
2020

NORAD & USNORTHCOM
Missile Warning and
Defender of the Year
Award Ceremony

November 20, 2020

Virtual



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
NORAD & USNORTHCOM
MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR
AWARD CEREMONY

Call to Order

National Anthem

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks by Mr. Riki Ellison

AWARD HISTORY



NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender of the Year

On May 12, 1958 NORAD was established for the defense of Canada and the United States. The inaugural NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender of the Year award ceremony took place on May 3, 2013. The event recognizes and honors members of the U.S. and Canadian military and civilians who reflect the utmost commitment to excellence in their mission to defend the North American continent. They are a true inspiration to their subordinates, peers, and superiors. They have demonstrated leadership that goes above and beyond for the good of their countries.

The purpose of the NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning & Defender of the Year event is to recognize exceptional individuals in missile warning and missile defense in their role as defenders of the homeland and citizens of Canada and the United States. Furthermore, we recognize those leaders to help educate both the Canadian and American public on their vital role in the preservation of peace.

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.

100th Missile Defense Brigade





MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant Nadia Carter 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

SSG Carter is originally from Alexandria, Virginia. She joined the Army National Guard in 2010 as a Military Police Soldier in Washington D.C. In 2012 she applied for a broadening opportunity with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, where she then patrolled and guarded the Missile Defense Complex for two years. In 2014, SSG Carter relocated to Vandenberg Air Force Base where she was assigned as a Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer and Command Launch Equipment Operator with Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense Brigade. She worked in the Vandenberg Operations Support Center where she monitored site maintenance and maintained the Ground Safety Device. After four years, SSG Carter transferred to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was assigned to the Brigade as the Current Operations Non-Commissioned Officer. There, SSG Carter supported the Operations Officers, and the crews that worked on Schriever Air Force Base. She has been with Delta crew since.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Sergeant First Class Sean Clark 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

SFC Clark joined the Florida Army National Guard at age 17 on March 24, 2002, as part of the A-Battery 2/265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion. He served as an Avenger Crewmember until 2006, when he transitioned to the Military Police branch. SFC Clark served two tours in Afghanistan (2004-2005 and 2008-2009). In November 2009, he transferred to the Alaska Army National Guard as part of 2nd Platoon, A-Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, where he patrolled and secured the Missile Defense Complex. In 2011, SFC Clark transitioned from the Military Police Company to serve on a missile defense crew. In March 2014, SFC Clark transferred to the Colorado Army National Guard and served with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and served on a crew until 2016 when he moved to the Brigade S-3 Operations to certify crews and test software. In 2018, he became the Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)/ Training NCO until he was promoted to sergeant first class and returned to Delta Crew as a Future Operations Officer. In February 2020, SFC Clark transferred to 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment to serve in a broadening assignment as the retention NCO.

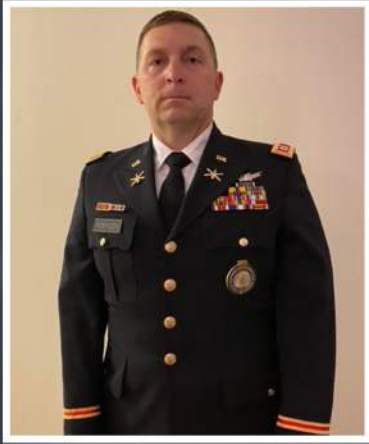


MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



First Lieutenant Chris Giron 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

1LT Giron enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve as a unit supply specialist in June 2013. His first duty assignment was with the 352nd Military Police Company in Rockville, Maryland. On May 17, 2018, he commissioned through the Regular Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. In October 2018, 1LT Giron completed Air Defense Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course and transferred to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade in November 2018. LT Giron is currently serving as the Current Operations Officer for the Missile Defense Element Delta “Destroyers” Crew at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado since March 2019. 1LT Giron’s military education includes the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Qualification Course, Air Defense Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course, Officer Candidate School, U.S. Army Quartermaster School, and Army Basic Training. 1LT Giron graduated from High Point High School (Beltsville, Maryland) in 2010 and holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Health Science from the University of Maryland College Park.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Captain Skye Robinson 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

CPT Robinson enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1995 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Operator with the 244th Engineers in Boulder, Colorado. In August 2011, CPT Robinson earned his commission as a second lieutenant. During his 24 years of military service, CPT Robinson has served as a Multiple Launch Rocket System/Cannon crewmember with 1st Battalion, 157th Field Artillery in Longmont, Colorado; Recruiting and Retention Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Greeley, Colorado; Retention NCO, 89th Troop Command, Denver, Colorado; Public Affairs Officer, Colorado National Guard Joint Staff, Centennial, Colorado; and Current Operations Officer, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colorado. CPT Robinson has been a member of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade since October 2015. He has served as a Current Operations Officer on Delta crew for three and a half years before certifying as a Deputy Director on Delta Crew. CPT Robinson is currently serving on the Missile Defense Operations Teams as the Standards and Evaluations Officer in Charge. His military education includes the Captains Career Course, Basic Space Operators Course, Air Defense Transition Course, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Qualification Course, Public Affairs Qualification Course, Adjutant General Basic Officer Leadership Course, Officer Candidate School, Recruiting and Retention Advanced Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Recruiting and Retention NCO Course, and the Primary Leadership Development Course. CPT Robinson holds a bachelor's in business management from American Defense University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Space Studies with a concentration in Aerospace Science with expected completion in February 2021.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Tim Biart 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

LTC Biart is originally from Casper, Wyoming and moved to Sarasota, Florida as a child. He graduated in 1999 from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Education and earned his commission as a Space and Missiles Operations officer in the United States Air Force. LTC Biart served as a Minuteman III Missile Combat Crew Member in the 740th Missile Squadron, 91st Space Wing, in Minot, North Dakota until 2004. From 2004 to 2007 he served as a Minuteman III Initial Qualification Course instructor and evaluator in the 392nd Training Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. In 2007, LTC Biart separated from the Air Force and worked in pharmaceutical management until he joined the United States Army in 2010 as an Air Defense Artillery (ADA) officer. He served as a Battle Captain and the Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 35th ADA Brigade and the Deputy Chief of Air and Missile Defense (AMD) in the Protection Directorate in 8th Army in Korea from 2010 to 2013. In 2014, he deployed as the Theater Army AMD Cell Officer in Charge for the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) in Central Command. From 2015 to 2017, LTC Biart served as the Battalion Executive Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 4th ADA Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2017, he joined the 100th Missile Defense Brigade serving as both a Deputy Director and Director of Missile Defense Element Ground-Based Missile D Crews and is currently the Brigade Operations Officer in Charge. LTC Biart was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom; Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in 2014-15 for Operation Enduring Freedom; and an undisclosed location in Jordan in 2016-17 for Operation Inherent Resolve. LTC Biart's military education includes Undergraduate Space and Missile Training, Minuteman III Initial Qualification Training, AF Squadron Officer School, ADA Captains Career Course, Command and General Staff Officer College, and the GMD Qualification Course. LTC Biart earned his MBA, concentrating in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation in 2005 from Touro University. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (4), Air Force Commendation Medal (2), Air Force Achievement Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals, Korean Service Medal, and the Combat Readiness Medal. Additionally, he earned the Senior Space and Senior Missile Operations Badges. LTC Biart currently lives in Colorado Springs with his wife Hyo Jeong. He has two children. His daughter Dala is currently attending Missouri State University and his son Dane is attending Waynesville High School.

