

MAJ Michael Tobey



100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) officer named “Missile Defender of the Year”

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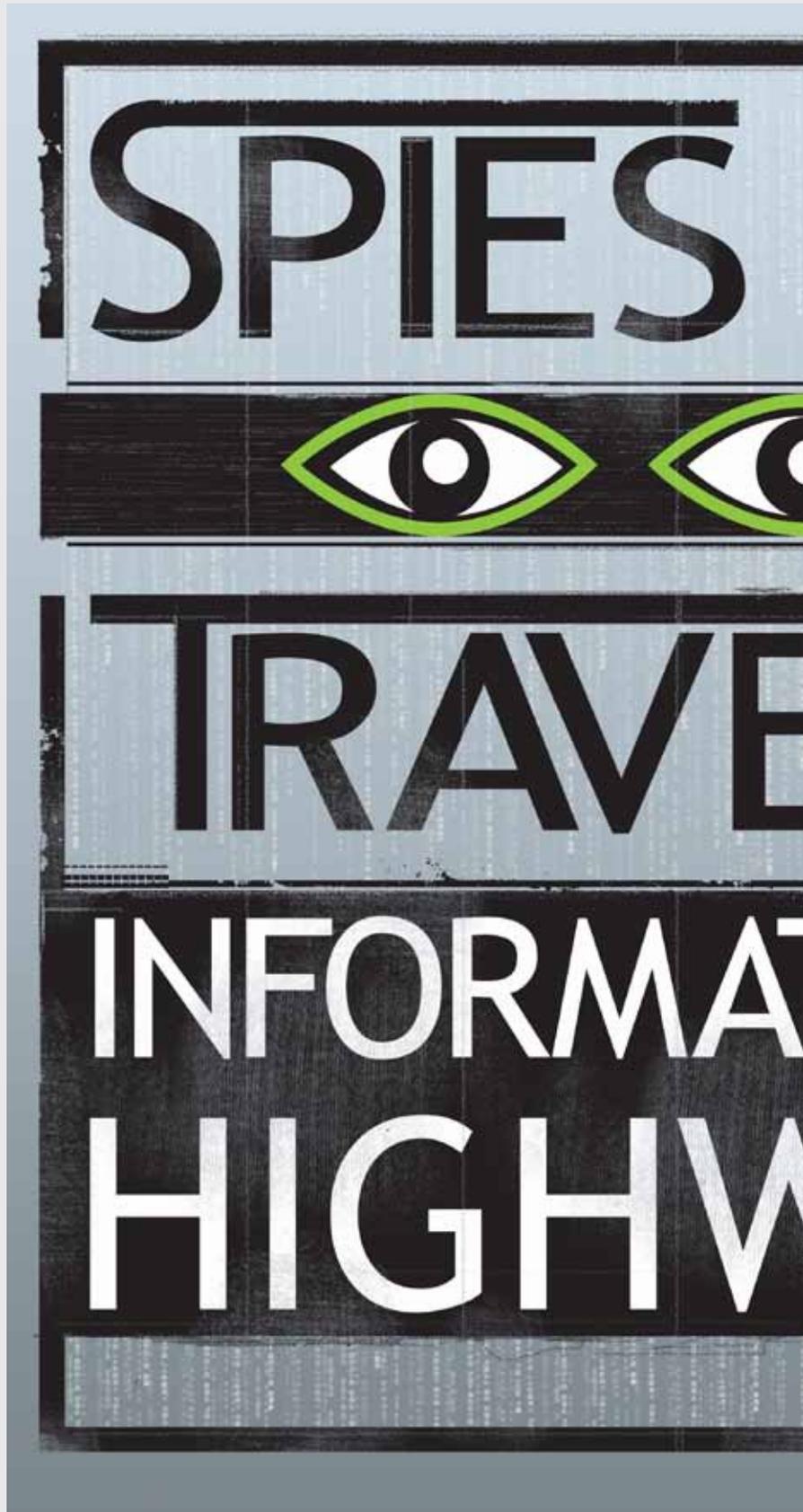
In a star-spangled (many generals present) ceremony held Jan. 14, MAJ Michael Tobey was honored by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance in being chosen as Missile Defender of the Year to represent the Army National Guard. Tobey, a member of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) received the award from BG Kurt Story, Deputy former Commanding General.

The MDAA is an organization formed to recognize and support the aims of a national missile defense. The ceremony, held in Alexandria, Va., was an inaugural event. It was held on the date considered to be the 20th anniversary of the first successful wartime use of active U.S. missile defenses to protect and defend America’s armed forces and allies. The use of Patriot missiles during Operation Desert Storm against missiles launched from Iraq laid the groundwork for today’s multi-layered, joint service missile defense that protects our nation against hostile missile attack.

The ceremony recognized Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and National Guardsmen who, according to their peers and commanders, have contributed greatly to the field of missile defense. Each individual is considered to represent the best in leadership and personal effort and to have demonstrated his or her commitment to excellence. Tobey is the Assistant Operations Officer at the 100th MDB (GMD). He is a 1995 graduate of the United States Military Academy.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance for the contributions made by the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD). I view my selection not as an individual award, but rather as a reflection of the hard work and dedication of all members of this Command,” said Tobey.

The 100th MD BDE (GMD) is a multi-component unit comprised largely of full-time National Guard Soldiers, with a small contingent of Active Component Soldiers. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., the brigade has subordinate units in Alaska and California.





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An old poster from World War II reads: "Loose Lips Sink Ships." The vision of our Sailors at war drowning at sea was a powerful reminder that security begins with each one of us. Today we tend to think such concerns are outdated and ripe for the museum. We hear about economic espionage, and our eyes glaze over. Do we really believe that the world we live in is still concerned with such a threat to our national survival?

Consider the following. Deployments of our Soldiers all over the world require that they not be taken by surprise: that the equipment they use is capable of dominating any battlefield. Abstract ideas like this mean little to the average listener. Just try to personalize the idea. What if your son or daughter depended on you to keep them alive? You would do everything in your power. But first you would have to be fully informed about the threat out there facing them.

Espionage today is hardly like we once knew it. For the most part, researchers make up today's "spies." Yesterday's spy was equipped with poison pens and secret cameras. Today's collector is equipped with a lap-top computer and modem, not to mention a current library card. He reviews data banks, technical journals, and open publications for profit. He looks for indications of new ideas, trends, or new conditions that may affect his own country in some way. He does not need to steal what he can read free of charge.

Armed with this basic knowledge, today's spies set about to gather specifics. They look for the specific people who have the specific information. Aware that

most Americans protect classified information, the modern spies look for things "on the drawing board", which can be acquired before the classification stamp is put on.

Being a patient person, the modern collector then listens. He listens to our open phones, open faxes, open computers, and after-hour discussions. We love to talk. We are active, while the collector can be passive. He knows that our national trait of impatience with methodological security measures will ultimately betray us. He simply has to wait for us to talk around classified information in open restaurants, on planes, and especially on the telephone.

You'll notice that I haven't mentioned which country the new collector represents. He could even represent a company. Economic advisors openly advertise in our newspapers on ways to get a jump on the competition. The ideas range from soliciting information for payment from enterprising or disgruntled employees, to eliciting information at conferences and symposia open to the general public.

What is the best defense against this new method of economic voyeurism? Know what you must protect! Prior to any meetings, have your team discuss what will and what will not be discussed, and then stick to it. Check before you publish. Assume that if you say it out in the open, it is compromised.

There is enough proof in the field today to show that there is no safe, open means of communication. Today's collector won't break the law if he doesn't have to. He'll just listen.