



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIRMAN'S MEDAL
TO
SENIOR AIRMAN MELVIN A. ALLICK

Senior Airman Melvin A. Allick distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life near Van Horn, Texas, on 24 February 1997. On that date, Airman Allick was traveling at night through a brutal snow and ice storm, when he came upon an ambulance that had lost control on the ice and rolled several times. It came to rest upside-down on an icy hillside, perilously perched just a few feet above a 60-foot cliff. For the next hour and a half, despite the deafening roar and severe cold of the raging blizzard, he worked in the tangled debris to stabilize the victims and extricate them from the crash site. Letting the one uninjured paramedic handle the two other seriously injured, but ambulatory victims, Airman Allick turned his attention to the driver who lay twisted against the roof and the door of the cab with major spinal injuries. Working quickly in the tangled interior of the ambulance, he immediately stabilized the driver's neck and spine, and despite her awkward position, was able to start her on intravenous fluids and oxygen, and maneuver a Kendrick's Extrinsication Device onto her to help stabilize her spine. As he worked, the 70 miles per hour wind caused the ambulance to shift several times on the ice-covered hillside. Airman Allick determined the only option was to get the driver out through the windshield. He cautiously positioned himself and kicked out the windshield, all the while reassuring the injured driver as the ambulance continued to slip towards the edge of the cliff. He then gingerly maneuvered the driver and managed to get her in position to allow the uninjured paramedic to help extricate her from the vehicle. Airman Allick then loaded the driver onto another ambulance and continued to provide life sustaining medical treatment to all the accident victims enroute to the hospital. The exemplary courage and heroism displayed by Airman Allick reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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