



Ninth Annual

U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER
of the YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

January 11, 2019
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.

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.



U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lucas Watterson

CW3 Watterson was born and raised in Cassville, New York. He enlisted in the United States Army in August 2001 as a 14E, Patriot Fire Control Enhanced Operator/Maintainer. Chief Watterson was appointed as a Warrant Officer in March 2009 as a 140E, Air and Missile Defense Systems Tactician/Technician. CW3 Watterson's assignments include Systems Maintainer and Tactical Director's Assistant, 5-7 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) in Hanau, Germany; Systems Maintainer and Tactical Control Assistant, 4-5 ADA at Fort Hood, Texas; Air and Missile Defense Systems Technician, 6-52 ADA at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; Battery Trainer and Tactical Control Officer, A-4 ADA at Fort Bliss, Texas; THAAD Standardization Officer, 11th ADA BDE at Fort Bliss, Texas; Foreign Military Advisor, United States Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Air and Missile Defense Planner, 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, Texas. His deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first operational deployment of a THAAD Battery to Guam. CW3 Watterson has completed numerous military schools and is a graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Warrant Officer Advanced Course. He currently holds an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Military Technology Leadership from Thomas Edison State College. Chief Watterson's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Silver and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Good Conduct Medal (2 Awards), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon (Numeral 4). Chief Watterson and his wife, Kristine, currently live in El Paso, TX with their daughter Ada.



U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Captain Rex Villa

Capt Villa is the Chief Navigator for RC/TC/OC/WC-135, 55th Operations Group, 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. He is responsible for the standardization and evaluations for more than 2,400 aviators in 42 different crew positions across five different aircraft types and serves as the 55th Operations Group's navigator subject matter expert for flight operations, technical orders, publications and local procedures. Capt Villa was born and raised in central Minnesota. In 2010, he graduated from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota with a degree in computer science and was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC, Detachment 415. Capt Villa was the deployed Director of Operations from 15 February 2018 through 15 April 2018. He led the newest COBRA BALL aircraft capability for the first time in an operational environment and a 50-member team who was on standby to deploy worldwide, postured from the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) to collect intelligence on missile launches. Capt Villa's team demonstrated superior airmanship, resolve, and flexibility while executing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations, as directed by the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Capt Villa deployed to three Forward Operating Locations within Pacific Command and Central Command and flawlessly supported 20 Higher Headquarters missions, tasked from JCS staff directly. During these missions, his team collected seven National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF) priority one missile launches, which were briefed directly to the President. A rapid deployment and re-deployment posture allowed the team to collect from all three locations with 100% success. The mission-first mentality of Capt Villa ensured collection of four NIPF priority one missile launches within the first four missions, which is a remarkable feat for collection of TBMs and associated weapons systems. From the Central Command AOR, Capt Villa miraculously collected two short-notice, unique TBM weapons of opportunity. Capt Villa's awards include the Aerial Achievement Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Combat Readiness Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).



U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jacob Moore

CW4 Moore was born in Burley, Idaho in December 1971. He entered the Army from Dallas, Texas in February 2000. CW4 Moore serves as the Senior System Integrator in the Operations Section of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In this role, he interfaces with partner organizations across Fort Greely and throughout the Ground-based Missile Defense (GMD) enterprise regarding maintenance, training, and operations. CW4 Moore has served across the Brigade and Battalion in a variety of assignments for more than a decade. In a year where the Battalion saw over 40% turnover across its crews, Chief Moore's personal efforts resulted in consistent 24-7 manning by qualified and certified personnel and a 20% increase in Operational Readiness Evaluation scores across the Battalion when compared to the previous five years. CW4 Moore was also one of three personnel across the Brigade charged with training crews on significant updates to NORTHCOM tactics in 2018. After the fielding of GMD system upgrade 7A, CW4 Moore worked with material developers to identify unforecasted off-nominal behaviors in the system, quickly developed alternative processes, and was a key stakeholder in the rapid corrective action implementation, resulting in optimal GMD performance in support of spiral development goals. CW4 Moore is also the 49th Battalion's coordination officer in support of the development of GMD Missile Field 4 at Fort Greely. He continues to advocate for the Army with the Missile Defense Agency, material developers, and security leads to ensure full mission readiness while significant focus is placed on rapidly developing additional capability for the GMD system in defense of the Nation. CW4 Moore's Awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal (5th award), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (x3), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral two). Chief Moore has been married 15 years to the former Rebecca Nassali of Kampala, Uganda and they have one daughter, Zoe.



U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Junior Grade McKenzie Anderson

LTJG Anderson was commissioned on 15 May 2015 through the Navy ROTC program at George Washington University and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs. Following graduation, he reported to Basic Division Officer Course in Norfolk, Virginia. LTJG Anderson then reported to USS Porter in Rota, Spain as the Electrical Officer. While onboard he completed three Ballistic Missile Defense FDNF-E patrols including Fifth and Sixth Fleet Areas of Responsibilities and participated in many multinational exercises, including Dynamic Manta, Joint Warrior, FOST, and Deep Blue. Following his fleet-up onboard USS Porter, LTJG Anderson reported to Advanced Division Officer Course in Newport, Rhode Island, which was followed by the Aegis B/L 5.3.X Combat Systems Officer Course in Dahlgren, Virginia. After the completion of his training pipeline, LTJG Anderson reported back to USS Porter as the Training Officer. He completed two BMD FDNF-E patrols, including deployments to the Baltic Sea, Black Sea, and eastern Mediterranean. LTJG Anderson has trained all of the USS Porter's Tactical Action Officers, provided multiple iterations of BMD training to the Commander's wardroom, and is the cornerstone for every Sixth Fleet BMD scenario that includes the USS Porter. Following USS Porter's Aegis baseline upgrade to 4.1, LTJG Anderson was critical in training the BMD teams on operational differences, which was a critical enabler for USS Porter's successful BMD Qualification in 2018. LTG Anderson has unparalleled understanding of BMD and the role Aegis BMD plays in the Sixth Fleet AOR and its integration with other assets such as THAAD, Patriot, and Aegis Ashore for the execution of missions. During both Sixth Fleet scenarios and real-world BMD operations, LTJG Anderson provided critical feedback to fleet-level planners, helping to shape new stationing geometries in this AOR. LTJG Anderson's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, various unit and campaign awards, and the 2017 Navy and Marine Corps Association Leadership Award.

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

2017

ARMY: 1LT Benjamin Schiff

NAVY: CPO Zachary Quirk

AIR FORCE: Lt Col Rocco Angiolelli

NATIONAL GUARD: CPT Jason Brewer

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 Arie 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: 1Lt 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

