



# DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

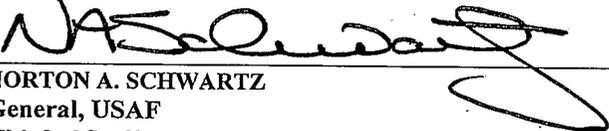
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

TO

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH C. SANTUCCI

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Santucci distinguished himself by outstanding achievement in airmanship while recovering a crippled U-2 during a high altitude night training mission on 12 February 2009. Upon descent from above flight level 600, Colonel Santucci encountered a runaway pitch trim emergency. Hindered by his full pressure suit and the exhausting requirements of maintaining aircraft control amidst extreme control forces, Colonel Santucci repeatedly attempted to re-establish autopilot and pitch trim authority. He was able to restore control of the nearly uncontrollable aircraft through superb piloting skills. He then skillfully coordinated with his chase car pilot to safely recover the U-2 aircraft. Through exemplary flying proficiency, intense devotion to duty, and superior airmanship, Colonel Santucci's actions unquestionably prevented the loss of an aircraft, and potential injury to himself and to those on the ground. Colonel Santucci's superior airmanship and ability to perform under extreme circumstances reflect great credit upon himself, Air Combat Command, and the United States Air Force.

  
NORTON A. SCHWARTZ  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff