



The Kaman Awards Program

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Calvin Coolidge once stated with characteristic brevity that "the business of America is business." Here at Kaman Aerospace, our primary business for a quarter of a century has been "rescue." During this period, the design and manufacturing of rescue helicopters and rescue equipment has been our forte, with more recent further diversification into other programs and products.

Today, rescue helicopters continue to occupy our imagination as well as a significant portion of our resources, as do the skillful pilots, and airborne and ground crews who operate and maintain this equipment throughout the world. On these pages, and on pages of prior issues of Rotor Tips, appear accounts of dramatic rescues performed at night, at sea, in the jungle, on a mountainside, under enemy fire, or tossed by wind and storm. Here are portrayed the thousands of successful rescue enterprises where the life of a human being has been mercifully withdrawn from the grip of otherwise certain death or bodily injury. Is it surprising that we at Kaman share a sense of excitement, pride, and enthusiasm?

As a way of expressing our appreciation for the humanitarian and courageous rescue work accomplished by the men who fly in our aircraft, Kaman established a rescue award program in 1955. The precipitating event was the severe flooding that swept through New England, and particularly Connecticut, in August of that year. It was at that time that 13 people were rescued by Kaman Chief Test Pilot W. A. Newton, and Flight Crewman Tom George. Since that time, we have received at Kaman literally thou-

sands of rescue reports from Air Force, Navy and Marine helicopter crews. In professional, unemotional tones, these reports reveal a continuing story of courage and humanitarian service. It is the purpose of this article, to describe the awards program at Kaman, however, not to expound on "the record" of rescues which has been adequately chronicled at other times and places.

As many readers know, there are two types of rescue awards made by Kaman: the Scroll of Honor and the Mission Award. The following description of these awards, is much the same as it appears on the back of the rescue form that Kaman supplies to rescue units for the purpose of making award nominations.

Scroll of Honor

The KAMAN SCROLL OF HONOR is awarded in recognition of outstanding pilot and crew performance while conducting a rescue or mission of mercy with a Kaman helicopter. As most pilots and crewmen of Kaman helicopters know, each recipient is presented with a plasticized Scroll of Honor certificate. This certificate is personalized with the name and rank of the recipient and the date on which the mission was performed, and is well suited for framing by the recipient. In addition, a winged rescue lapel pin is awarded for the first, fifth, tenth and twentieth Scroll

Navy and Air Force personnel shown above in photographs taken after award ceremonies typify the UH-2 and HH-43 rescue crews honored by Kaman. Photographs of recent award presentations appear on page 5.