

THE COMMANDANT'S AWARD FOR ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE



THE COMMANDANT'S ACQUISITION TROPHY

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established to Recognize
Excellence and Superior Achievement
in the Acquisition Field.

In Recognition of
Demonstrated Excellence by a Marine
Assigned to the Acquisition Field.



FLIR SYSTEMS, INC.



2008 GySgt Benjamin Gonzalez
2007 LtCol J. E. Rector

LtCol
ERIC J. ROPELLA



Award Citation

Lieutenant Colonel Eric J. Ropella made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation while serving as Survivability Integrated Product Team Lead for the V-22 Joint Program Office from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. During this period LtCol Ropella performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. He consistently demonstrated superior leadership and delivered outstanding support to the V-22 community. Specifically, his efforts to ensure critical survivability improvements, including ALE-47 Forward Firing Buckets, Defensive Weapon System, Suite of Radar Frequency Countermeasures and Directed Infrared Counter Measures, were essential in expeditiously getting these vital protective capabilities to the warfighters. He masterfully captured critical survivability requirements from the user and test communities, identified key lines of communication to expedite the acquisition process, then personally mapped "way ahead" plans with back-up options for "just in case." LtCol Ropella's initiative, perseverance and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



10 October 2009