



Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Joint Task Force Shining Hope

Headquarters, Joint Task Force SHINING HOPE, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 3 April 1999 to 1 July 1999. During this period, the tireless efforts, extraordinary skills and professional dedication of all task force members successfully established a fully operational, 24-hour capable, military airfield operation and engaged in a full-scale humanitarian relief operation at Tirana, Albania. Joint Task Force members set out to provide aid, shelter, food and water in support of more than 700,000 Kosovar refugees in the largest, most successful military-led refugee relief effort in history. Joint Task Force SHINING HOPE assembled with less than a 24-hour notice. Realizing the immediate requirement to provide critical life support necessities of food, water and medical care, the Joint Task Force moved more than 3,445 tons of food and water directly to the refugee population. Members successfully stabilized the degenerating conditions of the refugee population and in just 8 short weeks, supplies and shelters were in place. This multi-Service Joint Task Force developed a fully functional 24-hour airfield, complete with every major airdrome operational requirement. The Joint Task Force successfully integrated efforts from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps helicopter squadrons assisting in the airlift of 55,798 tons of cargo into the Theater of Operations. Utilizing the available forces from allied nations, private volunteer organizations and nongovernmental organizations, Joint Task Force SHINING HOPE provided first-hand aid to the humanitarian relief effort with the design and construction of Camp HOPE. Utilizing a cooperative approach with members of NATO's coalition forces, personnel successfully engineered a campaign of cooperation resulting in zero mishaps and a united force. Through extraordinary leadership and effort, the Joint Task Force provided immediate relief to one of the worst atrocities perpetrated against mankind since World War II. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Headquarters, Joint Task Force SHINING HOPE, have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 20th day of August 1999


Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff