

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on this Day of December 7th, 2018 to

Tom L. Baker

Chief Master Sergeant Tom L. Baker distinguished himself through outstanding service to the nation and Air Force Special Operations Forces throughout his military career. Chief Baker sustained exceptional performance as an Air Commando throughout his long and distinguished career culminating as AFSOC's Career Enlisted Aviator Functional Manager, A3 Chief Enlisted Manager and 23rd Air Force Chief Enlisted Manager. Chief Baker dedicated the majority of his 28 years of service to AFSOC and left a lasting impression on the Command's Career Enlisted Aviator community. He was qualified on multiple aircraft variants and mastered all of the many specialized mission qualifications used in the employment of the MC-130 Combat Talon. Always at the point of action, Chief Baker has deployed in support of numerous combat and contingency operations in Africa, the Balkans, Central and South America, Southwest Asia and the Pacific and filled key leadership roles in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He and the crew of WHISK 05 were recognized with the Air Force's prestigious MacKay Trophy for the most meritorious flight of 1997 after rescuing American citizens from the war-torn Republic of Congo. Additionally, Chief Baker's extraordinary efforts during a four-ship MC-130H infiltration into Afghanistan on 19 October 2001 ensured an on-target delivery of Army Rangers and timely refueling of a helicopter assault force enabling the first successful operation against Taliban leadership at the onset of the Global War on Terrorism. Testimony of his exceptional expertise was recognized when he was selected as the Air Force's top enlisted aviator earning the SSgt Henry "Red" Erwin award in 2001. The distinctive accomplishments of Chief Tom L. Baker culminate a distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations and all Air Commandos.