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TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY 1990

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

## NAVY DEPARTMENT

Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, S.W.1.

23rd January 1990

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

## AIR FORCE MEDAL

Chief Petty Officer Aircrewman Julian Patrick Rodnell GRINNEY.

On the night of Sunday 12th March 1989, Chief Petty Officer Aircrewman Grinney was the Diver in the duty Sea King Search and Rescue helicopter scrambled to assist a casualty on the Spanish fishing trawler *'Ivan Antonio'*. The vessel was pitching and rolling in high seas and buffeted by gusting winds of up to 50 knots. It was considered too hazardous to lower a non-aircrew Medical Assistant to the deck or to attempt a stretcher transfer. Grinney, fully aware of the personal risk, volunteered to go down and assess the situation. A hi-line was passed with considerable difficulty and Grinney was

lowered towards the deck. During the descent he narrowly avoided contact with the flailing mast and rigging and at one stage impacted the ship's side. Despite these conditions he pulled himself to the deck and after assessing the casualty fit to winch, he prepared for the lift and the injured seaman was recovered from the heaving deck.

With minutes of returning to Culdrose, Grinney was airborne again; this time to assist in the rescue of four crewmen from the Korean Merchant Vessel *'Secil Japan'*, drifting on to the rocks at the renowned 'Hells Mouth' on the West Coast of Cornwall. Although always conscious of the imminent possibility of having to enter the raging surf to rescue any crewman who might be swept overboard, he managed to provide calm, invaluable leadership and assistance to the Aircrewman during the perilous winching operation.

Chief Petty Officer Aircrewman Grinney's professional conduct throughout both of these hazardous Search and Rescue operations was of the very highest order.

 QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR VALUABLE  
SERVICE IN THE AIR

Lieutenant Darrel NELSON, United States Coastguard.

For Services in Search Rescue operations involving the Spanish Trawler *'Ivan Antonio'* and the *MV 'Secil Japan'* on 12th March 1989.

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