



2019

ALASKA  
MISSILE DEFENDER  
*of the* YEAR  
AWARD CEREMONY

*May 18, 2019*  
*Anchorage, Alaska*



**MDAA**  
Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance

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 Cooperation 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.

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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.



Clear AFS Base Defender Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**STAFF SERGEANT JOSHUA MARUGG**

SSgt Marugg is the noncommissioned officer in charge of training for the 268th Security Forces Squadron, Clear AFS, Alaska. SSgt Marugg displays constant professionalism and has held many valuable duty positions to include; armorer, patrolman, and the first ever Security Forces combative program manager. He manages the annual training plan, oversaw mission critical certifications for 74 Security Forces Airmen, and was responsible for instructing over 80 members from two squadrons on high risk response and security forces combatives during the 2018 Annual Field Training Exercise. As a fire team leader, he supervised a force protection element responsible for safeguarding a Protection Level 1 (PL1) asset valued at \$250 million. SSgt Marugg was instrumental in ensuring the safety of over 600 military and civilian personnel. He responded to 24 PL1 alarms where he took control as the on-scene commander directing facility security and prompt evacuation of personnel. SSgt Marugg embodies the "Whole Airman Concept," volunteering over 20 hours to coach children in the youth basketball league and seeks new challenges to further his professional growth and development. SSgt Marugg enlisted in the active duty Air Force in September of 2005 as a Security Forces Airman. After completing technical training at Lackland AFB, Texas, he was assigned to Cannon AFB, New Mexico. During his time at Cannon, he was hand selected by the security forces commander to attend the Air Force Special Operations Command's first ever Deployed Aircraft Ground Response Element Program and Air Mobility Command SF Phoenix Raven Program. SSgt Marugg was selected among the top ten percent of his career field as a Ground Combat Tactics Instructor with the 435th Security Forces Regional Training Center at Sembach AB, Germany from 2011-2015. Over the course of four years he managed several programs; United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) Fly Away Security Team Course, Security Forces Combatives, and USAFE first ever Small Unmanned Aircraft System program. SSgt Marugg supported various missions with duties to include; Raven Team Member, Rumbula AB, Latvia; Presidential Security Team Member, Normandy, France; DAGRE Team Leader, J7 Combined Joint Special Operations Air Detachment, Balad, Iraq; and Heavy Weapon Gunner, Camp Sather, Iraq.



Clear AFS Base Defender Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
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## **TECHNICAL SERGEANT DAVID DAVIS**

TSgt Davis is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Pass and Registration section for the 268th Security Forces Squadron, Clear AFS, Alaska. He serves as the primary Unit Security Manager for the 268th SFS, which includes the verification of security clearances and initiation of background checks. TSgt Davis is responsible for the vetting of over 4,732 personnel and visitors requiring base access to interior Alaska's only remote Protection Level 1 (PL1) asset, ensuring projects continue without interruption. During this time, he prevented 111 convicted criminals from gaining installation access. TSgt Davis worked in conjunction with the NCOIC of police services at the National Guard Bureau to establish the first ever DNA collection process for Clear AFS. TSgt Davis is also the Security Forces Management Information System Administrator and NCOIC of Reports and Analysis, which is responsible for ensuring all onsite police reports are accurately documented. TSgt Davis embodies the "Whole Airman Concept" by promoting camaraderie, embracing spirit de corps, and acting as an Air Force ambassador. TSgt Davis was handpicked as the Clear AFS representative for the Better Opportunities for Single Service members program. He has coordinated morale trips for three service members, broadening their cultural horizons. TSgt Davis also serves as an additional duty first sergeant providing three total force squadron commanders with a mission ready enlisted force capable of executing and attaining unit missions and goals. TSgt Davis entered the Air National Guard in December 2003 and graduated from Security Forces technical school at Lackland AFB, Texas, in June 2004. TSgt Davis' first assignment was with the 124th SFS at Gowen Field, Idaho. There he was responsible for installation security consisting of 14 A-10 Warthogs, seven C-130s, and 12 Blackhawk helicopters. In February 2006, TSgt Davis deployed to Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait, where he worked primarily as a heavy weapons gunner and provided security during prisoner transport. In April 2007, TSgt Davis joined the Alaska Air National Guard as a security forces member for Clear AFS. His experience was quickly recognized as he attained flight sergeant duties while still a staff sergeant. Previously, TSgt Davis was the Assistant Flight Chief for the 268th SFS.



COBRA DANE Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**TECHNICAL SERGEANT JUSTIN HART**

TSgt Hart is a COBRA DANE Logistics Support technician for the 13th Space Warning Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. He oversees quality of life, logistics, security, and mission support for the COBRA DANE missile defense and space surveillance radar system and its 30 contracted maintenance personnel located at Eareckson Air Station, Shemya Island, Alaska. Additionally, he directs radar upgrade projects and bridges communications with Air Force Space Command, the Pacific Regional Support Center, and the system program office at Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. Located on the tiny Shemya Island, COBRA DANE's very "life" depends on TSgt Hart anticipating, planning, and delivering the myriad support needed to keep this aging system alive and watching our horizons. TSgt Hart obtained missile defense requirements and manifested critical items for an annual supply barge project to support Cobra Dane's key mission. He also processed 45 cargo shipments to Cobra Dane, even directing a configuration change to eliminate a delivery delay after discovering a power supply crate discrepancy, ensuring continued and persistent operations for Northern Command's strategic missile defense mission. TSgt Hart managed travel to Shemya, verifying the security clearance and travel requirements for 330 passengers to deliver the max support to the national missile defense mission, as well as securing the airlift and mission briefs for seven legislative visits to Cobra Dane. He also eliminated a 42-year vulnerability by leading a Protection Level 1 (PL1) asset waiver review to drive three Cobra Dane fortification projects and prevented unsecure missile defense data from being sent to MDA by updating communication security software. TSgt Hart entered the Air Force in May 2008 and graduated from the Traffic Management Apprentice technical training course at Lackland AFB, Texas, in September 2008. Prior to his current position, TSgt Hart was the NCOIC of Joint Personal Property office, Anchorage in the 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. TSgt Hart deployed in 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and in 2015 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.



## Clear AFS Top Crew Awardee **ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR**



### **MASTER SERGEANT CHAD PETRIE**

MSgt Petrie is the NCOIC of Weapons and Tactics for the 213th Space Warning Squadron. He oversees tactics and procedures for the Early Warning and Upgraded Early Warning Radar at Clear AFS, Alaska. Additionally, he is a Lead Instructor providing quality, accurate, and interactive training to 33 Space and Missile Operations Commanders and Crew Chiefs, producing highly skilled missile warning and missile defense professionals. MSgt Petrie trains space professionals to accurately determine and report ICBM and SLBM launches within 60 seconds to the Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment system as well as to plan, track, and report Low Earth Orbit Satellite pass information to the Air Force Space Command and Control Network. He develops advance-training scenarios to posture the team to be mission effective in even the most fast-paced, demanding, and complicated scenarios. MSgt Petrie is the connective tissue that bind Ops Training, weapons and tactics, and the crew force together. A superb senior noncommissioned officer, unrivaled technical expert, and tremendously effective instructor, he consistently generates warfighter results across the crew force. MSgt Petrie graduated from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. He joined the Alaska Air National Guard in October 2004 and started his career as a Communication and Navigation Systems Specialist with the 168th Air Refueling Wing. In 2006 he retrained into the Aircraft Guidance and Control career field maintaining the HH60 PAVE LOWE Helicopter for the 210th Rescue Squadron and the 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron until 2009. He again retrained in 2010 into the space operations career field as a Space and Missile Operations Crew Chief. After working on crew in the Missile Warning Operations Center at the 213th SWS for fourteen months, he was selected as a Staff Instructor in 2011. In 2014, he retrained as a Personnel Specialist and returned to the 213th SWS in 2015 as a Staff Instructor. A selection of MSgt Petrie's awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal (1 device), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (1 device), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (1 device), Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal (1 device), and the NATO Medal.



Clear AFS Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**CAPTAIN MICHAEL HARVEY**

Capt Harvey is the 13th Space Warning Squadron's Weapons and Tactics Flight Chief at Clear AFS, Alaska. Capt Harvey is a certified mission combat ready crew commander of a \$250 million (AN/FPS-123) Early Warning phased-array radar (EWR). Capt Harvey's primary duty is to develop intelligent and forward-thinking operations, in support of the weapon system posturing for current and emerging threats. Working hand-in-hand with Ops Training, the combined team of Alaska Air National Guard, Regular Air Force, and Royal Canadian Air Force remains maximally prepared to defend against ballistic missile attack. To accomplish this mission, Capt Harvey directs a team of six tacticians developing tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) against evolving threats. These TTPs are tested and refined with the help of 41 certified operators at Clear AFS during real world operations and exercises. Once proven valuable, these TTPs are then shared with similar weapons systems spread across the missile defense architecture. Capt Harvey supports missile warning threat assessment for North American Aerospace Defense Command and Northern Command and battle space awareness for the Combined Space Operations Center. He also plays a key role in the transition from the EWR to the Upgraded EWR weapon system, providing system matter expert guidance for training and operational product development. Capt Harvey has supported missile defense for the last four years and brings UEUR experience and expertise to Clear from his time at the 7th SWS at Beale AFB, California. Capt Harvey graduated from the University of Utah in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the Air Force in May 2014. From 2015 to 2017, Capt Harvey was a UEUR Crew Commander at the 7th SWS at Beale AFB, California. In 2017, he joined the 13th SWS at Clear AFS, Alaska where he had been an EWR Crew Commander and Deputy Flight Commander Operations Support before his current position. Capt Harvey's awards include the Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Nuclear Deterrence Operations service Medal ('N' device).

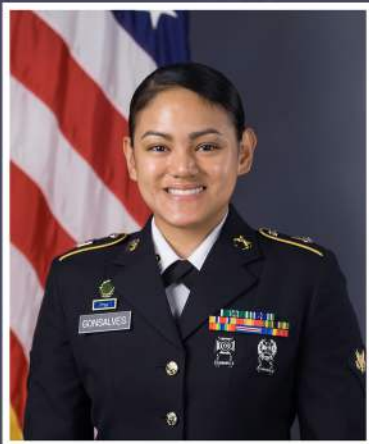


## Clear AFS Top Crew Awardee **ALASKA MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR**



### **CAPTAIN MICAH HANAUER**

Capt Hanauer is a Crew Commander in the Missile Warning Operations Center and Chief of Operations Training at the 213th Space Warning Squadron, Clear AFS, Alaska. Capt. Hanauer exercises operational control of a \$250 million (AN/FPS-123) phased-array radar. His primary duties include oversight and training of new space and missile defense operators, 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. He develops and instructs training curriculum designed to give trainees hands-on and applicable war fighting skills, maintaining crew force proficiency on the Early Warning Radar while simultaneously creating and delivering a whole new training program for the Upgraded Early Warning Radar. Capt Hanauer has been the foremost expert in delivering effective training for our newly UEWR software, thus integrating Clear into the ground-based missile defense architecture. Capt Hanauer supports missile warning threat assessment for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and Northern Command and Space Situational Awareness for the Combined Space Operations Center. Capt Hanauer enlisted in the Active Duty Air Force in 2003 and after his initial school worked maintaining electronics including navigational aids, radar, radio communications, microwave, and weather equipment. His first duty station was as a METNAV Apprentice with the 366th Communications Squadron at MT. Home AFB, Idaho. From 2005 to 2009, he was an Airfield Systems Journeyman in Fairford, United Kingdom. In 2008, Capt Hanauer graduated from Excelsior College with a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts in Psychology and Sociology. After Fairford, he was an Airfield Systems Craftsman for the 354th Communications Squadron at Eielson AFB, Alaska. Capt Hanauer joined the Alaska Air National Guard and commissioned as a personnel, services, and manpower officer in 2012 while working as a junior reservoir engineer on the North Slope of Alaska. He was then selected as a full-time guardsman as a Space Operations Officer at Clear AFS, Alaska. Capt Hanauer's awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Ft. Greely Base Defender Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**SPECIALIST SYCHELLE GONSALVES**

SPC Gonsalves is a Military Police Officer with the GBI MP Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion in Ft. Greely, Alaska. She had been a member of Alpha Company since 2017 and she has distinguished herself as an achiever. SPC Gonsalves has earned the "Soldier of the Quarter," "Battalion Soldier of the Year," and "State Soldier of the Year" for Alaska. Her abilities and determination as a Military Police Officer display her passion for being the best and securing the high ground. She is also currently serving as a member of the council for the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers also known as the BOSS program. SPC Gonsalves was born in the Philippines. Her family moved to San Diego, California while she was in middle school. In 2012, SPC Gonsalves enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard as a Supply Specialist. After graduating Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, SPC Gonsalves was assigned as a Supply Technician to the 297th Military Police Company in Wasilla, Alaska where she served for almost six years as a traditional M-day soldier. She has also served as a Supply Technician for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Her military education includes Unit Retention NCO Course, Basic Leader Course, 31B Military Police Reclassification Course, and Supply Specialist MOS Qualification Course. She is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska – Anchorage and is working towards her Baccalaureate degree in Business, with a focus on Global Supply Chain and Logistics. SPC Gonsalves' awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon.



Ft. Greely Base Defender Awardee  
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## **STAFF SERGEANT ELVIN MARTES**

SSG Martes is a Military Police Officer with the GBI MP Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion in Ft. Greely, Alaska. SSG Martes has been with Alpha Company for seven years and has been the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear NCOIC, Ammo NCOIC, Training NCO, Team Leader, Sergeant of the Guard for all security operations, and currently as a Squad Leader. His willingness to assume positions of greater responsibility makes him an incredibly versatile and valuable asset to the organization. He is a leader, mentor, and role model to his subordinates, peers and those alike. SSG Martes is a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He enlisted in 2010 as a Military Police Officer and went to One Station Unit Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completing OSUT, SSG Martes was assigned to the 480th MP Company in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. In 2012, SSG Martes transferred to the Alaska National Guard as a full time Active Guard Reserve soldier with the Military Police GBI Security Company. His military education includes the Military Police Military Occupational Specialty, Basic Leader Course, Military Police Advance Leaders Course, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, Master Resiliency Trainer, Conventional Physical Security/ Crime Prevention Course, Readiness NCO Course, Training NCO Course, Training Officer/Operations NCO Course, Technical Transportation of Hazardous Material Course, and Combat Life Saver Course. He is currently working on his last two classes at American Military University towards his Baccalaureate Degree in Psychology. SSG Martes' awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon. He has also been awarded the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency in Gold and the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency (Schützenschnur) in Gold.



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**SERGEANT ANGEL PEREZ**

SGT Perez is the Communications Operator for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. His exemplary performance, high standards, focus, and dedication to training directly contributed to the success of Bravo Crew's nine Table VII & Table VIII Operational Readiness Evaluations. SGT Perez is a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He enlisted in 2011 as a Military Police Officer and went to One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completing OSUT, SGT Perez was assigned to the 770th MP Company in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. In 2013, SGT Perez transferred to the Alaska National Guard as a full time Active Guard Reserve (AGR) soldier with Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. During his initial tour, he served in many capacities within Alpha Company as a Team Member, Team Leader, Entry Control NCOIC, and Sergeant of the Guard for all security operations. At the end of his three-year AGR tour, he extended for six additional years in the Alaska Army National Guard and with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In 2017, SGT Perez transitioned from Alpha Company to the 49th HHB to work in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) as a Communications Operator. Here, he has maintained dual certification status as a Communications and Weapons Operator. SGT Perez's military education includes the Military Police military occupational specialty, Air and Missile Defense Crew Member military occupational specialty, Advance Space Operations Course, Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Qualification Course, Basic Leader Course, Unit Prevention Leader, Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Evaluator/Trainer Course, GMD Systems Trainer Operator Course, Combat Life Saver Course, and Combatives Level 2 Instructor. He holds a Technical degree as an Emergency Medical Technician and an Associate's Degree in General Studies. He is currently working towards his Baccalaureate Degree in Criminal Justice. SGT Perez's awards and decorations include the Basic Space Badge, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon.



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
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## **STAFF SERGEANT JOHN SORRELLS**

SSG Sorrells is the Battle Analyst for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. SSG Sorrells has used his background as a Communications Operator, Weapons Operator, and Command Launch Equipment Operator to be a highly proficient Battle Analyst, which is critical for asset management. His expertise as a Battle Analyst contributed greatly to the successful operational readiness of Bravo Crew. SSG Sorrells is a native of Camden, Arkansas. He enlisted in 2001 as an Indirect Fire Infantryman and went to One Station Unit Training in Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduation, SSG Sorrells was assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion of the 153rd Infantry Brigade in Camden, Arkansas. In October 2003, SSG Sorrells' unit was activated and attached to 1st Cavalry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007, SSG Sorrells accepted a position as a Military Police Officer with Alpha Company in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. He transitioned to Headquarters Battery (HHB) in 2012, where he has since served as a Communications Operator, Weapons Operator, Command Launch Equipment (CLE) Operator, and a Battle Analyst. SSG Sorrells was recently selected to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School in Fort Rucker, Alabama in July of 2019. Upon completion, he will be assigned as the C2 Systems Integrator in HHB at Fort Greely. His military education includes Link 16 Joint Interoperability Course, ARNG Training Officer/Operations NCO Course, Command Launch Equipment Qualification Course, Introduction to Space, Air and Missile Defense Crewmember Reclassification, Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Qualification Course, Military Police Advanced Leader Course, Unit Armorer Course, Cold Weather Leaders Course, Military Police Reclassification, Warrior Leader Course, and Indirect Fire Infantryman Course. SSG Sorrells' awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Good Conduct Medal with three Bronze Knots, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal ("M" Device and Bronze Hourglass), NCO's Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation, Arkansas Federal Service Ribbon, Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon, and Arkansas Service Ribbon.



