

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE 2018 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR, TROPHY

TO

CAPTAIN MATTHEW T. HEATH

The 2018 Koren Kolligian, Jr, Trophy is presented to Captain Matthew T. Heath, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. While flying a circling approach in a T-38 aircraft during a cross-country instrument-navigation sortie, Captain Heath's student pilot attempted to increase engine power but observed that both engines were unresponsive to throttle movements. Captain Heath immediately took control and recognized that given their current energy state and the aircraft's multiple catastrophic malfunctions, landing on the runway would be all but impossible. He directed his student to prepare for ejection but continued to fly the aircraft and assess the compound emergency. Although he could not maintain flying airspeed without a descent, Capt Heath determined that he might be able to save the aircraft with near-perfect energy management. He maneuvered to a modified base leg and extended the flaps to maintain lift as the airspeed decayed. With no margin for error, Captain Heath managed to keep the aircraft flying with the landing gear up until one half-mile prior to landing. This procedure is not taught in any formal training course or discussed in the flight manual, but Capt Heath's superior judgment assisted his decision-making and enabled him to perform a flawless touchdown safely on the runway. Captain Heath's superb analysis and outstanding skill in response to this life-threatening emergency resulted in the safe recovery of two airmen and an \$8.2 million aircraft. The distinctive accomplishments of Captain Heath reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



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