

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Selected on September 9th, 2020 to

Bernard A. Frakes

Lieutenant Colonel Bernard A. “Bernie” Frakes, USAF, Retired, distinguished himself in service to special operations and Air Commandos from May 1972 to December 2019. Lieutenant Colonel Frakes duelled with anti-aircraft artillery over Vietnam while raining devastating fire down on enemy supply lines with his AC-130 gunship. Rising quickly to instructor and evaluator pilot, he prepared his fellow crewmembers to employ the gunship to maximum effect; a lifelong passion he pursued to prepare future generations of Air Commandos to succeed in combat. He displayed his extraordinary aviation and leadership skills again in Operations JUST CAUSE in Panama and DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM in Iraq and concluded his 26-year active-duty career in 1992 with over 5,000 flight hours in every version of the AC-130 gunship, twice receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, while earning ten Air Medals. Following 1992, now as a gunship legend, he continued to serve in a variety of support and teaching roles with Air Force Special Operations Command, including classroom and simulator instructor, as well as government flight representative for the U-28 aircraft program. In December 2019, Colonel Frakes retired again, with more than 10,000 flight hours, having served the special operations community for 44 years. He has trained thousands of AC-130 gunship crewmembers and prepared them for combat in every conflict from Vietnam, to Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and other contingency operations. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Frakes bring great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Commandos of every generation.