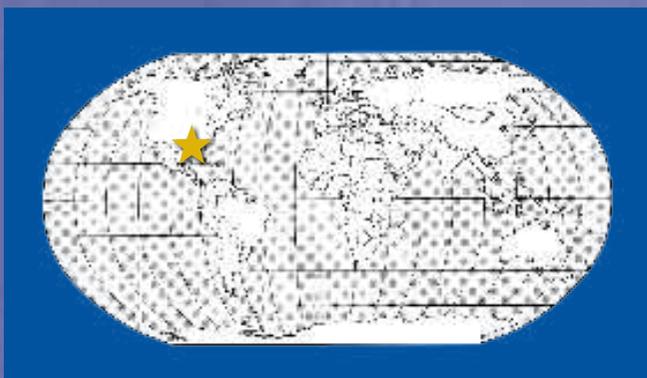




Olav M. Saboe

Lieutenant
Class of 1996



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal to
Lieutenant Olav M. Saboe
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Saboe is cited for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight from 30 August to September 2005, as Aircraft Commander aboard Coast Guard HH-65B helicopters in response to Hurricane Katrina. Operating day after day under conditions of stress and exhaustion, he saved 143 survivors from treacherous conditions during 17 sorties totaling 30 day and night flight hours. He demonstrated exceptional aeronautical skill and judgment by pushing the power-limited HH-65B to the edge of its performance envelope near unlit hazards, despite continuous reports of violence and gunfire, thousands of distressed survivors needing rescue, and the constant threat of midair collision in the highly congested and uncontrolled airspace. Among the first on scene after the storm's passage, Lieutenant Saboe fought through heavy rain squalls and 50 knot winds to perform a pinpoint vertical delivery of the swimmer to a destroyed fishing vessel laden with obstacles from a 150-foot hover, saving a critically injured woman. He expertly conducted 57 night hoists making rescues from balconies, porches, second story windows and rooftops, precisely hovering between trees and power lines with no safe flyout options available. Immediately upon hearing reports of shots fired at a hospital with hundreds of stranded patients, Lieutenant Saboe delivered a SWAT Team to eliminate the threat. He conducted 24 confined area take-offs and landings with little to no power reserve on debris strewn bridges and rooftops including landing "light" on the corner of a flooded school roof, rescuing 26 people. While searching for survivors, he flew over a school surrounded by rising floodwaters with over 400 people utilizing the school as a makeshift shelter. He skillfully delivered the rescue swimmer and hoisted 12 survivors, including several infants with severe medical conditions, and then coordinated with Air National Guard helicopters to complete the mission. Additionally, he continued hoisting and saving lives after being warned by authorities about a toxic cloud of hydrogen sulfide in the area, refusing to abandon the mission. Lieutenant Saboe's actions, aeronautical skill, and valor were instrumental in the direct rescue of 143 victims. His courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

In addition, LCDR Saboe was awarded the Air Medal while deployed aboard CGC Boutwell, assigned to the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet from February to May 2003 where he successfully completed 25 combat missions over Iraq in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded a second Air Medal on September 24th, 2005 for flying into the tail end of Hurricane Rita to rescue 14 victims engulfed by floodwaters resulting from the devastating storm surge.

As of 2007, Lieutenant Commander Saboe is the Engineering Officer at Air Station New Orleans and an Instructor Pilot in the HH-65C "Dauphin" helicopter.
