



*Seventh Annual*

**U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER**  
*of the YEAR*  
**AWARD CEREMONY**

*January 13, 2017*  
*Alexandria, Virginia*



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS  
U.S. DEFENDER *of the* YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

Call to Order

National Anthem

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Dinner

Service Components Present their Defender *of the* Year

Award Presentations

Closing Remarks by Mr. Riki Ellison

Conclusion of Ceremony

Post Event Reception

# AWARD HISTORY



## Defender of the Year

January 14, 2011 marked the inaugural Defender of the Year Award Ceremony, recognizing and honoring members of our military who command fully operational and deployed missile defense systems. Each year the award is given to a United States Armed Forces service member from each branch that currently deploys a U.S. missile defense system for their outstanding work in the previous year. These select individuals represent the best in leadership and personal effort, demonstrating their commitment to excellence and their critical role in missile defense. They are an inspiration to their subordinates, peers, and superiors.

The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional individuals and their role in defending our homeland, armed forces, and allies. Recognizing them helps to educate the American public and inspire those they work with to defend our nation.

The Defenders of the Year are selected by their peers and commanding officers from the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, and the United States National Guard.

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*We want to thank all those who have supported MDAA for over a decade to fulfill its mission to educate the American public on the need for our nation to develop and deploy missile defense.*

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# ABOUT MDAA



## The Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance

MDAA's mission is to make the world safer by advocating for the development and deployment of missile defense systems to defend the United States, its armed forces, and its allies against missile threats.

MDAA is the only organization in existence whose primary mission is to educate the American public about missile defense issues and to recruit, organize, and mobilize citizens to advocate for the critical need of missile defense. We are a non-profit organization that does not advocate on behalf of any specific system, technology, architecture, or entity.

MDAA was founded by Riki Ellison in 2002 to generate public support through education for the continued testing, development, and deployment of missile defense systems.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR

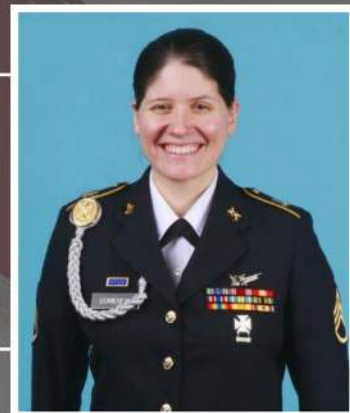


### **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony J. Owens**

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony J. Owens is Deputy Chief, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Division, Headquarters United States Air Forces Europe – Air Force Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He is responsible for providing staff support to POTUS-directed European Phased Adaptive Approach for ballistic missile defense. He leads planning and integration of air and ballistic missile defense capabilities for NATO, EUCOM and bi-lateral partners within the Levant. Lieutenant Colonel Owens received his commission in 1996 upon graduating from the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of South Alabama. His first two assignments were with Control and Reporting Centers at the 728th Air Control Squadron and 603d Air Control Squadron. Additionally, he commanded the 623d Air Control Flight, and served as the Operations Officer for the 606th Air Control Squadron. His most recent assignment, he commanded the 752d Operations Support Squadron. As an air battle manager, Lieutenant Colonel Owens provided command and control for Operations SOUTHERN WATCH / NEW DAWN and flew 22 E-3 combat sorties in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. Lt Col Owens is a senior air battle manager with over 1150 flying hours.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



### **Staff Sergeant Caroline Domenech**

Staff Sergeant Caroline Domenech currently serves in HHB (Air Defense Artillery), 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Fort Greely, AK. She has held a variety of leadership positions, including Military Police Team Leader, Company Liaison with the DA Police Department, and Company Training Noncommissioned Officer (NCO). SSG Domenech's awards include the Army Achievement Medal (4th Award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Puerto Rico National Guard Commendation Medal, Puerto Rico National Guard English Proficiency Ribbon with Arabic numeral 2, Army Basic Space Badge, German Army Proficiency Badge for Military Proficiency in Gold, German Marksmanship Badge (Schützenschnur) in Gold (2nd Award), and the Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation. SSG Domenech's military education includes Human Intelligence Collector Course, Basic Military Police Qualification Course, Warrior Leaders Course, Vindicator Command and Control Operator Course, Ground Surveillance Radar Operator Course, Army Space Cadre Basic Course, USAR ATRRS Operator Course, Unit Training NCO Course, Unit Readiness NCO Course, Defense Travel System Admin Course, Ground Based Midcourse Defense Fire Control Qualification Course (GQC), Ground Based Midcourse Defense Training Management Course, Air and Missile Defense Crewmember Course, and the Command Launch Equipment Qualification Course (CLEQC).



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR

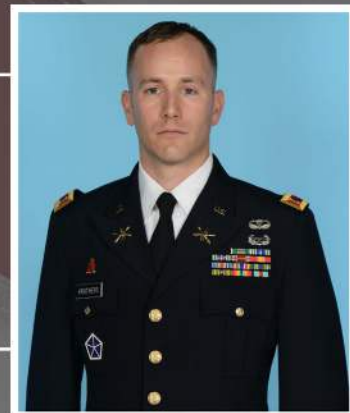


### **Petty Officer First Class Nathaniel Lynch**

Petty Officer Nathaniel Lynch enlisted in the Navy on February 8, 2005 and completed Recruit Training in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating Fire Controlmen "A" school, he then went on to attend Aegis Computer "C" school at Aegis Training and Readiness Center, Dahlgren, Virginia. In July 2006, he reported onboard USS PHILIPPINE SEA and completed two successful deployments to the Arabian Gulf. He returned to Dahlgren, VA for additional schooling in the Aegis Computer Network pipeline in support of his ship's Cruiser Modernization in June 2009. His efforts during USS PHILIPPINE SEA's Cruiser Modernization resulted in his selection as the Junior Sailor of the Year. After completing another deployment in support of piracy, in July 2011 he transferred to Aegis Training and Readiness Center as a "CM school instructor. Petty Officer Lynch is currently stationed onboard USS JOHN PAUL JONES. Since stepping onboard in May 2015, he immediately took on the Leading Petty Officer position for CF Division and led 20 Sailors through a compressed training cycle. Petty Officer Lynch's division simultaneously conducted 16 successful live firing missile events of which two were the longest surface to surface and surface to air missile firings in Naval history.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



### **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin M. Kruthers**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin M. Kruthers enlisted in the Army in 2004 as a Patriot Enhanced Operator/Maintainer. In October 2010, he attended Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker. He masterfully executed “Austere Challenge” including GCC STRATCOM level visibility messaging via Multi-National Patriot Live Fire with his unit’s Radar Set and PAC-3 ELES Launching Stations. He exceeded expectations during “Juniper Cobra.” He was hand selected by BN leadership to serve as Convoy Commander of the longest convoy within the BN in support of “Minden Shock.” He was the Honor Graduate of his Patriot Top Gun Course and Distinguished Honor Graduate of WOAC. He is also a graduate of the ADAFCO Course. In 2016, CW2 Kruthers was assigned to 10th AAMDC and was selected by COL Eickhoff to lead existing defense designs updates while simultaneously initiating development of defense designs for previously non-existent OPLANS. He served as “lynch pin” in Austere Challenge 17 Crisis Action Planning within 603rd Air Operations Center Strategy Division and Combat Plans, providing air and missile defense expertise for the Area Air Defense Plan development. He led efforts in support of garnering HQDA approval for DPICC Operational Needs Statement resulting in enhanced warfighter and combat readiness. CW2 Kruthers won the esteemed 2016 Shipton Award recognizing his efforts above all others in the ADA Branch holistically.

## Members of the Order of Missile Defender *of the Year*

2015

ARMY: CPT Jason Roberts

NAVY: FC1 Elizabeth J. Clark

AIR FORCE: Michael D. Sward

NATIONAL GUARD: Trampas J. Vojtasek

2014

ARMY: SSG MichaelSean McSherry

NAVY: FC2 Bartholomew Ringer

AIR FORCE: Lt Col Jerry Frazier

NATIONAL GUARD: SSG Norman D. Perkins III

2013

ARMY: SSG Nancy A. Wingo

NAVY: LT Brandon Bridges

AIR FORCE: Capt Benjamin C. Szutar

NATIONAL GUARD: SSG Nicholas W. Power

2012

ARMY: CPT Kyle L. Kirkpatrick

NAVY: FC2 Ronald H. Barber

AIR FORCE: Capt Gregory Tengco

NATIONAL GUARD: SGT Aric Wilkins

2011

ARMY: CPT Will Andrews

NAVY: FC2 Mathieu McIntosh

NATIONAL GUARD: SSG Craig Davis

2010

ARMY: 1LT Ted Kimmey, Jr.

NAVY: FC1 (SW) Shawn Walker

AIR FORCE: Maj Michael Tobey

NATIONAL GUARD: 1st Lt Brian Yoakam

## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, and National Guard



[www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org](http://www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org)