

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWARDS

LT H.W. BDRNAND	(Navy Cross - See Previous Synopsis)
LTJG R. B. MORDHORST	SILVER STAR MEDAL
AX3 R. W. POWELL	SILVER STAR MEDAL
AMH2 R. L. ROBERTS	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

The helicopter and crew were vectored to an inland area of North Vietnam on two separate search and rescue flights in valiant attempts to rescue a downed Navy pilot. On each of these flights severe enemy ground fire was encountered while making determined searches for the downed pilot. The crew persisted in their attempts to locate and rescue the survivor, braving intense enemy ground fire on numerous occasions. During the final search into the same area, the crew demonstrated fearless bravery while under fire. An accompanying helicopter was riddled by intense enemy automatic weapons fire while in a hover, which completely disabled one of its engines forcing it to retire toward the sea. Observing the other helicopter to be hit, disabled and forced to withdraw, and realizing that it was absolutely mandatory that the operation continue in the same location, the crew decided to take a calculated risk and expose themselves to enemy fire in a valiant attempt to thwart the North Vietnamese and complete their mission. By executing skillful evasive maneuvers the crew suppressed enemy resistance to such an extent that they successfully completed their assigned mission.