



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
TO  
STAFF SERGEANT THOMAS T. WINTERS

Staff sergeant Thomas T. Winters distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as Rescue Specialist on an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 18 January, 1969. On that date, Sergeant Winters penetrated deep into hostile territory, northwest of the A Shau Valley, to effect the rescue of two downed forward air controllers. Despite antiaircraft fire and continuous ground fire, Sergeant Winters manned the left machinegun and delivered accurate suppressive fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Winters exposed himself to the hostile fire as he stood in the open doorway and brought the first survivor on board the helicopter. Sergeant Winters returned to his machinegun and commenced firing, but the helicopter was heavily damaged by intense automatic weapons fire and was forced to withdraw. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Winters reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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