



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(SIXTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)
TO
TECHNICAL SERGEANT JON H. YOUNG

Staff Sergeant John J. Eldridge distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as an HH-53 Rescue Helicopter Pararescue and Recovery Technician in Southeast Asia on 3 January 1971. On that date, Sergeant Eldridge flew an extremely hazardous mission in order to successfully rescue two American pilots who had been downed deep within hostile territory. Sergeant Eldridge equipped and prepared himself to descend to the ground by rescue hoist to assist the survivors in the event they were injured. Throughout the entire rescue operation Sergeant Eldridge continuously kept the aircraft commander informed of hostile ground fire positions and supplied suppressive fire coverage from his minigun position. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Eldridge reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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