



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

**LIEUTENANT BRADFORD W. BLACK  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant BLACK is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on the evening of 24 November 1982 while serving as Aircraft Commander in Coast Guard HH-3F 1473 engaged in the rescue of an injured hunter on Afognak Island, Alaska. Lieutenant BLACK departed Air Station Kodiak in poor weather conditions navigating through mountain passes and channels, utilizing onboard navigational equipment to maintain course to the rescue site. The conditions were turbulent with winds in excess of 50 knots. Lieutenant BLACK located a clearing 100 meters from the injured hunter. The aircraft was unable to land due to the extreme slope of the area and turbulence. Lieutenant BLACK directed that a litter be lowered to a ground party for transporting the injured hunter. Deteriorating on scene weather conditions required the crew to remain in a high hover above the cleared area. Lieutenant BLACK maintained the aircraft in a hovering position for more than 15 minutes while awaiting the return of the ground party. The hunter was successfully hoisted and the aircraft departed for Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak. The return flight to Kodiak taxed the professionalism of the aircrew as weather conditions and darkness had virtually eliminated visibility. Lieutenant BLACK'S action and aerial skill were instrumental in the rescue of the hunter. His courage, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.