Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Headquarters, United States European Command

The Headquarters, United States European Command, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1996. During this period of dynamic change throughout the theater, the tireless efforts, extraordinary skills and professional dedication of the entire United States European Command staff directly and significantly contributed to the successful implementation of Commander in Chief Europe's Strategy of Engagement and Preparedness. Concurrent with a significantly increased operational tempo, they were called upon by the National Command Authorities to respond to significant events affecting national security, including Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR, JOINT GUARD, ASSURED RESPONSE, QUICK RESPONSE, PROVIDE COMFORT, PROVIDE PROMISE, SHARP GUARD, DENY FLIGHT, DECISIVE ENDEAVOR, DELIBERATE FORCE, DELIBERATE GUARD, ABLE SENTRY, QUICK TRANSIT and VIGILANT WARRIOR and a myriad of other military and humanitarian missions. The successful planning and execution of these operations demanded the utmost in time and effort from the entire staff. Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR was the first NATO out-of-area operation and spearheaded the US efforts to maintain peace and provide humanitarian relief throughout the war-torn region of the Balkans. Operation DENY FLIGHT in Bosnia marked the first ever utilization of NATO forces in combat operations. Operations PROVIDE COMFORT and QUICK TRANSIT provided security and humanitarian relief to the Kurdish population of northern Iraq. As the area of operations continued to experience dramatic social, political and military change, the staff's incisive implementation of the Commander in Chief's regional strategy programs, such as the Marshall Center, the Joint Contact Team program, international arms control regimes and various security assistance programs, promoted peace and stability throughout the region. Compounded by the almost continuous conduct of crisis operations, and despite working periods measured in days instead of hours, the performance of the USEUCOM staff was superb. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Headquarters, United States European Command, have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 5th day of May 1997

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff