



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

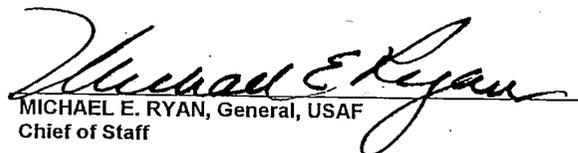
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE FY99 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY

TO

RIPLEY E. WOODARD, III

Captain Ripley E. Woodard, III distinguished himself by outstanding achievements in airmanship on 8 April 1999. On this day, Captain Woodard exhibited outstanding airmanship, extraordinary skill, alertness, and proficiency in preventing the loss of an A-10A aircraft. Captain Woodard took off from Aviano Air Base, Italy on an Operation ALLIED FORCE combat mission. Upon reaching flight level 300, the aircraft experienced a double engine failure and immediately descended into Instrument Meteorological Conditions. This malfunction caused the flight control system to revert from hydraulic power to the manual back-up system, and limited the aircraft to battery power only, denying the use of the main attitude indicator. Discovering that the standby attitude indicator precessed and was unusable, Captain Woodard had only the turn and slip indicator to control the aircraft's bank angle. While remaining in clouds, Captain Woodard successfully restarted both engines and, after rapidly losing 23,000 feet, climbed to a safe altitude and returned to Aviano Air Base.

Captain Woodard's superior situational awareness and outstanding airmanship in dealing with critical mechanical failures prevented the loss of a valuable combat resource and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.


MICHAEL E. RYAN, General, USAF
Chief of Staff