Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Combine Task Force Operation Provide Comfort

The Combined Task Force Operation PROVIDE COMFORT distinguished itself by sustained exceptionally meritorious achievement and continuous superior performance in the largest, most successful relief effort in history from 1 May 1994 to 30 June 1995. During this period, the selfless dedication of the coalition forces ensured the survival of over 600,000 people in northern Iraq by providing crucial all-source support and ensuring the safe conduct of coalition operations. Keen coordination and constant monitoring of the largest-ever deployment of Reserve Component units to US Air Forces in Europe from December 1994 to February 1995 allowed the operation to continue without interruption or incident. The tasking and sustained operation of Combined Task Force aircraft from the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Turkey continued to protect the people of northern Iraq from aerial attack and harassment. The operation flew 15,400 sorties, executed 243 air tasking orders, 18 large force Combined Forces Missions, and purchased and distributed over 26,000 medical tons of subsistence goods to support the humanitarian relief effort for the people of northern Iraq. This 30 million dollar a year endeavor was astonishingly successful. It provided 41,800 trucks delivering critically needed supplies to remote locations including in excess of 38,000 metric tons of supplies; 13 million gallons of fuel, 50,000 blankets; 20,000 coats; 40,000 pairs of boots; and 1,000 stoves. It also provided enough materiel to build 7,500 shelter units, refurbish 2,000 homes and maintain 8 urban refugee units. Enough vaccine was sent to inoculate over 3 million animals. This materiel enabled the refugees to rebuild villages and thus saved countless human lives. In addition, Operation PROVIDE COMFORT provided equipment to drill for critically needed water and to purchase urgently needed medical supplies. Working with local officials, Operation PROVIDE COMFORT provided electricity to hospitals and other humanitarian facilities through the purchase and delivery of 90 diesel generators. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Combined Task Force PROVIDE COMFORT have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 8th day of October 1996

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff