

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO

CARLOS A. ALVARADO

Sergeant Carlos A. Alvarado, United States Army, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as a member of the United States Central Command Commander In Chief's Protective Service Detail, Joint Security Directorate, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, on 23 January 2001. While deployed to Sanaa, Yemen as advance security agent for a United States Central Command Commander In Chief's visit, Sergeant Alvarado was assigned to protect Ambassador Barbara Bodine, United States Ambassador to Yemen. While accompanying the Ambassador and her team on a flight to Tiaz, Yemen, the aircraft was hijacked. Sergeant Alvarado quickly implemented anti-terrorism measures to minimize the threat. Fearing accomplices, he quickly scanned the aircraft and began developing a plan of action. Upon landing in Djibouti, with the hijacker in the cockpit, Sergeant Alvarado recognized an opportunity to get the Ambassador and her team off of the hijacked aircraft. He quickly briefed the Ambassador and implemented his escape plan. After opening the jammed exit door and getting the Ambassador down the chute, he ran with her to safety. His heroic actions resulted in the Ambassador, and the remaining eighty-nine passengers escaping. Without his heroic acts and quick thinking, the outcome could have been tragic. The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Alvarado reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Army, the United States Central Command, and the Department of Defense.

