



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:  
Commanding Officer  
USCGC DUANE (WHEC 33)  
Boston, Mass., 02109

25 August 1968

From: Executive Officer, USCGC DUANE (WHEC 33)  
To: DUANE Officers and Crew  
Subj: Message of appreciation

On the eve of our arrival home I look back with pride on our accomplishments. We have an admirable record of executing every assigned task without delay. This mark of achievement could not have been possible without the full cooperation and team effort put forth by all of you in an untiring manner.

I have watched you develop from a partially untrained and untried crew prior to GIMO to a well lubricated mechanical-like entity reacting correctly on all occasions. It was a pleasure on over nine score occasions to stand on the bridge and observe the quiet efficient modus operandi by which we replenished at sea, shot gun-fire support missions, mothered swift boats, and inspected alien watercraft.

We have been thanked and praised by many commands. We are known as a friendly can-do unit. We were an R & R Center for a great many GI's who were stationed in-country. They all praised you and appreciated your hospitality.

Our mission is completed, soon we will be home and many of us transferred to other commands, retired or discharged from the service. We have many memories to share, some good and some not so good - may you find joy in the former and forget the latter. Thanks and smooth sailing.

Sincerely,

*H. J. Oldford, Jr.*  
H. J. OLDFORD, JR.  
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard