

******* CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – CLAYTON J. THOMAS AWARD *******

The Military Operations Research Society (MORS) invites nominations for the coveted
Clayton J. Thomas Award.

Overview: For over 44 years, Mr. Clayton J. Thomas worked for the Department of the Air Force in the Air Force Operations Analysis Office, which later became the Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency. An authority on operations research, he held a variety of positions to include Chief Scientist, Scientific and Technical Advisor, Research Group Chief, and Programs Evaluation Chief. Throughout his career, he pioneered and championed some of the latest advances in science and the scientific method to include the advent of modelling and simulation.

The Clayton J. Thomas Award recognizes outstanding individuals for their contributions to the analytical foundations of the operations research profession. Recipients are recognized as exceptional individuals who have consistently pursued sharing knowledge and talents with others in the field, delivering technically sound evidence to national security decision makers, and providing sustained technical achievements and contributions that have improved the analytical underpinnings and tools of the military operations research profession.

Suspense: Nominations should be sent to recognition@mors.org no later than **30-Mar-2026**. (extended from the previous 16-Feb-2026 deadline).

Criteria: Nominees for the Thomas Award should exhibit the following:

1. Distinguished service over time as a practitioner in national security operations research, resulting in important improvements to our tools and to the application of our analytical capabilities.
2. Enhancement of the image and substance of national security operations research as a unique scientific discipline and as a means for providing technically sound alternatives to decision makers.
3. Extension of individual knowledge and talents to others in the profession, leading to improvement of our analytic capabilities.

NOTE: Current MORS Sponsors and MORS Voting Directors are not eligible for this award.

Nominations: Nominations may be made by any of the six military services, the Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Sponsors of MORS, and Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security service officials at the assistant secretary level. The following positions may also complete nominations:

- Senior military officers (O-6 and above), or civilians of equivalent rank, in duly appointed positions as managers of staff or field activities, the primary role of which is military and national security operations research.
- The senior executive officer of educational, research, or analytic institutions directly and intimately associated with military operations research. Examples of the intent here include the Academic Dean, US Naval Postgraduate School, and the equivalent position at the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Presidents of Defense related Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and the directors of defense scientific laboratories.

- Present and former members of the MORS Board of Directors.

Process: The MORS Awards committee will review and evaluate each complete nomination packet, and provide a recommendation to the MORS Executive Council for further review, deliberation, and approval. The Thomas Award recipient will be kept in confidence until the President notifies the recipient. Any recipient will be awarded a plaque at the annual MORS Symposium.

Requirements: Nomination packets must include the following information to be considered complete.

PART I: Nominee data.

1. Name of nominee
2. Address, email, and phone number
3. Present position, title, grade, rank
4. Organizational location
5. Immediate supervisor
6. Activity or station
7. Brief description of duties or responsibilities
8. Résumé of previous awards or honors
9. A representative list of published papers, articles, or books

PART II: Narrative. The nominating party should provide a separate, signed letter articulating the nominee's qualifications for each of the award criteria, and any additional pertinent information about the nominee and their accomplishments.

Recent Winners: 2025 - Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Diaz, FS; 2024 – Dr. Daniel T. Maxwell; 2023 - Dr. Sheldon Jacobson; 2022 - Dr. Dean S. Hartley, III; 2021 - Ms. Pamela I. Blechinger; 2020 - Dr. Janet A. McLeavey; 2019 - Brig Gen Andrew P. Armacost, USAF; 2018 - Mr. Harrison Schramm