

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

United States Coast Guard



AUXILIARY ANNUAL SERVICE PERFORMANCE AWARD

Presented to

BRETT A PANTER 1160589

In appreciation of outstanding volunteer contribution for

OPERATIONS SERVICE

K. P. CRAWLEY, CDR, USCG
Director of Auxiliary, Seventh Coast Guard District

31 December 2008
0700609



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

27 May 2004

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION to:

USCG AIR STATION MIAMI
AUXILIARY AIR SQUADRON

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For exceptionally meritorious service from 21 February 2004 to 19 May 2004 while serving as a member of the Air Station Miami’s Auxiliary Air Squadron supporting Operation ABLE SENTRY. As the situation in Haiti worsened and the potential for a mass migration grew, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) charged Homeland Security Task Force Southeast (HSTF-SE) with the clear mandate to deter the flow of Haitian migrants and defend our borders from illegal incursions. With this guidance, the Task Force stood-up a coordinated, multi-agency effort named ABLE SENTRY. During this period of intense tasking, the Auxiliary Air team skillfully planned, coordinated, and executed an unparalleled level of integrated air operations in support of Coastal Miami and Coastal Key West. In an unprecedented fashion, the team successfully completed over 138 Alien Migration Interdiction (AMIO) patrols and logistics missions, encompassing 691 flight hours. The impact of these operations was noteworthy, and during this high tempo period only one sortie was cancelled due to maintenance problems, resulting in an incredible 99.3% mission availability rate. Operating under the command of Air Station Miami/Air Component Commander (ACC) Florida Straits, the team played a critical role in the success of OP ABLE SENTRY by deterring the flow of Haitian migrants towards the United States, intercepting 55 Cuban nationals attempting to enter the country illegally, disrupting 5 smuggling operations, and executing 6 Search and Rescue cases resulting in 6 lives saved. With no advance notice and with the crisis in Haiti quickly escalating, the Squadron surged from providing one daily patrol to completing two, and at times up to four, flight missions per day. Not only were these flights critical to OP ABLE SENTRY’s “defense in depth strategy,” but they also allowed Coast Guard and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) aircraft to push the borders out by enhancing air surveillance near Haiti and in the offshore approaches to Florida. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by Air Station Miami’s Auxiliary Air Squadron are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KAT" with a stylized flourish at the end.

KEITH A. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station Miami