

# Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



## Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on October 6th, 2012 to

*Stephen R. Connelly*

Colonel Stephen R. Connelly distinguished himself through sustained performance as an Air Commando throughout his long and distinguished career. This highly decorated Air Commando was instrumental in the design, testing and fielding of both the HH-53H and the MH-53J PaveLow helicopters. It was during the early stages of this effort that he was responsible for the first night, adverse weather recovery using the unique PaveLow helicopter in the mountains of New Mexico demonstrating the significant special operations capabilities of this new weapon system. His outstanding leadership and combat experience was instrumental in getting the PaveLow helicopters assigned to special operations and the driving force in the growth of this national capability to 41 aircraft. His numerous contributions as an Air Commando were critical factors in his selection as the Air Component Commander at the highly classified Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC. As squadron commander, group commander and culminating his career as AFSOC Director of Operations, Colonel Connelly has served as an outstanding leader and visionary for the special operations community as well as a mentor to future Air Commando leaders. He was a highly sought after motivational speaker and for years was a key facet of AFSOC's Squadron Commander's course laying out a path to successful and compassionate leadership for these new leaders. Colonel Connelly's contribution to Air Force Special Operations are huge and long lasting and bring great credit upon Air Force Special Operations and the United States Air Force.