



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

Major Billy S. Lyons distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a C-130 Instructor Pilot at the Khe Sahn Air Base, South Vietnam on 24 March 1971. On that date, Major Lyons was flying a high priority airlift mission under extremely marginal weather conditions into Khe Sahn Air Base. At this same time, an armed opposing force actively engaged in combat with friendly helicopter forces near the base. When it was apparent the Pilot flying the aircraft would be unable to complete the landing due to adverse weather conditions, Major Lyons, acting as the Instructor Pilot, took control of the aircraft and accomplished a go around. He evaded enemy ground fire and avoided the friendly helicopter gunships to make a successful go around pattern and landing, thereby allowing the completion of this highly important mission. The professional competence, aerial skill and devotion to duty displayed by Major Lyons reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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