
2017

NORAD & USNORTHCOM
Missile Warning and
Defender *of the Year*

June 2, 2017

Colorado Springs, Colorado



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
NORAD & USNORTHCOM
MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER *of the* YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

Call to Order

Posting of the Colors

National Anthem - by Rampart Winds

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Dinner

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Remarks by Mr. Riki Ellison

Closing Remarks

Retiring of the Colors

Reception

AWARD HISTORY



NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender *of the Year*

On May 12, 1958 NORAD was established for the defense of Canada and the United States. The inaugural NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender of the Year award ceremony took place on May 3, 2013. The event recognizes and honors members of the U.S. and Canadian military and civilians who reflect the utmost commitment to excellence in their mission to defend the North American continent. They are a true inspiration to their subordinates, peers, and superiors. They have demonstrated leadership that goes above and beyond for the good of their countries.

The purpose of the NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender of the Year event is to recognize exceptional individuals in missile warning and missile defense in their role as defenders of the homeland and citizens of Canada and the United States. Furthermore, we recognize those leaders to help educate both the Canadian and American public on their vital role in the preservation of peace.

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.

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.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Timothy M. Schwamb NORAD Officer Missile Warning of the Year Awardee

Officer Lieutenant Colonel Timothy M. Schwamb is a Cyberspace Network Operations Officer assigned to the NORAD-USNORTHCOM Command Center as the Chief of the Standardization and Evaluations Branch, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. He graduated from Oklahoma Christian University *summa cum laude* in 1996, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, a distinguished graduate of his Air Force ROTC class. Colonel Schwamb then attended Basic Communications Officer Training at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, where he earned the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Award for leadership and academic excellence. Over the next 21 years, Colonel Schwamb served as a squadron commander twice, including one in Afghanistan, a deputy group commander, and staff tours at the MAJCOM, Air Staff, and Combatant Command levels. His military awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the NATO Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Schwamb distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Chief, Standardization and Evaluations Branch, Current Operations Center, Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, from January 2016 to December 2016.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Technical Sergeant Michael A. Benson NORAD NCO Missile Warning of the Year Awardee

Technical Sergeant Michael A. Benson is a Space System Operator assigned to the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Command Center as the Missile & Space Domain NCO Senior Evaluator, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. After graduating from high school, Sergeant Benson entered Air Force Basic Training in August 2002. After completion of Basic Training, he entered Enlisted Prerequisite Training, followed by Perimeter Acquisition Attack Characterization System training at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Upon graduation Sergeant Benson reported to his first duty station, the 10th Space Warning Squadron at Cavalier Air Force Station. Over the next 15 years, Sergeant Benson has served in a variety of positions throughout the space enterprise, including as a four-time NCOIC, two-time Section Chief, and Flight Chief, as well as tours at the Joint Space Operations Center and his current assignment at NORAD and USNORTHCOM. His military awards include three Air Force Commendation Medals, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal. Technical Sergeant Benson distinguished himself by meritorious service as a Missile and Space Domain Noncommissioned Officer, Current Operations Center, Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, from 1 Jan 2016 to 30 Dec 2016. During this period, Sergeant Benson's expert knowledge of missile warning procedures and systems quickly branded him as the command's subject matter expert.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Commander Dawn C. Allen

