



Naval Air Force Atlantic

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
AIR MEDAL (with Gold Numeral "1" for the First Award) to

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
KELLEN L. SMITH
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pilot of an E-2C aircraft assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO THREE onboard USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69) on 18 March 2016. As his E-2C engaged the cross deck pendant and began to decelerate during a routine landing attempt, the wire unpredictably separated causing the aircraft to continue off the landing area well below a safe rotation speed. Knowing that the aircraft had minimal distance remaining and the requisite airspeed to rotate for takeoff, he and his crew were able to quickly reconfigure the aircraft for a high angle of attack attitude at near stall conditions to attempt a climb after making use of ground effect. Due to their split second reaction time, the E-2C was able to attain a positive rate of climb thus avoiding a ditch at sea which would have resulted in the loss of the aircraft and possibly the lives of the aircrew. By his skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, Lieutenant Commander Smith reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

J. R. HALEY
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Naval Air Force,
Atlantic





Naval Air Force Atlantic

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the **AIR MEDAL** (with Gold Numeral "1" for the First Award) to

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
THOMAS J. BROWNING
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Combat Information Center Officer of an E-2C aircraft assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO THREE onboard USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69) on 18 March 2016. As the E-2C engaged the cross deck pendant and began to decelerate, the wire unpredictably separated causing the aircraft to continue off the landing area. As the aircrew had very little runway distance remaining and the requisite airspeed to safely rotate for takeoff, the aircrew quickly recognized the condition and the pilots reconfigured the aircraft while setting a high angle of attack attitude to attempt a last ditch climb. Due to the aircrew's swift reaction time and proactive communication, the E-2C was able to climb thus avoiding a ditch which would have resulted in both the loss of the aircraft and possibly the lives of the aircrew. By his skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, Lieutenant Commander Browning reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

J. R. HALEY
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Naval Air Force,
Atlantic

