

July 8, 2021

Directors,

We are opening our award submissions early again. This enables you to submit a nomination any time before the September deadline. Hopefully, you will like having this option available to you. We will send a reminder in August. Also, if any categories are added or modified, we will send an announcement. The instructions are below and attached.

Regards,

Brian McElhaney & Alison Duncan
2021 NFCA Awards Committee Co-Chairpersons

Call for Nominations-National Fusion Center Association Awards Instructions & Deadline

Nomination Performance Period: 10/10/2020 to 9/10/2021

Submission Deadline: Friday, September 10, 2021, by close of business. You may submit any time before the deadline.

- Go to: NFCA Awards URL
 - Or, cut/paste this URL to your browser:
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/bcd85ab91ab14e5f88cb8d853452aadd?portalUrl=https://aleagis.usgovvirginia.cloudapp.usgovcloudapi.net/portal>
- Follow the instructions, and click "Submit" when done
- You will see a message thanking you for your nomination

You should plan on uploading your nomination in a .pdf attachment or in a MS Word attachment. Title the nomination as follows: category-name-year. For example, "Cyber-Baker-2021."

There is a two-page limit—single space, 12 font. In addition to the two-page nomination, you may include supportive attachments— Photos, articles, statistics, letters of support, etc.

PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY ONE NOMINATION AT A TIME. Submitting multiple nominations in the same upload creates problems for the nomination scoring committee.

You may submit to multiple categories.

You may submit multiple candidates under one category (each under their own submission).

Please *do not* use the exact same nomination for a candidate nominated under multiple categories. In other words, do not use one written nomination and "shotgun" by submitting that same nomination under multiple categories. Each submission must be unique to that particular category

New for 2021

- We are pleased to add Alison Duncan from the Alabama Fusion Center to the awards team. Alison will volunteer as the Awards Committee Co-Chairperson alongside Brian McElhaney.
- To enhance clarity, we added a parenthetical sentence to every award description describing the appropriate recipient(s) for each award category. For example, the clarifying line for Fusion Center Outreach reads as follows: “(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for one *or two* individual contributors).” Every category has a similar statement.

Award Types & Criteria

Excellence in the Field of Analysis

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for an individual contributor)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to their fusion center and the National Network of Fusion Centers (NNFC). These particular services have enhanced analytical programs and improved the security posture of the jurisdiction and/or the Nation.

The Michael Schooler Critical Infrastructure Protection Award

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for an individual contributor)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to their fusion center and the National Network of Fusion Centers (NNFC). These particular services have enhanced critical infrastructure protection related programs and improved the security posture of the jurisdiction and/or the Nation.

Excellence in the Field of Cyber Protection

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for an individual contributor)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to their fusion center and the National Network of Fusion Centers (NNFC). These services or activities have brought awareness to the cyber threat and enhanced the ability of their jurisdiction to prevent, respond to, prepare for, and recover from cyber incidents.

Fusion Center Director of the Year

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for an individual contributor)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to their fusion center by leading and enhancing capabilities, increasing collaboration among partners, and instituting positive change. Their actions directly contributed to improving the security posture of their jurisdiction and ultimately our homeland.

Fusion Center Employee of the Year

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for an individual contributor)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to the National Network of Fusion Centers. These particular services have significantly contributed to the development or sustainment of the candidate's center and/or the fusion center network. Their efforts have improved the security posture of the jurisdiction and/or the Nation through information sharing.

Excellence in the Field of Fusion Center Outreach

(Employees and contractors of Federal, State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Government assigned full or part-time to a primary or recognized fusion center—this award is intended for one *or two* individual contributors)

Candidates for this award have provided exceptional services to their fusion center or area of operation. These services or activities have enhanced outreach and liaison programs or efforts and improved the security posture of the jurisdiction and/or the Nation.

Best Collaborative Effort

(Nominees can be any combination of individuals, groups, teams, organizations, National Network fusion centers, or units contained within Network fusion centers)

Candidates for this award have demonstrated exceptional collaborative efforts. These particular efforts have significantly contributed to the mission of a Network center and/or improved the security posture of the jurisdiction or the Nation. *Please avoid duplicate submissions by coordinating with your co-nominees.*

Fusion Center of the Year

(Primary and recognized fusion centers only) Candidates for this award gave exceptional services to their jurisdiction and have provided an example of best practices to the Nation. The fusion center demonstrates excellence in sharing, collecting, and analyzing information and intelligence between members of their jurisdiction, the Intelligence Community, and other SLTPP partners.

Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee's Excellence in the Field of Maritime Domain Awareness Award

(Agency, individual(s), entity, or fusion center—contractors are *not* eligible to receive this award). Candidates for this award have provided exceptional service(s) to their fusion center or area of operation in any of the fields of maritime threat collection and analysis, inter-agency maritime information sharing/integration, and related system/policy development. These particular services have advanced maritime security programs and improved the security of the domestic maritime domain in their jurisdiction or of the Nation as a whole.

HSIN Intel Award

(Agency, entity, or fusion center—this award is *not* intended for individuals) Candidate organizations for this award have significantly contributed to the sharing of unclassified intelligence information and products, analytic collaboration, and real-time information exchange via the HSIN-Intel platform. Their

efforts have enhanced nationwide efforts in making HSIN-Intel the primary information sharing platform across all levels of government. Additional considerations:

- Partner has provided exceptional resources/services nationwide and serve as an example of best practices to the Nation.
- Services have enhanced analytic collaboration and real-time information exchange Nationwide.
- Actions directly contribute to improving the awareness of threats and efforts to enhance security postures through information sharing.

Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (P/CRCL) Award

Candidates for this award have demonstrated excellence and/or innovation in the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in fusion center operations. Likely recipients include P/CRCL Officers, fusion center employees, oversight board members who work on fusion center matters, fusion center volunteers, or entire centers. Self-nominations are permitted. The person submitting the nomination certifies that there are no past substantiated or currently outstanding discrimination complaints pending against the nominee and there are no reportable data breaches of Personally Identifiable Information under the Fusion Center's current privacy policy.

NFCA Awards Scoring Committee 2021

The committee includes Federal partners, the private sector, and NFCA members from the north, south, east, and west regions of the Nation. Scoring committee members actively assigned to a fusion center must recuse themselves from scoring a submission that contains a nominee from their center.

The 2021 Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee's Award Panel

The top three nominees will be selected by the Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee's (MDA ESC) award panel for review by the MDA ESC Deputies and final selection by the MDA ESC Principals. The National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office, as the MDA ESC's executive secretary, will ensure the panel includes membership from Federal, state and local partners as well as NFCA members from the north, south, east, and west regions of the Nation. Panel members actively assigned to a fusion center must recuse themselves from scoring a submission containing a nominee from their center.

HSIN-Intel Award Panel

Upon conclusion of the NFCA awards open nomination period, the NFCA will forward nominations to the HSIN-Intel Governance Board for review and selection.

Privacy/Civil Liberties Award Panel

Upon conclusion of the NFCA awards open nomination period, the NFCA will forward nominations to the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the DHS Privacy Office for review and selection.