

2019

NORAD & USNORTHCOM Missile Warning and Defender *of the Year*

June 7, 2019

Colorado Springs, Colorado



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

Call to Order

National Anthem

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Dinner

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

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 Ryan Biggs
100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

SSG Biggs enlisted in the Army in 2009 as a Signal Support Systems Specialist. After his initial entry training, he was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1-157 Infantry Battalion at Ft. Carson, Colorado. During his four years with the infantry, he obtained multiple military occupation specialties and became the Battalion Signal Digital Master Gunner. He was then selected as the senior local area network manager for the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, where he spent four years working in the S6. He then took a broadening assignment and transitioned to 14S and attended the Ground-based Midcourse Defense qualification course and was assigned as the readiness officer for Alpha Crew. After 14 months on crew, he was selected as the 100th Missile Defense Brigade S6 Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) where he currently works.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR

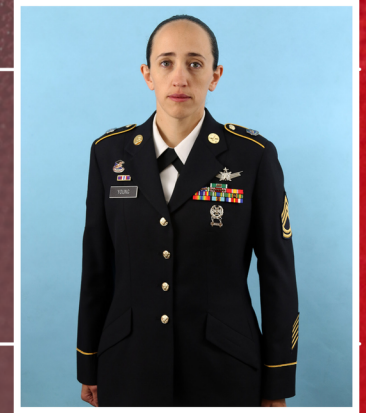


Sergeant First Class Curtis Guitreau 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

SFC Guitreau was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He joined the United States Army in August of 2002. He attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Bliss, Texas as a Patriot Enhanced Operator/Maintainer. During his career, SFC Guitreau served as a Senior Engagement Controller, Support and Fire Control Platoon Sergeant, Army Recruiter, Battery First Sergeant, and Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Evaluator. He participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. His additional overseas assignments include four years in the Republic of Korea and one year in Qatar as a Patriot Senior Leader. SFC Guitreau has previously been assigned to the 1st Battalion 43rd Air Defense in Osan, South Korea; 1st Battalion 7th Air Defense in Ft. Bliss, Texas; USAREC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; 3rd Battalion 43rd Air Defense in Ft. Bliss, Texas; and is currently assigned as the G37 GMD Operations NCOIC. SFC Guitreau's military and civilian education includes Basic Leader Course; Advance Leader Course; Army Recruiter; SHARP Course; Senior Leader Course; Army Space Cadre Course Phase I and II; TFCC Radar Operator/Maintainer; Ground-based Midcourse Defense Course; GMD System Trainer Operator Course; National Security Space Institute 200 Course, and he has completed 118 credit hours with Columbia College. SFC Guitreau's awards and decorations include the Army Master Recruiter Badge, Army Basic Space Badge, Marksman Qualification Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (6 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (7 Oak Leaf Clusters), Good Conduct Medal (5th award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (#3), Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon (#3). SFC Guitreau is married to his wife Theresa Guitreau for 12 years. Together they have 3 children, Lydia Guitreau (Age 7), Elizabeth Guitreau (Age 5), and Andrew Guitreau (Age 2).



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR

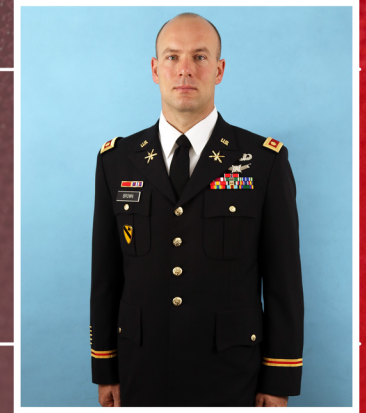


Sergeant First Class Patricia Young 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

SFC Young enlisted in the Army in September 2002. She was awarded the 14J MOS (Forward Area Air Defense C4I enhanced operator maintainer) at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Her first duty assignment was HHB 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Camp Sears, Republic of Korea, where she worked as an operator in the Air Battle Management Operation Center. While there, she was also selected to work for the Assistant Division Air Defense Officer. In 2004, she moved back to Ft. Bliss, where she was assigned to HHB 2nd Battalion, 43rd ADA Regiment and worked in the Tactical Command Station. She was then assigned to Detachment C, 1st Space Company, Osan AB, Republic of Korea, where she was a Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) operator. In 2007, she reported to Peterson AFB, Colorado, to become a JTAGS Crew Chief with 1st Space Company. She is currently assigned to the 100th MDB. She has attended the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Operator Course, Army Basic Instructor Course, and Advanced Leader Course, CLE Operator Course, where she was awarded honor graduate in each of these courses. She has also completed the Senior Leader Course and Master Leader Course. She also completed the Equal Opportunity Leader Course, Army Space Cadre Basic Course, and Senior Leader Course. While assigned to the 100th MDB, she has served as a Readiness Operations Officer, Future Operations Officer, Current Operations NCOIC, Training and Readiness NCO, Brigade Schools NCOIC, and S-3 Platoon Sergeant. She is married to Tim and they have two boys, Michael and Matthew.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Major Benjamin Brown 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

