Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Joint Task Force Flexible Anvil

Headquarters, Joint Task Force FLEXIBLE ANVIL, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 31 August 1998 to 9 December 1998. During this period, Joint Task Force FLEXIBLE ANVIL conducted continuous operations demonstrating the ability to conduct cruise missile strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as part of NATO's objectives to support the international community's efforts to end the violence, ease human suffering and bring about a political solution to the crisis in Kosovo. An estimated 200,000 internally displaced civilians had been driven from their homes through a systematic campaign of ethnic violence and terror. As the crisis rapidly developed, Joint Task Force FLEXIBLE ANVIL planned and coordinated the first-ever combined European Theater cruise missile strike operational plan. This complex and detailed plan involved surface and submarine Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles, B-52 Conventional Air Launch Cruise Missile bombers and extensive maritime patrol and surveillance operations in the Adriatic Sea coordinated into a precise strike designed to reverse the course of the atrocious ethnic cleansing ravaging Kosovo. In political negotiations and through proactive media exploitation, Joint Task Force FLEXIBLE ANVIL was the credible threat that ultimately pressured Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to comply with UN Resolution 1199 and to allow the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to establish the Kosovo Verification Mission. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Headquarters, Joint Task Force FLEXIBLE ANVIL, have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 20th day of August 1999

Henry H. Shelton

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff