



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL

TO

TECHNICAL SERGEANT ROBERT L. LAPOINTE

Technical Sergeant Robert L. LaPointe distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescueman in Hatcher Pass, 35 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska, on 17 August 1978. On that date, Sergeant LaPointe was inserted by helicopter onto a high, vertical cliff to perform a lengthy and extremely difficult technical climbing evacuation of an injured mountain climber which ended with a 230-foot helicopter hoist maneuver. His judgment, precise attention to detail, as well as his timely and accurate medical treatment were the factors directly responsible for saving the climber's life. The professional skill and airmanship displayed by Sergeant LaPointe reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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