



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

TO

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER THOMAS R. COGLEY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander COGLEY is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as copilot aboard Coast Guard helicopter 6024 on 14 January 2023. The crew of CGNR 6024 launched from Air Station Elizabeth City and flew 140 nautical miles northeast where they located TUG LEGACY in distress, beam to the seas and darkened ship after it had parted towing lines with a barge due to heavy weather. During the transit, Lieutenant Commander COGLEY cleared entry into offshore Warning Areas, expertly managed communications among multiple Sectors, surface, and air assets, and deconflicted with the CGNR 6566, an MH-65 responding from Atlantic City. Additionally, he utilized the aircraft's Common Avionics Architecture System to expertly navigate to scene while managing fuel consumption and coordinate a plan for the disposition of the survivors. During four challenging hoist evolutions, Lieutenant Commander COGLEY provided the Aircraft Commander and Flight Mechanic with critical information on wave height and frequency to ensure the safety of the crew during the arduous hoists in the 20 foot swells. As the crew worked to hoist the survivors, LCDR COGLEY also provided advisory calls to keep the aircraft into the wind and safe from the vessel's antenna which was violently whipping just beyond the rotor arc. His situational awareness, attention to detail and aviation acumen were critical during the rescue operation and resulted in four lives saved. Lieutenant Commander COGLEY's courage, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.