



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

As Staff Sergeant Lawrence Livers, a C-130 Loadmaster, I was flying a Blind Bat mission out of Ubon, Thailand. We were flying Flare missions - delivering Mark 24 Flares, each giving off 2 million-candle power light, for missions over Laos. While flying one night in 1970 with a load of 260 flares, we had a launcher loaded on the ramp of the C-130 that we could launch these flares. Suddenly a flare popped out and flew backwards into the platform that was holding the other flares. Realizing there was a 10 second timer before the flare would ignite, I notified the pilot and crew via my headphones that I needed the ramp and door to be opened from up in the cockpit as I needed to jettison the loaded pallets with all the other flares. The back of the Aircraft filled with smoke and I could not tell if the door was open. The pilot advised that the door was opened. I then pulled the release handle that unlocked all the locks to the pallet that the flares were in and the pallet was jettisoned. Approximately 50 yards out the back of the Aircraft, the pallet of flares exploded into a ball of fire. I was awarded the DFC for heroism for saving the crew, the aircraft, and myself.

Branch of Service: U. S. Air Force * Theatre for DFC: Vietnam * Aircraft: C-130