

1984

CITATION.

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

Captain John F. Kelly, 20th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida, distinguished himself by an outstanding act of airmanship while participating in aerial flight as aircraft commander of an HH-53H Pave Low III helicopter during a joint service training exercise in North Carolina on 14 November 1984.

Captain Kelly's aircraft experienced a catastrophic tail rotor drive system failure and simultaneous loss of the tail rotor. Captain Kelly expertly took charge of the situation and turned a near hopeless situation into a successful aircraft recovery. His professionalism and outstanding ability under extreme stress resulted in the survival of all 15 people on board the aircraft.

The superb airmanship and tremendous courage of Captain Kelly reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.