

#4-108

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE LEGION OF MERIT  
(DEGREE OF OFFICER)

TO

ROBERTO FERMIN AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU

Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau, Argentine Air Force, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in the outstanding performance of duties as Air Attaché, Embassy of Argentina, from 27 January 1975 to 3 February 1976. During this period, he exhibited the highest standards of professional competence. His untiring efforts to promote understanding and cooperation between the air forces of Argentina and the United States have served to strengthen the bonds of friendship and further mutual objectives of both nations. His leadership, sound judgment, and diplomacy gained the confidence and admiration of those officers of the United States with whom he was in contact. General Aguirre Champeau's exemplary manner of performance in these duties reflected great credit upon himself and the Argentine Air Force.

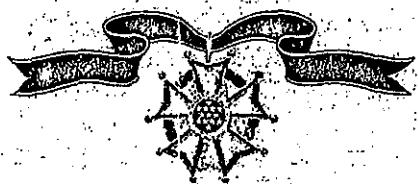
Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: JAN 02 2018

*D. R. Aguirre*

JUL 13 1976



Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 USC § 552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +  
Date: 02 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify:  Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 17 -M- 2224



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 20, 1942  
HAS AWARDED

## THE LEGION OF MERIT

(DEGREE OF OFFICER)

TO  
MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTO FERMIN AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU  
ARGENTINE AIR FORCE

FOR

EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT  
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICES

27 JANUARY 1975 TO 3 FEBRUARY 1976

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
THIS

DAY OF

19

Handwritten signature of James C. Doolittle.

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE



Handwritten signature of Caspar Weinberger.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Page determined to be Unclassified

Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS

IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5

Date: JAN 02 2018

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

July 9, 1976

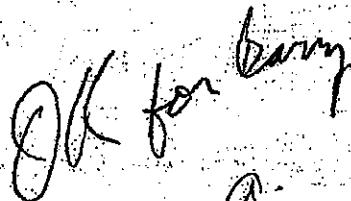
Memo For The Special Assistant

OASD (ISA), Department of State, and DIA concur in the attached proposed award and the wording of the citation, to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau, Argentine Air Force.

The U.S. Ambassador and Defense Attaché also concur.

Recommend approval.

  
Roche



12 JUL 1976

LoM 7/01 A.

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: JAN 02 2018



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONTINUOUS~~

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.

01 JUL 1976

In reply refer to:  
1-6043/76

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CORRESPONDENCE & DIRECTIVES DIVISION, OSD

THROUGH: EXECUTIVE OFFICE, ISA

SUBJECT: Proposed Award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer)  
to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau

This office concurs in the proposed award and the wording of the citation for the Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer, to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau, in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while serving as Air Attaché, Embassy of Argentina, Washington, D.C., from 27 January 1975 to 3 February 1976.

The Department of State and the Defense Intelligence Agency concur in the proposed award and in the wording of the citation.

*R. E. Cava*  
RICHARD E. CAVAZOS  
Major General, USA  
Director, Inter-American Region

Enclosure  
Dept of State Letter  
w/Enclosure

*CCB - Barry per  
Alan Woods.*

*Riche*

*7/13*

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 02 2018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONTINUOUS~~



*8-23-1014*



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL  
REF ID: A65111  
INFORMATION

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

21 JUN 1976

In reply refer to:  
1-6043/76

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: Proposed Award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer)  
to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau

The Department of the Air Force has proposed the award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau in recognition of his outstanding services as Air Attaché, Embassy of Argentina, Washington, D.C., from 27 January 1975 to 3 February 1976.

It is requested that the enclosures be reviewed and that this memorandum be signed in the space provided below if you concur in the award and the wording of the citation.

RICHARD E. CAVAZOS  
Major General, USA  
Director, Inter-American Region

Enclosure:  
Memo for SecDef  
w/4 Attachments

Department of State Concurs:   
Wording of Citation Approved.

27/6/76  
Date

Department of State Objects:  
Separate Comments.

Date

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 02 2018



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 7 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) -  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

The Department of the Air Force recommends award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) to Major General Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau in recognition of his outstanding services as Air Attaché, Embassy of Argentina, Washington DC, from 27 January 1975 to 3 February 1976.

The United States Ambassador and the US Defense Attaché, Buenos Aires, concur in this award. A background investigation reveals no derogatory information concerning General Aguirre Champeau.

I recommend that you approve the award and:

- a. Sign the certificate and the citation.
- b. Impress your seal in the lower left corner of the citation.

  
Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force

- 4 Attachments
1. Certificate
  2. Citation
  3. Basic recommendation (C) 2 cys
  4. Biography (C) 2 cys

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 02 2018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEC DEF COMB N

1727

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE

16 March 1976

## RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION

TO: (Organization and address)

AFMPC/DPMASA2  
Randolph AFB TX 78148

FROM: (Organization and address)

HQ USAF/CVAFL  
Wash DC 20330

## RECOMMENDATION

1. NAME OF DECORATION (Indicate number of clusters, if appropriate)  
**Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer**
2. RECOMMENDATION IS BASED ON:  
 HEROISM     OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT  
 MERITORIOUS SERVICE (Based on completed period of service)

3. INCLUSIVE DATE(S) OF ACT, ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE:

FROM: 27 January 1975    TO: 3 February 1976

## PERSONAL DATA ON INDIVIDUAL BEING RECOMMENDED

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 4. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL<br><b>AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU, Roberto Fermin</b>  | 5. AFSN<br><b>N/A</b>  | 6. SSAN<br><b>N/A</b>  |
| 7. GRADE<br><b>Major General</b>   | 8. DATE OF BIRTH<br><b>N/A</b>   |  |
| 9. PRESENT ORGANIZATION AND STATION<br><b>N/A</b>  | 10. PRESENT DUTY ASSIGNMENT<br><b>N/A</b>  |  |
| 11. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS<br><b>N/A</b>   | 12. ORGANIZATION OF NEXT DUTY ASSIGNMENT (Indicate, if not applicable)<br><b>N/A</b> |  |
| 13. ORGANIZATION, DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND GRADE AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE<br><b>Embassy of Argentina<br/>Air Attaché<br/>Major General</b> | 14. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION TO GRADE IN WHICH SERVING<br><b>N/A</b>              | 15. INDIVIDUAL'S SERVICE IN AIR FORCE SINCE ACT OR SERVICE HAS BEEN HONORABLE<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

16. DATE OF  REASSIGNMENT,  RETIREMENT,  OR SEPARATION:  
**N/A**  
 THE CBOO WILL PROVIDE AND VERIFY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:  
 RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION IS  VOLUNTARY     INVOLUNTARY, AND THE FOLLOWING SERVICE DATES APPLY:  
 ODS: **TAFCSO**    TAFMSD  
 PLSO: **TFCSO**    TMSD

17. PREVIOUS UNITED STATES DECORATIONS, COMPLETE AUTHORITY THEREFOR, AND INCLUSIVE DATES OF SERVICE RECOGNIZED (Do not include service medals, battle credits, unit citations or foreign decorations)

None known

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**Authority: EO 13526**  
**Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS**  
**Date: JAN 02 2018**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 18. ARE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS TO THIS INDIVIDUAL PENDING (If yes, state awards)<br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO                          | 19. ARE OTHER INDIVIDUALS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR THE SAME ACT OR SERVICE<br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO  |
| 20a. IF ANSWER TO ITEM 19 IS YES, ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OTHER INDIVIDUALS FORWARDED AS A PART OF THIS RECOMMENDATION<br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | 20b. IF ANSWER TO ITEM 19 IS NO, EXPLAIN REASON FOR DELAY, INCLUDING DATE RECOMMENDATION(S) WILL BE FORWARDED, AND IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL(S) BY GRADE, NAME, SERVICE NUMBER, PRESENT ORGANIZATION, STATION, AND DECORATION RECOMMENDED |
| 21. HAS PREVIOUS AWARD BEEN MADE TO THIS INDIVIDUAL FOR THIS ACT OF SERVICE<br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO   | 22. IF AWARD IS POSTHUMOUS OR INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDED IS MISSING IN ACTION OR A PRISONER OF WAR, LIST NAME, ADDRESS AND RELATIONSHIP OF NEXT OF KIN<br><b>N/A</b>  |
| 23. DATE WHICH PRESENTATION OF AWARD IS DESIRED, IF APPROVED<br><b>ASAP</b>  | 24. IF APPROVED, FORWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO (Organization and address)<br><b>HQ USAF/CVAFL WASH DC 20330</b>   |



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

8 MAR 1976

47,125/DS-6A

TO: Chief, Foreign Liaison Division  
Office of the Vice Chief of Staff  
Department of the Air Force  
Washington, DC 20330

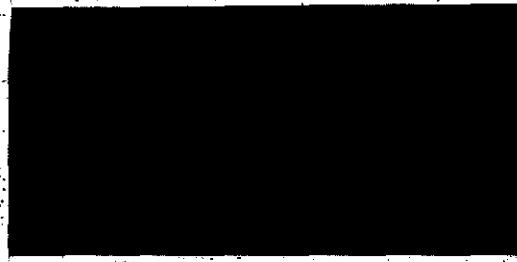
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

Reference: Your letter, AF/CVAFL, 19 February 1976

1. The Defense Intelligence Agency concurs in the award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) to Maj Gen Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau, Air Force.
2. Based upon a review of intelligence and security files within DIA, there is no information currently available to indicate that presentation of the award to this individual would either deprecate the decoration or embarrass the U.S. Government.
3. Attached, per your request, is DIA Biographic Data concerning subject.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

(c)2  
Enclosure  
BIO Data on Maj  
Gen Aguirre  
Champeau, Mar 76  
[redacted] (1 Cy)



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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 02 2018



DIA FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 424

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HQ USAF TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER

ROUTINE

IDCT1

MS 6289

PAGE 01 068 1600

DATE

CVAF

DATE

✓C

ACTION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CVAF-2

INFO: ~~N-1~~

RTTCZYUW RUESBAA01 96 0681255 MTMS-CCCC—RU ER HQA.  
ZNY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

R 081215Z MAR 76

FM USDAO BUENOS AIRES

TO CSAF WASHDC/CVAFL

BT

0196 MAR 76

SUBJ: AWARD (U)

REF: UR CONF MSG DTG 032004Z MAR

AMBASSADOR HILL AND USDAO CONCUR IN THE DESIRABILITY  
OF AWARDING LM TO BRIG AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU.

BT

#0196

RTCCZYUW RUESBAA01 96 0681255 0015-CCCC

0681600

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Date: JAN 02 2018

ROUTINE



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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

ARGENTINA

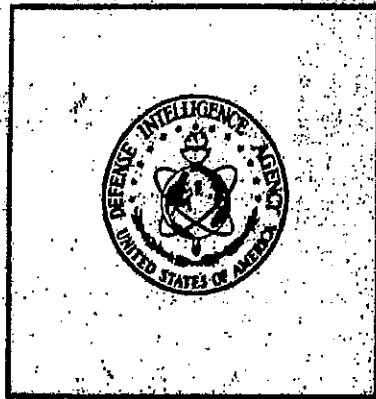
Maj Gen Roberto Fermin AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU

March 1976

(U) NAME: Maj Gen Roberto Fermin Aguirre Champeau,  
Air Force.

(U) POSITION: Retired. Served as Air Attaché and  
Air Force Delegate to the Inter-American Defense  
Board from Jan 1975 to Feb 1976.

→ SIGNIFICANCE: Maj Gen Aguirre Champeau is a  
rated pilot who has had several top command and  
military school directorship assignments. In 1974  
he was mentioned as the most likely candidate to  
become Commander General of the Air Force due to  
his acceptability to the ruling Peronists.  
Maj Gen Aguirre Champeau along with a number of  
other high ranking officers were forced to retire as  
a result of the "Air Force Rebellion" of 18 Dec 1975.



~~POLITICS:~~

(U) International: Maj Gen Aguirre Champeau's international political  
views are unknown. He served as Air Attaché in Lima, Peru, and has made an  
official visit to Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil.

→ Internal: Maj Gen Aguirre Champeau's internal political  
views are unknown; however, he does not appear to be an anti-Peronist. The exact  
reason for naming him Air Attaché remains unclear. Some reports indicated that  
the appointment would be temporary and was made to remove the General from the  
local political conflict between the then Minister of Defense and the Social  
Welfare Minister. Other reports stated that the former Air Force Commander  
General, Lt Gen Hector Luis Fautario, sent him out of the country in order to  
remove his nearest rival. An Attaché job for a general officer normally is  
viewed by the Argentine Air Force as an end-of-the-line assignment.

(U) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: ~~[REDACTED]~~

(U) Family: ~~[REDACTED]~~

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Date: JAN 02 2018

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Date: JAN 02 2018

ARGENTINA  
Maj Gen Roberto Fermín AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU  
March 1976

- (U) Description: Unknown.
- (U) Languages: Native Spanish.
- (U) Religion: Probably Roman Catholic.
- (U) Decorations: Brazilian Military Pilot "Honoris Causa".
- (U) CIVIL EDUCATION: Primary and secondary presumably in Argentina.
- (U) CAREER:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1943-1946 | -Cadet, Military Aviation School, Córdoba, Nov 1943-Dec 1946. Commissioned 3d Lt and Military Pilot, 17 Dec 1946.                                  |
| 1946-1949 | -Assigned to 1st Bomber Regiment, Dec 1946-Dec 1948. Concurrently, Student, School of Mountain Flying, Jan 1948-Mar 1949. Promoted to 2d Lt, 1948. |
| 1949-1950 | -Assigned to 2d Air Transport Regiment, Mar 1949-Dec 1950. Promoted to 1st Lt, 1950.   |
| 1950-1951 | -Assigned to 3d Attack Regiment, Dec 1950-Aug 1951.  |
| 1951      | -Assigned to 2d Transport Group., Aug-Nov.   |
| 1951-1953 | -Assigned to 7th Technical Group, Nov 1951-Jan 1953. Promoted to Capt, 1952.   |
| 1953      | -Assigned to 2d Transport Group, Jan-Nov.  |
| 1953-1955 | -Assigned to 1st Technical Group., Nov 1953-Feb 1955.  |
| 1955      | -Student, Basic Course, Command and Staff School, Buenos Aires, Feb-Dec.   |
| 1955-1959 | -Assigned to the Military Aeronautical Institutes Command Dec 1955-Jan 1959. Promoted to Maj, 1956.  |
| 1959-1960 | -Assigned to unidentified Air Force Command, Jan 1959-Dec 1960. Promoted to Lt Col, 31 Dec 1959.   |
| 1960-1962 | -Assistant Director, Aerolineas Argentinas (Argentine State Airlines), Dec 1960-Feb 1962.  |
| 1962-1963 | -Assigned to the I Air Brigade, Oct 1962-Jan 1963.   |
| 1963      | -Assigned to the V Air Brigade, Jan-May.   |
| 1963-1965 | -Commander, 1st Bomber Group, May 1963-Jan 1965. Promoted to Col, 1963.  |
| 1965      | -Commander, Aeroparque Military Air Base, Buenos Aires Jan-Dec.  |
| 1966      | -Student, Superior Course, Command and Staff School.   |
| 1967-1969 | -Air Attaché, Lima, Peru, Jan 1967-Jan 1969.   |
| 1969      | -Commander, II Air Brigade, Jan-Dec.   |

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Date: JAN 02 2018

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ARGENTINA  
Maj Gen Roberto Fermín AGUIRRE CHAMPEAU  
March 1976

1969-1971 - Commander, IV Air Brigade, Mendoza, Dec 1969-Nov 1971.  
Promoted to Brig Gen, Dec 1969.  
1971-1972 - Director, Command and Staff School, Nov 1971-Dec 1972.  
1972-1973 - Director, National War School, Buenos Aires, Dec 1972-Dec 1973. Official travel to Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil, Nov 1973. Promoted to Maj Gen, 1973.  
1973-1974 - Commander, Personnel Command, Dec 1973-Mar 1974.  
1974-1975 - Commander, Air Operations Command, Mar 1974-Jan 1975.  
1975-Present - Air Attaché and Air Force Delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board from Jan 1975 to Feb 1976. Presently retired from the Argentine Air Force.

3

PLEASE ASSIST US IN PROVIDING CORRECT, CURRENT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA BY IMMEDIATELY FORWARDING CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS DIRECTLY TO DIA/DI-1, THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20330.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~