
2018

EUROPEAN
MISSILE DEFENDER
of the YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

*October 27, 2018
Berlin, Germany*



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

- 1700:** - Reception
- 1800:** - Welcome and Call to Order by VADM Rainer Brinkmann
- National Anthem of the United States of America and Germany
- Introduction of LTG (R) Ben Hodges (CEPA Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies) by VADM Rainer Brinkmann
- Welcome Remarks and Introduction of VIPs by LTG (R) Ben Hodges
- 1815:** - Dinner
- 1945:** - Opening Remarks by LTG (R) Ben Hodges
- 1955:** - Presentation of Awards
- 2140:** - Introduction of Riki Ellison by LTG (R) Ben Hodges
- Remarks by Mr. Riki Ellison
- 2145:** - Closing Remarks by LTG (R) Ben Hodges
- 2150:** - Conclusion of Ceremony

AWARD HISTORY



European Missile Defender *of the Year*

April 4, 2014 marked the inaugural European Missile Defender *of the Year* Award Ceremony, recognizing and honoring members of our military who command fully operational and deployed missile defense systems. This event coincided with the 65th anniversary of the founding of NATO on April 4th, 1949. This year, the award is given to North Atlantic Treaty Organization service members that make significant contributions to missile defense. 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 against the missile threat. Recognizing them helps to educate the public and inspire those they work with.

The Defenders *of the Year* are selected by their peers and commanding officers from the United States Navy, United States Army, United States Air Force, NATO, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, France, and Italy.

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.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Daniel Tosh NATO Civilian Awardee

Mr. Tosh is a United States Government civilian employee working for the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Division at Headquarters, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. During 2017, Mr. Tosh planned, monitored, and executed the mobilization, deployment, employment, and sustainment of air and missile defense operations in the European Command area of responsibility. He developed and authored U.S. European Command's operational requirements and acceptance criteria for seven separate lines of effort, all of which are critical to the fielding and employment of Phase III of the Presidentially-mandated European Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defense of NATO Europe. Mr. Tosh established several technical working groups to integrate U.S. and NATO systems to ensure a more interoperable and complementary NATO missile defense force. Most recently, his efforts to produce detailed analysis and planning products for U.S. and NATO missile defense plans; and his leadership running synchronization and immersion conferences for U.S. and NATO forces enable truly integrated air and missile defense of Europe.

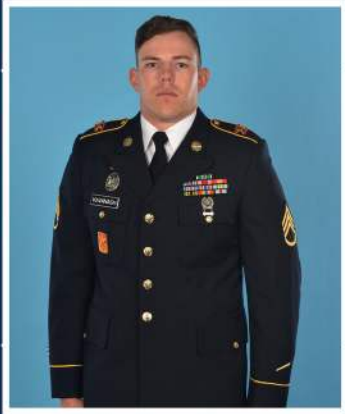


EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Chief Petty Officer Jeremiah Wright U.S. Naval Forces Europe Awardee

CPO Wright is a superstar performer at this pioneering land-based missile defense facility. Despite serving in the U.S. Navy's operational ballistic missile defense center-of-excellence surrounded by subject matter experts, he managed to distinguish himself as the inescapable reference in missile defense tactics and procedures. In addition to spending well over 2000 hours standing watch in defense of Europe at Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System Romania, he was deliberately assigned to support high profile testing and exercise events intended to help expand U.S. missile defense capability and capacity in support of NATO. These events included the 2017 European Test Bed, Global Response Exercise-08 and JBOOST. His efforts directly contributed to the refinement of tactics, techniques and procedures within the U.S. ballistic missile defense system (BMDS) and NATO missile defense architecture, as well as the further development of U.S. ballistic missile defense technologies – all of which support the U.S. European Phased Adaptive Approach phase III. In a crew of 112 steely-eyed missileers, CPO Wright truly stands out as a gifted operator, innovator and leader.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant Nathan Kavanagh U.S. Army Europe Awardee

During 2017, SSG Kavanagh was selected by the Battalion Standardization team to evaluate gunnery certifications at the Battery level on six occasions. Due to a shortage of personnel in the Battery and his expertise in air and missile defense operations, he was selected to serve as the Battery Patriot Master Gunner and Battery Trainer, even without having attended the PMG course. In this role he developed and implemented a training plan to not only certify the Battery to Patriot table VIII gunnery standards, but to perform at multiple multinational exercises, a Battalion EXEV AL, and one table XII gunnery certification. In the position of Battery PMG, he was critical in the revision and implementation of the tactics, techniques, and procedures for the sole Patriot Battalion in the European theater. As it relates to supporting interoperability throughout NATO, SSG Kavanagh deployed to Romania for TOBRUQ LEGACY 2017, as well as to Sweden for AURORA 2017. While in Romania, SSG Kavanagh was selected for his tactical and technical proficiency to brief the President of Romania and the chairman of the NATO military committee on the capabilities and limitations of the Patriot weapon system.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant Randall Norris U.S. Army National Guard Awardee

