

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Hickson <highspeeding@comcast.net>

To: deborahladkins <deborahladkins@aol.com>

Cc: Bruce Hickson <highspeeding@comcast.net>; Bruce Hickson <bruce.hickson.ctr@us.af.mil>

Sent: Sun, Jan 5, 2014 4:52 pm

Subject: Request for Info (Sgt Walter Adkins Soldiers Medal Citation)

Hello Deborah Adkins,

-- I obtained your contact info from the PJ Association membership roster where Walter Adkins is listed as being a PJ from 1951 to 1967 & your name & email address is listed there also.

-- I am a retired PJ Chief Master Sergeant (1974-2004) living in Albuquerque, NM.

-- I am the Historian for the PJ School here on Kirtland AFB & doing some research into PJ awards & decorations.

-- Specifically, Soldiers Medals (SMs), Silver Star (SS), Airman's Medals & Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFCs).

-- I have some old info that Walter Adkins may have been awarded a Soldiers Medal in Alaska for a PJ parachute jump mission in the Brooks Range while serving as a PJ in August 1953 w/Charles Chapman?

-- If so, we would like to obtain a digital copy of Walter's SM citation, SM order, & SM certificate for display at the PJ School

Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hickson
3167 San Mateo NE, PMB 172
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Home Phone: 505-856-1712

Mobile Phone: 505-331-2355

Email: highspeeding@comcast.net

Note: above email to Walt's wife resulted in her emailing Bruce Hickson and attaching Walt's awards

From: deborahladkins@aol.com

To: highspeeding@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 1:48:18 PM

Subject: Re: Request for Info (Sgt Walter Adkins Soldiers Medal Citation)

So nice to hear from you. Walter F Adkins is my husband. He is now 87 years old and was very touched by this e-mail. I will look for the SM Citation and Order. I have a copy of the Solders medal displayed at our home. I also have the newspaper clipping from this rescue. I will gather everything and get back to you. Thanks Deborah Adkins

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL
TO
WALTER F. ADKINS

Airman First Class Walter F. Adkins distinguished himself by an act of heroism involving voluntary risk of life in the Brooks Mountain Range near Fairbanks, Alaska on 18 August 1953. On that date, a civilian aircraft with four men on board crashed into a mountain peak. Airman Adkins was dispatched to the scene of the crash as a para-medical aboard an SA-16 aircraft. Upon reaching the scene of the crash, the aircraft commander noted the treacherous terrain and hazardous jumping conditions and left the decision to jump to the discretion of Airman Adkins. Fully cognizant of the personal risk involved, Airman Adkins elected to jump to the aid of the critically injured men. Successfully planning his jump, he landed among rocks and boulders and hiked 500 yards to the scene of the crash. Extracting the men from the wreckage, he proceeded to administer first aid and, with the assistance of another para-medical, removed the critically wounded men to the scene of a helicopter pick-up. Though only three of the victims could be evacuated by helicopter that night, Airman Adkins dutifully remained with the last remaining survivor through the night until evacuation could be effected the next morning. The courage, fortitude and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman Adkins reflect the highest credit upon himself, the Air Rescue Service and the United States Air Force.