

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on this Day of December 7th, 2018 to

Mark S. Race

Colonel Mark S. Race distinguished himself through renowned service to the nation and Air Force Special Operations Forces during and after his 30-year military career. Colonel Race's extraordinary service to our Nation, Joint and Air Force Special Operations began in Thailand in 1973. It continues today as he is responsible for working partnerships between the Joint Special Operations Command, the United States Special Operations Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to ensure that special operators have access to state-of-the-art real-time technology. As an EC-47 pilot in the 361st Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron, 56th Special Operations Wing, at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, he flew 86 combat missions over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. On his return to special operations, he was the first commander of an initial cadre of three new classified flying organizations providing very specialized, worldwide, passenger airlift support for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Next he became commander of the most sensitive, demanding, high risk joint air operation planning organization in the Department of Defense. During this assignment, he was the airborne senior SOF air commander for Operation JUST CAUSE and the air component commander for Joint Special Operations Task Force operations in DESERT STORM. Later as the Deputy SOCEUR he became known as "Mayor of Freetown, Leone," safely evacuating over 2100 people from 76 countries. After Air Force retirement, Colonel Race returned to the Joint Special Operations Command as a technology integration expert. His efforts put over 10,000 ROVER receivers in the hands of elite special operators. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Mark S. Race reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations, and Air Commandos of every generation.