Space Delta 4





MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Sergeant Tariq Simpson Space Delta 4 Awardee

MSgt Simpson is the Site Chief for COBRA DANE Operations, 13th Space Warning Squadron (SWS), Joint-Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. He is the site lead for COBRA DANE missile defense radar support. MSgt Simpson supervises one Amn towards improving quality of life, logistics, and security on a remote island location. He authorizes radar site access by verifying security clearance, need-to-know and purpose of personnel. MSgt Simpson holds many site program duties to include: COMSEC Responsible Officer, Security Manager, Cybersecurity Liaison, Vehicle Control Officer, and Information Technology Equipment Custodian. He has processed over 94 mission critical cargo shipments for Cobra Dane, worth \$7.5 million, secured 8 cryptographic keys for vital missile defense secure mission data, and verified clearances of over 400 personnel accessing a Protection Level 1 national asset. MSgt Simpson leads the sole Information Technology (IT) network sponsoring office by creating and maintaining user accounts for 28 maintenance and operations personnel. He directs upgrade projects by bridging communications with program office, 21st Space Wing, and Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center for critical support at Eareckson Air Station, Alaska. MSgt Simpson is a supreme radar system support logistician and vital to the demanding Missile Defense mission in Alaska. MSgt Simpson's boundless dedication led to enabling a 30-year service life extension program valued at \$350 million, securing coverage for the United States missile defense front line. His eagerness and tireless commitment inspire all those around him to continuously improve the mission, the weapon system, and themselves. MSgt Simpson enlisted from Macon, Georgia in January 2004 and completed the Ground Radio Communications Apprentice course in September 2004. He has 16 years of active service with experience that includes diverse duties within the Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems (RAWS) career field on both deployable & fixed air traffic control radio communications, radar, and navigational aid systems. Prior to his current position, he was assigned as Quality Assurance (QA) Evaluator 57 Operations Support Squadron (OSS), Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Nevada. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



First Lieutenant Eryn Daman Space Delta 4 Awardee

1st Lt Daman is a Mission Commander with the 2d Space Warning Squadron (2 SWS), Space Delta 4, Buckley Garrison, in Aurora, Colorado. As Mission Commander, she operates and presides over 14 enlisted and officer personnel as part of America's Premier Missile Warning entity, providing 1st alert and early warning indications to over 345,000 military, civilian, and allied forces across the globe. Lt Daman played a pivotal alert role in the Iranian Strike against two U.S. bases in Iraq on January 7th, 2020. As leader of a 15-person team, she worked with four missile warning agencies and created five critical mission plans for eight enemy threat platforms in anticipation of a catastrophic attack on U.S. and Allied forces. Lt Daman's accuracy, attention to detail, and leadership during the crisis allowed her crew to provide first indications to 5,000 coalition members in U.S. Central Command, leading to zero casualties. Her heroic efforts not only earned the crew a Group level award, but also personal kudos and thanks from the U.S. Central Command Combined Forces Air Component Commander, Chief of Space Operations, Secretary of the Air Force, and even the President of the United States. Additionally, Lt Daman volunteered to lead a 9-member, 30-day sequester operation to ensure vital missile defense support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She was able to operate 300 error-free survivable mission hours and identify and report 23 infrared events. This tremendous execution fulfilled both the Wing Commander's and Secretary of Defense's top missile warning priority. Lt Daman was born and raised in Dewitt, Michigan where she excelled as an athlete and scholar throughout her life. She earned her commission from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 2018 where she majored in Physics. Concurrent with military training, she was also a 4-year letterwoman on the varsity soccer team at VMI. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Exercise Science from Liberty University. Lt Daman has accumulated over 2,000 operational hours on the Space Based Infrared System as part of the Overhead Persistent Infrared Community. She is a certified line tactician and has also earned an Air Force Achievement Medal for her work with the Wing Command Action Group during the COVID-19 global pandemic.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



First Lieutenant Megan McCoy Space Delta 4 Awardee

1st Lt McCoy is the Officer in Charge of Future Mission Integration for the 7th Space Warning Squadron (SWS) at Beale Air Force Base, California. In this role, Lt McCoy is instrumental in transforming missile defense for our nation and our allies. Specifically, Lt McCoy managed the \$2.4 billion Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) integration project for United States Space Force (USSF) at 7 SWS. She is the lynch-pin to pushing a sea of change in missile defense capability and Command and Control. Her charge has been to ensure the dynamic threat tracking capability of LRDR is integrated smoothly into the pre-existent 7 SWS organization and facility. To this end, Lt McCoy single-handedly developed a Plan of Action and Milestone tracking system to ensure all integration timelines were met. Working with seven outside agencies she prioritized the unit's Missile Warning, Mission Defense, and Space Domain Awareness missions and de-conflicted them with the contractor logistical and support needs. Simultaneously she worked with Missile Defense Agency Support Specialists and determined the Mission Warning Operations Center support footprint. In addition, she lead the integration of the temporary Mission Warning Operations Center ensured no loss to mission operations. Her direct actions led to project sustainment for the multiweapons system integration and innovation that equipped United States Northern Command and the USSF for this future asset. Working with senior leaders from Space Delta 2 and 4, Lt McCoy was able to define the roles and responsibilities for Buckley Garrison, Clear Air Force Station, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Beale Air Force Base regarding the LRDR mission platform. Additionally, Lt McCoy was hand-selected as the first Active Duty Space Force member to attend the Sensor Manager Qualification Course for the LRDR system. First Lieutenant McCoy received her commission in 2017 from the University of Wisconsin – Madison ROTC program. She has held positions as a UEWR Crew Commander and Officer in Charge of Future Mission Integration within the Mission Assurance shop at the Squadron level. 1st Lt McCoy's awards and decorations include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, and AF Training Ribbon.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Captain Taylor Pubins Space Delta 4 Awardee

Capt Pubins is currently assigned to the Commander's Action Group (CAG), Space Delta 4, Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado. Capt Pubins exhibited unparalleled expertise and leadership as the Deputy Chief, Overhead Persistent Infrared Mission Management Planning for the 460th Operational Support Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado. In his role, he directed a six member team and steered forty-eight payload operators in support of global infrared collection objectives. His tireless pursuit of innovation enabled him to develop a planning application suite that automates fifty-one mission critical tasks, slashing eighty-six man-hours per year. Additionally, Captain Pubins' tactical proficiencies and mastery of the Systems Tool Kit facilitated essential upgrades to the unit's mission planning tool, resulting in a thirty percent increase of infrared data through enhanced utilization of the Space-Based Infrared System sensors. Furthermore, he led a twelve member satellite anomaly team on three separate occasions where he developed fix actions and recovered failed satellite subsystems, assuring strategic missile warning well beyond the design life of the satellite. Captain Pubins' dedication to excellence and professionalism permitted the world's preeminent missile warning organization to exploit over four thousand surveillance tasks and thirty thousand infrared events, skillfully integrating the surveillance objectives for Combined Force Space Component Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and strategic Allies. Capt Pubins enlisted from Phoenix, Arizona in May 2010 and completed Defense Information School in October 2010. His first assignment was as a Combat Broadcast Journalist at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. In 2011, he was awarded a spot at the Air Force Academy's Preparatory School and began studies as a United States Air Force Academy Cadet in June 2012. Cadet Pubins graduated with Dean's List Academic Honors and upon departure, was awarded a B.S. in Business Management Sciences. His first assignment as a Commissioned Officer was at Buckley AFB where he served the 2d Space Warning Squadron as a Mission Management Operator, the 460th Operational Support Squadron as the Deputy Chief of Mission Management and Plans, and currently as the CAG for the newly established Space Delta 4 under the United States Space Force. He has six years of active service with four years of Academy time.

North American Aerospace Defense Command & U.S. Northern Command





MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Corporal Justin Dumoulin NORAD Enlisted Missile & Space Professional Awardee

MCpl Dumoulin is the Missile and Space Domain Non-Commissioned Officer at North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. While on shift, MCpl Dumoulin characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. He has processed more than 180 missile events, providing flawless missile threat data to National leaders and mission partners. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8 billion strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. MCpl enlisted as an Aerospace Control Operator where he completed assignments as a surveillance operator in North Bay, Ontario and an instructor in Cornwall Ontario. He then cross-trained into missile and space operations where he was employed as a crew chief conducting missile warning and battlespace awareness operations/systems in Clear, Alaska prior to assuming his current duties in Colorado Springs. He is married to Alexandra Dumoulin and has two children, a daughter, Abygail (5) and son, Wesley (3).