SSG Norris was instrumental to the success of Charlie Battery while in theatre. In the absence of BN staff, he coordinated for training areas, and led two 14S in theatre recertifications. As a result, Charlie Battery's certification readiness never dropped below 100%. As TOC NCOIC in an austere environment, he developed TTPs for the BTRY CP that were successful during the BTRY's first culminating training EXEVAL at Combined Resolve X in Hoenfels, Germany. SSG Norris is an advocate for the ADA Branch to maneuver CDRs and NATO allies alike. During the EDI rotation, he planned and oversaw the development of Stinger teams outside of his own organization. He created the EUCOM "Stinger University" using the Virtual Stinger Trainer, for in-theatre familiarization and recertification training. He has successfully graduated 91 personnel and 44 Stinger teams from 173rd ABN, 2CR, and 1/1 CD. His selfless service has single-handedly improved the readiness and lethality of all SHORAD forces in Europe.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Warrant Officer Willem Dorenbos Netherlands' Awardee

WO Dorenbos is a very experienced Ground Based Air Defense Non-Commissioned Officer who served in several operational functions within the Netherlands Armed Forces. During the recent years WO Dorenbos is acting on several posts of the Netherlands Defense Ground Based Air Defense Command. In this role he always shows a great deal of commitment, dedication and eagerness. His performance is outstanding and the quality of his products is very high without exception. With his superb drive, work ethic, and high standards he took the initiative to develop the Patriot Weapon Instruction Course (PWIC) to an essential course for the Netherlands Ground Based Air Defense community and, most likely, in the near future for our NATO allies. In the past three decades WO Dorenbos acted in several assignments both in the Launching area as in the Fire Control area for the HAWK and PATRIOT weapon systems. WO Dorenbos is also trained on the AMRAAM weapon system, which enables him to support this part of the Netherlands Air Defense community as well. In the past years WO Dorenbos has shown an exceptional drive to enhance the skills and knowledge of the operational Patriot community. In 2017 he took responsibility to coach and educate new TCO's to become well-trained operators on the PATRIOT weapon system. "Core-business" is always his top priority in his daily business and with this attitude he motivates his comrades and students to focus on this.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Sergeant Kelli Anguiano U.S. Air Forces in Europe Awardee

In 2017, MSgt Anguiano distinguished herself as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Defensive Operations, 603d Air Operations Center, United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During this year, MSgt Anguiano expertly synchronized a team of 16 joint missile defense professionals, responsible for defending two combatant commands, 29.7 million square miles across three continents, and a quarter of the world's population. In this capacity, she personally trained 13 General Officers over the Air Operations Center combat operations command and control function and ensured seamless missile defense across Europe. Additionally, MSgt Anguiano's expertise and leadership were crucial to field testing the Joint Force Commander's new ballistic missile defense situational awareness tool and allowed for the identification and resolution of 25 software errors. Furthermore, she led 15 Joint Force Air Component Commander Defense exercises that increased interoperability with partner-nations and enabled the certification of five Aegis crews and 45 Army operators. In response to an increased ballistic missile threat, MSgt Anguiano also secured Joint Force Air Component Commander's approval for an increased ballistic missile defense posture, resulting in the transfer of authority for a strategic ballistic missile defense asset and ensuring the safety of 8.5 million people. The distinctive accomplishments of MSgt Anguiano reflect credit upon herself and the United States Air Force.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Lynch NATO Awardee

Lt. Col. Lynch led Allied Joint Integrated Command and Control for the permanent peacetime mission to defend Europe's 430 million population. He masterfully orchestrated operations, test, and evaluation for the successful premier Allied Ballistic Missile Defense exercise, Steadfast Armor 2017, meeting 93% of the objectives. He certified eight Ballistic Missile Defense Operations Cell watch officers and instructed 52 missile defense students, advancing NATO education and training for the Ballistic Missile Defense capability development. For Ballistic Missile Defense Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence programmatic development, he organized several critical inputs to system requirements documents. He facilitated the standup of a Joint Interface Control Cell at Allied Air Command to support tactical data link operations during Formidable Shield 2017, the largest maritime integrated air and missile defense live fire exercise in the European Theater. He is a true NATO leader and one of the few subject matter experts pushing NATO Ballistic Missile Defense towards Enhanced Operational Capability, and eventually Final Operational Capability.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Franke Career Achievement Awardee

