



*Eighth Annual*

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

*January 12, 2018*  
*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

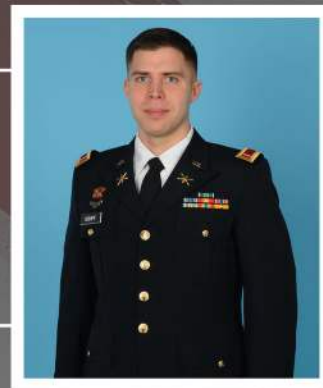


### Chief Petty Officer Zachary Quirk

Chief Petty Officer Zachary Quirk enlisted in the Navy in June 2011 and completed Recruit Training in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from Fire Controlman class "A" school, he then completed SPY-1 B/BV/D training at Aegis Training and Readiness Center, Dahlgren, Virginia. In 2017, CPO Quirk volunteered as an Individual Augmentee to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center (CAOC) on Al Udiid Air Base, Qatar in support of Operation Spartan Shield, Inherent Resolve, Restore Hope, and Freedom Sentinel. CPO Quirk developed and led CAOC Integration Training for vessels operating in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility which dramatically improved Naval integration into the overall CENTCOM air defense design. During his time there, CPO Quirk also assumed the role of BMD Liason Officer, typically a Navy O3/O4 position, and was the intermediary between deployed Naval BMD assets and the Area Air Defense Commander. During this period, he identified a communication breakdown and drove the creation of a new Upper-Tier BMD communication net which improved communication flow between joint missile defense units from the Navy, Army, and Air Force. In the final period of CPO Quirk's CENTCOM deployment, he qualified as Senior Air Defense Officer (SADO), a position normally filled by an Air Force O3/O4. He was the first enlisted service member to qualify as a SADO since the start of Operation Inherent Resolve in June of 2014. CPO Quirk is currently stationed onboard USS Russell (DDG 59), where he serves as a CF Division Leading Chief Petty Officer and SPY-1D technician. CPO Quirk's personal decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Navy, and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) and various campaign and service medals.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



### **First Lieutenant Benjamin Schiff**

First Lieutenant Benjamin Schiff was born in Nephi, UT and grew up in Detroit, MI. In 2008, he enlisted in the United States Army as a 36B, Financial Management Specialist. In 2014, he commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery Officer through the United States Military Academy at West Point. 1LT Schiff's first assignment was as a Launcher Platoon Leader for Bravo Battery, 5-7 ADA, 10th AAMDC in Kaiserslautern, Germany. In 2016, 1LT Schiff moved to HHB, 5-7 ADA in Baumholder, Germany as a Tactical Director. He is currently serving as the Fire Direction Center Officer in Charge for 5-7 ADA. 1LT Schiff's awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, two Holland Four Day Event Medals, and the Israeli Air Defense Officers Badge (Gold). 1LT Schiff holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the United States Military Academy. His military education includes Patriot Top Gun, Multi-Tactical Data Link Advanced Joint Interoperability Course, NATO Ground Based Air Defense Tactical Evaluation Course, United States Army Combative Level 1 and 2, and the Air Defense Artillery Officer's Basic Course. He is married to Stephanie Schiff of Warren, MI.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



### **Lieutenant Colonel Rocco Angiolelli**

Lieutenant Colonel Rocco Angiolelli is the Chief, Defensive Operations, 603d Air Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. In this capacity, he leads seven Airmen responsible for real-time monitoring and execution of air and space power missions. He plans, coordinates and executes combined/joint theater missile defense for both USEUCOM and USAFRICOM areas of responsibility, and is the Joint Force Air Component Commander's primary representative for integrated air and missile defense mission execution. In 2017, Lt. Col Angiolelli had the best operations rate in four years that protected 112 million people in 32 million square miles. Lt. Col Angiolelli refined the BMD defense design in seven joint/coalition exercises and command and controlled 300 simulated missile intercepts that validated EUCOM tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs). During this time, Lt. Col Angiolelli monitored over 75 actual theater ballistic missile launches and briefed senior leaders, defending six million civilians from missile threats. Lt. Col Angiolelli also updated the command and control system architecture/reporting and solidified 11 TTPs for 30 international partners' defense. Lt. Col also led Integrated Air and Missile Defense for the largest Command Post Exercise in the DoD and drove defense solutions to EUCOM. Lt Col Angiolelli is a 2003 Distinguished Graduate of the Air Reserve Officers Training Corps and is a Senior Air Battle Manager with over 1,500 flight hours. He has controlled global air operations to include mission sets such as weapons control, surveillance, identification and high value airborne asset employment during multiple operational combat deployments in both the E-38B/C Sentry and Control and Reporting Center. Prior to his current assignment, Lt. Col Angiolelli attended Air Command and Staff College in residence program at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, graduating in June 2016.



## U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



### **Captain Jason Brewer**

Captain Jason Brewer entered the U.S. Army in 2008 and had his first assignment with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment U.S. Army Alaska XO/S1 at Fort Richardson, Alaska. In 2016, CPT Brewer became the Missile Defense Operations Chief at the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (MDB) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2017, as the Brigade Missile Defense Operations Officer in Charge (MD-Ops OIC), CPT Brewer is incredibly vital to the team and involved in nearly every aspect of the Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense (GMD) enterprise. CPT Brewer was directly responsible for the 100th MDB's planning and execution of the GMD Fire Control 7.A software upgrade development and testing in conjunction with the Missile Defense Agency and NORTHCOM. Additionally, he led a team to test NORTHCOM's updated tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) and provided changes for improvement. CPT Brewer then trained all GMD crews on the new TTPs to ensure a successful transition. CPT Brewer also served as the lead BMD evaluator for the Brigade, in which he conducted over 30 evaluations on both MDE and FDC crews and through his methodical evaluation technique and feedback, ensured the readiness of all GMD crews across the nation. During perhaps the highest OPTEMPO year in the 100th BDE's history, CPT Brewer played a critical role in training and enabling crews to meet the 24-7 readiness requirements in defense of the homeland and led the unit's successful test initiatives to ensure our nation continues to have the most effective and modern missile defense system in the world. CPT Brewer's personal decorations include the two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He is married to Christy Brewer and have two daughters; Austen (age 16) and Ashton (Age 14).

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

2016

ARMY: CW2 Kevin M. Kruthers

NAVY: PO1 Nathaniel Lynch

AIR FORCE: Lt Col Anthony Owens

NATIONAL GUARD: SSG Caroline Domenech

2015

ARMY: CPT Jason Roberts

NAVY: FC1 Elizabeth J. Clark

AIR FORCE: Michael D. Sward

NATIONAL GUARD: Trampas J. Vojtasek

2014

ARMY: SSG Michael 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

