

12Nov69

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(THIRD OAK LEAF CLUSTER)
TO
LELAND H. SORENSEN

Sergeant Leland H. Sorensen distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescueman Specialist of an HH-3E "Jolly Green Giant" rescue helicopter in Southeast Asia on 12 November 1969. On that date, Sergeant Sorensen voluntarily flew into an area of intense hostile ground fire in a valiant attempt to rescue a downed United States Air Force pilot. Despite intense and accurately directed hostile fire, causing the explosion of a fuel tank and the destruction of one engine, Sergeant Sorensen remained exposed in the open window and provided suppressive fire for the aircraft and its crew as it approached a hover. After the helicopter had sustained such severe damage that it was rendered incapable of rescue operations and forced to withdraw, he steadfastly maintained his vulnerable position until a safe egress had been accomplished. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Sorensen reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.