



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY

TO

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DANIEL P. FINNEGAN

The Koren Kolligian, Jr., Trophy is presented to Lieutenant Colonel Daniel P. Finnegan, 158th Fighter Wing, South Burlington, Vermont. On 12 February 2017, Lieutenant Colonel Finnegan experienced a complex in-flight emergency while flying a single-ship F-16C sortie in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Two minutes after takeoff from a deployed location, a major electrical fire developed in his aircraft, melting numerous electrical circuits and severing connections to all the aircraft's electrical power generators. Colonel Finnegan's aircraft lost all performance, control and navigation instruments, including his heads-up and center display units. Above featureless terrain and in reduced visibility conditions, he resorted to skillful visual reckoning of known ground references to find home base. With only minutes before complete battery depletion would render the aircraft uncontrollable, Colonel Finnegan performed emergency landing gear extension procedures and executed a single low approach to confirm the landing gear position with the control tower and to discern the aircraft's new control responses as its speed brakes and both rear and leading edge flaps were inoperable. Colonel Finnegan successfully executed a flawless heavy-weight landing on "aircraft feel" alone, avoiding further aircraft damage and injury to personnel. The intrepid airmanship, resolute action and perseverance in the face of imminent danger exhibited by Lieutenant Colonel Finnegan reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.


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