USNORTHCOM Military Missile Defender of the Year Awardee

LCDR Dawn C. Allen, this year's NORTHCOM Missile Warner and Defender of the Year award winner, is assigned as the BMD Education and Operations Support (BEOS) Deputy Branch Chief, Ballistic Missile Defense Division, Directorate of Operations, United States Northern Command, Peterson AFB, CO. She enlisted in the Navy in 1991 where she performed duties as an Aviation Ordnanceman and Helicopter Rescue swimmer for ten years. A 2001 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, then Ensign Allen was commissioned through the Enlisted Commissioning Program. A Surface Warfare Officer with a Nuclear Power specialty, her subsequent military assignments ranged from the Strike Officer on a Guided Missile Destroyer during the "Shock and Awe" portion of Desert Storm II through Executive Officer of the Nuclear Propulsion Examination Board performing inspections of aircraft carriers and submarines throughout the Fleet. In September 2015, LCDR Allen joined the US Northern Command staff as the BEOS Deputy Branch Chief and Missile Defense Officer (MDO) Senior Evaluator assigned to NC J31 BMD Division. Since her arrival at US Northern Command, LCDR Allen has strived to improve MDO and BMD leadership's understanding, management and operation of the Ground Based Midcourse Defense system in defense of the homeland.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Scott Gearhart

USNORTHCOM Civilian Missile Defender of the Year Nominee

Mr. Gearhart is currently a Future Operations Ballistic Missile Defense Specialist within USNORTHCOM J31. For the past seven years, He has planned and executed numerous ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations supporting USNORTHCOM. Prior to this current position, Mr. Gearhart supported the USNORTHCOM J5 as a BMD Policy and Strategy Specialist from 2007-2010. In this position, he developed the USNORTHCOM BMD policy and strategy position for the next five to ten years. Mr. Gearhart has been an employee at USNORTHCOM since 2003. As a “plank holder,” he held various positions within the USNORTHCOM J3 and was instrumental in standing up the command and the early development of the command’s Quick and Rapid Response Force operations and Counter-drug operations. Prior to his employment with USNORTHCOM, Mr. Gearhart served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years. He retired in August of 2003. His education includes a Bachelor’s degree from Youngstown State University, Youngstown OH and a Master’s Degree from Central Michigan University, Mt Pleasant, MI. He received his commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Youngstown State University ROTC program in June of 1983.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. John E. Mochowski

USNORTHCOM Civilian Missile Defender of the Year Nominee

Mr. John E. Mochowski distinguished himself as Senior Analyst, Air/Space/Cyberspace Branch, Programs and Evaluations Division, Directorate of Requirements, Analysis and Resources, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. The outstanding performance, professional competence, and ceaseless efforts of Mr. Mochowski ensured expert advocacy of warfighter ballistic missile defense requirements and contributed materially to the successful underwriting of national military imperatives. As NORAD and USNORTHCOM's undisputed missile defense resourcing expert, he successfully advocated for over \$192 million in additional funding required to operate and sustain the Nation's most important missile defense radars. Furthermore, he relentlessly campaigned across the entire missile defense enterprise to thwart various efforts to prematurely inactivate the COBRA DANE radar. His clear, forceful articulation of the USNORTHCOM Commander's requirements ensured the aging radar architecture defending the United States will remain viable especially during a time of increased tensions and improved enemy capabilities. The distinctive accomplishments of Mr. Mochowski reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Mark McClintock

USNORTHCOM Career Achievement Awardee

Mark McClintock is a Training Analyst assigned to the BMD Education and Operations Support (BEOS) Branch, Ballistic Missile Defense Division, Directorate of Operations, United States Northern Command, Peterson AFB, CO. Mark enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1979 and served 24 years as a Command and Control Specialist and Superintendent, retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant in 2003. He served in Strategic and Tactical Nuclear Command Posts and Command Centers through the Cold War, as well as Military Airlift and Rescue and Recovery. His final assignment on active duty was as the Superintendent of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, a NORAD crew member on 9/11/2001, and he is a plank holder for the creation of USNORTHCOM. As a civilian, he joined the USNORTHCOM Missile Defense team in 2004, and was the first Missile Defense Officer to complete the MDO course and become a certified USNORTHCOM MDO. He authored the original Initial and Recurring Missile Defense Training Programs for watch standers and was instrumental in the creation of the initial Techniques, Tactics and Procedures used for Missile Defense.

North American Aerospace Defense Command



U.S. Northern Command



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the North American Aerospace Command and the United States Northern Command

