

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Selected on September 9th, 2020 to

Richard Haddad

Major General Richard S. “Beef” Haddad, USAF, Retired, entered active duty in 1981 from the Air Force Academy. He transferred to the 16th Special Operations Squadron, at Hurlburt Field, Florida in 1985 and served as an instructor/evaluator in the AC-130H Spectre gunship and flew Blinking Light missions over El Salvador. In 1988, he transferred to the Air Force Reserve serving in the 711 SOS at Duke Field, Florida, flying the AC-130A. He volunteered to fill a staff position and deploy for Operation DESERT SHIELD and later redeployed as an AC-130A aircraft commander for DESERT STORM. Later he volunteered to command a 711 SOS gunship for Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY over Haiti. Given command of the 711 SOS after he transitioned to the MC-130E Combat Talon, he led the squadron through Operations ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan and IRAQI FREEDOM in Iraq as it became the most combat decorated Air Force Reserve Command squadron. He deployed again to Iraq in 2006 to serve as the senior advisor to the Iraqi Air Force and followed this tour as Reserve Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, 23rd Air Force, Hurlburt Field, and later acting commander 23rd Air Force. He was the first Air Force officer to serve as Commander, Special Operations Command Korea, U.S. Forces Korea and United Nations Command Special Operations Component. He returned to serve as Air Force Reserve Command’s Vice Commander before retiring with 35 years total service. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Major General Haddad reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Commandos of every generation.