

## U.S. Navy Vietnam era Helicopter Aircrewmembers receive Combat Aircrew Wings at a ceremony on board USS Midway



From Left to right. Richard Stone, Robert Reichard, Jim Keeney, Allen Gaynor, Nick Brake, Ed Davis, Robert Link, Daryled Bristol, Richard Lavigne, Bob Elerick, Roger Clemons, John Hultz, Michael Foley, William Collins, Matthew Szymanski, Mike Harlow, Doug Ankney, Robert Ford.

On 19 May 2006 on the foc'sle (Forecastle) of the USS Midway, nineteen US Navy helicopter aircrewmembers were retroactively awarded the US Marine Corps Combat Aircrew Wings. The ceremony was witnessed by Admiral Mac McLaughlin and 268 enthusiastic HC-7 reunion participants. Department of the Navy authorization was granted in 2000 following a five year effort by CDR Lloyd Parthemer to gain approval, find eligible aircrewmembers and present them the prestigious Combat Aircrew wings. The nineteen (one posthumous) awardees flew Combat Search And Rescue (CSAR) missions in the Vietnam era between the dates of October 1965 and February 1973 were attached to HC-7, HS-2 and HS-4. The posthumous award to ADJ-2 Richard Tinsley was for two daytime combat condition HC-7 rescues number 104 and 105 where LCDR Smith of RVAH-2 and LT Ringwood of VFP-62 were rescued. Fellow shipmate and aircrewman ADJ-3 Jim Keeney accepted the award for ADJ-2 Richard Tinsley, who will forward it to the Tinsley family.

Presentations on the foc'sle were made by past Commanding Officers: Lloyd Parthemer, Don Gregory, HAL-3 AECS Bill Rutledge and HC-7 rescue number 116, LT Jim Lloyd of VA105.

It was 19 September 1972 in a harrowing nighttime, hostile, overland opposed CSAR mission. LT Jim Lloyd was rescued by an H-3 helicopter piloted by LT Harry Zinzer with two aircrewmembers; AE-3 Douglas Ankney and AMH-3 Matthew Szymanski. The three aircrewmembers with wives dined with LT Lloyd and wife at the HC-7 reunion banquet. The following brief mission descriptions with presentation pictures are documented for HC-7, HS-2, HS-4 & the Naval Helicopter Historical Society:



**AE-3 DOUGLAS "STRETCH" ANKNEY**



**AMH-3 MATTHEW SZYMANSKI**



HC-7 Rescue # 116  
7 AUG 1972

Night overland opposed, dark launch, in flight refueling, hostile situation over enemy territory. LT. Jim Lloyd who evaded, played dead was rescued. Pilot LT Harry Zinzer landed with under 200 pounds of fuel.

Presenter – LT. Jim Lloyd VA-105

Note: **DOUGLAS G. ANKNEY**, Aviation Electrician's Mate Third Class, was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism in Aerial Flight on 6 & 7 August 1972 and three Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" for heroic achievement on 6 April, 16 April and 1 May 10 1972.



**ADJ-2 NICK BRAKE**

HC-7 Rescue #122  
19 September 1972  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LT Warren Robb of VA-192  
Presenter – LT Jim Lloyd for HC-7 Commanding Officer CDR Dave McCracken



**ADJ-3 MIKE HARLOW**

HC-7 Rescue #122  
19 September 1972  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LT Warren Robb of VA-192  
Presenter – LT Jim Lloyd for HC-7 Commanding Officer CDR Dave McCracken



**AX-3 DARYLED J. BRISTOL**

HS-4 Dets 2 and 3 during 1966 ETS 2 AND 3 DURING 1966

USS Enterprise,

USS Kitty Hawk,

USS Ranger

Vietnam area combat conditions

Presenter - AECS Bill Rutledge



**AE-3 WILLIAM T. COLLINS**

HC-7 Rescue #99

17 May 1972

Combat Daytime Conditions –

Rescued LCDR Wilkerson – VA-147

Presenter – LT Jim Lloyd



**ADJ-2 ROGER LEE CLEMONS**

HC-7 Det 104 USS Worden - Rescue #3,  
14 October 1967 & HC-1 Det 9  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LT Moser & ADJ2 Shaw VAP-61  
Presenter – HC-7 Commanding Officer, CDR Lloyd Parthemer.



**ADJ-3 JOHN G. HULTZ**

HC-7 Det 104 USS Worden - Rescue #3,  
14 October 1967 & HC-1 Det 9  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LT Moser & ADJ2 Shaw VAP-61  
Presenter – HC-7 Commanding Officer, CDR Lloyd Parthemer.



**AX-3 ED “DAVE” DAVIS**

HS-2 During the period of  
1 October thru 31 March 1968  
Vietnam combat conditions  
Presenter – AECS Bill Rutledge



**AMH-2 ROBERT “PAPPY” ELERICK**

HC-7 Jan 69 – 1972 over 1700 helo flight hours  
HC-7 Rescue #70 24 May 1969  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LTJG Ritchy VAP-63  
Presenter – HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Don Gregory



**AMH-2 MICHAEL J. FOLEY**

HC-7 Rescue #98

10 May 1972

Combat Daytime Conditions opposed –

With shelling from enemy territory.

Rescued LT. Randy “DUKE” Cinningham VF-96

Presenter – HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Don Gregory for CDR Dave McCracken



**ADJ-2 ROBERT J. FORD**

HC-7 Rescue #119 and #120

9 November 1972

Combat Daytime Conditions –

Rescued CAPT Cummings & MAJOR Lasetter VFMA-333

Presenter – HC-7 Commanding Officer Don Gregory for CDR Dave McCracken –



**AMS-3 ALLEN L. “GUPPY” GAYNOR**

HC-7 Rescue #107  
19 June 1972  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LCDR Cash VF-213  
HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Lloyd Parthemer



**ADJ-3 JIM KEENEY**  
**ADJ-2 RICHARD TINSLEY (POSTHOUMOUS)**

HC-7 Rescues  
#104 7 June 1972  
#105 16 June 1972  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued  
LCDR Smith RVAH-1  
LT Ringwood VFP-62  
HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Lloyd Parthemer  
For HC-7 C.O. Ed Woolam



**AX-3 ROBERT MICHAEL LINK**

HS-4 Detachment FOXTROT 1966 and  
During the period of 1 October 1965 Thru 31 March 1968  
Vietnam combat conditions  
Presenter – AECS Bill Rutledge



**AMS-1 RICHARD R. LAVIGNE**

HC-7 Rescue #57 6 October 1968  
Combat Daytime Conditions –  
Rescued LTJG Biery VA-27  
HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Lloyd Parthemer



### **ADJ-2 ROBERT REICHARD**

HC-7 Rescue #56 28 September 1968  
Combat Daytime Conditions  
Rescued LT Wright VA-55  
HC-7 Commanding Officer – CDR Lloyd Parthemer  
for HC-7 C.O. CDR HIPP



### **AX-3 RICHARD “STONEY” STONE**

HS-2 During the period of 1 October thru 31 march 1968.  
Vietnam combat conditions. Flew over 60 Combat Search and rescue missions as 1st  
aircrewman, door gunner or hoist operator on the SH-3 helicopters. Awarded the Air  
Medal with six stars.  
Presenter – AECS Bill Rutledge for Det O-IN-C LCDR Mel Howell.