



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

SENIOR CHIEF QUARTERMASTER (SUBMARINES)
CLARENCE G. COOPER
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy while serving as Craft Master of covered lighter KODIAK (YF866) in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 September 1968. When Senior Chief Petty Officer Cooper's craft was ambushed with intense enemy fire from hidden emplacements on both sides of a narrow Mekong River channel, he immediately grabbed the wheel to prevent his craft from going aground, which would have meant near certain destruction or capture. Almost simultaneously, he directed the fire of his crew on enemy positions, fought strong river currents, and requested the support of Seawolf helicopter gunships and River Patrol Boats. At great risk to his life, Senior Chief Cooper continuously exposed himself to the intense automatic weapons and exploding rocket fire that raked the Pilot House. With bullets and shrapnel still flying, he calmly steered his craft, continued directing his crew, and radioed for emergency MEDEVAC for a critically wounded shipmate. Upon the arrival of the MEDEVAC helicopter, Senior Chief Cooper assisted their efforts by skillfully maneuvering his craft to minimize the enemy's ability to bring down the helicopter. His command actions were far beyond that expected and saved the life of a shipmate, as well as prevented his craft from sinking or being captured. As a direct result, KODIAK was able to continue delivering vital supplies and ammunition to U.S. forces in the Delta region of the Republic of Vietnam. Senior Chief Petty Officer Cooper's courageous actions, resolute determination, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy