



# NAMDC

## Navy Air and Missile Defense Command

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### NAMDC NEWS RELEASE

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## Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance Seeks Navy's Top Missile Defenders

Navy Air and Missile Defense Command (NAMDC) is working with the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) to identify and honor Sailors considered the "best of the best" in supporting the U.S. Navy's missile defense system worldwide. Located in Dahlgren, Va., NAMDC coordinates Navy submissions.

NAMDC is the Navy's ballistic missile defense Warfare Center of Excellence and the lead organization for naval, joint and combined integrated air and missile defense matters. MDAA, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, serves to educate the American public on the critical role recipients play in defending our national security.

Each month, the MDAA honors an exceptional individual responsible for defending the U.S. Armed Forces, homeland and allies. These defenders are active duty officers, enlisted personnel or reservists from any service branch who work within the missile defense system.

"Junior officers and Sailors working within Navy's ballistic missile defense program exemplify leadership, effort and sacrifice," says NAMDC Commander Rear Adm. M. Stewart O'Bryan. "They demonstrate their commitment to excellence every day, and it's appropriate to recognize those qualities and exemplary efforts."

Last year, MDAA honored three Sailors as Defenders of the Month: July - Lt. Travis Klempan, Pacific Missile Range, Kauai, Hawaii; November - Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Shawn A. Walker, USS O'Kane (DDG 77), and December - Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Nathaniel Melvin, USS Lake Erie (CG 70). At an awards banquet held in Alexandria, Va., in January, Petty Officer Walker received the 2010 Navy Defender of the Year award from Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert and MDAA chairman and founder Riki Ellison.

To qualify, a nominee must be recommended by his or her commanding officer and be an activity duty junior officer, Sailor or reservist stationed on a ballistic missile defense (BMD) ship or serving in a BMD capacity at a shore command. Nominations are submitted through the Fleet chain of command to NAMDC, which reviews, recommends and coordinates nominations forwarded to MDAA.

For more information, visit NAMDC website at <http://namdc.ahf.nmci.navy.mil> or contact NAMDC Public Affairs at [NAMDC@navy.mil](mailto:NAMDC@navy.mil).

Upon selection, the Navy nominee receives a Letter of Appreciation from NAMDC. Upon selection by MDAA, honorees are interviewed by MDAA staff and the article featured on its website.. Selectees also automatically qualify for MDAA's Defender of the Year award. The process culminates this year with a Jan. 13, 2012, awards banquet. To read what last year's winners had to say, visit the MDAA website at <http://missiledefenseadvocacy.org>.

Riki Ellison, MDAA chairman and founder, says: "The award not only honors those who inspire others, but also serves to educate the American public on the critical role recipients play in defending our national security."

Located in Dahlgren, Va., NAMDC is the Navy's ballistic missile defense warfare center of excellent (COE) and the lead organization for naval, joint and combined integrated air and missile defense matters. The command assesses, integrates, and synchronizes Navy integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) efforts across the DOTMLPF spectrum; interfaces with operational commands, resource sponsors, system commands, research organizations, doctrine developers, training organizations and other COEs; and provides IAMD operational mission support to the fleet.