



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
TO
CAPTAIN MATTHEW D. CARLISLE

Captain Matthew D. Carlisle distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as HH-60G Pave Hawk Combat Rescue Officer, 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on 4 August 2012. On that date, Captain Carlisle demonstrated heroic actions during a seven hour, 320-mile rescue mission under direct enemy gunfire. On the first pickup, he helped three of the most critically wounded coalition soldiers onto his aircraft. While in flight, Captain Carlisle provided lifesaving medical treatment for the critically wounded patients. Over the next four hours, his formation cycled back and forth between the refueling tanker, medical treatment facilities, and the cliff side area. On the last extraction, Captain Carlisle took control of the aircraft's right gun, allowing the flight engineer to better position himself to execute a highly complex hoist in confined terrain. While in the vulnerable hover, five enemy positions opened fire on the formation, the Pararescue team, and the remaining coalition ground forces. Captain Carlisle immediately responded with 30 rounds of accurate, lethal .50 caliber fire. Despite having been shot off the landing zone, his aircraft braved enemy fire to return to the area where he scanned for more enemy positions. Once his team was extracted, he again assisted the Pararescue team with treating the critically wounded. At mission's end, Captain Carlisle was responsible for saving 10 critically wounded Coalition Soldiers. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Captain Carlisle reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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