and transported to a local hospital. Throughout the salvage and recovery operations, Air Station Traverse City performed over a hundred flight sorties and two hundred personnel and equipment hoists. In one difficult operation, air crews hoisted a two thousand pound anchor and chain from the heaving deck of Coast Guard Cutter ACACIA and precisely positioned it to help stabilize MESQUITE. Air Station Traverse City also provided numerous pollution overflights for state and federal environmental agencies and government officials. Air crews amassed over 300 flight hours supporting the rescue, salvage and recovery operations, often operating in poor weather with low ceilings, extremely limited visibility, high winds, and harsh wind chill factors. Throughout this period, Air Station Traverse City continued to maintain its readiness posture for all other missions. The professionalism and devotion to duty exhibited by Air Station Traverse City personnel are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

G. A. PENNINGTON  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

28 May 1992

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

COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
Traverse City, Michigan

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 1 March 1991 to 30 November 1991, while engaged in the complex transition from aging CH-3E to new HH-60J helicopters. The personnel of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Michigan, demonstrated outstanding planning, flexibility, determination and competence in converting of the HH-60J six weeks ahead of schedule. The unit overcame critical manpower shortages caused when formal maintenance training required over 1400 personnel days away from station and transition courses required 28 percent of the assigned pilots. These personnel shortages and the exhaustive maintenance required to maintain and fly six aircraft, both aircrew and pilot training were successfully completed. Detailed parts cross referencing from the CH-3E parts list by unit supply personnel resulted in a 50 percent savings over the projected cost. Additionally, three CH-3E's were maintained in readiness condition, prepared for retirement and transported to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base for storage. After Air Station Traverse City shifted its readiness posture from the CH-3E to the HH-60J on 12 September 1991, the unit quickly demonstrated its ability to safely operate the new helicopter in the harsh Great Lakes environment by rescuing three survivors at night from a storm-tossed sailboat in Lake Superior Upper Peninsula during a blizzard. In spite of this intense, difficult training, Air Station Traverse City was able to meet all of its commitments: airshows, change of command, Annual Cherry Festival activities, and numerous on hand construction projects. Operationally, the unit completed all assignments; flew over 1700 accident free hours; and prosecuted 119 search and rescue cases resulting in 32 lives saved. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit and the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

PAUL A. WELLING

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



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

FEB 07 1995

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

COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service from 28 December 1993 to 1 May 1994 during the Great Lakes icebreaking season. During the months of December, January and February, temperatures averaged 2-5 degrees below normal, resulting in unusually thick ice and widespread coverage across the Great Lakes. Combined with the large volume of thick ice and significant ridging and rafting, these low temperatures made for an exceptionally formidable icebreaking season not seen in 25 years. USCGC ACACIA conducted track maintenance during Spring break out, allowing the ferry BEAVER ISLANDER to resume critical service to the residents of St. James Harbor, MI. USCGC BRAMBLE conducted 4 direct assists and 2 escorts to commercial vessels, including the vessel MARY E. HANNAH who was escorted to Sarnia, Ontario in ballast, expending a total of 32.5 operational hours. The escorts were a cross-border, international success as assistance was also provided by the CCGS GRIFFON. The BRAMBLE also conducted flood relief operations between Willow Point Light and Seaway Island in the lower St. Clair River. Maintenance and Repair Detachment Sault Ste. Marie personnel worked 5368.7 hours, 111 percent of capacity, during the icebreaking season. These long hours spent on corrective and preventive maintenance enhanced the Coast Guard's reputation as the world's premier maritime service. The daily coordination efforts by the Group Detroit and Group Milwaukee Operations Centers provided up-to-date, reliable information to all units. Coordinating operations between ice breaking fleets of the United States and Canadian Coast Guard, air station reconnaissance flights, a commercial ferry service, Army Corps of Engineers and shipping companies, ensured the Ninth District maintained a strong response capability. Air Station Traverse City helicopters flew 102 sorties, totalling 304.4 flight hours in support of the Ninth District domestic icebreaking mission. These flights proved extremely valuable in keeping the steady flow of commercial traffic moving. AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY's performance during 1994 Great Lakes icebreaking season contributed significantly to the smooth flow of commercial vessels throughout the winter months. The professionalism and dedication exhibited by Coast Guard AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY personnel are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized."

For the Commandant,

RUDY K. PESCHEL  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

10 July 1997

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

**COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY,  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 1 January 1995 to 15 April 1997 in the transfer of operations from HH-60J to HH-65A helicopters, transformation of Air Station Chicago to a seasonal air facility and subsequently Air Facility Muskegon, MI., and the sustained superior performance of all assigned duties. Astutely recognizing the pivotal role the aircraft exchange with Air Station Astoria would play in the Aviation Restructuring Plan, Traverse City planners masterfully executed a strategy that completed the move one month ahead of schedule. At the same time, the air station was deeply engaged in establishing a seasonal air facility to assume the operational commitments of Air Station Chicago. Overcoming daunting logistical obstacles, aircrews deployed to Air Facility Glenview and assumed the search and rescue role on schedule with no degradation in service to the public. The air facility's first season was an unqualified success as aircrews prosecuted 76 SAR cases and maintained an aircraft availability rate of 98.5%. Similar initiative in a compressed schedule led to the successful opening of Air Facility Muskegon for the 1997 season. Aircrews were also deployed during winter seasons providing crucial support for domestic icebreaking in the Great Lakes and conducting Caribbean drug interdiction operations. Both efforts set new benchmarks for mission completion rates and aircraft availability. When severe floods devastated the Midwest in 1995, 1996, and 1997, aircrews flew hundreds of hours of critical disaster relief. Self-help and energy conservation programs were applied to the upgrade of unit facilities and over \$80K were saved. A valued community partner, the air station successfully spearheaded the transfer of 27 acres of government land to the local school district. The professionalism, pride, and devotion to duty displayed by Air Station Traverse City are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

ROGER T. RUFF, JR.

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



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

APR 5 2007

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

**U.S. COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service from 1 September 2004 to 31 December 2006 while engaged in a broad spectrum of lifesaving, law enforcement and Homeland Security missions throughout the Atlantic Area. Air Station Traverse City unwaveringly responded to all hazards and threats, prosecuting 462 SAR cases, saving and/or assisting 117 lives, conducting around-the-clock aerial surveillance and deterrence during multiple high-profile Presidential support missions and National Special Security Events, including the 2005 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and the 2005 World Series. Working with regional partners, unit air operations helped eradicate over \$31 million dollars worth of illegal marijuana. Unit personnel deployed during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, providing logistics and medical support to deployed surface units, and integrating with inter-agency responders during relief operations. In 2006 the unit earned an unprecedented third consecutive Aviation Training Center Standardization Excellence Award - the only unit to ever be so honored. Concurrently, unit personnel were instrumental in the implementation of the HH-65 Charlie model upgrade, completing depot level repairs, serving as the maintenance transfer hub for 17 helicopters requiring over 35,000 hours of heavy maintenance to complete the transition six months ahead of schedule. Unit personnel also maintained an exceptionally high optempo during a four month period while overcoming a 40 percent reduction in available aircraft. Traverse City's ability to safely maintain operations and proficiency for a full crew with only three helicopters enabled the Coast Guard to complete the HH65 Charlie model transition on time. Unit personnel completed numerous safety, environmental, and operational improvements including renovations of the hangar deluge system, the base security system, and the operations center with no reduction in operational effectiveness. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by Air Station Traverse City personnel are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,  
JOHN E. CROWLEY, JR.  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District