



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

TO

**JEFFREY S. SMITH
AVIATION STRUCTURAL MECHANIC SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer SMITH is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 30 July 1982 while serving as flight mechanic of Coast Guard HH-52A 1425 engaged in the perilous rescue of nine survivors from Coast Guard HC-130 1600. The HC-130 had crashed in bad weather while on a flight from Shemya AFB to Coast Guard Loran Station Attu Island, Alaska. Flying in extremely hazardous conditions with ceilings as low as 65 feet, visibility reduced to 1/16th of a mile, and moderate turbulence, the crew flew over approximately 90 miles of open sea from CGC MELLON to Attu Island where they homed in on an ELT. Inching their way along the side of a mountain in fog, with winds gusting to 40 knots, the crew located four survivors. The co-pilot was placed on the ground to aid the injured and Petty Officer SMITH embarked four survivors, including one by a most demanding hoist. These were flown to the nearby Loran Station. Returning to the scene the crew once again began working their way up the side of the mountain until locating the crash site. In still deteriorating weather, Petty Officer SMITH aided the co-pilot in loading the five remaining survivors who were taken to Shemya AFB. This flight included a fuel stop on the CGC MELLON which was accomplished in ten minutes under the direction of Petty Officer SMITH. Once at Shemya, Petty Officer SMITH directed the turnaround of the helicopter in the shortest time possible and returned with the aircraft to Attu to assist in the transfer of the first four survivors from Attu to Shemya. Through the extraordinary efforts of Petty Officer SMITH, all of the personnel that survived the crash of the HC-130 were located and transported in a timely manner for Petty Officer SMITH's courage, judgement, and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.