

Commandant, United States Coast Guard
Washington, District of Columbia

November 4, 1994

SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
ALCOAST

I am very pleased and proud to announce that on 03 November 1994, Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena awarded the Secretary's highest award, the Department of Transportation Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement, to the men and women of the United States Coast Guard.

The citation for the award reads: "For exemplary service to the nation from 01 October 1993 to 30 September 1994. During this period, the Coast Guard truly lived up to its motto 'Semper Paratus'...Always Ready. The Coast Guard saved the lives of thousands of mariners in peril on the high seas including the rescue of 56,000 Haitian and Cuban boat people during the tumultuous summer of 1994. During the simultaneous operations of ARLE MANNER, ABLE VIGIL, and SUPPORT DEMOCRACY, the responsiveness of the Coast Guard provided the opportunity for the administration to implement an effective National Security policy. The Coast Guard took bold and effective action to cope with environmental disasters, such as the devastating floods, fires, and pollution in Houston, Texas, and the grounding of the MORRIS J. BERMAN, which threatened massive oil pollution to the beaches of Puerto Rico. During the most severe winter in decades, the Coast Guard facilitated the uninterrupted flow of commerce through unprecedented ice conditions in the Great Lakes and Northeast. *The Coast Guard further distinguished itself when the Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA became the first U. S. surface vessel to reach the North Pole, while collecting invaluable scientific data.* Throughout one of the most demanding years in the history of the Coast Guard, this unique and vital organization maintained an extraordinary measure of responsiveness, professionalism and service to the American public. The outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Coast Guard men and women is heartily commended and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation."

As a result of this exceptional recognition, I am authorizing Coast Guard Regular, Reserve, and Auxiliary personnel to wear the ribbon Bar which accompanies the DOT Gold Medal. Civilian employees (including NAFA) will receive a comparable pin.

Formal eligibility requirements as well as supply availability and ordering instructions will be provided in a subsequent message.

I extend my personal congratulations to all members of our Coast Guard family on receiving this most prestigious Secretarial Award.

Admiral Robert E. Kramiec



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20363
01 October 1994

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

USCGC POLAR SEA (WAGB 11)
Seattle, Washington

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 15 July 1994 to 06 October 1994 while operating in support of the multi-disciplinary science mission, Arctic Ocean Section 1994. POLAR SEA traversed over 2300 nautical miles of the most difficult ice pack in the world to allow scientists a chance to study first hand a previously unexplored part of the world. POLAR SEA's occupation of over 31 science stations while conducting more than 150 oceanographic and geological casts provided science parties with a wealth of unique and important data never before collected on the American-Asian Arctic basin. This data will make a crucial contribution to mankind's understanding of the Arctic's important role in climatology and global change. Operating in tandem with the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker LOUIS S. ST. LAURENT, POLAR SEA became the first U.S. surface ship to reach 90° North, one of the first two ships in history to make a west-to-east crossing of the Arctic via the North Pole, and the second ship in history to circumnavigate the entire North American continent. While at the Pole, POLAR SEA seized a unique opportunity presented by the presence of the Russian icebreaker YAMAL to organize and host an impromptu multinational exchange which served to reaffirm and strengthen a spirit of good will and cooperation among the Arctic nations. The pride, professionalism, and dedication to duty exhibited by Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA's personnel, reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit and the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

E. D. Herr
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area



Commissioner's Commendation

TO

**THE COMMANDING OFFICER, OFFICERS AND CREW
OF USCGC POLAR SEA**

*In recognition of the ship's exceptional performance
in making the first crossing through the North Pole,
from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean,
in August/September 1994*

Commissioner, Coast Guard Canada