

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

Lieutenant General Harry M. Wyatt
Director, Air National Guard
1000 Air Force Pentagon, Room 4C943
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Dear General Wyatt

I am pleased to inform you Major Booth M. Johnston, 111th Reconnaissance Squadron, Houston, Texas, is the Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy recipient for fiscal year 2008.

Major Johnston earned this prestigious award for his actions on 16 October 2007, while conducting an F-16C one-v-one basic fighter maneuvers training mission. While maneuvering his F-16C, Major Johnston sustained a severe back injury while pulling a 9-G maneuver and yet was able to continue safe flight operations. Although his physical condition degraded and he lost feeling in his hands and feet, he continued to safely fly his F-16C. Major Johnston was able to overcome severe pain, fight off temporal distortion, and maintain situational awareness to fly a weather penetration and a successful instrument approach recovery back to Ellington Field, Texas. These highly impressive actions by Major Johnston demonstrated superb airmanship, prevented potential destruction of property and human casualties, and saved a vital Air Force combat asset. His professional qualities and devotion to duty serve as a role model for all our aircrews.

Please extend my congratulations to Major Johnston for his selection as the recipient of this prestigious award.

Sincerely

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Major Booth M. Johnston
Weapons Officer
111th Reconnaissance Squadron
Houston, TX

On 16 October 2007 Major Booth M. Johnston, 111th Fighter Squadron Weapons Officer, while flying an F-16C on a 1 versus 1 Basic Fighter Maneuvers training mission suffered a severe back and neck injury, yet safely landed his aircraft, averting a catastrophic flight mishap.

Flying his aircraft at approximately 600 Knots (690 MPH) and in a 9-G maneuver, while looking up and over his right shoulder, Major Johnston suffered a spinal shock accompanied by lumbar vertebral compression, a bulged disc and an associated pinched nerve in his neck that rendered him nearly incapacitated and in excruciating pain with his head pinned against the back of the seat. Despite near total loss of use and lack of sensation in his hands and feet, Major Johnston flew his aircraft with only the palm of his hand on the top of the control stick and through movement of his wrist to control the throttle. Fighting extreme temporal distortion and pain, Major Johnston penetrated through weather and flew a successful instrument approach to a flawless touchdown.