



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
TO  
STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH S. STANALAND

Staff Sergeant Joseph S. Stanaland distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as an HH-53 Pararescue and Recovery Technician in Southeast Asia on 21 December 1970. On that date, Sergeant Stanaland flew an extremely hazardous mission in order to rescue two American pilots who had been downed deep within hostile territory. Sergeant Stanaland was equipped and prepared to be lowered to the ground by rescue hoist in the event the survivors were injured. Throughout the entire rescue operation Sergeant Stanaland continuously kept the aircraft commander informed of hostile ground fire positions and supplied suppressive fire coverage from his mini-gun position. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Stanaland reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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