



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY
TO
CAPTAIN HANS N. BUCKWALTER**

The Koren Kolligian, Jr., Trophy is presented to Captain Hans N. Buckwalter, in recognition of outstanding achievements in aircrew safety and discipline, 391st Fighter Squadron, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. On 8 April 2010, Captain Buckwalter successfully landed a crippled F-15E solely on the nose and right main landing gear. Immediately after takeoff from Kunsan Air Base, his aircraft suffered a mechanical failure that wedged the left main landing gear against the fuselage. After nearly two hours of extension attempts to correct the landing gear problem, he experienced an uncommanded roll accompanied by a "yaw rate" departure warning tone. Further compounding his problems, Captain Buckwalter also experienced a similar failure in the right main landing gear which he was able to correct. After numerous attempts to correct the left main, it remained stuck within the wing. He calmly maintained the Conference Hotel call with Boeing subject matter experts but was still unable to solve the landing gear problem. Captain Buckwalter landed on the right main, lowered the nose, and held the left wingtip off the runway until engaging the cable. He then lowered the left wing and maintained directional control for over 1,000 feet while stopping the aircraft on the runway, shut down the engines, and directed an emergency ground egress. Captain Buckwalter's skillful actions resulted in minimal damage to a valuable combat asset and no injuries. The professionalism displayed by Captain Buckwalter reflects great credit upon himself, Air Combat Command, and the United States Air Force.


NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff