



Commander in Chief  
United States Naval Forces Europe

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

to

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

RYAN K. ZINKE

UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE WHILE SERVING AS U.S. NAVY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMANDER WITH JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE TWO, SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI, ITALY, FROM OCTOBER 1995 TO NOVEMBER 1995 IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS PROVIDE PROMISE, DENY FLIGHT, AND JOINT ENDEAVOR. DEMONSTRATING SUPERIOR LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZINKE EXCELLED IN THE PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF DELIBERATE AND IN-EXTREMIS COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS WITHIN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. HIS FORESIGHT AND INITIATIVE WERE CRITICAL IN STANDARDIZING PROCEDURES BETWEEN JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE TWO AND COMMANDER, SIXTH FLEET SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND GREATLY INCREASED MISSION CAPABILITY. HIS EFFORTS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE FORCES ASSIGNED TO JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE [REDACTED]. LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZINKE'S EXCELLENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE A DIRECT RESULT OF HIS SUPERB LEADERSHIP, FIRELESS EFFORTS, AND TOTAL DEVOTION TO DUTY. THEY REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND HIS COMMAND, AND WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.

For the Secretary



REAR ADMIRAL, UNITED STATES NAVY  
DEPUTY

