



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE BRONZE STAR WITH VALOR
TO
STAFF SERGEANT JERAMY S. HARDY

Staff Sergeant Jeremy S. Hardy distinguished himself by heroism as Rescue Ground Team Leader and Pararescueman, while engaged in ground operations against an opposing armed force near Belgrade, Serbia on 2 May 1999. On that date, Sergeant Hardy's exemplary skill and dedication, under repeated direct enemy fire, was an integral member of the operation that successfully recovered an American pilot shot down while on a mission in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. Crossing into Serbia, Sergeant Hardy's flight was targeted and directly engaged first by two SA-6 missiles and then by an SA-9 missile, which the aircrews narrowly defeated through evasive maneuvers. Pressing deeper into Serbia, his flight evaded several anti-aircraft artillery barrages and small arms fire to arrive at the survivor just before dawn. Just prior to reaching the survivor, his MH-60G took battle damage but they pressed on. After landing near the survivor, Sergeant Hardy, without regard for his personal safety, exited the aircraft and led his team into the uncertain enemy environment. Directing the rescue team's actions, he secured the area and had them authenticate the pilot and conduct an initial medical assessment. As the night erupted with small arms fire, he directed an orderly but swift retreat to the MH-60G. Once onboard, Sergeant Hardy completed the medical assessment of the pilot and diligently scanned as his aircraft evaded enemy fire on the return flight to safety. By his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, Sergeant Hardy has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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