

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE COLONEL JAMES JABARA AWARD FOR AIRMANSHIP

PRESENTED TO

CAPTAIN DANIEL E. FLYNN

Captain Daniel E. Flynn, United States, Air Force Academy Class of 1991, is the winner of the 1998 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship for sustained superior performance as a leader, exceptional C-130 aircraft commander, and instructor pilot from January 1, 1996 through June 30, 1998. As the Chief of Operations and Exercise Planning of the 17th Special Operations Squadron (SOS), 353rd Special Operations Group (SOG), Air Force Special Operations Command, Kadena AB, Japan, Captain Flynn distinguished himself as an outstanding leader and airman through his performance in various life-threatening missions, in-flight emergencies, and real-world contingency operations. As an aircraft commander of the 17th Special Operations Squadron, Captain Flynn's expertise was instrumental in accomplishing many firsts for the squadron. During operation JOINT ENDEAVOR/JOINT GUARD, Captain Flynn's crew logged the first combat mission flown by a 17 Special Operations Squadron crew since the end of the Vietnam conflict. While on final approach to Sarajevo, Captain Flynn's aircraft was fired upon by 20mm antiaircraft artillery. Captain Flynn immediately took evasive action and successfully completed the landing and the mission. During a Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC)-directed contingency exercise, Captain Flynn piloted his aircraft, covering over 6,300 miles and logging over 22 hours in just 2 days. He flew several flawless missions, including the first-ever air refueling of MH-47 helicopter. The overall success of these operations was directly attributable to his leadership and flying skills. While in support of a Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) directed exercise FOAL EAGLE, the largest special operations exercise in the world, Captain Flynn airdropped 60 South Korean Special Forces troops on their target, and provided critical air refueling support for MH-53J helicopters. Captain Flynn's actions during the exercise earned him recognition as an exceptional performer who directly contributed to the squadron's "Excellent" rating. And, faced with two of the worst emergencies possible on a C-130 aircraft, Captain Flynn demonstrated outstanding leadership and airmanship skills by successfully recovering his C-130 aircraft after the aircraft was struck by a flock of mallard ducks causing major wing damage and engine failure. His quick actions prevented the loss of the aircraft and his crew. Captain Flynn is an exceptional pilot who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, courage, and airmanship during training and real-world contingencies. Captain Flynn's superior performance makes him immensely deserving of the 1998 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship.