THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

18 October 2002

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

U.S. NAVY SUPPORT FACILITY DIEGO GARCIA

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from 12 September 2001 to 31 May 2002. During the period, Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia and its tenant commands banded together as a single entity to form a support network heretofore unique and unprecedented in any wartime scenario. Demonstrating exceptional flexibility, ingenuity, and integrity, this team arranged for the berthing, messing, and logistic support of two U.S. Air Force Air Expeditionary Wings, two deployed Australian Fighter Squadrons, several U.S. Navy warships, and a variety of Coalition ships and aircraft in the execution of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Among their myriad of accomplishments, Team Diego Garcia meticulously and safely completed short-notice, complex ammunition handling operations involving cargo with excessive net explosive weights. They transferred more than 240 million gallons of fuel incident and spill free, the largest amount transferred in Diego Garcia's history, and executed rescue efforts for the crew of a downed B-1B bomber saving the lives of all souls on board. By their distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Secretary of the Navy

Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia Tenant Commands during the period reflected in this recommendation:

Navy Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Detachment
Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Diego Garcia
Navy Security Group Detachment
Navy Media Center Broadcast Detachment, Diego Garcia
Personnel Support Activity Detachment, Diego Garcia
Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command Detachment
Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment, Diego Garcia
Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP 4)
Patrol Squadron NINE (VP 9)
Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing ONE Detachment
Commander Afloat Prepositioning Squadron FOUR
Commander Maritime Prepositioning Squadron TWO
Military Sealift Command Office
USS VINCENNES (CG 49)
USS RUSSELL (DDG 59)
USS FORD (FFG 54)
USS SIDES (FFG 14)