

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWARDS

LT R.E. CLARKE
LTJG W.J. SMITH
AX3 J.G. CONRAD
ADJ2 G.L. ARMSTRONG

GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THIRD AIR MEDAL
AIR MEDAL
NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL
NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

The crew flying an armored Search and Rescue helicopter, skillfully avoided confrontation with numerous enemy junks as he proceeded into a harbor for the rescue of a downed pilot. Sighting the survivor about 3000 yards from the shore, where the North Vietnamese were known to have a heavy concentration of anti-aircraft weapons, they unhesitatingly made a decision to attempt the rescue in the face of probable intense enemy fire. The helicopter was expeditiously brought to a hover, and the downed pilot was quickly taken aboard. As the aircraft departed the scene of the rescue, further evasive action was instituted which probably prevented the enemy from bringing the helicopter under fire.