

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.



- 2010 LtCol Eldon E. Metzger
- 2009 LtCol Eric J. Ropella
- 2008 GySgt Benjamin Gonzalez
- 2007 LtCol J. E. Rector

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MATTHEW G. KELLY



Award Citation

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew G. Kelly distinguished himself as a steadfast and devoted leader, skilled integrator, and exceptional test pilot while serving as the Flight Operations Department Head for the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Patuxent River, MD, during 2010. He was the first pilot to achieve supersonic flight and 5g load factor in the F-35B and the first military pilot to fly and tank the F-35C. He expertly led a diverse team comprised of military and contractor test pilots, flight operations schedulers, aerial photographers, and flight equipment maintainers. Under his leadership the Integrated Test Force flew more than 200 flights accumulating over 270 flight hours on complex missions utilizing numerous range and airfield assets, tankers, chase, and target aircraft. He coordinated five F-18 detachments to Fort Worth, TX, in support of initial airworthiness flights as well as three nonstop ferry flights delivering the first mission systems F-35 and the first F-35C to Patuxent River. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly's exceptional leadership and focused commitment was pivotal in safely, effectively, and efficiently executing a high risk F-35 developmental flight test. For superior performance of his duties, Lieutenant Colonel Matt Kelly is truly deserving of the Commandant's Award for Acquisition Excellence.



21 May 2011