MAJ Brown was commissioned in December 2007 from Colorado State University Pueblo into the Field Artillery. His first duty station following Officer Basic Course was Ft. Hood, Texas, where he was assigned to various units within the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and deployed to Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn (2009-10 and 2011). Upon graduation from Field Artillery Captain's Career Course, MAJ Brown was assigned to the Office of the Program Manager - Saudi Arabian National Guard, before being stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado, during the transition of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Upon leaving active duty in 2015, MAJ Brown was assigned to 169th Fires Brigade and subsequently commanded Alpha Battery, 3-157 Field Artillery (HIMARS). Following command, he was assigned as the Current Operations Officer of Alpha Crew, 100th Missile Defense Brigade and completed the transition to Air Defense Artillery. He is currently the deputy director for Alpha Crew. MAJ Brown is married to Mrs. Elizabeth Brown and has two sons, Zen and Rhett.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Major Jason DeLange 100th Missile Defense Brigade Awardee

MAJ DeLange joined the missile defense program with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion as an E6 in 2004. He was commissioned in August of 2006 and was assigned as a Sensor Operator. During his five years at Ft. Greely, MAJ DeLange certified in four of the five crew positions. In 2009 he was assigned to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (MDB) in Colorado Springs, Colorado as an Executive Officer. MAJ DeLange had two Battery level commands, one with the 100th MDB and the other on Ft. Carson with the Centennial Training Site. Following Command, he was assigned as the Deputy Director for Alpha Crew from March 2017 – October 2018. He is currently assigned to Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense at Schriever AFB, Colorado. MAJ DeLange is married to Marchell DeLange and has four children, Jake, Jadie, Ally, and Luke.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Russell Porter Grant 100th Missile Defense Brigade

LTC Grant received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from the Georgetown University Army ROTC program in May 1993. He held various positions in the traditional National Guard and Army Reserve in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Colorado, where he became qualified as a Military Intelligence Officer. LTC Grant joined the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) program of the Colorado Army National Guard in 2004 as the first S-2 (Intelligence Officer) with the newly created 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). In the five-year period from 2004-2009, he provided daily intelligence products to the Brigade's Command, staff, and operational crews, including for two real-world North Korean ICBM test launches. From 2010 to 2012, LTC Grant served as Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment for Joint Force Headquarters – Colorado while serving simultaneously as the Deputy J2 for the Colorado National Guard Joint Staff. From 2014 to 2016, he served as the Battalion Commander of the Colorado Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He has been the Director of Alpha Crew, Missile Defense Element, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD), since August 2017. LTC Grant holds a Bachelor's Degree in Language Arts from Georgetown University, a Master's Degree in International Business Administration from the University of South Carolina at Columbia, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington, DC. He is married to his wife of 21 years, Sari, and has two children: Sofia, a junior at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and Henry, a junior at Discovery Canyon High School in Colorado Springs.

460th Operations Group





MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant Jake Harris 460th Operations Group Awardee

SSgt Harris is the Mission Management Operations (MMO) - Noncommissioned Officer in Charge assigned to the Standardization and Evaluation Section, 460th Operations Group at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for providing standardization and evaluation of 43 payload sensor operators among four squadrons ensuring crew mission readiness of the \$32.2 billion Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS). Additionally, SSgt Harris serves as an advisor to the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation on matters affecting current and future SBIRS operational procedures. He developed and taught operational guidance for the new \$1.4B SBIRS satellite, which directly contributed to the 38% reduction rate of operational errors. SSgt Harris aided in the SBIRS 3-1 Weapons and Tactics guidance re-write which dramatically increased missile warning operations and the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) that enabled SBIRS the ability to operate in a contested, degraded, and operationally limited environment. Additionally, SSgt Harris optimized SBIRS missile warning fidelity by directing over 110K commands, maximizing satellite missions for six combatant commands and ensuring uninterrupted missile warning to 120K downrange personnel. As the MMO cell lead, he directed a 32-man team during 44 mission plans and debriefs for the planning and execution of 759 satellite taskings for infrared and high-profile missile events. SSgt Harris enlisted in the Air Force in February 2014 and completed Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas followed by Enlisted Undergraduate Space Training at Vandenberg AFB, California. Upon completion he was assigned to the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colorado where he operated the legacy SBIRS Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO) constellation. His efforts were vital in the SBIRS transfer of operations to the next generation \$662M Block 10 upgrade. SSgt Harris was reassigned as an MMO to 2d Space Warning Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Staff Sergeant Michelle Holt 460th Operations Group Awardee

SSgt Holt serves as a Crew Chief at the Overhead Persistent Infra-Red Battlespace Awareness Center (OBAC) for the 2d Space Warning Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado. SSgt Holt leads a three-person team to provide detection and reporting of Infra-Red events and Battlespace Awareness to more than 100 military, civilian, and contractor support personnel from the Air Forces of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. She is responsible for operations and maintenance of the \$32.2B Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) and satellite engineering for the \$3.2B Defense Support Program (DSP) satellite constellation. SSgt Holt was hand-selected to participate in Space Flag Academics and the Schriever War Games where she assisted in identifying the need for OBAC support in future Space Flag events. Her outstanding performance was identified and she received challenge coins from three General Officers during the exercise. SSgt Holt enabled global radar support by supporting a \$59 million manned space launch and was nominated by the 2nd Space Warning Squadron for the 460th Operations Group Kehler Award. SSgt Holt enlisted in the Air Force in March 2013. She graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas in May 2013 and proceeded to Enlisted Undergraduate Space Training at Vandenberg AFB, California. Her background includes various duties in the Space Operations career field. She was stationed at Schriever AFB as a Space Console Operator in the 11th Space Warning Squadron from October 2013 - September 2016. She became evaluator certified in March 2015 and served as the primary mission evaluator for the 11 Space Warning Squadron until the squadron moved operations to Buckley AFB in 2016. She moved along with the mission to Buckley AFB and was reassigned to the 2nd Space Warning Squadron. SSgt Holt has served at the squadron level and has aspirations to become instructor qualified in the near future.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Technical Sergeant Christopher Kohler 460th Operations Group Awardee

TSgt Kohler is a Flight Chief for the 11th SWS at Buckley AFB, Colorado. As a certified Mission Crew Chief, he leads a flight of 36 personnel and is responsible for the first detection, assessment, and validation of worldwide missile launches to national leaders, the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, and United States allied partners. TSgt Kohler directs command and control of the \$32.6B SBIRS satellite constellation, 18 antennas, and six ground stations located around the world. In 2018, TSgt Kohler personally executed the processing, characterization, and reporting of over 200 missiles and 4,000 infrared events. Additionally, TSgt Kohler ensured the development and upgrade of the missile warning architecture, validating 37 testing objectives and developing tactics and techniques. His experience and mission acumen culminated when he garnered the rare and coveted "Q1E" Qualification-Excellence rating, representing the top 1% of space operators. TSgt Kohler has led 55 space operators through initial SBIRS Mission Qualification Training, with 42 graduates earning Q1 ratings and an average academic score of 96%. TSgt Kohler's missile warning expertise drove the development of a first-of-its-kind space defense tactics for orbital threat engagement; leading to the completion of one of the U.S. STRATCOM Commander's primary missile warning objectives. Additionally, TSgt Kohler oversaw the certification of the 460th Operations Group Standardized Space Trainer Simulator, validating 260 discrepancies and securing an additional \$12.1M for simulator expansion and upgrades. TSgt Kohler enlisted in the United States Air Force in 2004 and completed Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas followed by Avionics Test Specialist Training at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. TSgt Kohler has deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and supported direct combat operations for Operation Odyssey Dawn. In 2013, he retrained into the Space Systems Operator career field and received his first assignment at the 2d SWS. He has operated the SBIRS Increment-1 System and was selected to become the first Mission Crew Chief for the next-generation SBIRS upgrade. TSgt Kohler is married to his wife Kathryn and they have two children, Olivia and Eric. TSgt Kohler donates his time to support the Air Force Sergeants Association, Buckley Chapter, and volunteering as a youth football coach to 12 young athletes.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Sergeant Thomas Jedreski 460th Operations Group Awardee

MSgt Jedreski is a Superintendent for the 460th Space Maintenance Division at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for the training, direction, and operations of 24 personnel that coordinate all maintenance and testing for the SBIRS, Ground Communications Network Modernized (GCNM), and a detachment dedicated to supporting the SBIRS Air Force Operation Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC). He ensured the AFOTEC detachment provided Integrated Tests and Evaluations to the block 20 upgrade, simulating 90K missile launches and 728K messages from 173 SBIRS simulation products over six months. This testing was critical to AFSPC's operational acceptance decision of the major Block 20 upgrade. Additionally, he guided his SBIRS test team to conduct 66 weapon system tests for over \$327M in projects and upgrades. Lastly, under his leadership his team ensured the U.S. STRATCOM Integrated Tactical Warning Attack Assessment Network was robustly tested on 36 different occasions, while adding enhanced missile detection alert software. MSgt Jedreski enlisted in the U.S. Air force in August 2000 and completed Basic Military Training followed by electronic principles training at Lackland AFB, Texas. MSgt Jedreski then completed Satellite Communications Wideband Telemetry training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. MSgt Jedreski then joined the 3rd Combat Communications group at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, where he deployed three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. MSgt Jedreski re-enlisted in 2004 and was reassigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts and helped develop a sensor payload on the Tactical Satellite ORS, which has been in orbit since 2006. Also, MSgt Jedreski deployed to Manama Airport in the Kingdom of Bahrain at the Mail Control Activity to oversee all mail going in and out of the AORs for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2008, he moved to Aviano AB, Italy and served in the 603rd Air Control Squadron and deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 as part of a unique Joint Enlisted Tasking working for the U.S. Army. In July 2016, MSgt Jedreski served as a Project Manager for the 694th Intelligence Support Squadron at Osan AB, South Korea, spending two years overseeing a \$5M renovation of a 5K square foot SCIF.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Senior Master Sergeant Carlos Martinez 460th Operations Group Awardee

SMSgt Martinez is a Superintendent for the 460th Operations Support Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado and is currently responsible for a 139-person total force and multi-national squadron. His squadron is responsible for the qualification and proficiency training of 385 space operators in 22 crew positions across four operations centers supporting the \$32.2B SBIRS no-fail missile warning mission. Additionally, he is responsible for tactic, technique, and procedure development, as well as intelligence, integration of emerging capabilities, and participation in combat Air Force exercises and the Missile Defense Agency testing. SMSgt Martinez enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in December 1997 and completed Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas followed by Enlisted Undergraduate Space Training at Vandenberg AFB, California. In April 1998, he became an Aerospace Control Officer as a member of the 45th Range Squadron at Cape Canaveral AFS, Florida. In 2000, SMSgt Martinez was a Detection Radar Operator and Space Object Identifier for the 13th SWS at Clear AFS, Alaska. He was then assigned as a Space Console Operator and later upgraded to Missile Warning Crew Chief at the 7th SWS at Beale AFB, California. In November 2002, SMSgt Martinez was deployed to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates where he was assigned as Crew Leader for the Security Escort Program in support of Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. In October 2008, SMSgt Martinez was assigned as the NCOIC of the Launch and Range Integration for the Space Tracking and Surveillance System Demonstration Program, Los Angeles AFB, California. After the successful launch of a Delta II carrying two missile defense satellites, he was assigned as the Superintendent of the Missile Defense Systems Squadron. In 2010, he deployed in support of Operation Sharp Sentry where he led a 23-member joint crew on a missile defense weapon system. In January 2011, he was assigned as the superintendent for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Division where he launched our nation's first geosynchronous SBIRS satellite. He deployed in 2017 as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for USSOUTHCOM's major Air Force Mission, guiding Colombia's military on airstrikes and cease-fire agreements, which led to the destruction of 24 illicit labs and 42 HVTs.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



First Lieutenant Jordan Mays 460th Operations Group Awardee

1st Lt Mays is a Deputy Flight Commander for the 11th SWS at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He leads a flight of 34 active duty, reserve, and multinational military personnel executing global infrared surveillance and reporting for over 150K deployed joint warfighters across six geographic combatant commands. 1st Lt Mays directs command and control of the \$32.6B SBIRS satellite constellation, 18 antennas, and six ground stations located around the world. He reports decisive first assessment and validation of worldwide missile launches to national leaders, the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, and United States allied partners. In 2018, 1st Lt Mays completed his SBIRS Mission Commander certification with the Air Force's highest evaluation score, mastering more than 420 hours of training and 54 job tasks related to missile detection. His expertise helped drive a record setting operations year at Buckley AFB, where over 805 missiles launches and over 20,000 major infrared events were detected and reported, an increase of 52% from 2017, which is the highest level of global activity to date. Additionally, his leadership was critical to his mission cell being recognized as the best in his squadron and the only error-free mission operations team for 2018. His crew flawlessly executed the detection and collection of 8,850 infrared events, including the reporting of a high-visibility foreign intercept test that the intelligence community and Secretary of Defense commended the crew for their performance. 1st Lt Mays commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2015, where he received his B.S. in Business Management. While at the Academy, he played NCAA Division 1 Football, appearing in three bowl games and winning three Commander-In-Chief Trophies. 1st Lt Mays served his first duty assignment at Cavalier AFS, North Dakota. He led operations for a 36-member crew and focused on grooming operators for instructor and evaluator duties, while overseeing unit evaluations. He arrived at Buckley AFB in 2017 to serve in the Overhead Persistent OBAC, which provides users with real time battlespace awareness by coordinating directly with Combatant Commanders. 1st Lt Mays helped lead the first initiative to integrate OBAC capabilities into the 607th AOC at Osan AB, South Korea, during exercises Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



First Lieutenant Thu Pham 460th Operations Group Awardee

1st Lt Pham is a Staff Instructor for the 460th Operations Support Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado. She is currently responsible for the planning and execution of Mission Qualification Training for Mission Management Operators of the Space Based Infrared Systems (SBIRS). As an Instructor, 1st Lt Pham trained over five-hundred hours, consisting of both simulator and classroom academics, ensuring Combat Mission Readiness for over 50 operators. Additionally, Lt Pham has streamlined the Instructor Qualification Course and increased the efficiency of the certification process by over one hundred percent, producing over 25 instructors. 1st Lt Pham developed and executed the SBIRS software upgrade training for over 300 operators to secure an efficient command and control transition for a \$369K test event. As a Mission Management Operator, 1st Lt Pham drove over 1.3K hours of satellite sensor tasking and enabled 131 missile warning reports to six Combatant Commands, including surveillance for adversary intercontinental ballistic missile launches and Troops in Contact. 1st Lt Pham demonstrated herself as a visionary officer by pioneering the 460th Space Wing's first-ever Restricted Area Fitness Facility, procuring over \$20K in a ten-month long project to increase the quality of life for over 560 personnel. 1st Lt Pham earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Oregon State University and commissioned through Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2016. She is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Captain Jason Laboy 460th Operations Group Awardee

