



Commander

Navy Region Northwest



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the AIR MEDAL (with Gold Numeral One for the First Award) to

LIEUTENANT MATTHEW J. SCHWAB
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight while flying as a Search and Rescue Copilot at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington on 6 August 2017. Lieutenant Schwab and crew successfully responded to a challenging and hazardous mountain rescue at an altitude of 8,500 feet mean sea level on Mount Stuart in the Cascade Mountain Range, Washington. His superior mission planning, airmanship, and leadership were critical to the successful rescue of a severely injured and unconscious climber stuck in a deep draw surrounded by jagged rock spires and rugged terrain. Despite poor visibility, limited power due to operating at high density altitude, and an aircraft emergency, he demonstrated superior flying abilities, adaptability, and decision making to save a life. With a zero percent margin for error, he maneuvered the helicopter into position, within a few feet of the mountain while fighting variable winds and power fluctuations to extract and save the survivor. Based on the treacherous terrain and environmental conditions, as well as high altitudes, no other air or ground asset in the entirety of the Pacific Northwest could have reached or extracted the climber in time. By his skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, Lieutenant Schwab reflected credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



For the President,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. A. Mayes".

G. A. MAYES

Rear Admiral, United States Navy



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE**

AIR MEDAL

**TO
LIEUTENANT MATTHEW J. SCHWAB
UNITED STATES NAVY**

FOR

OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE ON 06 AUGUST 2017

GIVEN THIS 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018



FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
G. A. MAYES
REAR ADMIRAL, UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST