



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, DC



APR 4 2003

HQ USAF/CC  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Mrs. Karen Anderson  
71 Wedgemere Avenue  
Winchester, MA 01890

Dear Mrs. Anderson

It is my pleasure to inform you that Major Jeffrey G. Olesen, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, California, is the recipient of the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy for fiscal year 2002.

Major Olesen distinguished himself by outstanding achievements in airmanship on 7 October 2001 by safely coping with a severe in-flight emergency. While piloting his U-2 above 70,000 feet over Iraq, the aircraft experienced near-catastrophic engine malfunctions. Faced with significantly degraded aircraft performance, he successfully overcame numerous malfunctions and recovered the stricken aircraft, resorting to previously untested procedures and techniques to affect a safe landing. Major Olesen's uncommon flying skill was a key factor in the preservation of a valuable Air Force asset.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at Major Olesen's award ceremony, which will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, 13 June 2003, in the Secretary of the Air Force's Conference Room. Please accept my sincerest thanks on behalf of the entire Air Force for your ongoing support of our mishap prevention program.

Sincerely

JOHN P. JUMPER  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

The 2002 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., Trophy is presented to Major Jeffrey G. Olesen.

**ATTENTION TO ORDERS:** Citation to Accompany the Award of the FY02 Koren Kolligian, Jr., Trophy to Jeffrey G. Olesen. Major Jeffrey G. Olesen distinguished himself by outstanding achievements in airmanship in safely coping with an in-flight emergency on 7 October 2001. Major Olesen was piloting his U-2 above 70,000 feet in a full-pressure suit over southern Iraq in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH when he began to experience a serious engine anomaly. Following technical order guidance, he placed the engine into secondary mode. Immediately, he experienced engine vibrations so crippling that he lost the capacity to see or move effectively. Facing imminent engine seizure and/or structural failure, only uncommon flying skill allowed him to control the aircraft and return the engine to primary. Realizing the engine could flame out at any moment and without sufficient thrust for a return home, he turned toward a Kuwaiti airstrip 115 miles away. At idle power the rollbacks subsided, but each time the throttle was placed above idle, the Revolutions Per Minute actually went backwards to a sub-idle setting. Major Olesen was left with the choice of ejecting or attempting a flameout landing. As there is no checklist covering a descent from high-key with an engine in idle, he was forced to create new procedures to safely land the aircraft. With no room for error and without assistance of a "mobile" officer, Major Olesen successfully deadsticked the U-2 through a flawless flameout landing. He overcame never-before-experienced malfunctions and saved a critical reconnaissance asset.

Major Olesen's superior airmanship and ability to perform under extreme circumstances reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

*Gen Jumper presents the trophy to Maj Olesen; photos.*

Narrator: Ladies and Gentlemen, Maj Olesen

Narrator:

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the formal portion of our ceremony. We'll now take a few photos, then please join us in congratulating Maj Olesen and for a reception in the rear of the room. We also invite you to look at the albums on display at the side of the room, which contain pictures from the Kolligian ceremonies since 1958. Thank you for attending.