

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.

