



By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY)

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM TO

HELICOPTER COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON SEVEN

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 September 1967 to 30 April 1969. Displaying courage, initiative, and perseverance in the face of heavy enemy opposition and adverse flying conditions, the aircrews of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SEVEN established an unprecedented record of successful Navy rescue operations in Southeast Asia. Undeterred by heavy enemy antiaircraft and automatic weapons fire, rescue crews carried out day and night operations, succeeding in recovering downed airmen in hostile territory and thereby enabling many combat aircrews to return to action. On many occasions, accurate fire from the rescue helicopter silenced enemy weapons positions and drove back hostile ground forces attempting to capture downed survivors. The confidence placed in the skill and aggressiveness of these rescue crews made a significant contribution to the high state of morale and fighting spirit of combat aircrews. During this period, maintenance and support personnel of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SEVEN also performed brilliantly by maintaining an unbroken high state of readiness for over a year and a half, during which time the squadron grew from a small detachment operating seven helicopters to a total of fourteen detachments operating thirty-six helicopters and consisting of over one hundred officers and five hundred enlisted men. The exemplary courage, determination, esprit de corps, and dedication exhibited by the personnel of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SEVEN reflected great credit upon themselves and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

*Richard Nixon*