Capt Laboy is the Deputy Chief of Standardization and Evaluations Division at the 460th Operations Group at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He is a certified combat mission ready crew commander, instructor, and evaluator. Capt Laboy leads a 13-person unit which plans and organizes standardization and evaluation of over 300 SBIRS operators. He is the key technical advisor to Wing and Group leadership on mission readiness and warfighting capabilities on all matters pertaining to the operation and employment of SBIRS. He led the evaluations team during a 72-hour scenario to assess the crew readiness of over 230 military and allied mission combat ready operators, validating more than 140 mission tasks and 3,000 training hours. Capt Laboy directed the update of over 30 mission procedures and the re-write of a 95-step checklist which made possible the operations transfer of the SBIRS satellite constellation with no mission degradation. Capt Laboy served as Wing Executive Officer while deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. He provided 24/7 support to the Wing Commander on the wing's execution of operations in support of coalition forces in Afghanistan during Operation Freedom's Sentinel and NATO's Resolute Support Campaign Mission. He facilitated the Commander's intent, which allowed the wing to overcome 59 indirect fire attacks and enable 6,052 combat sorties, resulting in 1,287 enemies killed in action. Capt Laboy entered the Air Force in 2010 after earning his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and commission via the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Puerto Rico. He was assigned to the 320th Missile Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, where he served as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Crew Commander and Assistant Flight Commander. He was later assigned to the 2nd SWS at Buckley AFB, Colorado, where he served as Flight Commander in charge of a 42 active duty, reserve, and multinational military personnel executing more than 1,500 infrared events and enabling more than 752 hours of perfect missile warning operations. Capt Laboy was hand-picked to support exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian at Osan AB, South Korea, where he was the OIC of the Combat Operations Division for Space at the Korean Air and Space Operations Center.

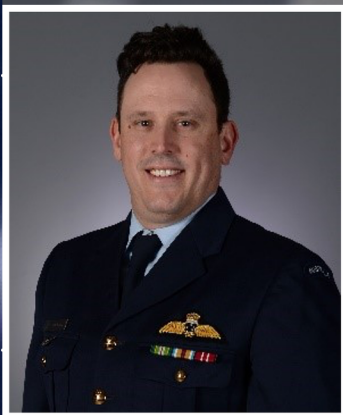


MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Captain Robert Mathews 460th Operations Group Awardee

Capt Mathews is the Deputy Chief of Training for the 460th Operations Support Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He currently commands the 29 member staff instructor cadre in the execution of six Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Mission Qualification Training courses and three operations training programs for 156 students per year, in support of four space warning squadrons. The Operations Support Training Flight, under Capt Mathews's guidance, oversaw the 460th Space Wing's Combat Mission Ready training program and was responsible for the technical proficiency of three-hundred certified operators. Also, he implemented a critical update for a new missile profile, cutting time devoted from development to system delivery by thirty-three percent, which increased missile warning accuracy and decreased reporting time by eight percent. Capt Mathews enlisted in the Air Force in September 1999 and completed Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas followed by Technical Training at Shepard AFB, Texas for Tactical Aircraft Maintenance. As an F-16 Crew Chief, Capt Mathews served in various locations around the world before retraining as a Paralegal. As a paralegal, Capt Mathews served at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.; Kadena AB, Japan; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; and deployed to Al-Udeid AB, Qatar and Camp Eggers, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2014, Capt Mathews was selected to commission through the Officer Training School (OTS) as a Space Operations Officer. After earning Distinguished Graduate at both OTS and technical training, Capt Mathews was assigned to 2nd Space Warning Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado, where he has served as a Systems Crew Chief and Mission Management Operator. After crew operations, Capt Mathews was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of Procedures, Standards, and Evaluations.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Flight Lieutenant Gene Elliott 460th Operations Group Awardee

FLTLT Elliott is the Flight Commander for the 2d SWS at Buckley AFB, Colorado. He is currently responsible for global Missile Warning Operations for the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) and a crew of 41 Space Operators and Allied Mission Partner Cadre. As a Flight Commander, he piloted his team through the successful integration into operations of a \$1.4B asset to the SBIRS satellite constellation. He safeguarded global missile warning operations by flawlessly executing two separate emergency transfers of operations between critical SBIRS sites and maintaining the \$36.2B weapons system with uninterrupted missile warning. FLTLT Elliott created a new from the ground up planning system to meet mission requirements that resulted in the production of over 40 plans to retain critical expertise across the Space Mission Force, consisting of two operations groups and five squadrons, where he saved over 1,500 team hours annually. For these efforts he was award the 2d SWS Space Operations Centre Commander of the Year for 2018 and the 460th Operations Group Flight Commander of the Quarter for Q2 2018. FLTLT Elliott joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in March 2008 as an Air Combat Officer - Air Battle Manager. He completed Officer Training School followed by Air Combat Officer Initial Training at RAAF Base East Sale, Victoria. Upon graduation, he served at RAAF Base Williamtown, New South Wales as an Air Battle Manager from 2010 to 2014. During this time, he deployed twice to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, conducting over 1,000 hours of Airspace Control, earning him the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Australian Defence Force Active Service Medal (AASM) with International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT) clasp. Upon his return from the MEAO he entered the RAAF Space Cadre and was responsible for the integration and achievement of Full Operational Capability of the Australian Defence Force's first two operational Space Capabilities at Number 1 Remote Sensor Unit. The SBIRS Australian Mission Processor (AMP) for Missile Warning and the joint Australian/United States C-Band Radar as part of the U.S. Strategic Command Space Surveillance Network.

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





MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Technical Sergeant Jeremiah Grenfell NORAD NCO Missile & Space Professional Nominee

TSgt Grenfell is the Missile and Space Domain Non-Commissioned Officer at North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM), Peterson AFB, Colorado. As Delta Crew assistant flight chief, he monitors education and training of Delta crew's enlisted force. While on shift, he characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. He has processed more than 150 missile events, providing flawless missile threat data to national leaders and mission partners. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. TSgt Grenfell holds three Associates of Science Degrees, two from the Community College of the Air Force in Aviation Maintenance Technology and Air/Space Operations Technology and one from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Aviation Maintenance. He first enlisted as a crew chief for fighter aircraft where he completed multiple assignments covering South Korea, Utah, England, and a deployment to Afghanistan. He then cross-trained into missile and space operations where he has held multiple assignments as a crew chief conducting missile warning and battlespace awareness operations/systems. He is married to Amy Grenfell and has two children, a daughter, Savannah (12) and son, Brett (7).



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Master Sergeant Michael Benson NORAD NCO Missile & Space Professional Nominee

MSgt Benson is a Space System Operator assigned to the NORAD-USNORTHCOM Command Center as the Senior Missile & Space domain NCO Evaluator at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. MSgt Benson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Hanover High School, graduating in June 2002. After graduating from high school, MSgt Benson entered the Air Force Basic Training in August 2002. After completion of basic training he entered Enlisted Prerequisite Training (ESPT) at Vandenberg AFB. Upon graduation of ESPT, he entered Perimeter Acquisition Attack Characterization System training at Vandenberg AFB, after completion he reported to his first duty station, the 10th Space Warning Squadron at Cavalier AFS. Over the next 17 years, MSgt Benson served as a Flight Chief, Operations Flight for the 1st Space Operations Squadron, Section Chief twice, and NCOIC five times. MSgt Benson's awards and decorations include three Air Force Commendation Medals, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal. MSgt Benson earned his Associate Degree in Space Technology from the community college of the Air Force. He is married to Tricia Benson and has two children, Westley and Makayla.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Major Garrett Milne NORAD Officer Missile & Space Professional Nominee

Maj Milne is the Missile and Space Domain Senior Evaluator for the Deputy Chief position within the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Current Operations Center (N2C2), Headquarters NORAD Command, USNORTHCOM at Peterson AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for ensuring all Missile and Space Domain Deputy Chief (MSDD) watch standers are capable of assessing and characterizing missile launches worldwide for the President, Prime Minister, Secretary of Defense, Minister of National Defence, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, and other national and civil agencies to the highest standard. Maj Milne is responsible for maintaining the qualifications of 20 MSDDs as well as one line evaluator to ensure missile event reporting is carried out as accurately as possible. Additionally, he is the Deputy Chief of Standards and Evaluations (Standards) and as such is responsible for ensuring that all checklists for all domains are up to date and overseeing the periodic review of the Tasks, Conditions, and Standards used by the evaluators to assess N2C2 crew members. When on shift in the N2C2 as a Missile and Space Domain Deputy Chief, Maj Milne is a key member of the domain that characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. Maj Milne joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 2002 and began his university degree at the Royal Military College (RMC). He commissioned after graduating from RMC in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Honours Physics and Space Science. His first assignment was as the Aircraft Maintenance Support Officer at 19 Air Maintenance Squadron in Comox, British Columbia. Maj Milne completed a Master's of Science in Aerospace Engineering specializing in Aerodynamics and a Master's of Science in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee Space Institute, Tullahoma, Tennessee. He was a Flight Sciences Certification Specialist at the Director of Technical Airworthiness and Engineering Support in Ottawa, Ontario. Finally, he was assigned to NORAD as a Missile and Space Domain Deputy Chief watch stander in the N2C2 prior to his current job.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Major Jeffrey Fulton NORAD Officer Missile & Space Professional Nominee

Maj Fulton is the Chief of Operations Branch Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment (ITW/AA), Command and Control Operations Division, Operations Directorate, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM), Peterson AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for Change Control and operational upgrades to the ITW/AA system which provides Missile Warning assessment and characterization data to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, and Combatant Commands. When on shift in the N2C2 as a Missile and Space Domain Chief, Maj Fulton leads a domain that characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. Maj Fulton entered service as an honor graduate of the U.S. Air Force's enlisted Basic Military Training course, eventually accepting an enlisted commissioning scholarship into the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He commissioned through the University of Nebraska and entered into the Space and Missile career field where he served as Assistant Executive Officer, Courseware Instructor, and Flight Commander for Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Combat duty at Minot AFB, North Dakota. From there he attended Space Based Infrared System at Vandenberg AFB, California, culminating as Chief, Standardization and Evaluation for the 460th Operations Group at Buckley AFB, Colorado. Prior to his current position, he was the Commander of Air Force Technical Applications Center Detachment 45 at Buckley AFB, Colorado.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Stevens NORAD Officer Missile & Space Professional Nominee

Lt Col Stevens is the Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment (ITW/AA) Branch Chief and lead ITW/AA Exercise Director, Assessor/Authority Training Division, Training and Exercises Directorate, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) at Peterson AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for developing and leading exercises that train NORAD and USNORTHCOM General Officers how to assess and characterize missile, space, and air events worldwide for the President, Prime Minister, Secretary of Defense, Minister of National Defense, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other national and civil agencies. When on shift in the NORAD-USNORTHCOM Current Operations Center as a Missile and Space Domain Chief, Lt Col Stevens leads a domain that characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. Lt Col Stevens was commissioned into the Air Force in 2002 through the AFROTC program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has held various assignments as an A-10 Thunderbolt II and A-29 Super Tucano pilot including Chief of Scheduling, Flight Commander, Instructor, Evaluator, and Assistant Director of Operations. This includes three deployments to Afghanistan in support of combat operations. He had a career broadening assignment with the Air Force Personnel Exchange Program, in which he had the opportunity to attend the German Basic Course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. After that, Lt Col Stevens served as an Exchange Staff Officer with the German Air Force's Operational Forces Command in Cologne, Germany. Prior to his current position, he was an Assistant Director of Operations in the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, Georgia, where he served as an A-29 Instructor/Evaluator pilot and Air Advisor for the Afghan and Lebanese Air Forces.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel John Ferko NORAD Officer Missile & Space Professional Nominee

Lt Col Ferko served as the Chief, Standardization and Evaluations; Senior Missile and Space Domain Chief Evaluator; and Delta Crew, Missile and Space Domain Chief assigned to the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Current Operations Center at Peterson AFB, Colorado. As Chief, Standardization and Evaluations, he led a seven person joint and bi-national branch responsible for the certification of 252 watch standers across 16 crew positions. As Delta Crew, Missile and Space Domain Chief he leads 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 \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. Lt Col Ferko entered active duty in the Air Force in February 1992 as an enlisted Aircraft Control and Warning Radar Technician. In May 1995, he graduated from Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned as a Transportation Officer at Minot AFB, North Dakota. In January 2000, he cross-trained into the Space Operations career field and completed his first space assignment at the 12th Space Warning Squadron at Thule AB, Greenland. Lt Col Ferko has served in a variety of positions in missile operations, missile defense, and missile warning at Minot AFB, Cheyenne Mountain AFS, and is currently on his second tour at Headquarters, NORAD and USNORTHCOM. Lt Col Ferko has three adult children: John, Jr; Katrina; and James, who is a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Lt Col Ferko's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Force Achievement medal.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



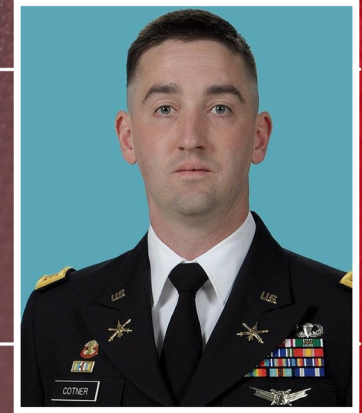
Mr. Steven Moritz

NORAD Civilian Missile & Space Professional Awardee

Mr. Moritz is the Space Operations Analyst for Standards, Training, and Evaluation Division at North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) Command Center (N2C2), NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Peterson AFB, Colorado. He is responsible for developing and standardizing tactics, techniques, and procedures for the N2C2 to assess and characterize missile launches worldwide for the President, Prime Minister, Secretary of Defense, Minister of National Defence, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, and other national and civil agencies. When on shift in the N2C2 as a Missile and Space Domain Chief, Mr. Moritz leads a domain that characterizes missile events in support of Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM missile attack assessments. Additionally, he monitors the system integrity of the \$1.8B strategic and theater missile warning systems, assuring continuous warning coverage and notification to national and military senior leaders. Mr. Moritz served in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years. He was commissioned into the Air Force in 1997 as a graduate of the University of Illinois where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. Additionally, he has earned a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University as well as a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He has served as a Command Pilot in the F-15C, AT-38, and MQ-9 and was selected for a career broadening assignment as an Olmsted Scholar to Mexico. Mr. Moritz's final active duty assignment was to NORAD and USNORTHCOM where he held multiple positions in the missile warning field including Missile and Space Domain Chief, Lead Missile and Space Qualification Instructor, and Deputy Division Chief for Standards, Training, and Evaluations.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Lieutenant Colonel Craig Cotner U.S. NORTHCOM Military Awardee

