



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D. WIDENER

Senior Master Sergeant Christopher D. Widener distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Team Leader, 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. From 12 November 2010 to 13 November 2010 he flew two mass casualty evacuation missions in support of coalition operations in the Pech Valley, Afghanistan. On four separate occasions, Sergeant Widener disregarded his own personal safety as he flew into an active firefight and hoisted down numerous times to evacuate several wounded soldiers. On one rescue, upon reaching the ground Sergeant Widener immediately prioritized several casualties and rigged them for hoist extraction as the enemy raked his position and the hovering helicopter with small arms fire. Sergeant Widener braved the incoming rounds and continued to calmly lead his team through several hoist extractions and ensured the most critical casualty was hoisted out with his team member. As the helicopter crew attempted to engage the enemy, Sergeant Widener courageously elected to remain on the ground to continue to triage the remaining casualties and apply medical treatment to the wounded. Even as he hoisted out with the final casualty, Sergeant Widener displayed his mettle and shielded the wounded soldier with his own body from small arms fire directed at the landing zone. In the end, 26 casualties were evacuated and seven coalition soldiers killed in action were returned to friendly control during the two-day period. Were it not for his heroic actions under direct enemy fire, many of those men would not have survived. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Widener reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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