

CITATION

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

First Lieutenant Brian D. MacLeod, 162d Tactical Fighter Squadron, 178th Tactical Fighter Group, Spring-Beckley Municipal Airport, Springfield, Ohio, distinguished himself by exceptional airmanship while participating in an aerial flight as an A-7D pilot on 3 November 1988.

Lieutenant MacLeod was recovering at Springfield Municipal Airport through the weather on his leader's wing. Once established below the clouds, his leader split him off for an individual approach. At this time, Lieutenant MacLeod's radio volume began to increase with a loud static hissing noise. This was immediately followed by a blinding flash and loud bang. A bolt of lightning entered through the canopy, passing through Lieutenant MacLeod's helmet, head, and body, exiting through the metal survival kit seat clips. The lightning bolt left burn marks on his head and hips. All aircraft antennas were damaged, and the ALR-46 RWR amplifiers were destroyed.

As a further result of the lightning strike, Lieutenant MacLeod was stunned and temporarily blinded by the involuntary contraction of all his muscles. Through extreme mental effort, he was able to level the aircraft and establish an orbit about a tower until his flight leader rejoined with him. Exhausted and disoriented, he then flew on the wing for a formation approach to final and a single-ship landing. During the landing roll, he was initially unable to raise his legs to put his feet on the brakes. Again, through intense mental effort, he was able to move his feet to the top of the rudder pedals and safely stop the aircraft. Lieutenant MacLeod turned off the runway and shut down the aircraft. He was unable to exit the aircraft without assistance.

Through his outstanding determination and airmanship, Lieutenant MacLeod averted a potentially disastrous situation and saved a valuable TAC combat aircraft. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.