



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL**

TO

**LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE NEAL A. NICHOLSON
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

LTJG NICHOLSON is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while serving as co-pilot of HH52A 1382 engaged in the rescue of an Air Force pilot who had ejected from his F-106 aircraft 148 miles southwest of Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. LTJG NICHOLSON departed in HH52A 1382 from CGAS Los Angeles, at 1626T, 14 October 1965, en route to the pilots' position with a refueling stop at Vandenberg AFB, with minimum delay. LTJG NICHOLSON assisted the aircraft commander en route to the scene with communications, navigation and control of the aircraft. During an instrument let-down at night, below a ceiling of 200 feet, and forward visibility of less than 1 mile, LTJG NICHOLSON acted as lookout, communicated, and monitored the cockpit instruments. Sighting the smoke lights 20 degrees to starboard, LTJG NICHOLSON assumed control of the aircraft until the aircraft commander could orient himself for the landing in 5 to 6 foot seas. LTJG NICHOLSON's abilities to perform varied duties displayed an outstanding level of proficient teamwork which contributed immensely to a successful rescue in hazardous conditions. The Air Force pilot was picked up and returned safely to Vandenberg AFB. LTJG NICHOLSON's skill, teamwork, and unwavering devotion to duty reflect high credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.