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**STAFF SERGEANT AUSTIN MCNAMEE**

SSG McNamee is the Weapons Operator for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. SSG McNamee's knowledge of both the Communication and Weapons Operator positions made him an invaluable asset when conducting over 1,000 training scenarios, contributing to the overall success of Bravo Crew. SSG McNamee is a native of Greenville, South Carolina. He enlisted in 2006 as an Avenger Crew Member and went to Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Upon completing BCT, SSG McNamee went to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Bliss, Texas. SSG McNamee was then assigned to Bravo Battery, 2/263rd Air Defense Artillery in Seneca, South Carolina. In 2008, SSG McNamee attended Air Defense Battle Management System Operator Course in Fort Bliss, Texas. He accepted a position with HHB, 49th Missile Defense Battalion in 2015 as a Communications Officer. In 2017, he transitioned from Communications Officer to the Weapons Operator of Bravo Crew. SSG McNamee's military education include the Introduction to Space, Ground-based Midcourse Defense Qualification Course, Air Defense Artillery Advanced Leaders Course, Air and Missile Defense Crew Member Course, Sentinel Radar Operator Course, Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Evaluator/Trainer Course, GMD Systems Trainer Operator Course, Warrior Leader Course, Combat Life Saver Course, Combatives Level 2 Instructor, Counter Rocket, Artillery, and Mortars (C-RAM) Operator Course. He is currently working towards his Baccalaureate Degree in Computer Sciences. SSG McNamee's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and an Arizona National Guard Service Ribbon. He also has an Army Superior Unit Award, a Basic Army Space Badge, and a German Armed Forces Badge (Gold).



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



## **FIRST LIEUTENANT RYAN HAIRSTON**

1LT Hairston is the Sensor Operator for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. His tactical knowledge of the mission and the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Fire Control (GFC) system contributed to Bravo Crew success in passing multiple Operational Readiness Evaluations with the highest scores in the Battalion. 1LT Hairston is a native of Clarksville, Virginia. He enlisted in 2012 as an Officer Candidate and went to Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduating BCT, he was assigned to the 139th Regiment OCS in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. 1LT Hairston commissioned in 2014 through the North Carolina Army National Guard Officer Candidate School (OCS) as an Infantry Officer. In 2016, 1LT Hairston accepted a position as a Sensor Operator in HHB, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In 2019, he transitioned to Higher Headquarters Battery (HHB), 49th Missile Defense Battalion where he is assigned as the Battalion S6 OIC. 1LT Hairston's military education include the Introduction to Space, Ground-based Midcourse Defense Qualification Course, Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Evaluator/Trainer Course, Air Defense Artillery Transition Course, and Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course. He holds a Baccalaureate degree in Sociology from Lenoir Rhyne University. 1LT Hairston's awards and decorations include the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon. He also is awarded the Basic Army Space Badge.



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



**FIRST LIEUTENANT JUSTUS NEUMANN**

1LT Neumann is the Deputy Tactical Director for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. 1LT Neumann was charged with one of the most demanding positions while working on Bravo Crew. His ability to prioritize tasks while managing the crew to ensure success greatly contributed to Bravo Crew earning the honor of Top Crew. 1LT Neumann is a native of Hamden, Connecticut. He enlisted in 2011 as an Officer Candidate and went to Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Upon graduating BCT, he was assigned to the 1/169th (LDR) OCS in Niantic, Connecticut. 1LT Neumann commissioned in 2013 through the Connecticut Army National Officer Candidate School (OCS) as a Military Police Officer. In 2015, 1LT Neumann accepted a position as a Platoon Leader in Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In 2018, he transitioned to Higher Headquarters Battery (HHB), 49th Missile Defense Battalion where he is assigned as the Deputy Tactical Director for Bravo Crew. 1LT Neumann's military education include Introduction to Space, Ground-based Midcourse Defense Qualification Course, Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Evaluator/Trainer Course, Military Police Captains Career Course, Special Reaction Team, Inter-service Nonlethal Individual Weapons Instructor Course, Anti-Terrorism Basic Officer Course, Cold Weather Leaders Course, Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) Instructor Course, and Military Police Basic Officer Leaders Course. He holds a Baccalaureate degree in Political Science from the University of Connecticut. 1LT Neumann's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon. He also is awarded the Basic Army Space Badge and the German Armed Forces Badge (Silver).



