



# DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

TO

MAJOR DOUGLAS R. WITMER

The Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is presented to Major Douglas R. Witmer, Squadron One, Fourth Air Brigade, El Plumerrillo. During this period, Major Witmer served as Chief of Wing Weapons, AT-63 instructor pilot. On 10 August 2012, during a six-ship fly by at the Centennial Celebration of the Argentine School of Aviation, Cordoba, Argentina, an over-aggressive maneuver by a wingman caused his aircraft to slam into the underside of Major Witmer's left wing. Despite missing 20 percent of the left wing and having no use of the left aileron or flap, Major Witmer was able to keep control of his aircraft by correctly applying full right stick and trim. Maintaining his focus and composure, he then quickly turned the aircraft away from the crowd, instructed his student to prepare to eject, and performed an aircraft controllability check. Judging his aircraft to be damaged, but airworthy, Major Witmer diverted to Cordoba International Airport, six miles to the north, which had a longer runway and greater rescue facilities. Major Witmer's quick thinking under extreme duress and his successful management of an unfamiliar language, aircraft, and field, saved a valuable aircraft, two pilots, and potentially hundreds of spectators, and promoted the international standing of the United States Air Force. The safety awareness and risk management these accomplishments exhibit, reflect great credit upon Major Witmer, Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs, and the United States Air Force.

MARK A. WELSH III  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330

JAN 18 2013

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

Ms. Heidi H. Grant  
1080 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1080

Dear Ms. Grant:

I am pleased to inform you that Major Douglas R. Witmer, Squadron One, Fourth Air Brigade, El Plumerrillo Air Base, Mendoza, Argentina, is the recipient of the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy for Fiscal Year 2012.

On 10 August 2012, during a six-ship fly by at the Centennial Celebration of the Argentine School of Aviation, Cordoba, Argentina, an over-aggressive maneuver by a wingman caused his aircraft to slam into the underside of Major Witmer's left wing. Despite missing 20 percent of the left wing and having no use of the left aileron or flap, Major Witmer was able to keep control of his aircraft by correctly applying full right stick and trim. Maintaining his focus and composure, he then quickly turned the aircraft away from the crowd, instructed his student to prepare to eject, and performed an aircraft controllability check. Judging his aircraft to be damaged, but airworthy, Major Witmer diverted to Cordoba International Airport, six miles to the north, which had a longer runway and greater rescue facilities. Major Witmer's quick thinking under extreme duress and his successful management of an unfamiliar language, aircraft, and field, saved a valuable aircraft, two pilots, and potentially hundreds of spectators, and promoted the international standing of the United States Air Force.

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

Sincerely,

  
MARK A. WELSH III  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff