

SYNOPSIS OF THE EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWAHDS

LCDR D. R. MURPHY	NAVY CROSS
ENS E. G. MARSYLA	SILVER STAB MEDAL
ADJ1 V. F. VICARI	SILVER STAR MEDAL
AX2 W. S. CAPLE	SILVER STAR MEDAL

The helicopter crew was vectored to and inland area of North Vietnam on three separate search and rescue flights in valiant attempts to rescue a downed Navy Pilot. Although encountering intense enemy fire the crew persisted in a determined attempt to locate and rescue the survivor. During the final search} the helicopter, while in a hover, was riddled by enemy automatic weapons, fire which completely disabled one of its engines. Displaying exceptional skill and airmanship the crew flew the aircraft out of range of the enemy's guns and retired toward the sea. As the helicopter neared the heavily fortified coastline, a barrage of accurate enemy antiaircraft fire inflicted additional heavy damage to the already crippled helicopter and wounded all personnel.

Although the damage to the controls system of the aircraft was very severe the crew tenaciously nursed their helicopter through the enemy fire toward a United States destroyer approximately 15 miles from the enemy coastline. When the helicopter lost complete directional control as it neared the destroyer, the crew skillfully ditched the aircraft in an upright position thereby preventing further injury to all personnel on board.