

24Oct69 Medals Awarded

Captain John K. Coder distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Copilot of an HH-3E rescue helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, in the face of known hostile forces, who had just shot down another rescue helicopter, Captain Coder, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, skillfully and expeditiously affected the rescue of three crewmen from the downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Captain Coder reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Sidney A. Sosnow distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Copilot of an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, Colonel Sosnow's aircraft repeatedly penetrated an area of intense hostile fire, recovering two downed airmen before battle damage rendered his aircraft incapable of further rescue operations. At one point during the rescue operation, his alert and decisive action on assuming aircraft control and his superb airmanship averted the possible loss of his aircraft and crew. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Colonel Sosnow reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Staff Sergeant Jon K. Hoberg distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Rescue Specialist on an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On the date, Sergeant Hoberg's aircraft repeatedly penetrated an area of intense hostile fire, recovering two downed airmen before battle damage rendered his aircraft incapable of further rescue operations. From an extremely exposed position he aggressively returned suppressive fire which undoubtedly reduced the battle damage that would otherwise have been sustained by his aircraft, contributing significantly to the success of the mission. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Hoberg reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Technical Sergeant Frank Gaydos Jr. distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Flight Engineer of an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, Sergeant Gaydos' aircraft repeatedly penetrated an area of intense hostile fire, recovering two downed airmen before battle damage rendered his aircraft incapable of further rescue operations. His fearless operation of the rescue hoist while completely exposed to the hostile fire impacting about him and his reassuringly calm hover instruction to the pilots, insured the ultimate success of the rescue mission. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Gaydos reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Sergeant Joseph J. Vai distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Flight Engineer on an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, in the face of known hostile forces, who had just shot down another rescue helicopter, Sergeant Vai, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, skillfully and expeditiously effected the rescue of three crewmen from the downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Vai reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Airman First Class George P. Hoffman III distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Flight Specialist on an HH-3E rescue helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, in the face of known hostile forces, who had just shot down another rescue helicopter, Airman Hoffman, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, assisted in the expeditious rescue of three crewmen from the downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman Hoffman reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

RICHARD V. BUTCHKA
(UNITED STATES COAST GUARD)

Lieutenant Richard V. Butchka distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Aircraft Commander of an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, in the face of known hostile forces, who just shot down another rescue helicopter, Lieutenant Butchka, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, skillfully and expeditiously effected the rescue of three crewmen from the downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant Butchka reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.