

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

LCDR R.D. NICHOLS	AIR MEDAL
LTJG R. GRANT	AIR MEDAL
AX3 G. W. SMITH	NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL
AMH2 R. L. ROBERTS	NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

The crew flying a mission from USS RANGER (CVA-61) was vectored to the vicinity of Cap Mui Ran Peninsula to search for and rescue a downed pilot. As the helicopter approached the shoreline, RESCAP aircraft reported that the survivor was approximately one mile off shore at a location well within range of known concentration of AAA and automatic weapons deployed along heavily defended Route LA and on Cap Mui Ron. Sighting the survivor about 1300 yards off shore and observing that he was in imminent danger of being taken under enemy fire and of being washed ashore, the crew demonstrated outstanding airmanship and skill by expeditiously executing a rescue approach and hover over the survivor. The survivor was quickly brought aboard and a rapid departure ensued .