



2018

ALASKA
MISSILE DEFENDER
of the YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

May 19, 2018
Anchorage, Alaska



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER *of the* YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

Call to Order

National Anthem

Welcoming Remarks

Dinner

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks by Mr. Riki Ellison

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. The event recognized 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. The event has since become an annual tradition and has been expanded to include the NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning and Defender of the Year in Colorado, established in 2013, the Alaska Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2014, the Pacific Air and Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2015, the Guam Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2015, and the Texas Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2017.

Defender of the Year Award Ceremonies have also expanded beyond the U.S. homeland to recognize the best regional missile defenders from the U.S. and U.S. allies to include the Peninsula Defender of the Year, established in 2012 with our allies in the Republic of Korea, the Okinawa Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2013 with our allies in Okinawa, Japan, the United Arab Emirates Air and Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2014 with our allies in the Gulf Coalition Council, the European Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2014 with our allies in Europe, the Japan Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2015 with our allies in Japan, and the Dutch Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2017 with our allies in the Netherlands.

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.



Senator Theodore "Ted" Stevens



November 18, 1923 - August 10, 2010

Senator Stevens had the courage where others did not, the foresight against the majority where others dare not, and the tenacity of a skilled and determined man who came from humble American beginnings to help bring the 49th state into the Union. Senator Stevens defended our nation with valor, wisdom and vision. He reached out to enable every part of Alaska from its native tribes, wildlife, natural resources and its people to significantly add to the fabric and strength of the American people and its culture. Senator Stevens, with his intimidating presence and reputation of passionate deliberate confrontation on issues important to our nation and his state had a more compassionate reputation to those that knew him of deep love and respect.

He enabled and led the multitudes of people he touched in so many ways throughout his 86 years in the making of today's America. We were fortunate to have him grace our nation, share his wisdom, use his knowledge, and live with freedom from his legacy. For missile defense, there has been no greater legislator or representative of the American people in the history of our country.

No one has done more to evolve, develop and deploy our nation's missile defense systems that are placed throughout the world, making our world, allies and troops safe today. Without Senator Stevens' visionary leadership, this nation would not today have a deployed missile defense system and architecture protecting our homeland.

The Missile Defense Agency would not have been formed or supported without the iron will of Senator Stevens. From all of us that support missile defense, we are eternally grateful for his legacy, leadership and determination.

The background image shows the interior of a missile launch tube. It is a dark, cylindrical space with metallic walls. There are several circular lights or sensors mounted on the ceiling. A yellow safety stripe runs along the side of the tube. At the bottom, there are some mechanical components and a red and white striped area.

Fort Greely, Alaska

Fort Greely, Alaska is a United States Army launch site for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) missile defense system located about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. Fort Greely was originally established as the Army Air Corps Station 17 in 1942. Immediately following World War II, the station was placed in inactive status, but was reactivated in 1948 as the United States Troops, Big Delta Alaska. In 1955 it was designated Fort Greely in honor of Major General Adolphus Washington Greely.

When the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, Fort Greely was selected as a site for the GMD system. Currently it is one of two GMD sites in the United States, the other being Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Fort Greely holds 40 of the United States' 44 Ground-Based Interceptors (GBIs). The Missile Defense Agency plans to expand the fielded GBI fleet to 64 by as early as 2023.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



SPECIALIST JONATHAN DASTA CORTES

SPC Dasta, was born 02 August 1995, a Native of New Jersey and raised in Puerto Rico. SPC Dasta is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing with 86 college credits and some studies in Biology, Chemistry and Microbiology. SPC Dasta joined the Army 21 October 2013. He is currently serving as a 31B Military Police Officer with the GBI MP Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. SPC Dasta has been in the Army for four years and six months. In the last year, SPC Dasta has won multiple Soldier of the month and Soldier of the quarter boards, which allowed him to compete for Battalion Best Warrior where he placed first. SPC Dasta is a team leader whose duties include maintaining accountability of three personnel, several thousand dollars' worth of gear, and security of the Missile Defense Complex. SPC Dasta, has expert firearms qualifications in M9 pistol and M4 Rifle and additional qualifications in M249, M240B, M2, MK19 and M320 grenade launcher. SPC Dasta has the short-term goal to advance to the rank of Sergeant. His long-term goals are to become a Command Sergeant Major. His awards include the Alaska Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Basic Leader Course Ribbon.

