



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE  
**AIR MEDAL**

TO

**AMT3 JASON M. BAUER**  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Petty Officer BAUER is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight from 29 August 2005 to 06 September 2005 while serving as Flight Mechanic aboard Coast Guard HH-65B helicopters in response to Hurricane KATRINA. Demonstrating noteworthy skill and innovating rescue techniques in which he was neither trained nor experienced, he saved 73 survivors during 11 night and day flight hours over six sorties in an extremely challenging urban environment. He maintained exceptional focus as the aircrew operated at the edge of the power-limited HH-65B's performance envelope with reports of violence and gunfire, thousands of distressed survivors needing rescue, and the constant threat of midair collision in the highly congested and uncontrolled airspace. He skillfully performed many challenging hoist operations to severely damaged and flooded buildings amongst debris, telephone poles, power lines and trees. During one night sortie without a rescue swimmer, he expertly and repeatedly delivered the basket, maintained aircraft clearance between obstacles, and calmed anxious survivors while hoisting 36 people from an apartment roof. He displayed superb crew resource management skills while expertly conning the pilot into position and delivering the rescue swimmer to a second story balcony under a large overhang on a three-story apartment complex. As the rescue swimmer balanced the basket on the balcony rail, he adeptly recovered five young survivors. Displaying exceptional compassion at a survivor drop-off point, he disembarked nine small children and immediately began CPR on an infant whose mother had approached with her baby not breathing, continuing CPR until paramedics relieved him. Demonstrating tremendous leadership, immediately after landing on an apartment roof, he bravely faced and calmed an angry crowd rushing the helicopter. He assisted hundreds more by hoisting food and water to rooftops. Petty Officer BAUER'S actions and skill were instrumental in saving of 73 lives. His courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.