



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL

TO

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER PETER R. HOFFMAN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on the night of 2 June 1977 while serving as Pilot-in-Command of HH-3F 1478 engaged in the medical evacuation of a seriously ill crewman from USS ROANOKE (ACR-70) which was located in the Pacific Ocean 435 miles northwest of San Diego, California. Dispatched from Air Station San Diego, Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN piloted the helicopter to the scene in just under four hours. Upon arrival in the area, Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN was confronted with an extremely demanding situation caused by diminishing fuel and dense fog. After several attempts to visually locate USS ROANOKE failed due to the intense fog, Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN established a 50-foot hover approximately one mile astern of the vessel. He then directed the crew, who had marginal visual contact with the whitecaps directly below the aircraft, to provide continuous voice reports of aircraft performance. Utilizing these reports and the helicopter instruments, Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN began a slow air taxi, confirming his closure rate and bearing from USS ROANOKE by TACAN readouts and radar advisories. Finally, the stern and flight deck lights of USS ROANOKE became visible, slightly to port, at a range of less than one-eighth of a mile. Rapidly making the transition from instrument to visual flight, Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN executed a safe landing on board the vessel and subsequently evacuated the ill crewman. Lieutenant Commander HOFFMAN's innovative actions and expert aeronautical skill throughout the mission resulted in the successful evacuation of the crewman. His courage, sound judgement and unwavering devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.