



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

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT ROBERT B. BURRIS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant BURRIS is cited for outstanding achievement on the evening of 25 February 1992 while serving as aircraft commander of Coast Guard helicopter HH-65A 6523 engaged in the rescue of two fishermen from turbulent surf at the entrance to Tillamook Bay, Oregon. The victims were located clinging to their overturned pleasure craft KOOL TOOL in breaking ten-to-fifteen foot surf. The overturned craft and its two survivors were in imminent danger of being driven onto the jagged rocks of the nearby jetty. Lieutenant BURRIS' swift assessment of the situation and exceptional crew coordination, allowed the aircrew to arrive without delay despite a moonless, foggy night, and an impeded flight control system. The aircrew lowered the rescue basket numerous times only to have it torn from the victims' grasp by the violent surf. Lieutenant BURRIS briefed the aircrew for an innovative, unorthodox maneuver to save the lives of the fisherman. The rescue basket was again lowered allowing the two men to grasp onto the sides of the rescue basket. They were hoisted just above the waves as the helicopter skillfully hover-taxied over the wavetops to the safety of a nearby beach. The two men still hanging from the rescue basket, were gently lowered to the beach and safety. Lieutenant BURRIS' 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.

