

SUBJ: 2021 ON-THE-ROOF GANG (OTRG) ANNUAL AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Between the years 1921 and 1927, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel taught themselves to break the Imperial Japanese code and passed these skills informally to many of their contemporaries. The value of the information extracted was recognized under the auspices of OP20G, the former Office of the Director of Naval Communications. Formal training was subsequently developed and implemented in 1928 and took place, until 1941, in a specially constructed blockhouse on the roof of the old main Navy building in Washington, D.C. - hence the name "On-the-Roof" Gang (OTRG). Since 1983, the OTRG award has recognized cryptologists who exemplify leadership, initiative, resourcefulness, and dedication, and personify the highest traditions established for cryptologic excellence.

Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S TENTH Fleet is pleased to select the following 2021 OTRG award winners.

The U.S. Navy OTRG winner is CTNCS Ruben J. Montano of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. According to the nomination, Senior Chief Montano has been at the forefront of cryptologic innovation, integrating and synchronizing Signals Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, and Cyberspace capabilities in support of time sensitive, no-fail operational requirements. He has consistently sought out opportunities to lead cryptologic teams taking on the nation's hardest operational and intelligence challenges. Furthermore, he was instrumental in developing advanced cryptologic capabilities leading to multiple highly sensitive, national-level operational success within the Department of Defense. He also contributed to the increase lethality of Information Warfare through pioneering advancements conducting full-spectrum cryptologic operations in declared theaters of active armed conflict against great power competitors. His dedication to mission success enabled offensive cyberspace operations supporting U.S. Cyber Command and the Intelligence Community, and he was a critical component in the Department of Defense's first-of-its-kind maritime-enabled cyberspace operations.

The U.S. Marine Corps OTRG winner is MGySgt Robert T. Johns of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command. According to the nomination, Master Gunnery Sergeant Johns' contributions to the Marine Corps and Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) community are unrivaled, and his career has touched every aspect of the SIGINT enterprise, from entry-level training where he shaped future generations, to expeditionary operations around the globe. Through his expansive and extensive approach to SIGINT training and operations, he auspiciously built upon a storied, remarkable foundation. His actions and his selfless and sociable attitude to both junior and senior Marines alike ensured positive and responsive reactions to his initiatives. His contributions to the entire Marine Corps SIGINT community shall be felt long after his transition the supporting establishment, and his near- prophetic SIGINT insight will only become more apparent as the Marine Corps positions itself for success during its transition towards a future-oriented force.

The competition was particularly keen for this year's nominees and congratulations also go to the following nominees:

- CTTCM Matthew B. Saxton, Navy Information Operations Command (NAVIOCOM) Colorado
- CTICS Jacqueline F. Hughes, NAVIOCOM Hawaii
- CTNCS Shawn M. Hutchinson, NAVIOCOM Pensacola
- CTICS Alicia L. Stafford, NAVIOCOM Georgia
- CTRC Jonathan B. Smith, NAVIOCOM Yokosuka
- CTT1 Rodney E. Bird, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)

These outstanding information warriors and cryptologists exemplify leadership, initiative, resourcefulness, and dedication, and personify the highest traditions established for cryptologic excellence by the original OTRG.

As part of their selection, Senior Chief Montano and MGSgt Johns will also be recognized by the U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association for their distinct accomplishments in the very near future.

Congratulations and well done!

VADM R. A. Myers

USN, Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. TENTH Fleet.