



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIRMAN'S MEDAL
TO
STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW A. WELLS

Staff Sergeant Matthew A. Wells distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 25 June 1996. On that date, a powerful terrorist bomb exploded just outside the housing area of Khobar Towers. Immediately after the explosion, Sergeant Wells established the base casualty collection point, rushed to the site of the blast, and determined people remained trapped inside building 131. Undaunted by the perils of the crumbling structure and despite the threat of further explosions, Sergeant Wells showed absolutely no concern for his own personal safety and repeatedly risked his own life to lead six badly injured and disoriented airmen to safety. He next conducted a thorough search for survivors in another unstable building damaged by the bomb and proceeded to the casualty collection point where he administered lifesaving medical treatment to injured airmen. Ignoring his own fatigue, Sergeant Wells worked continuously throughout the night to bandage and suture countless blast victims. His leadership abilities and decisive actions in the face of danger saved multiple lives and contributed significantly to the successful medical treatment and transport of over 200 wounded Americans. The exemplary courage and heroism displayed by Sergeant Wells reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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