



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Air Medal (First through Fifth Strike/Flight Award) to

LIEUTENANT TODD P. URKOWITZ
UNITED STATES NAVY

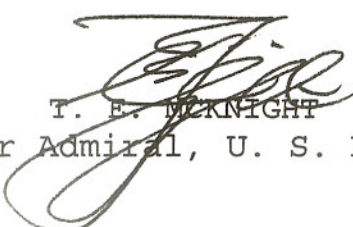
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as Pilot of an SH-60B aircraft assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FOUR TWO Detachment ONE onboard USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) deployed in the Commander, FIFTH FLEET AOR from September 2008 to February 2009 in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Counter Piracy Operations, and the M/V FAINA and SIRIUS STAR Crisis. Lieutenant Urkowitz successfully completed 64 strike/photo reconnaissance missions inside the territorial waters of Somalia that encountered anti-aircraft weapons including MANPADS, RPGs, and small arms that directly threatened the safety of the aircrew and aircraft. Lieutenant Urkowitz enhanced Commander Task Force 51/58 (CTF 51/58) operational success through increased situational awareness and ensured maritime security. His flights contributed to the safety of 42 hostages, prevented terrorists from acquiring a very large cache of weapons, and ensured 178 million dollars of cargo reached its destination. By his skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, Lieutenant Urkowitz reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Numeral "5" to represent Five Strike/Flight Awards is authorized

For the President,


T. E. MCKNIGHT
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy