

# THE SECTOR

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## 15 Years After 9/11: Why, How and What We Do

We're approaching the 15th anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. This time of year brings common thoughts and reflections of, and because of, that day.

In the past, there has been much presented about what happened that morning, and how it unfolded in front of some of the key leaders that have been associated with EADS. On this 15th anniversary, I've asked some of those key leaders for their perspective on 9/11, specifically their thoughts after gaining the wisdom of 15 years since bearing witness to, or being touched by that horrific event. I want to thank retired Col. Bob "BOMAR" Marr, Brig. Gen. Dawne Deskins, retired Col. Wendel "HUCK" Smith and LCol Thomas Kupecz (RCAF, Ret.), the Canadian Commander at NEADS during 9/11, for agreeing to contribute to this greater perspective on the event. And to Tech. Sgt. Kelley House and Sr. Airman Jordan Jarecki, our additional duty unit historians, for helping to write some of the story. In the following pages you'll be treated to perspectives from past and current leaders.

For the remainder of my article, I want to go beyond 9/11 and reflect on the why, how and what of EADS. The concept is based on Simon Sinek's explanation of success and failure among equally equipped leaders and organizations. Here goes.

### Why

Why do we exist? NORAD protects and enables 360 million lives composing the US-Canadian partnership in North America. The men and women, airmen, civilians, and contractors; Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force (US and Royal Canadian) AND our families across three locations make up the team - the Eastern Air Defense Sector - and join together 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and 365-days-a-year. Our daily responsibilities impact seven of the 10 largest U.S. metropolitan areas and 180 million Americans east of the Mississippi River. That's 180 million childhoods, 180 million stories, 180 million futures. Our contributions to the defense of Washington, D.C. and New York City, arguably the world's political and financial hubs, support the stability of the rest of the planet.

### How

With the support of our spouses, our children and our families we defend North America. Through snow storms, rainy days and occasionally, even hurricanes; through long days, and endless tiring nights. Through bitter cold and icy travels. Through the days, weeks and sometimes even months that some of us travel away from home. Through missed weekends, holidays, family birthdays, sons and daughters soccer games; through missed school awards ceremonies and graduations, and wedding anniversaries, we get it done.

### What

We ensure the power and the lights stay on to our facilities and systems, and that there is reliable access through any kind of weather. That our installations are safe, protected and free from danger and from enemies allowing us to defend the skies. We ensure the sensors, cameras, computers, radios, networks and telephones are available 24/7. We protect our systems from cyber threats. We support and resource the essential tools and products used to complete the mission. We enable the Army to defend the nation's capital, and we team with major security organizations...the Federal Aviation Administration, Secret Service, Customs and Border Patrol, Capitol Police, and the Transportation Security Administration to secure the airspace. We surveil the skies, identify the needle in the haystack, characterize its risk and scramble the alert fighter jets and direct them onto target. We start the actions that move the military chain of command and the national level decision-makers up through the Secretary of Defense and even to the President of the United States. We do this every day. We train again, again, again. We go home, and we come back the next day and do it all over again.

We're on CNN, Fox News, CBS, NBC and ABC. We're in the newspapers and tweets and blogs. What we do isn't always plainly visible, but traces of what we do can be found all around. Why we're here, and how and what we do has important relevance to the interests of our U.S.-Canadian partnership. to the freedom of this nation, and to the pursuit of happiness of the American people.



Col. Emil Filkorn

## Personal 9/11 Lessons and Thoughts on Leadership

“JB, we’re pushing out” were the words of Lt. Col. Kevin Bradley on Sept. 13, 2001.

After a few months of supporting OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, the Syracuse F-16s were finally authorized to depart Prince Sultan Air Base in Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia. Our main support team had left via commercial transport aircraft the morning of Sept. 11, some eight hours prior to the horrific events in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. They got stranded in Gander, Newfoundland for a few additional days before being allowed back into the US. The maintenance enroute support team I was leading and the F-16 aircrew were the only 174th personnel left at PSAB. ThreatCon Delta was a new experience for me and my crew. Wearing the full battle rattle was unanticipated, but with several operational readiness exercises and inspections under my belt, the training kicked right in. Although we were not under any real threat, it was truly unknown at that time.

We watched the towers fall and the aircraft crash into the Pentagon. Without our full maintenance support team, what could we do here? Lt. Col. Bradley was the detachment commander and we worked together trying to get direction from the National Command Authority on how to proceed. I think they had bigger issues than to worry about a few F-16s wanting to get into the fight or to get home. Several times we were told to get ready to go home. Then later told to hold. It is during that time that positive leadership was required to keep the team together.

Little did I know that I was being watched during this process. My calm assertiveness was necessary to maintain focus on the needs of the airmen on our enroute support team. As you may know, Lt. Col. Bradley is now Maj. Gen. Bradley. You never know when and where it happens, but know that you are always being watched; both by the airmen above you and the airmen below. As I stated in my change of command speech, I have always treated my current job as the most important in the Air Force. At that time, taking care of my airmen’s needs was and will always be at the top of my list. Service before self is not just a statement to be read.

Well, that’s my Sept. 11 story. I know you all have your own and I know those of you on station here at EADS have a superior story and certainly of much greater importance. Since joining your team, I’ve noticed the professionalism of each and every one of our airmen and civilians. We work hard, play hard and compete well with each other both on and off the field. Competition make us all better, right? The one thing I notice here is that we seem to consider what we do as a job or just another schedule to fulfill. Getting into a routine is normal and healthy in order to provide predictability to our lives. It’s when we start to get complacent about our jobs is when things become dangerous. Routine is good but just going through the motions is a sign that an adjustment may be necessary.

Leadership begins with being able to lead oneself. It’s wearing your cover when getting out of your car to fill you gas tank; it’s calling someone for help when you’ve had one too many at the local bar; it’s having your PME done ahead of time; it’s really about being able to stand up in front of your peers and knowing that you have your stuff together. At that point, people will follow you and you can lead others. Whether it’s just leading another airman, climbing a tower with all of the proper safety equipment or leading an entire flight in the defense of our airspace.

It’s also important to recognize your own leadership accomplishments and effectively communicating them to others as you compete for higher assignments. Leading is great, but being able to sell yourself to others takes a little talent. You don’t want to come off as braggadocious, but you certainly don’t want to sell yourself short either.

You all do amazing work here at the Sector. Take some time to reflect on your accomplishments every once in a while and you’ll be amazed as well. I am glad you all have accepted me into your organization and I am proud to be part of the Huntress team.



**Col. John Balbierer**

## What Happened on 9-11

by LCol Tom Kupecz, RCAF (Retired)



LCol Tom Kupecz, RCAF (Ret.)

Zero five thirty on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. The sun had not yet come up when I pulled up to the front gate of the Sector Operations Control Centre (SOCC) at the Northeast Air Defence Sector (NEADS) HQ. Exercise Vigilant Guardian 01-2 had started the day before, and I was coming in to replace my counterpart on the Battle Staff, who had worked the night. Because of the exercise, we were in full wartime configuration, and the guard at the gate checked my ID carefully.

We were situated on the former Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York. It had been closed in 1995 as part of an American cost-saving plan that had shut down bases all over the country. The ones that didn't have strong enough Senators, that is. Nonetheless, the SOCC was too critical to the air defence of the continent to be shut down, so at the same time the active duty Air Force had pulled out it had turned over the operation to the Air National Guard. The general wisdom of the day was that these "weekend warriors" would not be able to manage the job, and would be shut down within a couple of years.

By 1998, when I arrived they were doing extremely well, and we passed an Operational Readiness Inspection with the highest marks. I might add that my group of Canadians was recognized as instrumental in this accomplishment.

The SOCC, a building with a curved metal roof, looked impregnable, surrounded by an earth berm. It was decidedly NOT bombproof, and we watched carefully for signs of suspicious people, since we were not on a base and had no security other than our own Military Police. These were Air National Guard members, most of them policemen in real life, and were alert and effective. Anyone who did not play the "game" and fooled around because this was just an exercise was likely to find himself face-down in the mud and being searched.

As the daytime Director of Operations I took the hand-off from Col. Lanny McNeely in the battle cab and listened to the intelligence briefing. We were conducting a continent-wide Command Post Exercise (CPX), which involved all the Headquarters, but no flying units. Such an exercise would be run with radar returns generated by the computer without benefit of real-life aircraft. This allowed us to exercise the staffs and the communications in full wartime mode without involving the fighters, and thereby doing away with problems of weather and saving the huge cost of flying operations.

The Intelligence briefing, given by Maj. Mark Stewart, showed a normal (for this sort of exercise) increase in world tension, with increased activity by both Russian and American Strategic Air Forces (i.e. Bombers). This always forces the air defences to prepare the fighters to repel an attack. This had happened for real several times over the past 40 years, and is not as improbable as it sounds. The fact that the Cold War was over did not relieve us from the imperative to maintain the continental defence system at peak readiness.

The Battle Cab was crowded, as the incoming and outgoing crews filled the small space. We had Maj. Bill Carle at the radar scope at one end (the scope allows a quick look to get an overview of any situation), Majors Brian 'Iceman' Daniels and Dennis 'Fester' Hesse in the Fighter Officer position, me as Director of Operations, and Col. Bob 'Bomar' Marr, the Commander. Behind us were Col. Clark Speicher as Logistics Officer, and Maj. Mark Stewart as Intelligence Officer. This was more people than normal, but it was the number required to fight off an attack by dozens of bombers. Down on the floor a full roster of Weapons Crews under the direction of Mission Crew Commander (MCC) Maj. Kevin 'Nasty' Nasypany was also settling in for the battle. So we prepared to fight a battle we thought was coming - not the one that really came.

About 8:45. Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Powell, one of the Weapons Techs in the Ops Room, jumped up and swore. His normal task is to talk with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to find out who is in the sky when we don't know the source of a blip on the radar. He ran up to the Battle Cab and exclaimed wide-eyed, "Boston Centre - a hijack!"

Normally he would have reported it to the MCC, who would relay it to us on the intercom, but this was too startling and real, coming in the course of an exercise. Boston could not tell us anything more than that it was American Airlines Eleven (AA 11). We desperately needed details such as where the missing aircraft was and what it was doing, but it had turned off its transponder which transmits data to the radars, and stopped using the radios. A look at the radar screen shows why it was impossible to ID the missing airliner.

There were three things to do right away: tell the Commander of the Continental NORAD Region (CONR) what was happening and suspend our part in the exercise; try to find the airliner; and get some fighters in the air to do whatever they could. Having friendly, reliable eyes on the scene is invaluable, as we had found many times when dealing with hijackings.

After a few minutes of trying to find American 11 on radar with no help from Boston, we scrambled two of the four armed fighters on alert on the east coast. Without any other direction these fighters, F-15s from Otis AFB on Cape Cod, followed their standard departure procedures and headed out to sea, as the best way to intercept Soviet Bears.

Soon after this Boston Centre called to say they couldn't get United Airlines 175 to respond, and were treating it as a hijack also. As this was going on, someone came in from the break room, where CNN was on the tube, and told us that an airliner had crashed into the World Trade Centre. We looked at one another and Bomar said "We're at war!"

Soon after came the news that another had hit the other tower. Now we knew what was afoot, or at least the beginning of it. At this point it was impossible to tell whether we were under a concerted attack, or what had just happened was to be all there was.

The feeling of shock in the whole SOCC was palpable. The people who had some-thing to do were the best off - training and habit took over. Anyone with no immediate task was left to worry about WW III. Maj. Tim Bejian, the Padre, went around making sure everyone was all right, and comforted the few who were not.

We scrambled the remaining two fighters in our arsenal, F-16s from Langley AFB on the Virginia coast and sent the F-15s to New York,

although they would be too late to do more than report on the damage. (but perhaps turn back any further attacks) Another call said that another aircraft, United 93 from New York was being labelled a hijack. It was bound for the West Coast, and would be approaching Chicago soon, if it stayed on course. We had no assets that could chase it down, since all our fighters were on the East Coast, the better to stop Bears. We did find, however, two pairs of F-16s from Selfridge AFB that were in the training area north of Detroit. They were unarmed, but on the theory that it was best to have friendly eyes on-scene, we had one pair land to refuel and sent the other two south on an intercept course.

In the event, they never got close, because the target turned over Cleveland and headed south. The Langley F-16s had received no scramble instructions, and headed out to sea. At this time we got word of the attack on the Pentagon, and sent them to Washington as fast as they could go. They were too late to do any good for the first attack, but would have been in position to stop United 93 if its passengers had not rebelled, forcing it to crash in Pennsylvania.

Having a full-up crew in the Battle Cab was an unusual stroke of fortune, since on any other day it would have taken up to half an hour to find the staff and get them in. In normal operations the MCC handles the crew and one of the senior staff is on call to make decisions on scrambling aircraft.

On the other hand, we had immediately to change our mind-set from the exercise to the present situation. We got people on the telephones to the Fighter Wings, asking for all available assets to be made ready. It didn't take much asking – all the Wing Commanders had seen the news and were already preparing, calling in people from home, and arming aircraft. Some even put armament on every aircraft they owned. It was my suspicion that they figured that if they uploaded all their missiles, nobody could come and take them for another unit. Since we were in a peacetime posture, the bulk of the armaments were in central storage, and would have to be shipped to the Wings. In a case like this it would be normal to re-distribute supplies from Wing to Wing, taking missiles from the haves, and giving them to the have-nots. At any rate, all were eager to get airborne and fight.

At this point we had no assurance the attacks were a one-shot effort, and were not part of a much larger assault, so we had to prepare for the worst. Col. Marr was extremely busy communicating our actions to higher HQ and directing the actions of his Sector. He left most decisions to the officers, while looking at the big picture and involving the staff, repeatedly asking, "What have we forgotten?"

I must add that all our wings were Air National Guard units, manned by part-timers (usually looked down on by the active-duty people as amateurs). When the country was under attack, these citizen-soldiers rallied within hours, while it took the professional military a couple of days to get itself together, get orders straight, and start flying. In addition to being the first responders, the Guard continued to carry the brunt of the air patrols from then on.

While we were doing this, the skies were being emptied. All civilian air traffic was being directed by the FAA to land, using a plan that had been on the books for many years. Called Security Control of Air Traffic and Navigation Aids (SCATANA), it had never been tried (for obvious reasons), and we had no idea how it would work. On that day it took only a few hours to remove over 2,500 aircraft from our screens, and land them safely all over the Sector. The story of the incoming traffic from Europe has been told many times – how they ended up covering all available parking spaces in Newfoundland and the Maritimes. We didn't have anything to do with that part, but we intercepted one aircraft that didn't have the fuel to go back to Newfoundland, and escorted it to Boston.

We spent the rest of the day organizing the fighter wings and ensuring that we had armed aircraft over New York and Washington. As the day wore on the initial shock wore off, and anger began to set in. The people who were not on duty phoned in or arrived at the SOCC to do what they could. We persuaded them to get some rest, so they could stand the night shift when we wore out.

On the next few days the skies were pretty well empty, and we were chasing down aircraft that had not got the word and were in places they should not have been. One in particular showed up coming over the Adirondacks straight at us. We found two F-16s just coming from covering New York City, and had them fly at maximum speed to intercept it. It was not at all clear that they would arrive in time, so we evacuated the SOCC of all but essential personnel (Maj. Dave Bartczak was the on-duty MCC for that one). I went around the building to make sure nobody was trying to hide under a table, and the five of us left were OK. Captain Brian Nagel, one of the Canadian Weapons Directors turned to me and said, "What are you doing here – the call was for unessential personnel to evacuate!" I think he was joking.

Just as the fighters got to him the unknown landed nearby. We sent the police to tell him he could not fly, but he ignored them and took off again for home. We heard later that the FAA had taken his wings. Not his pilot's license, but the wings from his aircraft. They weren't inclined to mess around.

From Sept. 11 on we mounted a 24-7 operation, which was soon formalized under the title Operation Noble Eagle, watching for suspicious air activity. With many more Wings under our command we mounted CAPs (Combat Air Patrols) over strategic points and sent many fighters to investigate airliners whose pilots inadvertently signalled they were hijacked, or who did not follow ATC directions precisely, or who suffered a radio failure and couldn't talk to the controllers. Several times passengers lost their common sense and became unruly on board. They were marched off to court after we escorted their aircraft to landing.

There were no more attacks of the sort on the WTC or the Pentagon, perhaps because our efforts were given wide publicity. The biggest headache was private pilots who did not pay attention to the flight restrictions over the Capitol and large airports, and caused us to scramble fighters to shoo them away.

At no time did we ever come close to considering shooting at a civilian aircraft. I am not sure a fighter pilot would have followed orders to splash an airliner full of people unless it was clearly diving on a city. The decision to order a shoot-down was never left to a Sector Battle Commander – The President retained that supremely unpleasant duty, or delegated it to a few high-level people. We were just as happy – I would not have wanted to make the decision to shoot.

NORAD air forces flew day and night since then, in fair weather and foul, without losing an aircraft. The 24-7 operations took a toll on staffs which were not manned for it. Fortunately (for us, at least) the huge drop in air traffic made the airlines furlough many pilots and staff. Since many of these were former Air Force people and Guardsmen, they were available to bolster our ranks. The willingness, even eagerness of all Guardsmen to contribute to the country's defence in the face of hardships is supremely inspiring. I was proud to work alongside them.

## 15 Years Later: The Commander on 9-11 Shares His Reflections

by Col. Robert K. Marr, USAF (Ret.)

At the 15-year anniversary of 9/11, the call for presentations has diminished. Pretty much all that can be said has been said - some emotional, some exaggerated, and some simply ill-informed. At the 10-year anniversary I discontinued any descriptions of the specific events of the day. The most prominent question at that time was, "do you remember where you were as it happened?" which came with the insinuation that every American was so impacted by the



*Col. Robert Marr, EADS Commander during 9-11, on the operations floor.  
Col. Marr commanded EADS from July 1999 to April 2005.*

murderous hijackings that where you were and what you were doing would never be forgotten. But, it also seemed to lead to a need to cling to the emotional impact of the devastation, rather than moving on to the lessons we needed to learn, the strength that was exhibited in the response, and the optimism they give us for the future.

So, in 2011 the message changed. Instead of a description of the clear skies that morning, a description of the clear heads that stood ready on station, the way they did every day and night while others slept or went about their daily lives. Instead of showing a timeline and flight path of alert fighters, the story was of the skill and experience of the pilots. Instead of describing the limited resources available, it became a story of military men and women around the country voluntarily putting their own lives on pause to respond to a new threat, and in many cases putting their own lives at

risk. Instead of a one-day event, it was only the beginning of a new awareness.

Today when I look back at 9/11, rather than crashing airplanes and burning buildings, my mind's eye is much more likely to experience an MCC clearly and professionally directing his entire operation. Surveillance and ID desperately trying to find a track for Weapons. The intensity of the Weapons officer trying to bring forces to the threat, and all of it in confident quiet - professionals at work. The SC and maintenance folks constantly shuttling in and out of ops, looking for ways to build the picture and working to make sure it can't go down at a crucial moment. The Security Forces putting their game faces on. The Canadian contingent wearing US flag arm patches in a show of solidarity. The mids crew coming back in to see if they could help. The Wing Commander of a non-assigned fighter wing generating and arming all his jets, knowing that "someone will call." The multitude of faces in the air and on the ground turning into first responders, doing what they could, and in too many cases, paying the ultimate price. The list goes on...

The story of 9/11 at 15 years is the people. For each of those examples listed above I have a name and a face that have been purposefully left out because no one of them stands alone - each is simply representative of the trained professionals ready to take on the task. The people of 9/11 are best described as the Sentinel - the one who stands between the threat and the protected (even when the protected are unaware). Today my favorite presentation on 9/11 includes a display of three hats representing the military, the police force, and the firefighters. The one thing you can count on is that these three, like the Sentinel, will be running toward the danger while everyone else runs away. In the Eastern Air Defense Sector the Sentinel stands!

## Brig. Gen. Deskins: 9/11 Affects Decisions I Make Every Day

*Tech. Sgt. Kelley House and Sr. Airman Jordan Jarecki interviewed Brig. Gen. Dawne Deskins, the former EADS Commander now serving as Deputy Director of Partnering and Missile Defense at the United States European Command. Gen. Deskins was on the ops floor during 9/11.*

### **Q1. Looking back on the past 15 years, how did the events of 9/11 and the U.S. response to the attacks change the Department of Defense; how did it change the Air Force and the ANG?**

A1. What started 15 years ago on 9/11 fundamentally changed the way DoD uses the reserve component. Prior to that, the National Guard was considered a “strategic reserve” with the expectation that there would be a long period of build-up prior to using National Guard forces. The threat we expected to fight would be a large, state actor that would provide us indications and warnings as they built up their forces prior to an attack. What happened on 9/11 gave us no warning, so DoD had to change the way they used the National Guard. Now, National Guard forces maintain the same readiness as the active component with the ability to mobilize and deploy forces on a regular, rotational basis. The concept of duty for a weekend a month and two weeks in the summer is long gone. Our ANG airmen are more ready today than they have ever been.

### **Q2. In your experience working with DoD and national leaders, how did the events of 9/11 and the largely asymmetric Global War on Terror change the perspectives and outlook of key decision makers and leaders?**

A2. In my opinion, the biggest change is that we realized we had to be more agile, look more broadly in how we share information and make decisions much more quickly. If you look at that day in particular, there were many entities that had pieces of information, but no one had the entire picture nor did they have any way to share it. Today is very different. We share information across the interagency and are able to move forces much more quickly.

### **Q3. How did the attacks and your direct involvement in the U.S. response affect your own understanding of your role as an Air Force officer? Has that perspective evolved since assuming more recent assignments as a senior DoD leader?**

A3. What I found particularly impressive that day was that all the training we had done at the Sector actually prepared us fairly well for our response that morning. That sounds counterintuitive since leaders at many levels said we were not prepared for a terrorist to use an airplane as a weapon. That is true. But we had practiced attacks against the U.S. in our exercise program for years. Now we were extremely limited in resources and air picture, but what the men and women of the then Northeast Air Defense Sector did that morning, and the professional manner in which they did it, impresses me to this day. The challenge is that the farther away we get from those attacks the easier it is for decision makers to get short sighted with regard to our needed capabilities. I will never forget that feeling of not having enough resources to meet the threat. It impacts my decisions every day.

### **Q4. In a recorded interview that you gave with the 9/11 Commission on Oct. 30, 2003, you mentioned that staffing at the NORAD Sectors was decreased after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, ultimately affecting the indigenous ability of the Sectors to rapidly sustain capability in the aftermath of 9/11. Considering current DoD budget constraints and a reduction in the size of the total force, what are the concerns for senior DoD leaders in strategically planning for all-hazards threats?**

A4. It’s a complicated problem set for sure. 9/11 gave us a new asymmetric threat against the homeland. In addition, we have State actors that are threatening stability across the globe. The end of the Cold War now has us facing a resurgent Russia. On top of that, natural and manmade disasters over the last 15 years have generated responses that stretch or military forces in general, and the National Guard specifically. And as you point out, we do this all in a resource-constrained environment. My concern is whether we will have the resources we need, where and when we need them. The Air Force has needed the Air National Guard to maintain the presence we have globally. But there is a price to pay and many airman are finding it difficult to balance civilian employers, Guard deployments and their families. We are asking much more of them than a weekend a month and two weeks a year.

### **Q5. If you could reach out directly to young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen just joining their respective services in the post-9/11 DoD, what message or advice would you like to impart to them?**

A5. Thank you for your selfless service every day. And thank you to your families, who give up so much in service to our country. The military you serve in today is much more demanding than the one I entered in the 80s. I am so impressed by our young Soldiers, Sailor, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. Your enthusiasm, skill and professionalism is inspiring. Less than 1 percent of our population raises their hand and volunteers to serve. You represent what is truly great about this country.



**Brig. Gen. Dawne Deskins**

## Perspectives on 9/11: Then and Now

by Col. Wendel "Huck" Smith, USAF (Ret.)

"Boston Center (ARTCC) is shut down! You are cleared any altitude, max airspeed direct to Pittsburgh for point defense. Standby for your ROE brief." That was Capt. Brian "Lunchbox" Nagel, Huntress Control on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Lunchbox sounded as determined and resolute as myself and the other pilots in the four-ship of armed F-16s that had launched seconds before from Hancock Field to begin Operation Noble Eagle, the defense of our nations' skies from further attacks.

The attacks of 9/11 were both shocking and surreal, especially for a fighter pilot trained to take the fight to the enemy. Suddenly we were ordered to defend the Homeland at all costs. The terrorist attacks had clearly changed the dynamic of how (and where) we would fight our enemies. It had profound impacts on our lives and the mission of Homeland Air Defense. Like many Americans, I was both angry and sad on 9/11. Angry that terrorists would resort to cowardly acts to kill thousands of Americans and sad for the senseless loss of life. The images from those terrorist attacks are forever etched in my memory.

On Sept. 11, I was a full-time pilot for United Airlines, flying A320 passenger aircraft on domestic routes to/from Chicago. I was also a traditional guardsman and F-16 pilot at the 174th Fighter Wing in Syracuse. On that sunny Tuesday morning, I was making final preparations for an F-16 air-to-ground training mission to Fort Drum when the first aircraft hit the World Trade Center. After pre-flight checks and engine start, Air Traffic Control (ATC) advised us that the National Airspace System (NAS) was being shut down.

We returned to Ops and were met by the 174th Wing Commander who ordered us to arm up our jets and scramble to defend the skies against further attack. Huntress Control at NEADS would provide our mission and ROE. I had been on several combat deployments over the years, but I had never considered the possibility of shooting down a civilian airliner. I suddenly felt the weight of the world on my shoulders. This is a tremendous responsibility that I now share with hundreds of Air Defenders at EADS and across the nation - all of whom I consider American heroes for their diligence and daily sacrifice to the greater good. After four hours of Combat Air Patrol over Pittsburgh and several intercepts of errant general aviation aircraft, we returned to Ft Drum to re-arm. This was the beginning of the U.S. War on Terror. Little did I know at the time that I would spend the better part of the next 15 years serving my country at NEADS/EADS.

Fifteen years after the attacks I was asked to reflect on 9/11, then and now. I recalled thinking on that fateful day that the terrorist had forever changed our way of life. While that may not be entirely true, there are some considerable differences from my perspective. Some of the changes are obvious and have become commonplace, while others are more subtle. The most important change is one that ordinary citizens and the press know little about.

All of us witnessed the compassion, selflessness and patriotism in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. Regrettably, some of that has faded as 9/11 has become a distant memory for many Americans. However, the select group of Air Defenders at EADS and the professionals at United Airlines are constantly reminded of the impacts of 9/11 and the subsequent changes resulting from the attacks.

Some of the obvious changes include - armed police and National Guardsman at airports and other transportation hubs; TSA screening; armored cockpit doors on passenger aircraft; barricades around government buildings; and increased security at major sporting events. For those in the industry I include airline bankruptcies, layoffs, and pay cuts. Other changes are more subtle. For example, background checks, FAMS, armed pilots (FFDO), and baggage screening. While these measures don't make us immune to the brutal terrorist attacks witnessed in Europe and other parts of the world, we are certainly safer in part from the massive security measures put in place following 9/11. Unfortunately, a level of anxiety persists for those of us who know we are still faced with a determined enemy. As recent events demonstrate, we never know when the next attack may occur.

In addition to the obvious changes since 9/11, there is a much more profound change for those of us who serve. While ordinary Americans may not realize the changes resulting from 9/11, most National Guardsman do. Most Americans don't know the Herculean efforts of thousands of Air National Guardsmen employed in the NORAD Homeland Defense mission. These silent warriors stand watch 24/7 at EADS, WADS, America's AOC and fighter alert sites throughout the country. They are ready to respond at a moment's notice to actual and/or potential aviation threats. While many Americans have become insulated to the terrorist threats to aviation, the men and women of EADS keep the tip of the spear sharpened to protect our nation's centers of gravity. Service members and families endure daily sacrifice to protect our nation. This sacrifice and devotion to duty is why I am so very proud of each and every member of the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

While the horrors of 9/11 have become a faded memory, one thing remains very strong - the bond I feel with each and every member of the Eastern Air Defense Sector. Your devotion to duty is the nexus of my pride in knowing you. We will forever share the love of our country and the commitment to defend it at all costs. WE WILL NEVER FORGET!



*Pictured above are the four pilots from the 138th Fighter Squadron who scrambled from Syracuse on Sept. 11, 2001. From left to right, with their ranks at the time, are: Maj. Greg Semmel, Lt. Col. Scott Poppleton, Maj. Wendel Smith and Lt. Col. Tom Owens. Photo from the 174th Fighter Wing's EnGarde Magazine, Oct. 2001.*

## Lt. Col. Bartczak is New 224th Support Squadron Commander

by Tim Jones, 224th ADG Public Affairs

ROME, N.Y. – Lt. Col. David Bartczak formally took command of the New York Air National Guard's 224th Support Squadron on Aug. 18 during an assumption of command ceremony at the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

The 224th Support Squadron is a subordinate unit of the 224th Air Defense Group (ADG). The 224 ADG conducts the mission of the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS), a North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) headquarters unit located at Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. The Support Squadron is responsible for providing services, such as information technology, physical plant maintenance and security, which are critical to the conduct of the mission.

Bartczak received command before a crowd of about 80 family, friends and fellow members of the Air National Guard. Col. John M. Balbierer, the 224th ADG Commander, served as the officiating officer for the ceremony.

A Buffalo, New York native, Bartczak graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy in 1990 with a mechanical engineering degree. A scholarship cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, he was commissioned in May 1990. After completing Air Battle Manager training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida in June 1991, he was assigned to the Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) at Tyndall, where he served as mission crew commander and flight commander. In 1996, Bartczak transferred to the New York Air National Guard and was assigned to the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) at what was then Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome.

Since arriving at the Eastern Air Defense Sector (NEADS was re-organized as EADS in 2009), Bartczak has served in nearly every major leadership post. He served as senior director and mission crew commander from March 1996 to November 2001 and as assistant flight commander from November 2001 to April 2004. From November 2001 to July 2007, Bartczak also served as joint interface control officer, where he led the design and operational fielding of the first, modern tactical data-link network to cover the continental U.S.

In July 2007, he became a flight commander and served in this capacity until May 2011, when he became Chief of Operations Control. In December 2013, Bartczak became Assistant Deputy Commander, Operations. He has served as Deputy Commander, 224th Support Squadron since October 2016.

A graduate of Air War College and Air Command and Staff College, Bartczak holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Florida State University. His awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal.

Bartczak and his wife Sharon live in Whitesboro. They have two children, Kaitlin and Jerrad.



## CONR-1st Air Force and State Command Chiefs Visit EADS

by Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley, 224th ADG Senior Enlisted Leader

If you were not able to attend, or were one of those that had to stay behind and keep the mission going, I would like to fill you in on our visit from Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, our new State Command Chief. Chief Giaquinto is the first woman to serve as the top enlisted Airman in New York, but more importantly, she is a leader who will continue to provide opportunities for our enlisted corps.

On July 25, Chief Giaquinto and Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, the outgoing state Command Chief, held their change of authority ceremony at New York State Division of Military Affairs and Naval Affairs headquarters in Latham. As State CCM, Chief Giaquinto will be the senior enlisted advisor on training and morale of the enlisted force to Maj. Gen. Anthony German, who serves as both the Commander of the New York Air National Guard and the Adjutant General of New York.

Chief King will continue to be a part of our mission as the 1st Air Force Command Chief and senior enlisted advisor to Lt. Gen. R. Scott Williams, the CONR-1AF Commander. He will be bringing with him the stories of our outstanding New York airmen and creating more paths of opportunities for all airmen under his leadership.

Chief Giaquinto started her military career in the U.S. Army in 1984 as an administrative specialist assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. After a brief break in service, she then joined the New York Air National Guard, becoming a member of the 109th Airlift Wing. The Chief then served seven years in the Logistics Readiness Squadron managing the administration and personnel of the Orderly Room (FSS) Section. In 2004, she was selected as the Communication Flight's Information Resource Manager. In 2006 she was selected as the Office Manager for the Wing Commander and also served on the ANG Portal Advisory Council, Region 1 Portal Content Manager and Unit Deployment Manager. In 2009, she deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and in 2010 was selected as the Human Resource Specialist at the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) in Latham, where she held such positions as Personnel Superintendent and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator- Air.

In 2013, Chief Giaquinto was selected to be the 109th Airlift Wing Command Chief. There she was responsible for the morale, welfare, development, training and readiness of the unit's 700 enlisted personnel. She is also active in AFSA, Enlisted Association of the ANG, Enlisted Association of the NY ANG, Unified Military Affairs and was just selected to sit in the primary position for Region 1 of the Enlisted Force Advisory Council.

What many of you may not know Chief Giaquinto is also our Command Chief here at the Eastern Air Defense Sector. She works very closely with the Senior Enlisted Leader and this relationship enables us to have the same opportunities as Airmen in the other New York units.

Chief Giaquinto's visit gave us a chance to show her what we do – it let her get her eyes on our people and our mission. I am very proud to say that she was blown away by our mission and our people. She saw a family and a thorough professionalism that should be show-cased.

Chief Giaquinto is not a silent leader, you will see her and hear from her. She is going to seek ways to improve all processes that relate to our enlisted force with education at the top of her list. In this area she plans to increase opportunities of educational benefits and avenues, but know that she also believes in accountability and that completing educational requirements is something in every individual's control. Professional military development and local professional development will be a focus of her attention.

Chief Giaquinto is a hands-on leader that expects everyone to give their best. Pride in our missions, state, and people are at the forefront for her and there is no problem too big for her to tackle. She believes in family and the importance of taking care of each family member. She quoted, "When you serve in the military, your family serves with you".

As your Senior Enlisted Leader I am excited for what lies in store for you under her experienced leadership. Chief King and Chief Giaquinto are a testament that there are no boundaries to our career potential and enlisted leadership opportunities!



*New York Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto spoke to Airmen during her recent visit to EADS. Chief Giaquinto and CONR-1st Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, formerly the NYANG Command Chief, held an enlisted call during their visit on Aug. 22.*

## Det 1 Holds Summer Party Highlight “JADOC Experience”

by Lt. Col. Angel Figueroa, 224th ADG, Detachment 1 Commander

The JADOC Det 1 Summer Party was held on Saturday, Aug. 27. We took time away from work to embrace our new theme, known by our members as the “JADOC Experience.” Our team put together a great activity for family, friends, and coworkers. Food was abundant and we were able to compliment both Army and Air Force personnel working the operations floor, including contractors. This was a great venue to meet co-workers and family members. The food was well diversified, including food from the Caribbean, Greece, India and American food among others. Children were fully entertained by music, a moon-bounce, and with their own ingenuity, a water balloon station. Some of our members were fully engaged in the balloon fight by our children. The highlight was a quick tour of our operations floor, allowing family members to have a better understanding and appreciation of our no-fail mission.



*The JADOC Family Day featured a bounce house and tour of the facility. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Angel Figueroa.*

## EADS Family Day Features NY State Police K-9 and Utica Zoo Visitors

by Master Sgt. John Mills, 224th ADG 1st Sergeant



For all of you that attended this years’ Family Day I am sure you can agree it was a huge success! The weather became a huge factor this year and with that came the decision to hold the event in the Colosseum. With the help and coordination of many volunteers we were able to pull off a great way to help celebrate those most dear to us...our families!

