



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

HAS BEEN AWARDED TO

CAPTAIN BENNETT R. JOHNSON

FOR

ACT OF COURAGE

15 JUNE 2015

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Captain Bennett R. Johnson distinguished himself by an act of courage while off-duty at Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, on 15 June 2015. On that day, Captain Johnson was enjoying off-duty time from a training conference when he noticed several distressed swimmers caught in a rip current, approximately 80 yards from shore. He immediately began to provide assistance along with three other military members. Captain Johnson was already out in the water on a flotation device approximately 150 yards from shore. Upon assessing the situation, he noted five people had been caught offshore and failed to recognize the speed of the incoming tide. Utilizing his flotation device, Captain Johnson took two victims back to shore. He then swam approximately 40 yards from the shoreline and handed two more victims off to another military member. After Captain Johnson went out a third time, he left his flotation device with one victim, swam approximately 15 yards further to retrieve the last drowning victim, and then assisted them back to shore. Captain Johnson continued to provide assistance to the five victims until emergency medical technicians and sheriff's department personnel arrived. As a direct result of his selfless actions, all five individuals survived the life-threatening situation with only minor injuries. By his prompt action and humanitarian regard for his fellowman, Captain Johnson has reflected credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

9 February 2017

STEPHEN M. Kravitsky, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 90th Missile Wing

