



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE SILVER STAR  
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)  
TO  
TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIAM E. LESTER

Technical Sergeant William E. Lester distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States during the Prisoner of War search and rescue operation at Son Tay, North Vietnam, on 21 November 1970. On that date, Sergeant Lester, flying as a Paramedic/Gunner in a helicopter gunship carrying part of the ground rescue party, flew deep into the heart of enemy territory in a bold night attempt to rescue American Prisoners of War. His accurate fire on extremely critical enemy targets contributed significantly to the sense of complete confusion and disorganization among the enemy and provided protection for the rescue party. The personal skill and extreme courage displayed by Sergeant Lester in his aggressive fire during the heroic rescue attempt contributed immeasurably to the ultimate effectiveness and tactical success of the mission. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Lester has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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