



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

For heroism while participating in aerial flight: Captain Robert Frank distinguished himself by heroic actions on 10 April 1972 while serving as Aircraft Commander of a UH-1H Huey helicopter responding to an urgent request for immediate extraction of a four-man Special Forces advisory team located at the besieged Bu Dop, Republic of Vietnam base camp. Bu Dop was under constant attack as part of the three NVA Division attack during the Communist Spring Offensive of 1972. Captain Frank was departing Loc Ninh's close aerial support mission to rearm/refuel when he received the urgent extraction request. Without hesitation and knowing two other UH-1H helicopters had already been shot down attempting to rescue the Special Forces team, Captain Frank notified the team he was on his way. The team was certain that the base camp could not survive the night before its imminent fall to the attacking superior numbers of enemy soldiers. Instead of a normal approach to the helipad, Captain Frank executed a non-standard tight 360-degree spiral down approach to the base helipad from 8000 feet AGL to minimize his exposure to the antiaircraft and small arms fire. Upon touchdown, the Special Forces team scrambled aboard as Captain Frank executed another tight 360-degree spiral up departure while again taking effective enemy fire until he gained enough altitude to clear the area and deliver the team to An Loc, Republic of Vietnam. The aircraft took numerous hits during both approach and departure, however, all systems continued to operate, and no one was wounded or killed. Captain Frank's dramatic heroic rescue of the Special Forces team just prior to the base camp's fall that evening to the enemy were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

Branch of Service: U.S. Army * Theatre for DFC: Vietnam * Aircraft: UH-1H Huey