

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWARDS

CDR. W.H. LOCKWOOD	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
LTJG J.O. DONELAN	AIR MEDAL
AX1 T.S. GOEN	SILVER STAR MEDAL
ADJ1. V.F. VICARI	AIR MEDAL

The crew, flying a mission from USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) was vectored among the heavily defended northern chain of North Vietnamese islands to search for and rescue a downed pilot. The survivor was believed to be in a raft approximately one-half mile off-shore of an island. As the helicopter approached the shoreline of the islands it was taken under fire by enemy mortars and automatic weapons. In spite of intense enemy fire, the injured survivor was located between two heavily defended islands. Since the injured pilot was unable to leave his raft, the pilot landed the helicopter in rough, choppy seas next to the survivor. However, the heavy seas dashed the raft against the helicopter spilling the injured pilot into the water. The first crewman jumped into the water to assist the survivor. Despite continuous heavy enemy fire from shore, and a failure of communications system of the helicopter, a difficult, but successful, rescue was made of the downed pilot.