THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

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

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement while serving with Coastal Division
ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong communist
aggressors in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on
13 March 1969. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry was serving as Officer in
Charge of Inshore Patrol Craft 94, one of five boats conducting a
SEA LORDS operation in the Bay Hap River. While exiting the River,
a mine detonated under another Inshore Patrol Craft and almost
simultaneously, another mine detonated close aboard his Inshore
Patrol Craft knocking a man into the water and wounding Lieutenant
(jg) Kerry in the right arm. In addition, all units began
receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire from the river
banks. When Lieutenant (jg) Kerry discovered he had a man over-
board, he returned upriver to assist. The man in the water was
receiving sniper fire from both banks. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry
directed his gunners to provide suppressing fire, while from an
exposed position on the bow, his arm bleeding and in pain and with
disregard for his personal safety, he pulled the man aboard.
Lieutenant (jg) Kerry then directed his boat to return and assist
the other damaged Inshore Patrol Craft. His crew attached a line
and towed the damaged boat to safety. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry's
professionalism, great personal courage under fire, and complete
dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in
keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval
Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Navy