

• For the first time ever in the 80-plus year history of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), the **Outstanding Airmanship Diploma was awarded to a**



Gregory Robertson

skydiver by the FAI Council, which met in Paris June 9-10. Gregory Robertson, D-7112, of Phoenix, AZ, was honored for his April 18, 1987 mid-air rescue over Coolidge, AZ of Debbie Williams, knocked unconscious in a freefall collision. Said USPA in officially proposing Robertson for the award: "Never before has this act been successfully accomplished in the United States. The attempt was totally beyond the normal requirements of fellowship, of

common sense, of any responsibility which Robertson might have conceived was his. His achievement was so outstanding that it received tremendous attention in the press."

Also noteworthy is the fact that this is the first time ever "airmanship" has been defined without reference to an airplane. Intensive lobbying by USPA representatives at the FAI meeting last summer in Sweden succeeded in removing from the international statutes a phrase which specifically limited the award to incidents involving the use of aircraft.