

Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on this Day of October 15th, 2022 to

Michael J. Rizzuto, Jr.

Senior Master Sergeant Michael Rizzuto, United States Air Force, Retired, served for over 33 years within the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). SMSgt Rizzuto's AFSOC career spanned 15 years as an active-duty enlisted member and 18 years as a Department of Defense civilian. A two-time formal training Distinguished Graduate, three-time Life Support Technician of the Year (1993/1996/2002), and four-time Special Tactics Squadron NCO and SNCO of the Quarter (1992, 1999, 2001, 2002). His career is highlighted by numerous awards, first-time initiatives, by-name selections and selfless service. These accomplishments include establishing the first Navy-certified Dive Locker in the USAF and the first Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives (CBRNE) capability in all of SOF. He was involved in numerous projects designing, building, and fielding equipment for special mission use, and was hand-selected support to support classified operations, including the first combat parachute jump since the Vietnam War. SMSgt Rizzuto directly supported every major force structure event (including initial stand up) of the 724th Special Tactics Group, ensuring each organizational change was operationally validated by Command. As his unit's unofficial Historian he authored every Annual Historical Report since 2008, ensuring the preservation of the unit's story for future generations. He established a 501 (c)3 non-profit, providing merit-based scholarships and grants to current and former unit members, spouses and children. This was also used to fund to build a permanent memorial to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Senior Master Sergeant Michael Rizzuto reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Commandos of every generation.