



Citation
to accompany the award of the
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
to the
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)

The USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 18 April 1988 to 19 April 1988. In response to the 14 April 1988 USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS striking of an Iranian mine in international waters of the Persian Gulf, the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) was directed to assist in the destruction of the Sirri and Sassan platforms which were used by Iran for surveillance and to support attacks on vessels in the Gulf. Despite the compressed lanning timeframe and the need to achieve tactical surprise, the mission was a complete success and every objective was achieved. Coordinated surface strikes were conducted against the Sirri and Sassan platforms. Demolition charges placed by Marine Assault Element and Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel destroyed remaining structural members of the Sassan platform. Iranian frigates Sabalan and Sahand, and missile patrol boat Joshan, were engaged by air and surface forces in response to hostile firing on US units, and were sunk or badly damaged. Additionally, Iranian F-4s and a C-130 were engaged by US Navy Surface units. A-6 aircraft of Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN in USS ENTERPRISE engaged and neutralized three Boghammars in the Mubarrak Oil Field. Throughout the operation, various units of the Joint Task Force engaged in antisurface and antiaircraft combat in self defense of belligerent actions. The execution of this operation clearly demonstrated the exceptional professionalism, precision, coordination and the high readiness of Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force units under command of the Commander, Joint Task Force Middle East. These actions reaffirmed the President's commitment to ensure the right of nations to transit international waters of the Persian Gulf and that mining is a terrorist act and will not be tolerated. Through flawless teamwork, dedication, and exemplary performance, the members of the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) brought great credit to themselves and to the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 31st day of October 1988.

William J. Crowe Jr.
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff