



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the AIR MEDAL with Bronze Star for the First Award to

CHIEF AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE  
WILLIAM E. MOSS  
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement in aerial flight on 17 December 1977 while assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaiian Area. As First Crewman aboard a UH-3A helicopter dispatched to effect a search and rescue mission along the Na Pali coast of Kauai, Chief Petty Officer Moss was charged with the responsibility for verbal control of the aircraft in flight and, upon the sighting of the two missing hikers, the simultaneous verbal control of the rescue device. The acute angle of the cliff face on which the men were stranded prevented direct overhead hovering; moreover, rotor wash and air turbulence caused the rescue collar to be tossed about violently further increasing the difficulties faced by the rescue team. Chief Petty Officer Moss was required to direct the pilot to a precarious position which placed the rotor blades within two feet of the cliff face and to devise a method of control for the rescue collar so safe lift-off could be effected. His ability to verbally maneuver the aircraft into an advantageous position while ensuring stabilization of the rescue apparatus was vital to the success of the mission. Chief Petty Officer Moss exhibited exacting teamwork techniques and airmanship skill in this endeavor and his decisive, courageous action and selfless devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

T. B. Hayward  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations



COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

The President of the United States takes great pleasure in presenting  
the Air Medal with Gold Star for the second award to

WILLIAM EARL MOSS

SENIOR CHIEF AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE

UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic achievement in aerial flight while serving as Crew Chief with Naval Air Station, Fallon's Search and Rescue forces on 3 March 1983. Senior Chief Petty Officer MOSS was an integral member in the rescue of an injured skier. Facing unpredictable winds, high altitudes, heavy snow flurries, and lack of landmarks, he utilized his extensive experience and knowledge of Search and Rescue techniques and skills to aid the pilot in locating the lost skier. He provided the helicopter crew members with important hovering and mountain rescue information and contributed seasoned leadership and calmness to the success of an extremely demanding mission. During the actual rescue, he exited the helicopter on a precarious snow covered ledge to assist the victim to the pick up point. Once on the ground, he maintained constant radio communication with the crew and provided critical hovering information on wind direction and speed. His guidance enabled the pilot to make a safe approach to, and maintain a hover at, the ledge for the pick-up. Senior Chief Petty Officer MOSS' leadership, airmanship, courage and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. R. Foley, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

S. R. FOLEY, JR.  
Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet