

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on this Day of December 7th, 2018 to

William D. Andersen

Colonel William D. Andersen distinguished himself through superior service as an Air Commando throughout his 24-year career. Colonel Andersen emerged from his early years, as an MC-130E Navigator with combat and contingency experience in Haiti, Bosnia and the Middle East, to deliver unprecedented SOF-airpower integration in AFCENT's SOLE during the dynamic first days of OEF. From combat, he moved to HQ USSOCOM, where he crafted the Commander's Congressional testimonies and televised remarks tied to the command's GWoT strategy, ultimately making the case for a growth of joint SOF by 11,000 members. While serving on the 1 SOW staff, he drove a series of projects directly tied to the post-9/11 expansion of AFSOC into the manned ISR and non-standard aviation missions. Colonel Andersen led the evolution and consolidation of disparate AFSOC units into a coherent training enterprise, ultimately re-designated the 492d SOW, to professionalize UW, COIN, language and air advisor training. On multiple occasions, he led in combat, including as a Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander in Afghanistan, and Vice Wing Commander of an Air Expeditionary Wing training the Afghan Air Force. As a survivor of IED strikes, a green on blue attack, and finally a catastrophic helicopter crash in Afghanistan, Colonel Andersen reinvested his personal stories for the benefit of all Air Commando combat survivors as he utilized multiple venues to share his story with AFSOC command teams. For his dogged commitment to the mission, at great personal risk and cost to himself, and for his devotion to the Air Commando ethos, Colonel Andersen stands as a proud inductee into the Air Commando Hall of Fame. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel William D. Andersen reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations, and Air Commandos of every generation.