

Ladd's Proud As . . .

Soldiers Medal Presented Two ARS Men For Heroism

HQ ALASKAN AIR COMMAND, 16 January 1954—Award of the Soldier's Medal for heroism to Staff Sergeant Charles R. Chapman and Airman First Class Walter F. Adkins, both of the 74th Air Rescue Squadron, Ladd Air Force Base, was announced recently in General Orders of the Department of the Air Force, Washington, D. C.

Sergeant Chapman and Airman First Class Adkins distinguished themselves 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. Sergeant Chapman and Airman First Class Adkins were dispatched to the scene of the crash as para-medics aboard an SA-16 aircraft. Upon reaching the scene of the treacherous terrain and hazardous jumping conditions and left the decision to jump up to the discretion of the airmen. Fully cognizant of the personal risk involved, they elected to jump to the aid of the critically injured men. Successfully planning the jump, they landed among rocks

and boulders and hiked 500 yards to the scene of the crash. Extracting the men from the wreckage, they proceeded to administer first aid and 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, they dutifully remained with the last remaining survivor through the night until evacuation could be effected the next morning.

As stated in the General Order, the courage, fortitude and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Chapman and Airman First Class Adkins reflects the highest credit upon each individual, the Air Rescue Service and the United States Air Force.