



# Citation

*to accompany the award of the*

## Joint Meritorious Unit Award

*to*

### *Headquarters, Special Operations Command, Europe*

Headquarters, Special Operations Command, Europe (SOCEUR), distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 1 October 2000 to 25 August 2003. During this most challenging period in Europe and Africa, SOCEUR continued to play a key role in supporting US leadership in European and African Affairs. The Command was involved in a myriad of commitments on a daily basis that spanned the full spectrum of military operations. From peacekeeping to humanitarian relief to combat operations, the Command's contributions to freedom and security in the world far exceeded the boundaries of its 93-country Area of Responsibility (AOR). Through exceptional leadership, foresight and selfless personal commitment, in both contingency planning and execution as well as management of ongoing programs, the Command succeeded in providing stability in a fragile environment. In addition to numerous ongoing activities, major operations successfully conducted in the European AOR included: IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, SILENT LANCE, FOCUS RELIEF, AVID RECOVERY, JOINT FORGE, JOINT GUARDIAN, SHEPARD SENTRY, AUTUMN RETURN, and SHINING EXPRESS. Most recently, SOCEUR was directed to deploy to Accra, Ghana, and Dakar, Senegal, to establish the European Command Joint Enabling Team (JET) in direct support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) planned intervention into Monrovia, Liberia, to assist in its on-going Humanitarian Crisis. SOCEUR forward deployed elements were directly responsible for the insertion of Special Forces Assessment Teams to nine countries in Western Africa to assess their military forces capabilities to deploy in support of ECOWAS into Liberia. SOCEUR served as a critical planning link between the US Embassies in Liberia, Ghana and Senegal, and military planning efforts in the US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. During Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, SOCEUR deployed forces to Romania to create an Intermediate Staging Base for Joint Special Operations Task Force North and Joint Special Operations Air Division North in preparation for combat operations in northern Iraq. SOCEUR was instrumental in the successful, expedient provisions of Base Operating Support (BOS) for more than 3,000 American Service members, DOD Civilians and Coalition Special Operations Forces. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Headquarters, Special Operations Command, Europe, have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul J. Myer".

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff