

20Jun72 DFC Panning

Staff Sergeant Cole E. Panning distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53C Rescue Helicopter near Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam, on 20 June 1972. On that date, the aircraft on which Sergeant Panning was flying penetrated deep into an extremely hostile area in an attempt to rescue a United States Navy pilot who had been shot down. During the rescue attempt Sergeant Panning manned his gun position and defended the aircraft as it escaped through intense hostile ground fire. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Panning reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.