



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

TO

TECHNICAL SERGEANT FRED C. KARST

Technical Sergeant Fred C. Karst distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Technician at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, California, on 29 July 1985. On that date, Sergeant Karst helped to accomplish the dangerous and complex rescue of a severely injured fire fighter from the smoking remains of a forest fire. Sergeant Karst, at considerable personal risk, traveled down the hoist to save the injured man. He crawled over fifty yards amid smoldering brush to reach him. Sergeant Karst then directed the HH-53 to return for a hoist retrieval and moved the patient to the recovery spot. Surrounded by flames reignited by the helicopter's downwash, Sergeant Karst calmly executed the successful recovery of the patient and of himself. Through his exceptional bravery and commitment to duty, Sergeant Karst saved the life of the fire fighter. The professional skill and airmanship displayed by Sergeant Karst reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

[BACK TO  
AIR MEDALS's](#)

[BACK TO MEDALS  
HOMEPAGE](#)

[BACK TO HISTORY  
HOMEPAGE](#)