

# ***Three Natives Get Medals For Rescuing Flyers***

Three Alaska Natives have received special certificates and engraved medals from the Bureau of Land Management for rescuing a BLM pilot and a cadastral surveyor from a crashed plane.

Moses Chythlook, Gust Tugatuk and Wassily Naugtak received the awards at the noon luncheon of the Equal Employment Opportunity Seminar on March 16.

On August 31, 1966, shortly after pilot Howard Smith and cadastral surveyor John Baldessari took off from their survey camp at Lake Aleknagik, their aircraft crashed into the lake and sank.

The three Natives saw the accident, hurried to the scene in their skiffs, and rescued the flyers, both of whom were uninjured except for shock and minor exposure.

The Grumman Goose, the first lost by BLM in its Alaskan operations, was later raised from the lake and shipped to Seattle, where it is being repaired and converted into the first turbo-prop Goose in BLM service.