



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND
914 CHARLES MORRIS CT SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20398-5540

REFER TO:

12771

Ser N00

000556

MAY 16 2003

COPY

Mr. Ron Davis
President
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association,
District No. 1
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Davis:

At this particular juncture in history, I am compelled to express my heartfelt thanks for and appreciation of your support in recent and ongoing military operations in Southwest Asia. Through your leadership and the performance of MEBA licensed officers aboard strategic sealift and pre-positioned ships operating for Military Sealift Command, you helped ensure the rapid and successful buildup of Army, Air Force and Marine Corps combat power, as well as support for Navy battle groups, that formed the foundation for successful operations in Southwest Asia. In addition, licensed engineers in MEBA's Government Employees Membership Group provided underway replenishment support of an unprecedented scope to the Navy's five carrier battle groups supporting military operations in Southwest Asia. Also serving aboard missile tracking and hospital ships, these licensed engineers were involved in nearly every aspect of maritime support for military operations.

MEBA once again proved that America's Merchant Mariners are not just reliable, but dedicated Patriots defending our nation, even when faced with threats from weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, as well as sensitive political situations and civil unrest overseas. The operating environment has sometimes required difficult choices, extended periods underway, and limited opportunities for shore leave. MEBA's support however, was always there, as was the dedication of its professionals at sea.

I extend my personal thanks for your leadership, courage and support, as well as the dedication of all those who make up the MEBA. The union's contributions to the nation's recent successes have been substantial.

Sincerely,

D. L. BREWER III
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander