



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BRUCE H. HICKSON

Senior Master Sergeant Bruce H. Hickson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as Pararescueman, 176th Operations Group, Kulis Air National Guard Base, Anchorage, Alaska on 8 September 1993. On that date, Sergeant Hickson participated in an Elmendorf Rescue Coordination Center directed mission to rescue two critically injured Alaska Air National Guardsmen who had been in a private airplane crash forty miles north east of Talkeetna, Alaska. Sergeant Hickson's superior abilities allowed a landing near a cabin where the survivors were such that one ski of the helicopter was on a narrow sandbar and the other ski hovering above the river. A landing in this particular spot allowed Sergeant Hickson and three other crewmembers to carry the two critically injured survivors over uneven terrain, through narrow ravines, and down a thirty-five-degree slope to the helicopter while the pilot in command stayed at the controls. This saved valuable time and resulted in saving just enough fuel so the survivors could be flown to Talkeetna for a medical evacuation to Anchorage. These actions saved the lives of the two men involved. The professional skill and airmanship displayed by Sergeant Hickson reflect great credit upon himself, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

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