
2019

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER
of the YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

October 18, 2019
Alexandria, Virginia



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER *of the* YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

Call to Order

National Anthem

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Dinner

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Conclusion of Ceremony

Post Event Reception

AWARD HISTORY



National Capital Region Air & Missile 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, and the Guam Missile Defender of the Year, established in 2015.

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 Gulf Cooperation Council 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.

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.



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Specialist Alexander Costello NASAMS Team Awardee

SPC Costello serves as Crewmember 2, on Team 6, with the NASAMS platoon, Ground Based Air Defense Battalion in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He is responsible for conducting maintenance checks on site items, keeping track of safety data sheets, and recording launcher and generator information. SPC Costello has been in the Army for five years and has served in multiple assignments to include State Active Duty in support of Hurricanes Irma (2017) and Michael (2018). SPC Costello was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He moved to Florida in 2005 and graduated Park Vista Community High School in May of 2014. SPC Costello enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard in March of 2014 as a 68W, Combat Medic. He attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas and assigned to 3rd Battalion, 265th ADA. NASAMS Team 6 was recognized as the top performing team out of 12 teams in the NASAMS training class during the CTE. The team displays an outstanding application of knowledge on the NASAMS weapon system and overall site operations. SPC Costello's accomplishments as a young Soldier and medic have been exemplary of a future NCO. SPC Costello has displayed great knowledge and proficiency as an instructor during the medical Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) at Exercise American Shield (EAS). SPC Costello ran a CLS certification lane which resulted in a 100% pass rate during EAS. SPC Costello has also briefed several VIPs including Lt. Gen. Sasseville, MG Sheriff, and members of the Royal Canadian Airforce during their visit to Site Alpha. SPC Costello's awards include the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the Florida National Guard 5 Year Service Ribbon, and the Florida State Active Duty Ribbon.



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Sergeant Max Tauber NASAMS Team Awardee

SGT Tauber serves as Crewmember 1, Team 6, with NASAMS platoon, Ground Based Air Defense Battalion in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He is responsible for the security and operation of the NASAMS launcher. SGT Tauber has been in the Army for four years and has served in multiple assignments and deployments to include Operation Noble Eagle (2016- 2017), State Active Duty in support of Hurricanes Irma (2017) and Michael (2018), and the National Training Center (2018). SGT Tauber was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from The French Culinary Institute in 2009 and moved to Florida in 2013 to work as the Banquet Chef for the Ritz Carlton hotel in Naples, Florida. SGT Tauber enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard as a 14S (Avenger Crewmember) in August of 2015. He attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and graduated with honors from Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in February of 2016. He also graduated on the commandants list from Basic Leadership Course, at the Regional Training Institute, Camp Blanding, Florida in April of 2019. NASAMS Team 6 was recognized as the top performing team out of 12 teams in the NASAMS training class during the Culminating Training Event (CTE). The team displays an outstanding application of knowledge on the NASAMS weapon system and overall site operations. SGT Tauber was individually recognized as the overall top performing student of the NASAMS training class during the CTE at FT. Bliss, Texas. SGT Tauber was selected to brief as a NASAMS Team NCOIC for the Rehearsal of Concept drill during Exercise American Shield (EAS) and CTE, which resulted in a flawless performance. SGT Tauber has also briefed several VIPs including Lt. Gen. Sasseville, MG Sheriff, and members of the Royal Canadian Airforce during their visit to Site Alpha. SGT Tauber's awards include the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Florida National Guard Active Service Ribbon, and the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon.



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR

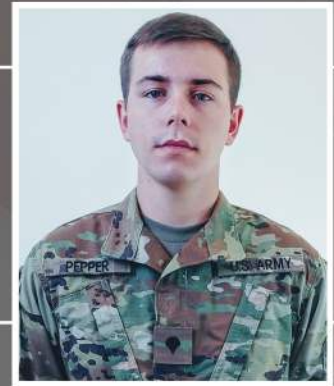


Sergeant Denise Villalobos NASAMS Team Awardee

SGT Villalobos played a vital role as the NCOIC of Team 6 in the NASAMS Platoon, Ground Base Air Defense Battalion. SGT Villalobos is a graduate of the Automated Logistics Specialist Course, Ft. Lee, Virginia (2008); the Avenger Crew Member Course, Camp Blanding, Florida (2011); the Human Intelligence Collector Course, Ft. Huachuca, Arizona (2019), and the Basic Leadership Course, Camp Blanding, Florida (2017). She is also working on her Bachelor's Degree in Intelligence Studies at American Military University. SGT Villalobos's first assignment was as the Automated Logistics Specialist, 111th Medical Multifunctional Battalion, San Antonio, Texas in August 2008. In September 2008 she was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2010, SGT Villalobos transferred to the Florida Army National Guard, 265th Air Defense Artillery, where she served as an Avenger Crew Member and Team Leader for five years. In March 2015, SGT Villalobos was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel, where she served as the Admin NCO. In April 2019, SGT Villalobos volunteered to serve at the National Capitol Region in support of Operation Noble Eagle with the 265th Air Defense Artillery. NASAMS Team 6 was recognized as the top performing team out of 12 teams in the NASAMS training class during the Culminating Training Event (CTE). The team displays an outstanding application of knowledge on the NASAMS weapon system and overall site operations. SGT Villalobos has played a vital role as the NCOIC of Team 6, demanding nothing less than above standard performance and results from the team. SGT Villalobos has been recognized for her confidence and knowledge in briefings to several VIPs to include Lt. Gen. Sasseville, MG Sheriff, and members of the Royal Canadian Airforce during their visit to Site Alpha. SGT Villalobos's military awards and decorations include the Army Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Achievement Award with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2 OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star Device, Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Star Devices, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and Bronze Hour Glass, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Medal, NATO Medal, and the Florida National Guard Medal.



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Specialist Bertrand Pepper Avenger Team Awardee

SPC Pepper is the Gunner of Team 5 in the Avenger Platoon, Ground Base Air Defense Battalion. SPC Pepper is primarily responsible for the operation of the lightweight and highly mobile Avenger Weapon System. SPC Pepper prepares, operates, and fires the Avenger Weapon System. He also performs Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) degraded operations as required while assigned to the Avenger Weapon System. Further, SPC Pepper is tasked with and establishes and maintains radio and wire communications. SPC Pepper enlisted as a 14S (Avenger Crewmember) in the Florida Army National Guard in October 2017. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. SPC Pepper is currently assigned to A Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th ADA as an Avenger Gunner in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the National Capitol Region. During the Exercise America Shield (EAS) and the Battalion's Culminating Training Event (CTE), Team 5's troubleshooting abilities were instrumental in keeping site equipment running properly and quickly maintain by support personnel. Team 5 was one of the few Avenger teams to receive first time GO's on all evaluations and also successfully shot down their aircraft during the missile live fire exercise. SPC Pepper displays all the right characteristics that his leadership asks for in a junior enlisted soldier. Disciplined, motivated, and eager to learn, SPC Pepper joined the Platoon late and with zero operational experience on the weapon system or as a member of a team. SPC Pepper dedicated himself to becoming a technical expert immediately and is now one of the top gunners in the platoon. During CTE, SPC Pepper was applauded by evaluators multiple times for his outstanding Avenger brief and the level of technical knowledge he possesses. SPC Pepper was selected to brief Lt. Gen. Sasseville and received a coin for his exceptional Avenger brief. Due to his outstanding performance, SPC Pepper was selected by Platoon and Battery leadership to be promoted early from PFC to SPC. SPC Pepper displays a higher level of motivation and learns from the NCO's mentoring him. SPC Pepper's awards include National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Florida State Active Duty Ribbon.



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Sergeant Kenny Harris Avenger Team Awardee

SGT Harris is the Team Chief of Team 5 of the Avenger Platoon, Ground Base Air Defense Battalion in support of Operation Noble Eagle. SGT Harris is primarily responsible for the operation of the lightweight and highly mobile Avenger Weapons System. He prepares, operates, and fires the Avenger Weapon System and performs Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) degraded operations as required while assigned to the Avenger System. SGT Harris also establishes and maintains radio and wire communications. SGT Harris enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard as a 14S (Avenger Crewmember) in August 2012. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th ADA as an Avenger Gunner. In August 2018 he was promoted to Sergeant and reassigned to A Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th ADA as an Avenger Team Chief. SGT Harris was deployed in 2015 to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in the Parwan Province for C-RAM operations. During the Exercise America Shield (EAS) and the Battalion's Culminating Training Event (CTE), Team 5's troubleshooting abilities were instrumental in keeping site equipment running properly and quickly maintain by support personnel. Team 5 was one of the few Avenger teams to receive first time GO's on all evaluations and also successfully shot down their aircraft during the missile live fire exercise. SGT Harris is an exceptional sergeant who is developing into a solid leader and technical master in his field. Serving as team chief, he quickly mastered his position and has been recognized numerous times for his team leadership and technical knowledge. During EAS and CTE, SGT Harris received several accolades from evaluators for his in-depth knowledge of his position as team chief, and on the Avenger weapon system. He has made great strides in his leadership development by taking an active role as trainer and mentor of his young gunner. SGT Harris' awards include Army Achievement Medal, Army good conduct medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, and Florida State Active Duty Ribbon (2nd award).



