

3Apr72 DFC Panning

Staff Sergeant Cole E. Panning distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a HH-53C Pararescue Recovery Specialist near Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam on 3 April 1972. On that date Sergeant Panning served as a Pararescue Specialist on board an HH-53 helicopter which was attempting to rescue survivors of a downed United States aircraft from certain death or capture by hostile armed forces. This courageous and aggressive attempt, against superior odds, and the airmanship displayed throughout show professional skill of the highest order. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Panning reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.