

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Chief Master Sergeant Dennis M. Richardson



Air Force Cross

Vietnam

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force as Flight Engineer of an HH-3E Jolly Green rescue helicopter of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, 3d Air Rescue and Recovery Group, DaNang Air Base, Vietnam, in action in Southeast Asia on 14 March 1968. On that date, Sergeant Richardson flew a sortie in an effort to rescue USAF pilots who were surrounded by enemy troops along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Coming to a hover 10 feet above the survivor's position, Sergeant Richardson stood fully exposed in the helicopter door and began lowering the jungle penetrator with one hand while gripping his M-60 machine gun with the other. Unknown to the pilots, was an ambush lying in wait for the rescue attempt. Suddenly intense enemy fire erupted from all quadrants, wounding Sergeant Richardson. Sgt. Richardson, despite his wounds, leaned far outside the door and neutralized charging enemy combatants.