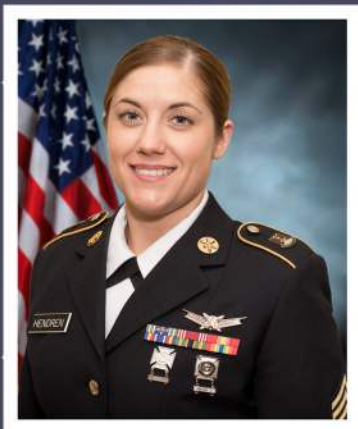


ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



SERGEANT BRYAN GONZALEZ NIEVES

SGT Gonzalez joined the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in March 2011 and entered basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on 28 March 2011. His primary MOS is Military Police, 31B. SGT Gonzalez transferred to the Alaska Army National Guard as a fulltime AGR Soldier in September 2015, where he is serving as a Military Police Officer. During this tour, he served in many capacities within Alpha Company (A. Co) as; Team Member, Team Leader, Entry Control NCOIC, and Sergeant of the Guard for the Missile Defense Complex. In July 2017, SGT Gonzalez placed first in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion Best Warrior Competition celebrated at Fort Greely, Alaska. In September 2017, SGT Gonzalez placed first in the Alaska National Guard State Best Warrior Competition winning NCO of the year. In March 2018 he was selected as the Armed Services YMCA's service member of the year. SGT Gonzalez is currently finishing his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the National College University, Puerto Rico. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/ M Device, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



SERGEANT BETHANY HENDREN

SGT Hendren joined the Missouri Army National Guard in May 2011 and entered basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in August 2011. Her first MOS was a Military Police Officer where she was a team member and served with the 2175th MP Battalion in the MOARNG from January 2012 – October 2013. Alongside her MP assignment, she also served as a Recruiting Assistant Specialist for the MOARNG from March 2012 – October 2013 on Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) orders. SGT Hendren transferred to the Alaska Army National Guard as a full-time AGR Soldier in November 2013, where she worked as a Military Police Officer for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. During her initial tour, she served in many capacities within Alpha Company (A. Co): Team Member, Team Leader, Entry Control NCOIC, and Sergeant of the Guard for all security operations. At the end of her three year AGR tour, she extended for six additional years in the AKARNG and with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In December 2016, SGT Hendren was assigned to the 49th HHB to work in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) as a Communications Operator. Here, she has maintained dual certification status as a Communications and Weapons Operator, certified Operational Readiness Evaluator and currently serves as the Battalion's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) President. SGT Hendren earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Management from Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri in December 2010. Her awards include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Basic Army Space Badge.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



STAFF SERGEANT JOSEF CARSTENS

SSG Carstens joined the Idaho Army National Guard in May 2007 and entered basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 11 September 2007. His first MOS was as a field artillery Cannon Crew Member and served with Bravo Battery 1-148th FA Battalion in the IDARNG. SSG Carstens was a fulltime student at Brigham Young University – Idaho while serving in the Guard. SSG Carstens transferred to the Alaska Army National Guard as a fulltime AGR Soldier in January 2009 where he served as a Military Police Officer. During this tour, he served in many capacities within Alpha Company (A. Co) as; Team Member, Team Leader, Entry Control NCOIC, Sergeant of the Guard for all security operations, and as a member of the Operations Platoon. While in the Operations Platoon he assisted in designing standard operating procedures during a time of restructuring that are still being utilized. At the end of his three year AGR tour, in January 2012, SSG Carstens returned to Idaho in order to continue his college education. In January 2014, SSG Carstens re-enlisted into the Alaska National Guard and was assigned as an M-Day Soldier to the 297th MP Company. Four months later he returned to the AGR program at the 49th Missile Defense BN. SSG Carstens was assigned to work in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) as a Communications Operator and moved up to serve as the Weapons Operator in May 2016. He has maintained dual certification status as a Communications and Weapons Operator and recently certified to work as GMD System Trainer Operator. SSG Carstens earned a Bachelor's of Science in University Studies from Brigham Young University – Idaho in April 2018. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal w/ 1 OLC, Alaska Governors Distinguished Unit Citation, Basic Army Space Badge, and the Idaho Service Ribbon.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



FIRST LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN MAYE

1LT Maye joined the Colorado Army National Guard as a PV1 in January 2007, where he enlisted as a 42A Human Resource (HR) Specialist. He completed basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia and completed his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Returning to Colorado Springs in June 2007, he was assigned to HHB, 3-157th FA Battalion as a traditional Guardsmen. In April 2009, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was activated for deployment to Ramadi, Iraq in support of convoy security operations. Upon his return in April 2010, he was hired into the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program as a Human Resources SGT for the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (MDB) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. While serving fulltime as a HR SGT within the 100th MDB, in January 2012, 1LT Maye was accepted to the Colorado Officer Candidate School (OCS) located at Fort Carson, Colorado. In November 2013, 1LT Maye attended the Ground Missile Defense qualification course where upon completion he served as the Readiness Officer for Echo Crew, 100th MDB. In February 2014, 1LT Maye accepted his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Officer, serving as the Sensor Operator for Alpha Crew, 100th MDB. 1LT Maye then attended ADA Basic Officer Leaders Course at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma where he was recognized as "Honor Graduate." In February 2016, 1LT Maye left the 100th MDB to serve as a Military Police Platoon leader with Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion in Ft. Greely, Alaska. Afterwards in February 2017 he went to the Fire Direction Center (FDC) within the 49th MD BN to serve as the Sensor Operator for Alpha Crew. In January 2018, he was promoted in position to Alpha Crew Tactical Director/ Battle Analyst, which he currently serves in. 1LT Maye's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal w/ 3 OLC, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (2 Knot device), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M Device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Basic Space Badge, Colorado Active Service Medal, and the Colorado Foreign Deployment Service Ribbon.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



CAPTAIN GILBERTO ORTIZ

CPT Gilberto Ortiz enlisted in the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in August 2003. After graduation from Basic Combat Training and Military Police AIT at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, he served as a Military Policeman in the 544th Military Police Company, PRARNG. CPT Ortiz enrolled in the ROTC program at University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus (Bulldog Battalion), with Tiger Company, Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, San German Campus. After receiving his commission to 2LT in June 2007 as a Military Police Officer, CPT Ortiz completed the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia in April 2008 and the Military Police Basic Officer Leadership Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, in August 2008. CPT Ortiz was assigned as a Platoon Leader in the 544th Military Police Company, PRARNG, and shortly after he was assigned as the company's Executive Officer. In July 2009, CPT Ortiz transferred to Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, as a full time AGR Soldier serving as Platoon Leader. While in Alpha Company, CPT Ortiz went to CWLC and to SRT Course. In 2012, CPT Ortiz was selected to attend the GMD Operators Course (then GTEC) in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was reassigned as Sensors Operator in the Fire Direction Center, with HHB, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In 2013, CPT Ortiz was selected to serve as a Battle Analyst / Deputy Director for Delta Crew, the position he served later on with Alpha Crew until January 2018. In this position CPT Ortiz helped his crew achieve Top Gun (or Top Crew) three times, in February 2013 (Delta Crew), in April 2015 (Alpha Crew), and most recently in November 2017 (Alpha Crew) in the semi-annual Operational Readiness Evaluation. This Top Gun Status sets crewmembers apart from their peers as the most proficient crew. While on crew he completed the Air Defense Captains Career Course in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in January 2015 and the GMD Standardization Officer / Evaluator Qualification Training Course in Ft. Greely, Alaska in July 2017. He now serves as the Battalion S-2 in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. CPT Ortiz holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. CPT Ortiz's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Puerto Rico English Language Proficiency Ribbon, Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation, and the Army Basic Space Badge.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



MAJOR BERNARD SMITH

MAJ Bernard A. Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army on 11 February 1986 and attended Basic training and AIT at Ft. Knox, Kentucky as an M1 Armor Crewman. Upon completion in June 1986, his first duty assignment was with the 3rd Squadron 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany serving along the Czechoslovakian and East German Border from June 1986 to June 1988. His follow-on assignment was with 1/67th Armor, 2nd Armored Division, "Death Dealers", at Ft. Hood, Texas. Prior to conclusion of his Active Duty Service, MAJ Smith reclassified as a 54B (Chemical Operations Specialist/NBC NCO). MAJ Smith transitioned to the Connecticut Army National Guard in February 1990 as an M-Day Soldier in the 192nd Field Artillery Battery serving as the NBC NCO. In August 1991, he relocated to Alaska and enlisted in the Alaska ANG 1/207th Aviation Regiment as an M-Day NBC NCO. From 1991-94, MAJ Smith attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. After graduating from UAF, MAJ Smith was a commercial truck driver transporting oil field related items from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and throughout the ice road network. In 2003, MAJ Smith attended OCS in South Dakota and Ft. Lewis, Washington. He received his commission in September 2003 and branched Chemical Corps. MAJ Smith attended Officer Basic Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri until April 2004. Upon his return to Alaska, he served as the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Liaison Officer responsible for the selection of Soldiers to serve at Ft. Greely, Alaska. MAJ Smith transitioned to a full-time AGR Soldier in 2005 as the Survey Section Leader with the 103rd Civil Support Team at Bryant Army Airfield at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan and served as an Embedded Police Mentor with the Afghan National Police. His primary duties included training the Afghan Police on checkpoint procedures, combat patrols, raids, and station security measures. MAJ Smith returned to the 103rd CST in 2008 and served as Operations officer until his reassignment to the 49th Missile Defense Battalion as a Tactical Director in 2013. MAJ Smith took over as Alpha Crew SR Tactical Director on 1 January 2016 where he currently serves. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3 oak leaf clusters), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Basic Army Space Badge.

Clear Air Force Station, Alaska

Clear Air Force Station is a United States Air Force radar station located in Denali Borough, Alaska. Clear Air Force Station was constructed in 1949, but the Clear Missile Early Warning Station did not begin construction until August 1958 and groundbreaking for radar structures was in May 1959. The site became fully operational in November 1961. Its primary mission is to provide early warning of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs) to the Missile Warning Center (MWC) at the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Its secondary mission is to provide space surveillance data on orbiting objects to the Space Control Center (SCC) located in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

In 2001, the Solid State Phased Array Radar System (SSPARS) replaced Clear Air Station's mechanical Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) doubling its radar coverage and increasing its capability for tracking objects in space. The SSPARS program is comprised of five radar sites in the Northern Hemisphere. Combined, these sites provide missile warning, missile defense, and space surveillance capabilities in support of the 21st Operations Group missions. Currently, the Department of Defense is constructing the new Long-Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) to be deployed at Clear Air Force Station in 2020. LRDR will serve as a midcourse sensor to improve the target discrimination capability for the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS).



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN SMYTHSON

SSgt Justin Smythson is a security forces craftsman for the 268th Security Forces Squadron, 168th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, Clear Air Force Station, Alaska. The 268th is responsible for providing installation security and law enforcement at the 11,500 acre remote, subarctic installation, in support of the Air Force's 24/7 ballistic missile warning/defense and space surveillance missions. SSgt Smythson joined the Alaska Air National Guard in January 2009 as a fire team member with the 213th Space Warning Squadron's security forces flight at Clear AFS and has served as one of the installation's defenders since that time. He has represented his organization and the Air National Guard multiple times at the Alaska Adjutant General State Marksmanship Competitions at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, earning overall top rifle and pistol shooter multiple times. SSgt Smythson was assigned as the Assistant Resources Custodian in 2013 and served as the unit's point of contact concerning implementation of new equipment for duty and training purposes. In 2014 he was designated as the base's marksmanship coordinator and spearheaded the development for a local operations instruction for Clear's marksmanship program. In this position Smythson also coordinated with Army and Air Guard units from around the state of Alaska to ensure service members were able to attend state, regional, and national level marksmanship events. He has completed multiple combat arms and firearms instruction courses, to include the Fairbanks Police Firearms Instructor Course in Fairbanks, Alaska, sanctioning him as a State of Alaska certified firearms instructor. In 2017 he was handpicked to be the executive assistant to the Defense Force Commander where he worked with all security forces staff functions and was a key member in the activation ceremony for the 268th Security Forces Squadron. Prior to his current position, SSgt Smythson was a fire team member in the 213th Space Warning Squadron, Clear Air Force Stations, Alaska. SSgt Smythson's awards and decorations include Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service, USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and Air Force Training Ribbon.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



