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Congratulations Mr. Altwegg and Mr. DeCesaris

Air Force Lt. General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) director, is pleased to announce that Mr. David Altwegg, the Agency's Deputy for Operations, and Mr. Chester A. DeCesaris, Jr., the Agency's Assistant Deputy for the Test, Fielding and Integration and Director of the Combined Test Force, are the recipients of the 2007 Presidential Rank Awards, for their outstanding leadership and service to the Federal Government. Mr. Altwegg will receive the Distinguished Presidential Award and Mr. DeCesaris will receive the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award. They were among an elite group of career members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) selected by President George W. Bush for their exceptional leadership, accomplishments and service over an extended period of time.

Linda M. Springer, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said "recipients of this award are dedicated to delivering results, and their service is advancing President Bush's agenda for improving the management and performance of the Federal Government.

Mr. Altwegg, whose distinguished career spans more than five decades, has had a direct role in successfully delivering a ballistic missile defense capability to the Nation for the first time in history. Mr. DeCesaris, an equally dedicated civil servant, is responsible for the planning, programming, budgeting and managing the Agency's comprehensive test, assessment and fielding program.

"We are proud of Mr. Altwegg and Mr. DeCesaris' accomplishments and the President's recognition of their efforts," said General Obering, "but, more importantly, we are grateful for their leadership in making missile defense a global reality."

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