



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL
(EIGHTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)
TO
SERGEANT JOHN W. STEPHENS

Sergeant John W. Stephens distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53C Rescue Helicopter near Tchepone, Laos on 20 November 1972. On that date, Sergeant Stephens participated in the daring rescue of a fellow American airman from deep within hostile territory. When his helicopter was fired upon by a hostile anti-aircraft weapon, he courageously exposed himself in the open gun position in an attempt to suppress the fire with his minigun and when that malfunctioned, he continued suppressive fire with his hand held automatic weapon. The professional skill and airmanship displayed by Sergeant Stephens reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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