



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to John E. Shields, Captain, United States Army, Republic of Vietnam for heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary actions above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Shields distinguished himself on 27 August 1971 while serving as Pilot of a command and control helicopter in the Republic of Vietnam. He witnessed one of his helicopters receive intense ground-to-air fire. The craft was forced to land in the same vicinity where it received the fire. Captain Shields immediately attempted a rescue, but could not fly close enough on the first attempt. On the second attempt, he directed his gunners in their suppression fire and his craft was able to land. With the two crewmembers aboard, Captain Shields again directed the gunners and completed the rescue mission. His flying ability was directly responsible for the success of the mission. Captain Shields' flying ability and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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