



TO

Ralph E. Gibson

for distinguished service and exceptionally outstanding contributions to the Department of Defense in the areas of fleet air defense, evaluation of fleet ballistic missile systems, military and scientific satellites, and supporting research and exploratory development. Dr. Gibson's contributions in these areas and his brilliant leadership in the field of science span some of the most critical years in the history of the free world. He has played a key role in strengthening the United States and its Allies against the patterns of military aggression which have emerged over the last two decades. Dr. Gibson has helped to introduce revolutionary advancements in missile technology for fleet air defense and the strategic commitments of the United States Navy. His contributions have been of vital importance to the military strength of America. He has made major contributions to national security by giving unstintingly of his talents and his time to important committees and studies convened by the military departments. In pursuing these defense-oriented activities, Dr. Gibson has brought credit to military technology through his application of military research and development to the human needs of medicine. For these dedicated and valuable services to the Department of Defense, he richly deserves the recognition which the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service represents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Frosch".

Secretary of Defense

JULY 7, 1969

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL CITATION

The Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest award made by the Department of Defense to a civilian, was presented to Dr. R. E. Gibson on July 9, 1969. Dr. Robert A. Frosch, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research and Development, presented the gold medal in colorful ceremonies attended by the Principal Staff of the Laboratory and many distinguished guests. The citation accompanying the medal is reproduced above.

Dr. Gibson had previously been awarded the Presidential Certificate of Merit, World War II

(1948) for his role in the development of solid propellant rockets, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award (1958) for directing the development of missiles for defense of the fleet, and the Captain Robert Dexter Conrad Award (1960) for achievements in research and development for the Navy. In 1966, Queen Elizabeth II named Dr. Gibson an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) for outstanding contributions to Anglo-American friendship and understanding.