LTC Cotner was born in Winamac, Indiana. He received his commission through ROTC as an Air Defense Artillery (PATRIOT) officer from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 2003, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He also holds Masters of Arts in Leadership Development from the University of Texas at El Paso (2008) and a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College (2014). LTC Cotner's previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Tactical Director, and Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Fire Control Officer, 3-43 ADA BN (Fort Bliss, Texas); Battery Commander of Bravo Battery, 3-6 ADA BN (Fort Bliss, Texas); Battery Commander of A-4 ADA THAAD (Fort Bliss, Texas); Military Evaluation Officer, Army Evaluation Center (Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland); Military Advisor, Regional Support Command – South (Kandahar, Afghanistan); Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (Kaiserslautern, Germany); Battalion Executive Officer, 5-7 ADA BN (Baumholder, Germany); USNORTHCOM Ballistic Missile Defense Current Operations Branch Chief (Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado); and is currently assigned as the USMTM Deputy Chief of the Air and Missile Division (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). LTC Cotner has deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; Qatar from 2006-2008 and Afghanistan in 2012. LTC Cotner has attended the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, PATRIOT Top Gun Course, Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer Course, Air Defense Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Naval College of Command and Staff, and the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System Missile Defense Officer Course. LTC Cotner has been married to the former Danielle Mowad of El Paso, Texas since August 2006. LTC Cotner's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation (1 OLC), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Basic Parachutist Badge, and the Army Basic Space Badge.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Lonnie Calloway U.S. NORTHCOM Civilian Awardee

Mr. Calloway is the training analyst for the Ballistic Missile Defense Team at United States Northern Command (NC/J31). Mr. Calloway served 24 years in the Army as an enlisted Air Defender with duty assignments to the 101st Airborne (AASLT), 25th Infantry, 82nd Airborne, 18th Airborne Corps, 108th Air Defense Brigade, 2nd Battlefield Coordination Detachment, and United States Northern Command. Mr. Calloway's operational assignments include Uphold Democracy (1994), Enduring Freedom (2001, 2002) and Iraqi Freedom (2002, 2003). Mr. Calloway retired from the Army in June 2008 and became a contractor with Booz Allen Hamilton working in the BMD Division at U.S. Northern Command. In October 2009, Mr. Calloway became an Air Force civilian employee still within the BMD Division at U.S. Northern Command. While at U.S. Northern Command, Mr. Calloway was instrumental in updating the Missile Defense Officer course and ensuring that the course stays updated to the ever changing Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense (GMD) system. U.S. Northern Command continues to operate the GMD system in defense of the homeland. Mr. Calloway is married to Mrs. Kelly Calloway of Chesterfield, Virginia and they have 2 sons Devon and Dawson. Mr. Calloway's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.



MISSILE WARNING & DEFENDER of the YEAR



Mr. Kermit Neal U.S. NORTHCOM Lifetime Achievement Awardee

Mr. Neal is a Branch Chief in the Operations Directorate for U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is responsible for providing counsel to senior staff at U.S. Northern Command for matters related to integrated air and missile defense operations for the homeland. Mr. Neal has been with U.S. Northern Command since 2007. Mr. Neal is a graduate of Husson College in Bangor, Maine for his undergraduate degree and the University of Oklahoma for his Master's Degree. He accepted a commission in the U.S. Air Force in 1982 and began his career as a pilot flying RC-135 aircraft at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska and deployed to various locations around the globe. He stayed in RC/KC-135 community as an instructor pilot, Squadron Commander, and Deputy Operations Group Commander before being assigned to U.S. Strategic Command as a Deputy Division Chief and then Battle Watch Commander/Senior Controller in the U.S. Strategic Command Global Operations Center. Mr. Neal was also personally selected to be the aircraft commander for a distinguished visitor aircraft and flew high level military and civilian personnel to locations worldwide. Based on his operational experience, after September 11, 2001, Mr. Neal was deployed to Oman to stand up an Operations Group supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Neal finished his Air Force career as the Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Operations Center in Washington D.C. Upon leaving the Air Force, Mr. Neal was hired as a contractor at U.S. Northern Command into the Ballistic Missile Defense Division and was hired as a government civilian in 2010. Outside of work, most of Mr. Neal's time is spent with his family; his wife Kimberly, who teaches fourth grade, and his two sons. Mr. Neal is actively involved in the Boy Scouts and has hiked a trek at Philmont Scout Ranch with his sons and leads camping and backpacking trips on a regular basis.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the North American Aerospace Command, the United States Northern Command, the 460th Operations Group, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.



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