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Commander John Gustine NORAD Officer Missile & Space Professional Awardee

CDR Gustine served as the Missile and Space Domain Chief Instructor; Missile and Space Domain Chief; Missile and Space Domain Deputy and Crew Training Officer for multiple crews assigned to the NORAD and U. S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) Current Operations Center, HQ NORAD, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. As a Missile and Space Domain Deputy, he assessed over 198 missile events, prosecuted 60 periods of interest, and conducted 300+ exercises with multiple space agencies. He participated in multiple National Event Conferences, National Threat Conferences, Missile Threat Conferences, Senior Leader Conferences, and Nuclear Decision Conferences representing the NORAD & USNORTHCOM Current-Operations Center (N2C2) Command leadership. As Missile and Space Domain Chief, CDR Gustine led a domain that characterizes missile events and relays to national authorities Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments and is a key component of the USNORTHCOM Mobile Consolidated Command Center mission. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8 billion strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. CDR Gustine graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point New York, and commissioned in June of 2004 to begin Naval Flight Officer training in Pensacola, Florida. He graduated VT-4/VT-86 flight training and earned his NFO "Wings of Gold" in April 2006 and selected to fly the EA-6B Prowler. After completing training at Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ)-129 at NAS Whidbey Island in 2007, CDR Gustine deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan in 2007, 2008 and 2009 in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, supporting over 200 combat missions over Afghanistan, totaling 794.2 flight hours in support of CJSOTF operations. From August 2014 to June 2015, CDR Gustine deployed with the VAQ-139 "Cougars" aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in support of OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE, supporting over twenty combat missions over Iraq and Syria, totaling 141.9 combat flight hours. CDR Gustine has accumulated over 2,800 flight hours in 8 naval aircraft with over 350 arrested landings on 5 aircraft carriers including more than 230 combat missions. His awards include an Individual Air Medal (1), the Strike/Flight Air Medal (11), Navy Commendation Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal (2), and various service awards and ribbons.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Jeffrey DeMuth NORAD Civilian Missile & Space Professional Awardee

Mr. DeMuth is the Deputy Branch Chief for the Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment (ITW/AA) Functional Management Office, Domain Awareness Division at the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. He is responsible for providing Configuration Management, Change Control, Policy and Subject Matter Expertise to the NORAD Missile and Space Domain (MSD) operations as well as to hundreds of other global Missile Warning users, National leaders, and decision-makers including the U.S. President, Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, and other National-level agencies, as well as the Canadian Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense. While serving in his dual-hat role as MSD Deputy within the NORAD and U. S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) Current-Operations Center (N2C2), Mr. DeMuth characterizes missile events and missile attack assessments in support of the NORAD Commander. Additionally, he monitors system integrity of NORAD and USNORTHCOM's \$1.8-billion system of strategic and theater missile warning capabilities, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to bi-national civilian and military senior leaders. Prior to serving in his current role, Mr. DeMuth served in the U.S. Air Force for over 23 years. He was commissioned into the Air Force in 1992 as a graduate from Seattle University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. Additionally, Mr. DeMuth earned a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from the University of Phoenix. Throughout his Air Force career, Mr. DeMuth served in a variety of roles including as Satellite Operations and Orbit Analyst, Missile Combat Crew Flight Commander, Air Force ROTC Assistant Professor, Wing Executive Officer, U.S. Strategic Command Counter-Intelligence Support Program Manager, ITW/AA Test Director, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center Missile Operator and Missile Defense Operator, N2C2 MSD Chief, Senior MSD Evaluator, and Chief, Standardization and Evaluations Branch. In Mr. DeMuth's final active-duty assignment, he served as Chief for Honor Education and as Deputy and acting Vice Commandant for Climate and Culture at the United States Air Force Academy, where he helped develop over 4000 future Air Force officers.

