



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
TO
STAFF SERGEANT ADAM W. BRISTER

Staff Sergeant Adam W. Brister distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescueman in the Neacola mountain range on 23 June 2018. On this day, his crew was tasked with rescuing a severely injured climber suspended on a rope after a 100-foot fall on a 5,500-foot cliff. On scene, the weather prevented a hoist attempt. Sergeant Brister was inserted onto the glacier below the survivor, then proceeded to climb an adjacent snow couloir to the survivor 100 feet below the survivor's position. When the cloud deck briefly rose, the helicopter crew hastily extracted Sergeant Brister and proceeded with a night high angle hoist. Approaching the patient with limited visibility, at the edge of its power limit, rotor blades three feet from the cliff side, and with no escape option Sergeant Brister was hoisted 90 feet to a five-inch platform. In a herculean effort he was able to lift the weighted climber's rope and connect the patient into his own rescue harness. During the hoist, severe turbulence moved them away from the cliff and entangled the rope. Sergeant Brister held the unconscious patient while cutting free the fouled rope as he hoisted, thus saving the helicopter and the survivor. Sergeant Brister provided life-saving advanced medical care throughout the flight. Staff Sergeant Brister's actions, skill, and heroism were instrumental in the rescue of one life. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Brister reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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