Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Combined Task Force Operation Northern Watch

The Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 April 1998 to 31 December 1998. During this period, the Combined Task Force displayed unmatched leadership, ingenuity and tenacity while enforcing the No-Fly Zone over northern Iraq. For the first time since the beginning of Operation NORTHERN WATCH, aircraft successfully responded to multiple surface-to-air missile attacks and suppressed Iraqi weapons sites. The Task Force aggressively worked with the European Command and the Central Command to build a workable integrated intelligence collection scheme that increased coverage of national intelligence collection assets for Operation NORTHERN WATCH by 50 percent. In addition, the Task Force, in coordination with Navy, Air Force and civilian personnel installed a back-up command and control data link capability in theater decreasing air mission cancellations by 40 percent. During the longest Turkish Labor Union strike in history against the US military, the Combined Task Force faced extraordinary challenges. Anticipating the imminent strike, Combined Task Force personnel designed and built a dining facility in only 2 weeks that was capable of supporting over 2,400 Service members. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 28th day of June 1999

Henry H. Shelton

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff