

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Airman Third Class Arthur Neil Black



Air Force Cross

Vietnam

For extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force as a Pararescueman on an HH-43B helicopter of Detachment 3, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, in action 40 miles south of

Vinh, North Vietnam on 20 September 1965. On that date, Airman Black participated in an extremely hazardous attempted recovery of a downed pilot. This mission required a flight of over 80 miles, mostly over hostile controlled territory. Evaluation of the environment in which the downed pilot was located indicated that maximum performance would be demanded from each crewmember if successful recovery was to be effected. Though exposed to intensive hostile ground fire, Airman Black, with complete disregard for his own safety, performed with courage and professional precision in a supreme effort to rescue a fallen comrade.

While in captivity Arthur Black accepted a field commission from the Senior Ranking POW. With Bill Robinson, Arthur Black shares the record as the longest-held enlisted American Prisoner of War in history. He retired as a Pilot and U.S. Air Force Major on February 1, 1987.