

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted (posthumously) on October 27th, 2018 to

John A. Chapman

Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman distinguished himself through outstanding service to the nation as a combat controller from 1989 to 2002. John developed a reputation as a very capable special operator while assigned to combat control and special tactics units at Pope Air Force base, North Carolina, and Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. He was reassigned to Pope Air Force Base after volunteering for duty in the highly selective 24th Special Tactics Squadron. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, he deployed to Afghanistan attached to a Navy Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) team. On March 3rd, 2002, the SEAL team was tasked to conduct a reconnaissance mission atop Takur Ghar Mountain during Operation ANACONDA. On the morning of March 4th, 2002, he voluntarily accompanied the SEAL team on the mission. During the initial insertion attempt the team's helicopter came under intense small arms fire, and a teammate fell from the helicopter. During the second insertion the helicopter again came under heavy fire. Immediately after touchdown, with multiple teammates wounded, Sergeant Chapman led the charge into a bunker to kill enemy combatants engaging his SEAL teammates. Sergeant Chapman was hit by small arms fire multiple times. Although initially assessed as dead, he regained consciousness and continued to fight. Sergeant Chapman succumbed to his wounds while trying to protect a helicopter infiltrating a quick reaction force from enemy fire. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Technical Sergeant John Chapman reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force, United States Special Operations Command and Air Commandos of every generation.