

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
TO  
RALPH C. ERCHINGER

Major Ralph C. Erchinger distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a C-7A Aircraft Commander near Xuan Cat, Republic of Vietnam on 1 February 1967. On that date, Major Erchinger was flying normal re-supply missions when diverted to a Tactical Emergency mission in support of Operation Cedar Falls. The mission required flying five sorties of urgently needed combat troops and munition into an area of reported intense hostile ground to air fire, and landing on a usable runway of 900 feet at maximum gross weights. With great determination and superior airmanship, Major Erchinger delivered the combat troops and munitions, safely and effectively. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Major Erchinger reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

