

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted (posthumously) on October 26th, 2019 to

Maurice D. Kunkel

Senior Master Sergeant Maurice D. Kunkel distinguished himself through over 23 years of outstanding service to the nation and Air Force Special Operations Forces. He expertly served as an instructor teaching weather observation procedures to new students but his primary forte was 'just getting stuff done'. This was best displayed serving for many years in Special Operations assignments including serving in Laos for 6 years where he set the standard for Special Operations Weather reporting. His procedures laid the groundwork for successful weather missions in every conflict from the war in Southeast Asia to today's modern battlefield. He was assigned to the 10th Weather Squadron at Udorn AFB in Thailand but spent most his time in Laos while engaged in support of air operations against an opposing armed force. This entailed dealing with military and paramilitary personnel and frequent exposure to danger from hostile forces. He established, operated, and maintained clandestine weather observation sites in austere, hostile environments and trained weather observers throughout the country. He was fluent in Thai and Lao and could also write in totally fluent upper class Thai and he earned the complete confidence and trust of both the Central Intelligence Agency and indigenous personnel providing him unparalleled access for mission accomplishment. His obtained numerous advanced skills and among his many awards and decorations are the Master Parachutist Badge, Bronze Star, 7 Air Medals, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Vietnam Service Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal numerous other awards. SMSgt Kunkel's extraordinary dedication and professionalism in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command and Air Commandos of every generation.