TECHNICAL SERGEANT ROBERT IVES

TSgt Robert P. Ives, 268th SFS, Clear AFS, Alaska, is the NCOIC for Base Vetting where he conducts thorough background checks through APSIN and Open fox. Working with out of state law enforcement agencies frequently analyzing background checks and denying access for high risk felons. He maintains Clear AFS sight entry list, EAL's to the restricted area, and issues DBIDS and RAB cards. As part of the Security Forces TSgt Ives is flight sergeant certified since 2012 with current EWQ and conducts flight sergeant duties when #1 is out. He assists the flight sergeant in daily operations and flight decisions and is a certified controller and armorer. TSgt Ives completed Basic Military Training in April 2000 at Lackland AFB, Texas and Technical Training School in August 2000 at Sheppard AFB, Texas. In 2002, he deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. There TSgt Ives supervised loading operations and loaded eighteen F-15 Strike Eagles with live air to ground and air to air munitions. He also fused and loaded AGM-130 and GBU-12 bombs to take our radar and surface to air missile sites in Iraq and removed jammed M61A1 20mm gun and repaired to fully mission capable status in record time. TSgt Ives had a second deployment to Monte Real, Portugal in 2004 as part of Operation Daring Eagle. For this deployment he was selected to arrive in country seven days prior to the squadron as part of the ESTA team and loaded 87 munitions for the flying missions. He also assisted in moving ordinance to the flight line and was handpicked for the "hard charger" award. TSgt Ives has been with the Security Forces at Clear AFS, Alaska since February 2008. His awards and achievements include Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, AF Good Conduct Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, AF Overseas Ribbon Long, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



TECHNICAL SERGEANT KIT DAWSON

TSgt Kit D. Dawson is a Space Systems Crew Chief for the 213th Space Warning Squadron at Clear AFS, Alaska. He is the NCOIC of the Operations Support Flight, ensuring that operations continue to run smoothly. TSgt Dawson joined the Alaska Air National Guard in February 2006 and started his career as a Maintenance Analyst for KC-135s with the 168th Air Refueling Wing. While maintaining his traditional guardsman status, he attended the University of Alaska to study physics. In 2009, he deployed overseas with the 168th to support the Global War on Terrorism. Upon completing his Bachelor's of Science in Applied Physics, he was hired by the Geophysical Institute to support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which included temporary duties in Antarctica, Wake Island, and Midway Island. TSgt Dawson's awards and achievement include Meritorious Unit Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, AF Longevity Service with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 'M' Device, and AF Training Ribbon.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



SECOND LIEUTENANT SEBASTIAN MOORE

2d Lt. Sebastian C. Moore is a Crew Commander in the 13th Space Warning Squadron Missile Warning Operations Center at Clear AFS, Alaska. 2d Lt. Moore exercises operational control of a \$250 million Solid State Phased Array Radar System (AN/FPS-123). His primary duties include detection and reporting of missile warning events, tracking of 8,000 low earth-orbiting satellites, tracking new foreign and domestic launches, and space object identification. 2d Lt. Moore supports missile warning threat assessment for NORAD-NORTHCOM and Space Situational Awareness for the Joint Space Operations Center. In his additional duty as executive assistant, 2d Lt. Moore has planned and coordinated multiple events involving the Upgraded Early Warning Radar system and the COBRA DANE radar in support of the squadron's missile defense mission. 2d Lt. Moore was commissioned in 2016 as a graduate of the ROTC program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Aerospace Engineering. His experience in space operations includes missile warning, missile defense, and space surveillance. 2d Lt. Moore is serving his first position in Active Duty Air Force at Clear AFS, Alaska. His awards and decorations include National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal.