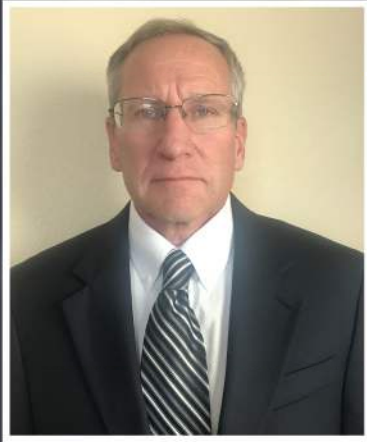


MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Scott Manson U.S. Northern Command Military Awardee

LTC Manson is the Future Plans Deputy Branch Chief at the U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado. Over the past year, LTC Manson executed over 432 hours on watch as Missile Defense Officer; monitoring 73 Global ballistic missile defense (BMD) assets, supervising 50+ Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) personnel, informing five Weapons Release Authorities, multiple combatant commanders, and the Secretary of Defense. He also authored Commander USNORTHCOM's Congressional testimony, encompassing 21+ BMD capabilities, rewrote 100th Missile Defense Annex S operating procedures, and briefed four Congressional delegates. LTC Manson also lead planning/ coordination efforts on multiple BMD topics with Indo-Pacific Command, Strategic Command, Missile Defense Agency, and Joint Forces Component Command, to ensure the GMD Fire Control System, 50+ personnel, and 73 associated global assets remains fully mission capable. In addition, he was responsible for numerous BMD assessments and studies, to include improved shot doctrine, EMP/Nuclear buffer zone, redefining Protection Capability, and Readiness Conditions. LTC Manson was born in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona and commissioned via ROTC as an Air Defense Artillery (ADA) (PATRIOT) officer from Ohio University (2003). He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Leadership Development from the University of Texas at El Paso (2008). LTC Manson's previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Tactical Director, 1-1, ADA BN (Fort Bliss, Texas); ADAM Cell OIC (Uijeangbu, Korea); ADA Fire Control Officer (Al Udeid AB, Qatar); Assistant S-3 / Tactical Director, 100th GMD (Colorado Springs, Colorado); Senior Air Missile Defense Officer, I CORPS (Joint Base Lewis-McChord), Battalion Executive Officer, HHB I Corps; Deputy Director Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center, Al Dhafra AB (United Arab Emirates); and Missile Defense Officer, USNORTHCOM (Peterson AFB). LTC Manson's operational assignments include Operation Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, and Freedoms Sentinel. LTC Manson has attended the both ADA Officer Basic and Advanced Course, Patriot Top Gun, Joint Fire Power Course, Operational Electronic Warfare Course, AN/TPY-2 Operators Course, GMD Course, Missile Defense Operators Course, and Command and General Staff College. LTC Manson's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), and Joint Meritorious Unit Award. LTC Manson is married to the former Casey Maher of Madison, Ohio. They have two children; Wesley and Dylan.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Ross Parker U.S. Northern Command Civilian Awardee

Mr. Parker is the exercise specialist for the Ballistic Missile Defense Division at United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). Mr. Parker performed duties as USNORTHCOM lead ballistic missile defense (BMD) planner for exercises' Global Thunder, Vigilant Shield and Positive Response. He planned, coordinated support, and executed BMD training objectives to include significant loss of key Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) asset, crisis planning scenario events, and employment of the GMD system involving USNORTHCOM senior leaders. Mr. Parker lead discussions and scenario development during all planning conferences. He worked extensively with MDA/DTWX on BMD simulation development and support and coordinated with U.S. Strategic Command planners for PDSM simulation support for the N2C2 personnel and leadership. Mr. Parker represented USNORTHCOM as the BMD lead planner for Joint Staff Globally Integrated Exercise (GIE) Joint Exercise Life Cycle (JELC) events. He coordinated with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and Joint Staff planners for GIE 20-2. Additionally, Mr. Parker corresponded with MDA, Pacific Fleet, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade to coordinate and implement exercise Resilient Shield 20 training objectives, player support and execution. He planned and scheduled MDO support for monthly COMPACFLT IAMD/BMD exercises. Mr. Parker coordinated with N-NC/J7, MDA, NORAD/J3 and Steller Solutions Inc. on the concept, development and planning of USNORTHCOM Commander's Vista Intercept Senior Leader Seminar on BMD and CMD of the Homeland. Further, Mr. Parker worked on the development of objectives, SLS construct and invitations for GO/FO and Senior Leader participation and performed as Missile Defense Officer during BMDS Wargame examining future GMD capabilities and developments. Mr. Parker served 22 years in Army as an officer Air Defender and his duty assignments include; 2nd Battalion 43rd Regiment ADA Hanau Germany, Headquarters 5th Army 75th Infantry Division Exercise Houston, Texas, USARCENT Camp Arifjan Kuwait, Space and Missile Defense Command & Army Strategic Forces Command Peterson AFB, Colorado and USNORTHCOM Peterson AFB, Colorado. Mr. Parker's operational deployments include Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1991) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2006-2007). Mr. Parker retired from the Army in March 2010 and became a contractor with L3 Communications supporting the Training and Exercise Division at Space and Missile Defense Command & Army Strategic Forces Command. In October 2010, Mr. Parker became an Air Force civilian employee with the BMD Division at USNORTHCOM. While at USNORTHCOM, Mr. Parker was instrumental in planning BMD scenarios in nine Tier-1 exercises resulting in policy and procedural changes. He planned, coordinated and supported a THAAD unit deployment and a 4-Star Senior Leader Seminar laying the groundwork for command, control and roles and responsibilities of BMD layered defense of the Homeland. Mr. Parker is married to Mrs. Karin Parker of Watauga, South Dakota and they have 3 sons Jonathan, Matthew and Nathan. Mr. Parker's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and Valorous Unit Award.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Colonel Chris Matthews U.S. Northern Command Lifetime Achievement Awardee

COL Matthews was commissioned via ROTC as an Air Defense Artillery (ADA) (PATRIOT) officer from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1996). He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Webster University (2007), and a Masters Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College (2018). Prior to his commission, he served as a Patriot Missile Crewmember (16T) in Dexheim, Germany and Fort Lewis, Washington from 1990-1992. He has contributed to the success of Air and Missile Defense for 30 years. COL Matthews' 30 years of service as an Army Air Defenders includes duty assignments with 4-7 ADA Battalion, 31st ADA Brigade, Extended Air Defense Task Force (EADTF), 69th ADA Brigade, HQDA G-1 Army Staff, 6th ADA Brigade, 2-1 HBCT, Supreme Allied Command Transformation-Staff Element Europe, 30th ADA Brigade, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). During this service, COL Matthews has contributed to the successful defense of Turkey, Kuwait, and Israel during various deployments. He advised the Central Command Area Air Defense Commander on the Patriot and Aegis missile defense of Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Jordan. COL Matthews has also advised 9th Iraqi Division Logistics, Transportation, and Maintenance officers; oversaw training of Iraqi soldiers on integrated fires, range operations, and medical procedures. Additionally, COL Matthews planned and managed the transition of the Air Defense Artillery school from Fort Bliss, Texas to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He has prepared the USNORTHCOM Commander and Director of Operations for engagements with the President and Congressional members; oversaw USNORTHCOM operational needs development for Next Generation Interceptor and layered homeland defense; and conducted multiple engagements with defense industry to advocate for missile defense and be an ambassador for USNORTHCOM's defense of the homeland strategy. COL Matthews is currently assigned to USNORTHCOM as the Chief, Ballistic Missile Defense Division and is a lifetime member of the Air Defense Artillery Association. COL Matthews was born in Clinton, North Carolina. His operational assignments include Operations Desert Storm (1991); Southern Watch (1998); Iraqi Freedom I (2003); New Dawn (2010-2011); and Freedoms Sentinel (2016-2017). COL Matthews' awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. COL Matthews is married to the former Chandris (Shawn) Harrison of Atlanta, Georgia. They have three children and one grandchild: Joshualin, Savon, Malik and Kai respectively.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the North American Aerospace Command, the United States Northern Command, the Space Delta 4 Command, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

