



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

The President of the United States takes great pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Major Howard J. Steen for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a B-52 Aircraft Commander, 307th Strategic Wing, U-Tapao Airfield, on 14 July 1972. On that date, Major Steen led a cell of three B-52 aircraft against an enemy surface-to-air missile target in the vicinity of Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. When Major Steen's aircraft became an active item of interest, he elected to continue the bomb run, even though aborting the run was an acceptable alternative. In the face of extreme danger and adverse weather conditions, all ordnances were delivered precisely on target resulting in its complete destruction and numerous large secondary explosions. His flawless execution of the assigned mission and safe return of all aircraft enabled other allied forces to continue their effort in this hostile area of North Vietnam. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Major Steen reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Branch of Service: U. S. Air Force * Theatre for DFC: Vietnam * Aircraft: B-52D