

25Nov67

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING  
CROSS TO WILLIAM L. CRAWFORD**

Staff Sergeant William L. Crawford distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a HH-43F Helicopter Flight Engineer near Nam Can, Republic of Vietnam, on 25 November 1967. On that date, Sergeant Crawford subjected himself to hostile fire while engaged in the rescue of two American pilots and one wounded Vietnamese from a beleaguered government outpost. With complete disregard for his own personal safety Sergeant Crawford left his aircraft to aid the personnel while numerous mortar rounds, aimed at the outpost and the helicopter, were exploding in close proximity to the rescue aircraft. Sergeant Crawford's courage and initiative under the extremely hazardous conditions were paramount in the expeditious accomplishment of the rescue. This perilous rescue and evacuation of the American pilots helped deter the hostile forces from intensifying their attack against the outpost, thus preventing further casualties. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Crawford reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

I was the FE on Pedro 91 & after going in there the third time, I said this is crazy so I jumped out of the chopper & ran to the bunker & got the Marine Lt. Colonel to get out of there & on the chopper.

A funny thing about that mission is when we were debriefing someone ask me if I was afraid when I jumped out of the chopper & ran to the bunker to get the Marine Lt. Colonel to come out. I said I did what? I was so scared that I just blocked all that out of my mind. We had gone in there three times with all the mortars & machine guns firing at us that I thought if we had to go in the fourth time that we wouldn't come back out. When we landed & he ran back into the bunker I just jumped out of the chopper & ran after him & pulled him out & ran him to the chopper. (Bill Crawford)





Bill Crawford After 48th Combat Save