



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES R. HASSELMAN
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander HASSELMAN is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as copilot aboard Coast Guard HH-65A helicopter NR6537 on the morning of 22 September 1992. While deployed aboard CGC RUSH, CG6537 launched from the flight deck under extremely difficult and perilous conditions to investigate an "Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon". When airborne, LCDR HASSELMAN coordinated radio communications and logistics to expedite a refueling stop at Saint Paul Island to extend on scene endurance. Enroute, LCDR HASSELMAN handled radio communications with CGC RUSH and a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft and provided course recommendations to the pilot. He also coordinated aircraft altitude and distance separation with the C-130 aircraft. On scene while recovering two survivors, LCDR HASSELMAN monitored power requirements, provided altitude advisories, computed fuel requirements, estimated time remaining on scene, and calculated aircraft weight and balance. After an additional two survivors were located and hoisted aboard, a search continued for the final survivor despite being low on fuel. With only minutes of endurance remaining, the final survivor was spotted and recovered. Upon securing the aircraft for forward flight, LCDR HASSELMAN flew the aircraft to awaiting medical personnel at Saint Paul Island, where they were treated and recovered, LCDR HASSELMAN'S actions, aeronautical skill and valor were instrumental in the rescue of the five survivors. His dedication, 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.