



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
TO
SENIOR AIRMAN AARON D. PARCHA

Senior Airman Aaron D. Parcha distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Pararescue Team Member, 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. From 12 November 2010 to 13 November 2010 Airman Parcha and his team performed casualty evacuation in support of a deliberate operation by United States Army Task Force Bastogne in the highly contested Pech River Valley. During the two-day period, Airman Parcha launched on eight missions that resulted in 26 lives saved and the return to friendly control of seven Coalition Soldiers killed in action. On four separate occasions, Airman Parcha disregarded his own personal safety as he voluntarily flew into highly hostile and heavily defended areas and hoisted down to evacuate injured soldiers. Once on the ground, Airman Parcha prioritized the casualties and rigged them for hoist extraction as the enemy raked the hovering helicopter and the landing zone with small arms fire. His diligence and focus on the task at hand, during overwhelming circumstances, enabled his team to quickly accomplish their mission. Throughout the engagements, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he expedited the evacuation of the wounded and ensured all the casualties were safely hoisted into the helicopter. Airman Parcha secured himself to the hoist only after all casualties were secured in the aircraft. His actions directly enabled the success of an operation that secured large stores of enemy weapons and munitions and significantly disrupted insurgent activity against Coalition Forces in Regional Command East. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman Parcha reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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