



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
TO
STAFF SERGEANT JOHN C. RATLIFF

Staff Sergeant John C. Ratliff distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53 Rescue Helicopter deep within North Vietnam, on 23 March 1971. On that date, Sergeant Ratliff's outstanding airmanship and sound technical skill, displayed under extremely hazardous conditions, culminated in the rescue of two United States Air Force aircrewmen from certain death or capture by hostile armed forces. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, braving the threat of anti-aircraft artillery, surface-to-air missiles, fighter-interceptor aircraft, and hostile ground fire in penetrating into North Vietnam, Sergeant Ratliff exposed himself to man his gun position throughout the rescue effort, insuring the safe rescue of the two survivors. The professional competence, aerial skill and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Ratliff reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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