



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

**TO**

**AMT1 JEFFREY T. BRANDT  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer BRANDT is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight from August 29th to September 6th, 2005 while serving as Flight Mechanic aboard Coast Guard HH-65B helicopters following Hurricane KATRINA's devastating passage over metropolitan New Orleans. Demonstrating noteworthy skill and innovating rescue techniques for which he was neither trained nor experienced, he saved 20 survivors during eight night sorties in the challenging, unlit urban environment. Rescue missions required exceptional focus and cool as the aircrew operated at the edge of the HH-65B's performance envelope with continuous reports of violence and shots fired, thousands of distressed survivors needing rescue, and the constant threat of midair collision in the highly congested and uncontrolled airspace. Petty Officer BRANDT skillfully performed hoist operations to severely damaged and flooded buildings amongst strewn debris, telephone poles and trees. Most notably, Petty Officer BRANDT displayed superb crew resource management and hoisting skill vectoring the aircraft into position to conduct a nighttime, pinpoint delivery amongst a maze of high and low power lines to rescue several people from a second story balcony. On the following night, he skillfully positioned the aircraft in a high hover, with power lines above the rotor arc and large trees behind the aircraft and then swung the rescue swimmer through a second set of power lines and under an eave onto an apartment balcony, saving two severely dehydrated individuals. Later he helped grab a young child slipping from the grasp of a Rescue Swimmer spinning as he approached the cabin. On another night he exited the aircraft, light on the wheels on a rooftop, to carry an elderly, disabled woman to the safety of the cabin. He assisted many hundreds more survivors by hoisting critical food and water supplies to rooftops. Showing extraordinary dedication and stamina, Petty Officer BRANDT continued to fly rescue missions despite the complete lack of adequate crew rest facilities, and though his non-flying time was spent supervising around the clock aircraft fueling and maintenance activities. 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.

