



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

Staff Sergeant Jeff A. Wann distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a C-130H Loadmaster, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, 320th Expeditionary Operations Group, 320th Air Expeditionary Wing, in the Baghran Valley of Afghanistan on 23 February 2003. On that date, Sergeant Wann displayed exceptional airmanship and dedication during execution of a formation container delivery system airdrop supporting Operation VIPER, the 82nd Airborne Division's interdiction of Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces. While flying at low altitude and airspeed through previously unpenetrated hostile terrain, and configuring for airdrop, the restraint for 9,000 pounds of supplies was severed by a defective container, placing the aircraft in a performance-limiting configuration. Sergeant Wann recognized the malfunction and initiated emergency procedures to resolve the situation. He immediately retrieved equipment required to restrain the shifting load, preventing center-of-gravity limitations from being exceeded, and potential loss of aircraft control. As emergency procedures progressed, he intervened to prevent a crewmember from being crushed by the load and helped secure the platforms while the aircraft aggressively maneuvered. He re-rigged the load and, coordinating with a joint airdrop inspection qualified loadmaster, re-certified the load as airdrop worthy. After completion of emergency procedures, he re-accomplished airdrop preparations a second time. In 21 minutes, he completed emergency actions, re-rigged the load, and delivered 18,000 pounds of critical supplies to forward-deployed American forces engaged with the enemy. The professional competence, aerial skills, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Wann reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.