



© Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance 2024

Letter from the Founder



Riki Ellison,
MDAA Chairman and Founder

The Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance was formed in 2002 -- to advocate proactively for defending the United States of America from ballistic and cruise missile threats. MDAA was formed in synergy with the withdrawal of the ABM treaty, the formation of NORTHCOM and MDA. Over the past two decades, the organization's advocacy and actions with our government and allies have positioned MDAA at the forefront of operations to shape, resource, develop, and improve the capacity and capability of missile defense to make our nation and the world safer.

Throughout this journey, which began in 1980 with my personal engagement with the Strategic Defense Initiative, we've established a winning team of thousands of leaders across all domains, and nations, developing close partnerships with the top missile defense stakeholders within congress, our armed forces, academia, industry, and our allies. It is the team; it is the people; it is the trust connecting the vast network of thousands of relationships built over these past four decades which enable MDAA's unrivaled influence and access throughout the missile defense enterprise. That is the MDAA difference - people and trust - these key factors give us the positioning advantage to set winning conditions.

2023 was a big year for the entire organization, and we couldn't be more excited about the upcoming opportunities for MDAA and the progress being made to strengthen national and allied missile defense capability and increasing capacity with urgency. We thank you for your support, and look forward to continuing to fight on behalf of you, our warfighters, and our nation!

Handwritten signature of Riki Ellison.

Riki Ellison

Chairman & Founder

Over 20 Years of Winning Advocacy

Winners Associate With Winners to Win!

1,300+ Alerts and Press Releases



MDAA's alerts and Press releases keep the missile defense community, congress and the public informed on issues and threats

901 DOY Awards



MDAA has hosted 73 Missile Defender of the Year Award Ceremonies honoring the best missile defenders in 18 countries

743 Base Visits



MDAA visits U.S. and allied bases and ships around the globe recognizing the role and interacting with the warfighter

58 Congressional Roundtables



In the state legislatures, MDAA has supported 12 missile defense Congressional resolutions and worked with state officials -- from governors, mayors, academic institutions to community leaders

2 Memorials



MDAA has created two commissioned dedicated memorials: The Ronald Reagan Missile Defense Site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and the Kauai Veteran's Eternal Memorial and Missile Defense Viewing Site in Hawaii

277 Missile Defense Tests Seen



MDAA attends and views missile defense tests and exercises to expand the organization's knowledge and to educate the public on the status, improvements, and lessons learned for this vital mission

Programs in 3 Universities



MDAA established the Executive Program in Global Space and Defense at the University of Southern California (USC) in 2021, Arizona Near Space Studies Institute at the University of Arizona in 2023, and the Hawaii Space Science Initiative at the University of Hawaii in 2024

50 States Advocated in



In the state legislatures, MDAA has supported 12 missile defense Congressional resolutions and worked with state officials -- from governors, mayors, academic institutions to community leaders

29 Countries Advocated in



MDAA engages with allies and partner countries to highlight contributions and collaborate on high-level discussion for evolution of deployment of missile defense

3 Conferences



In November 2023, MDAA chaired the 7th Air and Missile Defense Technology Conference in London. This was followed by the Hypersonic Missile Defense Forum in Colorado Springs in February 2024 and the Near Space Forum slated for Tucson in April 2024.

1 Demonstration



The MDAA has orchestrated its first complex live demonstration of disruptive technology in March 2024. MDAA spearheads bold initiatives in the realm of disruptive technology and rapid deployment of missile defense

Leading The Narrative

MDAA Strategic Spotlight on...

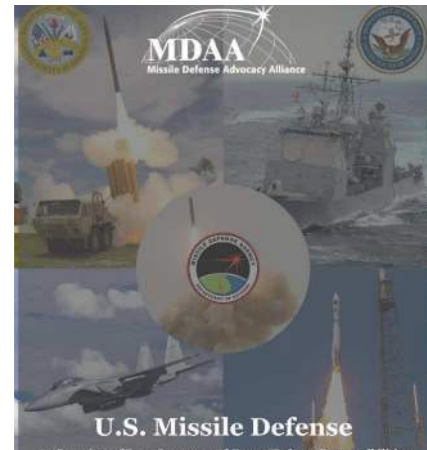
GUAM & INDO-PACIFIC

MDAA is advocating for Guam's defense capabilities and for strengthening our force readiness and posture in the Indo-Pacific from the beginning and onset of Missile Defense discussions of Guam. MDAA has been involved in multiple advocacy fronts, including supporting the placement of the THAAD in Guam in 2014 and regular visits to Guam for education, recognition, and advocacy for the Missile Defense of the island. MDAA is heavily engaged with Japan, Korea, and Australia over the past twenty years in advocacy for missile defense capacity and capabilities.



Homeland Defense: Roles & Responsibilities

MDAA continues to advance homeland defense and is leading the charge to overhaul the roles and responsibilities of missile defense across the armed forces. Since publishing the Roles and Responsibilities report in 2022, we've seen a significant increase in government-commissioned studies into the challenges.



We're excited by the growing attention and coverage of cruise missile defense, the Long-Range Discrimination Radar, Over-horizon Radars, Hypersonic Glide Defense, HBTSS space sensors, NGI, and near-Space Air platforms. In 2024, in Colorado Springs, MDAA hosted the Hypersonic Missile Defense Forum and will cohost the first Near Space Forum with the University of Arizona. We are leading the momentum for fully integrated missile defense to include hypersonic, ballistic, cruise missile defense, and UAS of the homeland.

NATO

MDAA has remained a clear and present voice advocating for an integrated air and missile defense architecture for NATO since 2002, extending to the phases of the European Phased Adaptive Approach, including Ships in Rota, Sensor in Turkey, deployment of Aegis Ashore sites in Europe, for greater missile defense investment and integration across the alliance. We are leading the momentum of a fully NATO IAMD in our advocacy as we hosted our London Conference in December of 2023 to set the pace and continue to engage with NATO HQ regularly. We have advocated in 21 NATO countries and held 6 European Missile Defender of the Years, and multiple high-level talks in Berlin, Brussels, London, Poland, the Netherlands, and Romania.



Leading The Narrative

MDAA Strategic Spotlight on...

Space

MDAA's advocacy continues to drive the future of space and missile defense preparedness, from command-and-control communication systems, hypersonic glide tracking systems, and future kinetic and non-kinetic effectors in Space.

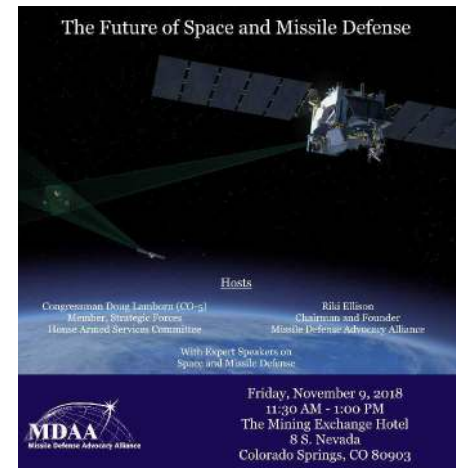
MDAA partnered with the University of Southern California to create the USC SHIELD Executive Program in Global Space and Deterrence. Now in its third year, the SHIELD program develops expertise and innovative solutions to address some of the toughest challenges facing our nation's missile defense capability and capacity.

The Hawaii Space Energy Initiative, a collaboration between the University of Hawaii and MDAA, aims to advance space energy research over the Pacific Ocean by involving participants from Indo-Pacific Allied nations to study terrestrial energy use and oceanic phenomena from Space. This contributes to both scientific knowledge and workforce development, as well as space defense research.

Disruptive Technology

MDAA is a trusted conduit and advocate for breakthrough tech, serving as a leader for cutting-edge technologies. Acting as a catalyst for disruptive innovations, MDAA swiftly brings non-military and military disruptive technologies to the forefront of development, prototyping and rapid deployment.

Recently, MDAA orchestrated its first groundbreaking disruptive technology demonstration in March 2024. Spearheading initiatives in disruptive technology, we orchestrate pioneering tests and demonstrations of proven capabilities that are being quickly deployed worldwide, drawing on our resources and relationships from Silicon Valley to Europe and the international community. Committed to defending against emerging threats, we lead the charge in advancing missile defense technology, transitioning from a threat-based urgency to the right side of the cost curve through effective and efficient means.



Mr. Riki Ellison with Michael Bruno, Provost of the University of Hawaii, January 16, 2024

Leading The Narrative

MDAA Strategic Spotlight on...

Near Space

MDAA in collaboration with the University of Arizona College of Engineering has created the Arizona Near Space Studies Institute to close the widening gap in the Near Space Domain for both civilian and military uses by the United States and its allies and adversaries.

During a time of great challenges to our World Order, this Institute's Executive Leadership Program "AETOS" - Air Engineering TO Space. AETOS will prepare future leaders to dominate Near Space Domain awareness through tracking, sensing and discrimination, fire control communications, while providing R&D for areas such as High-altitude balloons, Quantum communication/networking, and collaborated space domain awareness.

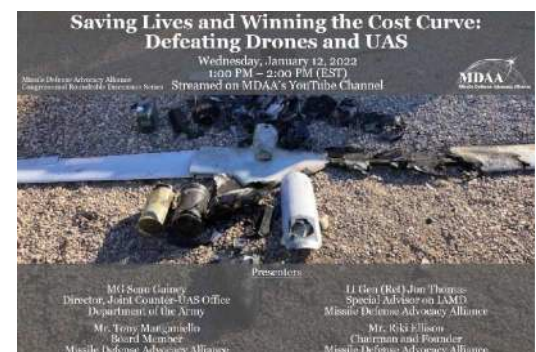


Craig M. Berge Dean David W. Hahn and Riki Ellison, founder of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, sign the memorandum of understanding on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Low Flying Cruise Missile Defense and Counter UAS

MDAA is at the forefront of innovation and strategy in safeguarding against emerging threats. With a keen eye on the evolving warfare landscape, we are dedicated to enhancing defense capabilities against traditional ballistic missiles, low-flying cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

Understanding the pressing need for comprehensive defense measures, the MDAA is actively pursuing cutting-edge technologies and tactics to neutralize these dynamic threats. Through collaboration, advocacy, and forward-thinking initiatives, we are working tirelessly to ensure that our defense systems remain adaptive and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.



Conferences

The MDAA has spearheaded conversations on missile defense across continents, bringing together top military representatives and intellectuals to create a cauldron of winning among the willing.

Missile Defense Technology Conference

London, UK

Last year in London, MDAA was chair of the 7th Air and Missile Defense Technology Conference. MDAA is leading international panels and bringing international leaders to address greater integrated missile defense capability and capacity throughout NATO against all missile threats to NATO, including Russia.



Hypersonic Missile Defense Forum

Colorado Springs, USA

This year in Colorado Springs, MDAA hosted the Hypersonic Missile Defense Forum. The forum convened experts, military leaders, and policymakers to address the urgent challenge posed by hypersonic missile threats. Notable speakers included Congressman Doug Lamborn — who serves as Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee and sits on the Strategic Forces Subcommittee — and former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ret. Gen. John Hyten. The forum emphasized the unified action and rapid development and deployment of defense capabilities to counter emerging hypersonic threats, drawing parallels to past challenges and stressing the importance of timely responses to evolving security threats.



Academic Critical Thinking

USC SHIELD

MDAA continues to shape the next generation of missile defense leaders through our Global Space and Defense Executive Program, in partnership with the University of Southern California and its Sol Price School of Public Policy and Viterbi School of Engineering.

Now entering its third year, the SHIELD program continues to develop the expertise and innovative solutions to some of the most difficult challenges facing our nation's missile defense capability and capacity.

With 51 graduates and 12 capstone presentations through the first two years of the program, the SHIELD program has demonstrated its value, with capstone projects such as overhead sensing platforms becoming key points of advocacy.

USC continues to expand with the establishment of the USC Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service. This new institute, which will be anchored at the USC Capital Campus in Washington, D.C, will educate the next generation about government service and will conduct research to support evidence-based policy.”



President of the University of Southern California, Carol L. Folt, and US Space Force Commander of Space Systems Command, Lt. Gen. Micheal A. Guetlein



The SHIELD '23 cohort meets with Mr. Ellison at a university event



Mr. Ellison in front of the USC Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service in Washington, D.C.

Academic Critical Thinking Expands!

Arizona Near Space Studies Institute

On October 31st, 2023 the MDAA announced the Arizona Near Space Studies Institute – Developing Technical leaders in Near Space Domain.

The AETOS (Air Engineering TO Space) Program is a joint program with the University of Arizona College of Engineering leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities and world-class faculty to advance research and development of a wide variety of near-space (~80,000 feet and below) platforms and technologies.

A-NS2I will be led by Arizona's renowned faculty in Engineering, along with guest speakers from current and former senior defense officials, military leaders, and experts in defense policy, strategy, operations, and innovation.

The program's range has a wide variety of utilities, from experimental platforms, command and control systems, quantum computing, photon communications, and negation platforms. It is an 8-month program designed to educate aspiring technical leaders from the military, government, and innovative technological communities about the Near Space Domain.



Oct. 19, 2023 MOU signing ceremony. College of Engineering Dean Hahn (L) and MDAA Founder Mr. Ellison (R)

ANSSI will be led by Arizona's renowned faculty in Engineering, along with guest speakers from current and former senior defense officials, military leaders, and experts in defense policy, strategy, operations, and innovation.

The program's hybrid design leverages innovative technology and in-person sessions that fully prepare students to lead in the field. The capstone exercise, which will be presented during the final session, will consist of group projects in which participants tackle some of the toughest problems facing government and military leaders in space and defense.

Academic Critical Thinking Expands!

Hawaii Space Energy Initiative

On January 18, 2024, the MDAA announced the Hawaii Space Energy Initiative.

The Hawaii Space Energy Initiative will focus on developing space technologies, specifically looking over the Pacific Ocean for scientific research. Using the world-class facilities at the University of Hawaii and MDAA's connections in the government and policy sector, this program aims to create a leading institution for space studies. This agreement continues MDAA's mission to make the world safer by advocating for developing and deploying missile defense systems to defend the United States, its armed forces, and its allies.

The future program will involve students at UH's School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology as well as the departments of engineering, physics, and astronomy. Using satellites will allow for the investigation of things ranging from terrestrial energy use to mass fish movements to other ocean-based issues that directly affect Hawaii. In addition, space-based energy sources will be explored, encompassing a wide spectrum from missile technologies to terrestrial applications.



Mr. Riki Ellison at US Space Systems Command in El Segundo, California on March 2, 2024

Michael Bruno, UH Manoa's provost, said at its heart, the partnership will be a workforce development program to range from undergraduate to graduate students and others. The UH program — expected to have about 25 students involved annually — could start sometime in the summer or fall of 2024.

Defender of the Year Award

Celebrating Individual Performance & Team Excellence

MDAA Recognition

In 2011, MDAA established the Defender of the Year Award Ceremony to recognize and honor members of the military who command fully operational and deployed missile defense systems.

Today, these events are held throughout the United States and around the world in 18 countries. There have been 73 Missile Defender of the Year ceremonies with 901 awardees. Our global network of DOY awardees strengthens MDAA's relationships and advocacy with the next generation of missile defense leaders!

Previous Winners



Riki Ellison with the 2023 Missile Defender of the Year Awardees in Alexandria, VA.



Riki Ellison with the 2023 European Missile Defender of the Year Awardees at the Royal Military Academy of the Netherlands.



Bringing honor to the 2023 NORAD and NORTHCOM Missile Warning and Defenders of the Year awardees from Colorado Springs, CO.



The 2022 Indo-Pacific Missile Defender of the Year Awardees with Riki Ellison and Admiral John Aquilino of the US INDO-PACIFIC Command at the ceremony held in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Riki Ellison, Gov. of Guam Lou Leon Guererro, and Guam military leaders pose with the winners of the 2021 Guam Missile Defender of the Year Award.



FCA1 Mario Amaro is presented MDAA's 2019 U.S. Missile Defender of the Year for the U.S. Navy by VADM Jim Kilby in Alexandria, Virginia.



Riki Ellison Presenting Qatar with the 501st MDAA Defender of the Year Award (2018).

MDAA Congressional Roundtables



2023 Sessions

Watch past 58 Roundtables with MDAA's Board of Directors, experts, and officials across all missile defense domains

Validation of Our Best Missile Defense Capability

Monday, November 20, 2023
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (EST)
Streamed on MDAA's YouTube Channel



Presenters

VADM (Ret.) Ron Boswell Former Director for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (FB), Joint Staff	RADM (Ret.) Mark Montgomery Former Director of Operations U.S. Pacific Command
RDML (Ret.) Tom Druggan Senior Associate, CSIS Former Program Executive, Aegis BMD, MDA	Mr. Riki Ellison Chairman and Founder Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance

Validation of Our Best Missile Defense Capability

Building Missile Defense Capacity with Urgency

Thursday, October 26, 2023
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (EDT)
Streamed on MDAA's YouTube Channel



Presenters

BG Frank Lozano Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space	MG Brian Gibson Commanding General, 94th AAMDC
BG Eric Little Commanding General, White Sands Missile Range	RADM (Ret.) Mark Montgomery Board of Directors, Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
Mr. Riki Ellison Chairman and Founder, Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance	

Building Missile Defense Capacity with Urgency

**Defending Israel
Full Integration of Defense and Offense**

Thursday, October 12, 2023
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EDT)
Streamed on MDAA's YouTube Channel



Presenters

Mr. Tal Inbar Research Fellow Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance	Mr. John Rood Former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Department of Defense
Maj Gen (Ret.) Charles Corcoran Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations U.S. Air Force	RADM (Ret.) Mark Montgomery Former Deputy Director for Plans, Policy and Strategy U.S. European Command
Mr. Riki Ellison Chairman and Founder Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance	

Defending Israel: Full Integration of Defense and Offense

**Can't See It, Can't Shoot It -
Why We Require Overhead Persistent Sensors**

Friday, September 8, 2023
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (EDT)
Streamed on MDAA's YouTube Channel



Presenters

LTG Dan Korbler Commanding General, USASMD, JFCC-IMD U.S. Army	Lt Gen (Ret.) Jon "Ty" Thomas Former Deputy Commander, PACAF U.S. Air Force
Maj Gen (Ret.) Charles Corcoran Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, HQ	Mr. Riki Ellison Chairman and Founder

Can't See It, Can't Shoot It - Why We Require Overhead Persistent Sensors

Allied Joint Integrated Missile Defense North of the Arctic Circle- Formidable Shield

Wednesday, June 21, 2023
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (EDT)
Streamed on MDAA's YouTube Channel



Presenters

Captain Jonathan Lipps Commander, Task Force SIX FOUR U.S. Navy	Mr. Riki Ellison Chairman and Founder Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance	Rear Admiral (Ret.) Mark Montgomery Executive Director Cyberspace Solarium Commission
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Allied Joint Integrated Missile Defense North of the Arctic Circle- Formidable Shield

For a complete list of our past 58 Congressional Sessions, click [here](#).

And don't forget to stay up to date on all the MDAA [Reception Events!](#)

MDAA Memorials

Honoring The Legacy of Missile Defense Champions



Ronald Reagan Missile Defense Site, Vandenberg SFB

[Learn more](#)

About The Memorial

The memorial serves as a permanent tribute to those who have served and those who will continue to serve our Armed Forces and an embedment of missile defense to defend and protect our nation and armed forces.

About The Memorial

MDAA was honored to partner with Mrs. Nancy Reagan in the creation of the Ronald Reagan Missile Defense Site at Vandenberg Space Force Base. The memorial pays homage to President Reagan's visionary goal of rendering nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.

Kauai Veteran's Eternal Memorial and Missile Defense Viewing Site

[Learn more](#)



MDAA Commended



The MDAA continues to be a leader and great support for members of the missile defense community around the world.

Through building strong alliances and networks, the MDAA continues to expand its influence, contributions, and connections within the sphere of missile defense. As a result, MDAA has achieved much recognition for its support.



**Pacific Air Force
Office of the Commanding General
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman, Hawaii 96853**

Dear Riki

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you for representing the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance alongside the delegations from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea at the 2023 USINDOPACOM Multilateral Integrate Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Summit. Your input and useful discourse throughout the week greatly contributed to the Summit's success.

The Multilateral IAMD Summit provided an opportunity for IAMD specialists and planners from each nation to discuss regional threats, capabilities, and future cooperation. This event continues to build a solid foundation and framework for multilateral cooperation that will be refined in future Summits and bilateral/multilateral pursuits. The attached executive summary highlights the key themes discussed throughout the week. This document will inform the concept development for next year's Summit, coupled with input from the participating allies and partners.

The intent is to grow the Summit in scope with the support of our allies and partners within the Indo-Pacific region. The support of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance plays a pivotal role to the continued success of this event. We look forward to working with you and your team in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Costello".

PATRICK M. COSTELLO
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Area Air Defense Commander

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth S. Wilsbach".

KENNETH S. WILSBACH
General, USAF
Area Air Defense Commander

Board of Directors

Proven Winners Leading The Team with Active...

Expertise

Our Board of Directors contribute over a century of experience in some of the highest national security roles and represent our services. Together as one team, this expertise provides MDAA with an unmatched level of knowledge and understanding to navigate the complex challenges to implement our mission.

Vision

Our Board of Directors believe in the strategic importance of enhancing our nation's missile defense capability -- and recognize the challenges ahead of us.

Engagement

Our Board of Directors are active participants in all MDAA advocacy. Their contributions and engagement have enhanced MDAA's role as the leading voice in Missile Defense.

Mission Statement

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 proponents to advocate for the critical need of missile defense. We are a non-partisan membership-based and membership-funded organization that does not advocate on behalf of any specific system, technology, architecture or entity.

Media & Contact

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with all the latest MDAA news!

