



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

**TO**

**JOSHUA D. GODDARD  
AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GODDARD is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as a Basic Aircrew member aboard Coast Guard aircraft CG-1503 on 2 October 2015. That morning, CG-1503 was directed to launch after a brief distress beacon was received from the M/V EL FARO, a 791-foot freighter with 33 souls on board, which had earlier reported it was disabled and taking on water in the midst of Hurricane JOAQUIN. This mission required flight into the heart of the Category Four hurricane, battling wind speeds up to 115 knots, heavy wind shear, airspeed fluctuations of 50 knots, and uncommanded altitude deviations in excess of 800 feet. Despite this combination of weather factors, which shook screws from the overhead, caused a significant fuel leak discovered after the aircraft landed, and tossed him about in the scanner window, Petty Officer GODDARD steadfastly scoured the tumultuous seas for possible signs of the EL FARO and its crew. At the height of this perilous mission, CG-1503 flew at the aerodynamic and structural limits of the aircraft as close as 15 miles from the hurricane's eye wall. Petty Officer GODDARD's exceptional skill in this most daring and expertly executed fifteen-hour search effort afforded invaluable information to planners for subsequent rescue and recovery efforts. Petty Officer GODDARD's 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.