



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
TO
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID F. DRAKE

Staff Sergeant David F. Drake distinguished himself by outstanding achievement while assigned to Detachment 1, 33rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, on 22 August 1979. On that date, Sergeant Drake flew as a Pararescue Specialist on Air Force Rescue 67-14724 during an extremely difficult rescue mission on the open seas some 400 miles from Clark. Despite 12-foot seas, 30 knot turbulent winds, aerial refueling with an HC-130 in a yawed three-engine configuration, and a single engine failure on the HH-3E, Sergeant Drake demonstrated outstanding professionalism in overcoming adversities while performing a rescue by hoist from a sea tossed submarine. By his prompt action and humanitarian regard for his fellowman, Sergeant Drake has reflected credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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