

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE 2023 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY
TO
CAPTAIN HARRY G. MCMAHON

The 2023 Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is presented to Captain Harry G. McMahon, 80th Fighter Squadron, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. On 28 July 2023, Captain McMahon was flying as number two in a 4-ship of F-16CM's executing an Advanced Combat Maneuver sortie. Following a defensive engagement, he heard an audible surge from his engine accompanied by a loss of thrust, decaying RPM, and decreasing engine internal temperature. His hydrazine-fueled Emergency Power Unit automatically activated following the engine failure, providing electrical and hydraulic power to continue flying the aircraft. He methodically executed his emergency checklists but was unable to regain usable thrust. While prioritizing safe operation of the aircraft, Captain McMahon's flight lead coordinated with Korean Air Traffic Control for an emergency divert to a foreign airfield. While established on a 6-mile final approach to Cheongju Air Base, Tower Control cleared two Korean F-35's for takeoff in the opposite direction creating an immediate traffic conflict. With insufficient thrust to execute a go-around, he avoided the traffic while maintaining sufficient altitude and airspeed to execute a textbook flameout landing as the traffic conflict passed overhead. Against overwhelming odds, once on the ground he had the awareness to inform Korean ground crews on the dangers of hydrazine and instructed them on how to safely secure the aircraft's Emergency Power Unit. His calm demeanor under pressure and ability to make critical decisions in a highly complex and dynamic environment were key to the safe recovery of a 40-million-dollar combat asset. The distinctive accomplishments of Captain McMahon reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



DAVID W. ALLVIN
General, USAF
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