



**For Immediate Release**  
HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON SIX (HS-6)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

On October 7, 1960, at a presentation ceremony held at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Ream Field, Imperial Beach, California, four Navy pilots and three crewmen were honored with commendations for their participation in a sea-air rescue which took place last January off the coast of Okinawa. Commander J. B. CABELL, Commanding Officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX (HS-6), to which the men are attached made the presentations.

Two of the squadron's pilots received one of the Navy's highest peace-time awards, the Navy Commendation Ribbon with Pendant. They are LCDR Harold CLAUSE (since transferred to NAS Fallon, Nevada) and LTJG Joe C. GREER, 26 of 980 Ebony St., Imperial Beach, California. Their co-pilots, LCDR Robert M. MAZE (also transferred) and LTJG Ben L. DURRANCE of 312 Dahlia St., Imperial Beach, and crewmen Robert L. CUNNINGHAM of Des Plaines, Illinois, George E. SEYMOUR of Newark, New Jersey, and Gary A. LANE of Muncie, Indiana, received letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy.

LTJG GREER's citation reads as follows:

"For outstanding performance of duty on the night of 26 January 1960 while serving as Pilot in Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX (HS-6), embarked in the U.S.S. KEARSARGE (CVS-33) at anchor in Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Responding to a request from the U.S.S. MIDWAY (CVA-41) for assistance in rescuing survivors of a swamped MIDWAY motor whaleboat, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) GREER piloted his helicopter in the face of extremely adverse and hazardous conditions of rain, total darkness, low visibility, and gustiness in conducting a low-level search for the victims. Successful in locating and returning one survivor from an island and in directing surface craft to other victims in the water, he also succeeded, while controlling his hovering helicopter on instruments, in rescuing and returning to the KEARSARGE in two separate operations a total of six men from their battered and flooded rescue boat which had grounded on coral reefs in the darkness and heavy weather. By his outstanding airmanship and alertness, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) GREER rendered invaluable assistance to the MIDWAY in the very difficult problem of controlling operations and in preventing further loss of life. His professional ability, initiative, and devotion to duty in the face of great personal risk were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

/s/ W. B. FRANKE  
Secretary of the Navy

This is not the first time LTJG GREER has taken part in a noteworthy rescue operation, and January seems to be the recurring month in his case. It was in January 1958 that he spotted the wreckage of a downed C-97 transport near Hawaii, ending a three-day search. On January 7th, 1959, after an all-night search involving sea and air units of the Navy and Coast Guard off Point Loma near San Diego, he picked up the pilot of a jet plane who had ejected into the sea. He has also participated extensively in several other rescue operations performed during the past three years by his squadron, whose primary mission is to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines.

Before joining the squadron, Joe went through flight training at Pensacola, Florida, where he was named "Outstanding Naval Aviation Cadet" for the year of 1957.

LTJG Ben Millikan, USNR  
HS-6 Public Information Officer