



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE BRONZE STAR WITH VALOR  
TO  
STAFF SERGEANT DOUGLAS A. DICKEN

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Staff Sergeant Douglas A. Dicken, United States Air Force, for heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States near Sangin, Afghanistan, on 9 June 2010. On that day, as the Guardian Angel element lead on dash two of a casualty evacuation mission, Sergeant Dicken witnessed the shoot down and subsequent crash of the lead aircraft into a known area of insurgent activity. With complete disregard for his safety, Sergeant Dicken immediately requested his Pararescue team be inserted near the unsecured crash site to start treating survivors as real-time intelligence indicated insurgents were moving to attack his aircraft. Sergeant Dicken quickly established security around the burning aircraft and while searching for survivors, he located three, all with life threatening injuries and one trapped in his seat with fire burning towards him. Sergeant Dicken began efforts to free the trapped patient as ammunition and flares on board the helicopter ignited. When a quick reaction force arrived, he tasked his team to extract the patients and began treatment and directed all available ground forces to fight the fire. Taking charge of the situation, he called the helicopter back into the crash site to gather heavy extrication gear to free the trapped patient. Successfully extracting all three patients, Sergeant Dicken instructed one team member and a Navy Corpsman to fly back to ensure patient care enroute to the Camp Bastion hospital. After the helicopter departed, Sergeant Dicken took over tactical air controller duties relaying multiple developing threats to overhead air assets, and preventing further attacks on the crash site. The quick thinking and courageous leadership of Sergeant Dicken ensured all survivors of the crash were successfully evacuated. By his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, Sergeant Dicken has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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