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John Martinson Named Distinguished Graduate of US Air Force Academy

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, December 19, 2008 -- The US Air Force Academy and Association of Graduates announced the selection of John Martinson as a distinguished graduate. (See announcement below) In the 53 year history of the Air Force Academy, only 18 graduates have been honored with this top alumni award. John is the 4th honoree who was not a career officer. On April 3 and 4, 2009, the awards program will include two parades, dinner and other events at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

[ACADEMY, AOG ANNOUNCE DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES](#)

Dec. 2, 2008

The U.S. Air Force Academy and the Academy's Association of Graduates today announced the winners of the Academy's 2008 Distinguished Graduate Award.

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, '62, and Mr. John Martinson, '70, earned this prestigious honor for their singular and distinctive contributions to society and the nation.

The Distinguished Graduate Award began in 2001 and is presented by the Superintendent of the Academy and the Chairman of the AOG.

The purpose of the award is to:

- Recognize outstanding performance by graduates who have demonstrated a lifetime of service to the nation
- Favorably promote the Air Force Academy and its graduates
- Promote and increase awareness of graduate heritage among alumni and cadets

General Shepperd graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1962. He is a decorated pilot, flying 247 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His last active duty position was director, Air National Guard at the Pentagon, before retiring in 2000. Today, Shepperd is an author, and president of The Shepperd

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Group, a consulting firm that addresses issues related to defense, strategic planning, executive leadership and information technology. **A full military biography is located at:**

http://www.ngb.army.mil/ngbgomo/library/bio/shepperd_dw.html.

Mr. Martinson graduated from the Academy in 1970. He is a nationally renowned venture capitalist with more than 30 years of public and private investment experience. He is a former chairman of the National Venture Capital Association, founding member of the New Jersey Technology Council and the New Jersey Venture Fair, and has served on the board of directors for 40 diverse companies. He is also an active angel investor and philanthropist, providing investments and grants for private equity partnerships, and educational and charitable programs.

The distinguished graduates will be honored as a part of the Academy's Founders Day dinner on April 3, 2009.

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