



COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES  
VIETNAM

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the Navy  
Commendation Medal to

ROGER VANPELT GRAVES  
AVIATION ELECTRICIAN'S MATE FIRST CLASS  
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION

"For meritorious service while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam from October 1971 to February 1972. While serving with Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three, as Electrical and Instrument Branch Assistant Supervisor, Petty Officer GRAVES performed his duties in an exemplary manner. He devoted many hours of his time to design and construct a mini-gun control system which prevented stray voltage in the door mounted mini-gun. His initiative and superior efforts increased the safety of all door mounted mini-gun weapons systems. On many occasions he willingly went to detachment areas to repair complex equipment discrepancies to enable aircraft to return to combat ready status in a minimum amount of time. Petty Officer GRAVES was also a qualified external load rigger and on numerous occasions went into unsecure areas to rig aircraft downed by enemy fire for extraction by another helicopter. Throughout his tour, he performed these arduous duties in a hostile environment under constant threat of Viet Cong terrorist attacks. Petty Officer GRAVES' exemplary professionalism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Secretary of the Navy

R. S. SALZER  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam