

1975

C I T A T I O N

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE  
KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

Captain Robert C. Helt distinguished himself by exceptional airmanship in coping with a complex emergency condition during an operational reconnaissance flight in an SR-71 aircraft on 25 April 1975.

The malfunction of several critical systems, including the shutdown of one engine and loss of two hydraulic systems and the right generator, required a series of rapid decisions for a safe recovery to be made. The seriousness of the situation was compounded by leaking fuel and the immediate possibility of fire. Reacting calmly with accurate judgment, decisive actions, and outstanding coordination, Captain Helt successfully coped with the deteriorating condition of his aircraft, accomplished an air refueling rendezvous, and completed a difficult diversion and single engine landing at an alternate base.

Captain Helt's outstanding feat of airmanship in saving a valuable aircraft and possible loss of life conforms to the high standards established for the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy, and reflects credit upon himself, the Strategic Air Command, and the United States Air Force.