



# DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

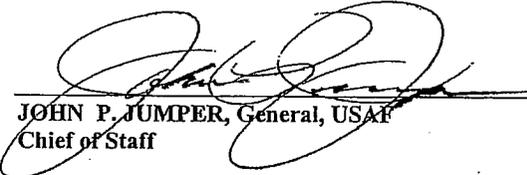
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE FY04 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

TO

STEVEN G. EDWARDS

Captain Steven G. Edwards distinguished himself by outstanding achievements in Airmanship while experiencing catastrophic damage to his aircraft on the night of 12 April 2004 while participating as the Flight Lead of a two-ship formation of MH-53M Pave Low helicopters tasked with the critical re-supply of two combat units and the retrieval of the remains of an American soldier killed in action. While holding south of their objective, Captain Edwards' aircraft was engaged and struck by a rocket propelled grenade, causing the aircraft to pitch up to 80 degrees. The blast destroyed the instrument panel, the center windscreen, the pilot's windscreen and the overhead throttle control panel. Captain Edwards sustained injuries to the right side of his face, his right eye and shrapnel wounds to both arms and both legs in addition to a dislocated right shoulder. Despite his injuries, he managed to recover the helicopter to controlled flight. Without any cockpit lighting or instrumentation, he had no means of judging his rate of decent, ground speed or altitude. Maneuvering the aircraft was a tremendous challenge without an automatic flight control system and a dislocated right shoulder, yet he successfully accomplished a flawless approach to the wheat fields below. Captain Edwards saved the lives of eight servicemen.

Captain Edwards' superior Airmanship and ability to perform under extreme circumstances reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

  
JOHN P. JUMPER, General, USAF  
Chief of Staff