Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to

Headquarters, United States European Command

Headquarters, United States European Command, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 January 2001 to 30 June 2003. During this most dynamic and volatile period in our Nation's history, involving many complex, multi-national and politically sensitive issues, the command had a clear and measurable impact on the successful execution of numerous actions that took place throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The European Command was instrumental in resolving crises and contingencies across the continuum of conflict by the skillful planning and execution of more than 17 major operations that spanned the length and breadth of its 93-country area of operations. Some of these operations include Operations JOINT FORGE and JOINT GUARDIAN, and Operations ESSENTIAL HARVEST and AMBER FOX in the Balkans. These operations further increased the presence of European nations in peacekeeping actions, which reduced the dependence of the region on American troop deployments. In Turkey, the command planned and executed Operation NORTHERN WATCH with Coalition forces by ensuring specific combat capabilities were available for the operation through coordination with the Services, other combatant commanders and the Joint Staff. Assigned personnel supported 17,671 combat sorties during this 3-year period, yet regardless of the continuous hostile environment, not a single aircraft was lost in spite of Iraq's determination to shoot down coalition aircraft. Operations ranging from security assistance to humanitarian aid to non-combatant evacuation operations in Africa tested the mettle of the men and women of the command. Operations FOCUS RELIEF, AVID RECOVERY, AUTUMN RETURN and SHEPHERD SENTRY dealt with ending civil strife in Sierra Leone, to training soldiers, to evacuation of civilians. Headquarters USEUCOM continued to improve nuclear command and control, retaining and improving its unsurpassed nuclear readiness and weapon security programs. By close rapport with the Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense and NATO, the headquarters ensured a sound and forward-looking nuclear capability consistent with budget and political realities. Following the attacks of 11 September 2001, the command was the first to develop a complete and comprehensive counter-terrorism campaign which served as the basis for support to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and the Global War on Terrorism. Through the command's counter-terrorism joint planning group, an assembly of over 50 planners from 7 different countries conducted the operational level planning for USEUCOM's counter-terrorism campaign. This group was instrumental in establishing coalition facilities and procedures which have been absolutely essential to the outstanding coalition teamwork in the command area of responsibility. USEUCOM's Joint Force Maritime Component Commander conducted Maritime Interception Operations in the Mediterranean. These successful operations included the boarding of numerous suspect vessels and enhanced intelligence collection. Bases in USEUCOM also served as launching points for the aircraft that successfully delivered over 25 million humanitarian daily rations to the people of Afghanistan, as well as hundreds of successful aircraft missions providing combat units equipment, medical airlift and supplies to US Central