U.S. MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant James Bristol Avenger Team Awardee

SSG Bristol is the NCOIC of Team 5 in the Avenger Platoon, Ground Base Air Defense Battalion. SSG Bristol is primarily responsible for supervising Team 5. He also operates and serves as a member of a lightweight, highly mobile, Avenger Weapons System. SSG Bristol also prepares, operates, and fires the Avenger Weapon System. Further, SSG Bristol performs Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) degraded operations as required while assigned to the Avenger System. SSG Bristol is also responsible for the management of site operations, safety, and accountability of his team's actions and training. SSG Bristol enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard in May 2001 as a 14S (Avenger Crewmember). He attended Basic Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He was initially assigned to the 265th ADA as a 14M MANPAD Gunner. In Feb 2003, he was promoted to SGT and assigned to the 265th ADA as an Avenger Gunner. SSG Bristol has deployed to the National Capitol Region three times to include the current mission and in 2015 to Camp Dahlke, Afghanistan in the Logar Province for C-RAM operations. During the Exercise America Shield (EAS) and the Battalion's Culminating Training Event (CTE), Team 5's troubleshooting abilities were instrumental in keeping site equipment running properly and quickly maintain by support personnel. Team 5 was one of the few Avenger teams to receive first time GO's on all evaluations and also successfully shot down their aircraft during the missile live fire exercise. Although a newly pinned Staff Sergeant, SSG Bristol displays poise, discipline and the leadership abilities of the next rank. During premobilization, he took it upon himself to coordinate all of Avenger platoon's logistics in preparation for EAS and CTE. He developed the platoon's load plan and coordinated the movement of all equipment that was vital to the platoon's success during evaluations. SSG Bristol's leadership, initiative, and technical expertise is what contributed to his team being fully trained and prepared for mobilization. SSG Bristol's awards include Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4th award), Army good conduct medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (4th Award), Humanitarian service medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Florida State Active Duty Ribbon (5th Award), the Florida Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Florida Meritorious Service Ribbon, and the Florida Service Ribbon (3rd Award).



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AIR & MISSILE DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Sergeant Stuart King Air Force Awardee

MSgt King is a Command & Control Battle Management Operator assigned to the New York Air National Guard, 224th Air Defense Group, Detachment 1, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. MSgt King is Det-1's NCOIC of Operations Training responsible for directing Integrated Air Defense certifications for Air Force personnel supporting Operation Noble Eagle. As the Tactical Data Coordinator and Enhanced Regional Situational Awareness Operator subject matter expert, MSgt King manages datalinks and operates the Visual Warning System during elevated events to alert, deter, and redirect non-compliant aircraft as an extension of the Eastern Air Defense Sector. MSgt King was born in Hampton, South Carolina. He graduated from Estill High School where he was distinguished as Student of the Year. Post-graduation, he enlisted Active Duty Air Force where his leadership and outstanding performance as a C2 Battle Management Operator led to a plethora of accolades. MSgt King was a vital C2 NCO during operations to include Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Inherent Resolve. After 10.8 meritorious years of Active Duty service, he completed a Palace Front into the New York Air National Guard in 2015 serving full-time Active Guard Reserve. MSgt King has earned his Space Technology Associates and graduated Summa Cum Laude for his Bachelor's in Accounting. As the NCOIC of Operations Training, MSgt King created a 35-hour link management recertification program, increasing the core competencies of ten Track Data Coordinators (TDC) and resolving a critical training deficiency. MSgt King also oversaw the incorporation of distributed mission operations (DMO) events into the JADOC certification and continuation training programs, improving the ability of joint crews to prepare for current and emerging threats. Additionally, he was hand-selected to support Eastern Air Defense Sector's Initial Qualification Training, familiarizing eleven mission partners with the JADOC's ground-based air defense TTPs. Furthermore, he coordinated with Air Forces Northern for the procurement and installation of a DMO Joint Range Extension simulator and scenario generator while co-authored the first-ever virtual NCR-IADS ground-based air defense prosecution scenarios. As a flight superintendent, OPSEC Program Manager and dual-certified operator, MSgt King provided 120 hours of TDC and Enhanced Regional Situational Awareness Operator augmentation and prosecuted 18 real world tracks of interest. During his support of the 1-265 Air Defense Artillery Battalion Culminating Training Exercise, he was coined by MG Sheriff as the event's top command and control advisor.



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Joint Air Defense Operations Center (JADOC)



www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org