Ft. Greely Top Crew Awardee  
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## **CAPTAIN KURTISS CLARK**

CPT Clark is the Senior Tactical Director for Bravo Crew in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. CPT Clark joined Bravo Crew in 2018, bringing with him a wealth of experience that allowed him to quickly foster an environment of tactical and technical expertise amongst his crew. His mentality for developing Soldiers made Bravo Crew the most sought-after crew for training recent Ground-based Midcourse Qualification Course graduates. His exemplary performance, high standards, focus, and dedication to training were essential in Bravo Crew achieving recognition as the Battalion's "Top Crew" for 2018. CPT Clark is a native of Urbana, Illinois. He enlisted in 1985 as a Cannon Crewmember and went to One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Upon graduating OSUT, he was assigned to Bravo Battery, 2/6 Field Artillery in Hanau, Germany. After serving with Howitzer Battery, 3/3 Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Bliss, Texas, CPT Clark transitioned to the Army Reserve where he served as a Paralegal NCO. Following the attacks on 9/11, CPT Clark was mobilized as a Legal Assistance NCO at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 2004, CPT Clark accepted a position with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade as a Paralegal NCO. In 2007, he commissioned through Officer Candidate School at the Alabama Military Academy and went on to serve as a Current Operations Officer with Bravo Crew at the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. He took command of Detachment 1 in Vandenberg Air Force Base before returning to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. He holds a Baccalaureate degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University as well as a Master's degree in Project Management from Columbia Southern University. CPT Clark's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with both Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and Two Loops, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, NCO Professional Development Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. CPT Clark has also been awarded the Basic Army Space Badge.



Ted Stevens Memorial Awardee  
**ALASKA MISSILE  
DEFENDER of the YEAR**



## **SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CAROLINE DOMENECH**

SFC Domenech is the Senior Systems Evaluator for the Battalion Operational Readiness Evaluation team in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely, Alaska. SFC Domenech has proven herself time and time again and her current position allows her to share her wealth of knowledge and insights to all Fire Direction Center missile crews. In April 2019, SFC Domenech was the first Soldier in the entire 100th Missile Defense Brigade to earn the title of Master Gunner, displaying her passion for remaining the best while ensuring the 49th Missile Defense Battalion is ready to defend against any ICBM attacks. SFC Domenech is a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. She enlisted in 2007 as a Human Intelligence Collector and went to Basic Combat Training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After graduation, SFC Domenech was assigned to the 292nd Military Intelligence Company in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 2009, SFC Domenech accepted a position as a Military Police Officer with the MP GBI Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. In 2014, she transitioned to Headquarters Battery (HHB), where she served as a Communications Operator, Weapons Operator, and an alternate Command Launch Equipment (CLE) Operator, maintaining certifications for all three positions. She holds an Associates of Applied Science in Intelligence Operations Studies from Cochise College and is currently working towards a Baccalaureate of Science in History from the University of Phoenix. SFC Domenech's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with two bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal with two Bronze Knots, National Defense Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, NCO's Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Alaska Commendation Medal, Alaska Community Service Medal, Puerto Rico National Guard Commendation Medal, Puerto Rico National Guard English Proficiency Ribbon with Arabic Numeral 2, and the Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation. She also has an Army Senior Space Badge, Army Basic Space Badge, German Army Proficiency Badge for Military Proficiency in Gold, German Marksmanship Badge (Schützenschnur) in Gold (2nd Award), 2017 Alaska Missile Defender of the Year (Top Crew), and the 2016 U.S. Missile Defender of the Year.



## 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 Steven's 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.

# 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

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

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

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 Jonathon Rivera-Calderson

2018

## **Ted Stevens Memorial Awardee**

Lt Col Keith Grimes

## **Clear AFS Top Crew**

TSgt Kit Dawson  
2nd Lt Sebastian Moore  
Capt Sarah Atherton

## **Clear AFS Base Defenders**

SSgt Justin Smythson  
TSgt Robert Ives

## **Ft. Greely Top Crew (Alpha Crew)**

SGT Bethany Hendren  
SSG Josef Carstens  
1LT Benjamin Maye  
CPT Gilberto Ortiz  
MAJ Bernard Smith

## **Ft. Greely Base Defenders**

SPC Jonathan Dasta Cortes  
SGT Bryan Gonzalez Nieves

## **A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU**

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

