

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Airman Second Class Duane D. Hackney



Air Force Cross

Vietnam

For extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, 3d Air Rescue and Recovery Group, DaNang Air Base, Vietnam, as a Paramedic on an

unarmed HH-3E Rescue Helicopter near Mu Gia Pass, North Vietnam, on 6 February 1967. On that date, Airman Hackney flew a rescue sortie for a downed pilot. Airman Hackney located the downed pilot, who was hoisted into the helicopter. As the rescue crew departed the area, intense 37-mm. flak tore into the helicopter amidships, causing extensive damage. Airman Hackney fitted his own parachute to the rescued man. The Pararescueman had just located another parachute for himself when a second 37-mm. round struck, sending the aircraft out of control. The explosion blew Airman Hackney through the open cargo door and, though stunned, he managed to deploy the unbuckled parachute and make a successful landing. He was later recovered by a companion helicopter.