



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT MARCUS W. LONSBERRY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

LT LONSBERRY is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while serving as aircraft commander 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 AFB, California. LT LONSBERRY 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. Upon departure from Vandenberg AFB with minimum delay, LT LONSBERRY flew to the position of the downed pilot offshore during darkness. An instrument let-down was required with the ceiling below two-hundred feet and visibility of less than 1 mile. With homer assistance from a CG C130 aircraft, the helicopter completed the let-down, located the pilot waving a flashlight, and landed in five to six foot seas. A successful pick-up and take-off was made at 2046T. The Air Force pilot was returned safely to Vandenberg AFB at 2244T. The flight planning, in-flight decisions and actual control of the aircraft by LT LONSBERRY were outstanding during this long range helicopter rescue. The offshore distance, six hour flight, weather and sea conditions each contributed hazards which were overcome by LT LONSBERRY's skill. LT LONSBERRY's initiative, skill, and devotion to duty reflect high credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.