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



CAPTAIN SARAH ATHERTON

Capt. Sarah E. Atherton is a Space Operator and Crew Commander, 13th Space Warning Squadron Clear AFS, Alaska. She oversees the Missile Warning Operations Center and commands her crew for the Alaskan NORAD Missile Warning and Space Surveillance mission from a remote, subarctic AF Station. Capt. Atherton leads a Total Force and Combined Force crew comprising of active duty, Air National Guard, and Canadian forces, supporting the execution of 24/7 missile warning, missile defense, and space surveillance missions. Capt. Atherton was commissioned through Officer Training School in 2010. She was an Air Battle Manager and served operations assignments with the 337th Air Control Squadron under AETC and 962th Airborne Air Control Squadron in PACAF accumulating 300 hours in the USAF E-3B/C. Capt. Atherton holds a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences from Keene State College in New Hampshire and a Master's of Arts in International Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University. Her awards and decorations include Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Training Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Basic Military Training Honor Graduate, National Defense Service Medal with service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster.



TED STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD
ALASKA MISSILE
DEFENDER of the YEAR



LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEITH GRIMES

Lt. Col. Keith M. Grimes is the Director of Operations for the 213th Space Warning Squadron, Clear AFS, Alaska. He is directly responsible for the leadership and supervision of a 37-member multi-national crew force and support staff comprised of Active Duty, Alaska Air National Guard, and Royal Canadian Air Force officers and enlisted. He is also responsible for the successful execution of the 13th Space Warning Squadron mission to provide early warning of intercontinental and sea launched ballistic missile attack against the continental United States and Canada and assist in tracking more than 23,000 orbital objects. His operational space experience includes work with the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, Defense Satellite Program, Air Force Satellite Control Network, Automated Remote Tracking Stations, Ballistic Missile Early Warning/Solid State Phased Array Warning Systems, and Joint Space Operations Center operations. Lt. Col. Grimes holds a Juris Doctor from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, California. His awards and decorations include Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and National Defense Service Medal.

Members of the Order of Alaska Missile Defender of the Year

2014

Ted Stevens Memorial Awardee

CPT Eric Kraus

Ft. Greely Top Crew (Bravo Battery)

SGT John Sorrells
SSG Derrick Holmes
CW3 Jacob Moore
CPT Jason Brewer
CPT Ryan Richard

Clear AFS Top Crew

TSgt Brian Rowbotham
Capt Erik Haugen

2016

Ted Stevens Memorial Awardee

1st Lt Steven Havens

Clear AFS Top Crew

MSgt Carleas Parsons
Maj Joseph Garner

Clear AFS Base Defenders

SrA Jezabelle O'Neil Roulette
SSgt Anthony Deppe

Ft. Greely Top Crew (Charlie Crew)

SGT Bensian Correa
SSG Javier Solla
1LT Mindy Cason
CPT Kevin Fulmer
CPT Peter Browning

Ft. Greely Base Defenders

SGT Robert Stamper
SSG Derrick Butler

2015

Ted Stevens Memorial Awardees

MSgt Thomas Wright II
Capt Eric Vantrease

Clear AFS Top Crew

TSgt Brian Rowbotham
1st Lt Micah Hanauer

Ft. Greely Top Crew (Alpha Crew)

SGT Josef Carstens
SSG Michael Diachenko
1LT Cody Hennelly
CPT Gilberto Ortiz
MAJ Jeremy Shepherd

2017

Ted Stevens Memorial Awardee

CPT Anthony Montoya

Ft. Greely Top Crew (Delta Crew)

SGT Jose Aponte
SSG Caroline Domenech
1LT Rachel Simmons
MAJ Michael Long

Ft. Greely Base Defenders

SGT Nathan Williams
SGT Travis Hall

Clear AFS Top Crew

TSgt Mark Lockwood
Capt Erik Haugen

Clear AFS Base Defenders

SSgt Stanislav Barilov
SSgt Jonathan Rivera-Calderon

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Air National Guard of Alaska and the Army National Guard of Alaska