SMSGt Franke has been one of the AMD Communities most outstanding top performers for many years, distinguishing him for this lifetime achievement award due to his excellent technical and operational knowledge, his exemplary professional attitude, as well as his personal commitment to AMD. SMSGt Franke is the undisputed authority in the Air Force Forces Command on all questions and aspects to the broad spectrum of AMD in the GBAD Branch at that high level of command. Throughout his career, his consolidated experience, his technical expertise, organizational capability has propelled him to be the most valuable advisors to his superiors and, moreover, an esteemed addressee for the questions from the GBAD General Officers level. He is the “Fels in the Brandung” for the Commander Ground based Forces and his staff at the AFFC. His tremendous expertise and capabilities are well known and valued way beyond his branch. Thus, superior Headquarter, e.g. the Deputy to the Air Chief, General D. Naskrent as the “Doyen” of the German AD, delegates since decades the responsibility for preparing and organizing his bi-annual AD “Senior leaders” Conference to him! SMSGt Franke`s planning and coordination competencies are essential to conduct AMD meetings, congresses or forums– such as the national GBAD congress, the advanced GBAD – Officers education and the most prominent “Fla-Treffen”. SMSGt Franke`s brilliant leadership, technical acumen, and thorough dedication throughout his career shaped the German Air Force`s AD mission and had significant impacts over the years. He serves as a role model for his peer NCO`s and the MMD Force as such.



EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Commander j. g. Stefan Becker Germany's Awardee

CDR j. g. Stefan Becker is the German Navy Liaison Officer to the German – Netherlands Competence Centre for Air and Missile Defense in Ramstein, Germany since October 2015. In 2017, he was the national and the Maritime Theatre Defense-Forum's Project Officer for the integration of maritime units and Command and Control into Europe's largest Air and Missile Defense Exercise – Joint Project Optic Windmill. CDR Becker is a well acknowledged expert for tactical and operational aspects of integrated air and missile defense – not only the maritime parts of it! His missile defense expertise cumulates in the Multinational Maritime Missile Defense Course. Within the last three years, more than 100 students from 11 nations have successfully passed the course under his lead. With his excellent skills, he ties together joint and combined experiences, applies own operational arts and captures the lessons identified for NATO and national German documentation. CDR Becker is an outstanding officer, a passionate warrior and one of the few missile defense experts of the German armed forces.




EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel José Alberto Muñoz Martínez Spain's Awardee

Lt Col Martínez commanded the sixth Spanish PATRIOT contingent in the framework of the NATO Support to Turkey (NS2T) activity. He led a PATRIOT Air Defense Artillery (ADA) unit deployed in the Incirlik Airbase in order to protect the population and territory of Adana, Turkey against possible attacks with ballistic missiles launched from Syria. It was a significant Spanish contribution to the NATO Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System in order to counter the increasing ballistic missiles threatening the south-east border of the Alliance, showing the Spanish and NATO commitment with the core task of collective defense, represented in this case by Turkey. As it was officially declared in the last NATO Summit held in Brussels on 11-12 July 2018, Syria has a significant inventory of short-range ballistic missiles whose range covers part of Turkey and, in fact, this country has been hit three times in the last four years by missiles launched from Syria. The Spanish PATRIOT unit was fully ready to react 24/7 during the six-month deployment period thanks to an outstanding logistic support and PATRIOT crews certified under the most demanding standards.



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

2014

U.S. ARMY: SSG Enrique Martinez

U.S. NAVY: LT Michael Laich

U.S. AIR FORCE: Mr. Kenneth Dustin

GERMANY: SMSgt Thomas Tapken

NETHERLANDS: Lt Col Edwin de Boer

TURKEY: Lt Col Gurkan Costur

2015

U.S. ARMY: CW3 Wesley Dohogn

U.S. NAVY: LT Lis Bydairk

U.S. AIR FORCE: Lt Col Eric Lazenby

FRANCE: Sgt1C Sabrina van den Goorbergh

GERMANY: Capt Heiko Precht

ITALY: Lt Col Marco de Massari

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

2016

U.S. ARMY: SGT Joseph Frey

U.S. NAVY: LCDR John Mastriani

U.S. AIR FORCE: Lt Col Kevin Miller

FRANCE: Cpt Arnold Ansquer

GERMANY: MSgt Dustin Heise

ITALY: Col Antonio Evangelio

NATO: Maj Ignacio Galindo

NETHERLANDS: Cdre Fred Douglas

SPAIN: Cpt Juan Jerónimo Villalón Carbellido

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: LtCol Ralf Zwingmann

2017

U.S. ARMY: SPC Robert Clinger

U.S. NAVY: CDR Jonathan Lipps

U.S. AIR FORCE: Lt Col Brian Koch

GERMANY: CMSgt Günter Rösler

ITALY: Cdr Guisepppe Musolino

NATO CIV: Mr. Paul Enderle

NATO: LTC Thorsten Stratemann

NETHERLANDS: Maj Johan Hendrix

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the German Navy, the German Air Force, the Armed Forces of Spain, and the Armed Forces of the Netherlands



www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org

