



Military Sealift Command's Military Sealift Fleet Support Command

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USNS RAINIER receives BZ from RDML M. H. Miller

TO USNS RAINIERr
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE DET NINE

INFO COMTHIRDFLT
COMTHIRDFLT
COMFIFTHFLT
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMSFSC NORFOLK VA
COMSC WASHINGTON DC
COMSEALOGPAC SAN DIEGO CA
COMHELSEACOMBATWINGPAC SAN DIEGO
CTF 33
CTF 53
CTF 73
USNS SUPPLY
USNS ARCTIC
USNS BRIDGE
USNS PECOS
USNS GUADALUPE
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE DET THREE
COMCARSTRKGRU SEVEN

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ZNR UUUUU ZUI RHHMNCB5593 1741038

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FM COMCARSTRKGRU SEVEN

TO RHOVAOE/USNS RAINIER

RHOVAOE/HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE DET NINE INFO RHVSQUE/COMTHIRDFLT
RHFVQUE/COMTHIRDFLT RHBVAKS/COMFIFTHFLT RHOVQHS/COMSEVENTHFLT RHMFIUU/
COMSFSC NORFOLK VA RHMFIUU/COMSC WASHINGTON DC RHMFIUU/COMSEALOGPAC
SAN DIEGO CA RUBDPLA/COMHELSEACOMBATWINGPAC SAN DIEGO RHMFIUU/CTF 33
RHMFIUU/CTF 53 RUSICWP/CTF 73 RHOVHIF/USNS SUPPLY RHBOHGG/USNS ARCTIC
RHOVHHM/USNS BRIDGE RHOVPEC/USNS PECOS RHOVLUP/USNS GUADALUPE
RUWFABX/HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE RHOVMFG/HELSEACOMBATRON TWO ONE DET
THREE RHOVJQI/COMCARSTRKGRU SEVEN BT UNCLAS MSGID/GENADMIN/
COMCARSTRKGRU SEVEN//

SUBJ/BRAVO ZULU TO USNS RAINIER AND

HSC-21 DET 9// RMKS/ 1. AS WE START OUR JOURNEY EAST AND RAINIER TURNS
TO SUPPORT THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN AMMUNITION OFFLOAD, I WOULD LIKE TO
SEND MY PERSONAL THANKS TO THE RAINIER S MASTER, CAPT WILLIAM BALDWIN
AND HIS TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS, OIC CAPT(SEL) TONY BRAZAS, CHIEF MATE
MARK PERDUE, CHIEF MATE VERNON IWASHI, CARGO MATE BRIAN TAGUE, CHENG
LOREN MASSEY, AND SUPPO JUN LAKINDANUM. YOU HAVE BEEN A CHERISHED
MEMBER OF OUR STRIKE GROUP FAMILY AND WILL BE MISSED.

2. THE SPEED WITH WHICH YOU SUPPORTED OUR HIGH SOA TRANSITS ACROSS
THIRD, FIFTH, AND SEVENTH FLEETS, TRAVELING OVER 45,000 NM WAS
IMPRESSIVE. USING YOUR AGILITY, YOU SERVICED OVER 150 CUSTOMERS IN
THREE FLEET CONCENTRATION AREAS, MOVING OVER 16,000 PALLETS OF STORES,
PARTS, AND ORDNANCE CRITICAL TO OUR COMBAT READINESS. YOUR
PERSISTENCE KEPT THE COMBAT AIR AND SURFACE FLEET OPERATING THROUGH
THE SAFE ONLOAD AND DELIVERY OF OVER 63 MILLION GALLONS OF F-76 AND
JP-5, DAY OR NIGHT. FROM DAY ONE OF OUR DEPLOYMENT, YOU WERE AT THE
RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, EVERY TIME, EVEN RESCUING A MARINER AT
SEA IN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC. FOR HIM, AND FOR US, RAINIER WAS ALWAYS
AT THE READY, JUST AS WHEN WE NEEDED THE URGENT PICKUP OF AT-FLIRS IN
FUJAIRAH FOR OUR FIRST COMBAT MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM. YOUR ROLE AS A STRIKE GROUP FORCE MULTIPLIER CAN T BE
OVERSTATED!

3. THE AVIATION PROFESSIONALS OF HSC-21 DET 9 WERE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE. MOVING PEOPLE, PARTS, AND SUPPLIES WHEN CALLED UPON, THE "SIDEFLARES" OF DET 9 TRANSPORTED 3600 TONS OF CARGO DURING THIS DEPLOYMENT WITH A MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE OF 100 PERCENT. MOVING 24,000 LBS OF WATER AND CARGO FROM KUWAIT NAVAL BASE TO ABOT WAS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE TO CTF 158 DURING THE DEFENSE OF IRAQ'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF NATIONAL INCOME. I APPLAUD THE LEADERSHIP OF LCDR BRIAN RANDALL AND LT REGAN HANSON AND THE FLYING SKILLS OF LT GABRIEL DELGADO, LT TODD VALASCO, LTJG ADAM DYER, LTJG BYRON CLARK AND THE DET'S MAINTAINERS FOR THE 470 HOURS OF SAFE, INCIDENT FREE OPERATIONS.

4. FROM THE GREAT NAVAL HISTORIAN AND STRATEGIST ALFRED T. MAHAN, "FUEL STANDS FIRST IN IMPORTANCE TO THE RESOURCES OF THE FLEET. WITHOUT AMMUNITION, A SHIP MAY RUN AWAY, HOPING TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. WITHOUT FUEL, SHE CAN NEITHER RUN, REACH HER STATION, NOR REMAIN ON IT, IF REMOTE, NOR FIGHT." WE WILL MISS YOUR PRESENCE AS WE TRANSIT HOME AND YOU ANSWER THE CALL DURING RIMPAC 2006. I KNOW YOU WILL DO THOSE SHIPS A GREAT SERVICE AS YOU HAVE DONE FOR US! FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS. THANK YOU FOR A JOB EXTREMELY WELL DONE!
 RADM M. H. MILLER SENDS.// BT
 #2654

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