

## CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE SILVER STAR (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

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## AIRMAN FIRST CLASS MICHAEL A. CURTIS

Airman First Class Michael A. Curtis distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force near Tchepone, Laos, on 13 March 1971. On that date, Airman Curtis was a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53 Rescue Helicopter that twice attempted the rescue of a wounded United States Navy pilot from certain death or capture by hostile armed forces. With full knowledge of the extent of hostile fire in the area, and with complete disregard for his own safety, Airman Curtis continued to expose himself manning his gun position after being wounded, until withering ground fire crippled the helicopter and wounded another crew member, making continued rescue attempts impossible. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Airman Curtis has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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