Our main focus is for the family as a unit when this event is being organized so we try to make it a fun day for all ages! Our inflatable obstacle course, New York State K9 demonstrations, Utica Zoo and just plain relaxation to enjoy each-others company made the day a special event. Hope all who came enjoyed themselves and we look forward to next year and the celebration of our families. Pictured, at left, is Itzabelle Y. Sanchez, daughter of Capt. Christain Sanchez-Hernandez and Kristina Vasquez, as she pets a snake from the Utica Zoo. *Photo courtesy of Kristin Vasquez.*

## Maj. Hibbert and Master Sgt. Masson Transitioning to Detachment 1



Maj. Claude Hibbert

Maj. Claude Hibbert left the Sector in August to take over as Air Defense Coordinator at Det 1. Claude served four-and-a-half years at the Sector as an operationally qualified Air Weapons Officer and Air Surveillance Officer. His leadership and expertise as OIC, Surveillance; Data Collection Officer, and Chairman of CGO Council was an integral part mission success and earned him a CONR C2 Warrior of the Year nomination in 2015. Claude and his family are currently settled in Virginia and ready for their next adventure. *Article by Maj. Joe Stevens, 224th ADS Chief of Staff.*



Master Sgt. Cathy Masson

After serving 16 years in the unit, Master Sgt. Catherine Masson is transitioning to Det 1 to become Operations Superintendent. While at EADS, she held five different operational qualifications (TT, IDT, AST, EAC, MCCT) and garnered appointments as Evaluator and Instructor. She also held key leadership roles as Assistant Flight Superintendent; NCOIC, Ops Training; JEC President, and Huntress Club Vice President. Cathy participated in EADS 9/11 operations and played an active role in initiating EADS Hall of Fame and Family Day programs. Cathy is looking forward to new leadership challenges at the JADOC and enjoying her Washington Redskins season tickets. *Article by Maj. Joe Stevens, 224th ADS Chief of Staff.*

## Interested in External PCS Opportunities? Guidelines Being Developed

by Col. Emil Filkorn, EADS CC

In the coming month, EADS commanders and chiefs will contribute to drafting an outline for members participation in “unit-benefiting and career-broadening” PCS opportunities. AGR opportunities routinely come open at NGB, 1st Air Force and to a lesser extent, within the NYANG. In the near future, opportunities will exist on ACC staff. For the benefit of EADS advocacy and for individual career development, I want to take a more thoughtful approach in supporting and recommending high performance officers and enlisted for these assignments. That approach will include a careful process for a full-time, return assignment back to EADS. It will not be a requirement to participate to have a successful career at EADS, but it will be another opportunity for individuals to broaden and diversify their career experience. If we establish some basic guidelines, it will allow members, supervisors and commanders to plan for participation in these career-enhancing, unit-benefiting opportunities. More to follow.



## Staff Sgt. Williams is Distinguished Grad at C2 Course



Staff Sgt. Carl Williams

Staff Sgt. Carl Williams was the Distinguished Graduate at the Command and Control Battle Management Operations Apprentice Course, completed on Aug. 24. Conducted by the 81st Training Group at Kessler AFB, Mississippi., The course provided more than 220 hours of instruction. Sgt. Williams will fill an AGR position in the 224th ADS and support Surveillance operations. *Information provided by Maj. Joe Stevens, 224th ADS Chief of Staff.*

## Bush and Sigg Graduate From ABM School



2nd Lt. Justin Bush



2nd Lt. James Sigg

2nd Lt. Justin Bush and 2nd Lt. James Sigg graduated from Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training Course on Aug. 10. The two lieutenants completed 170 training days and 1,360 hours of instruction at the 337th Air Control Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Lt. Bush will fill an AGR position in the 224th ADS and support weapons operations. Lt Sigg will fill a DSG position in the ADS and also support weapons operations. *Information provided by Maj. Joe Stevens, 224th ADS Chief of Staff.*

## A Fond Farewell

We wish **Tech. Sgt. Haywood Williams** and his family a fond farewell. Haywood is leaving the 224th SS and Security Forces to become the pastor for Grace Baptist Church here in Rome. He joined EADS in November 2001 and worked a variety of duty positions to include Armory, Entry Controller, and Flight Sgt. In 2008 he was deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as a part of the 376th Air Expeditionary Forces Wing. We wish him the best in his future endeavors. *By Sr. Master Sgt. Terry Hughes, 224th Support Squadron Security Forces Flight Superintendent*



## NYANG Cyber Leadership Meeting Focuses on Inspections and Information

by Maj. Jacob Searles, 224th Support Squadron

It is no secret that the accelerating, transformative impact of cyber creates an uncertain future for Communications Flights and other cyber units. More importantly, fast changing technology continues to have unpredictable and immediate consequences on operational missions of all types across the gamut of military organizations. In an effort to better



[www.militaryaerospace.com](http://www.militaryaerospace.com)

understand requirements and harness Cyber capability, NYANG Cyber leadership from across New York State met for discussions at Stratton ANGB in early August in Scotia. This was the second successful meeting of its kind, the first being held here at EADS in December of 2015. These meetings provide the ideal opportunity for Cyber leaders to disseminate new understanding, collectively work through issues, and network with peers. Cyberspace Operations Officers and Superintendents from the 105th AW (Newburg), 106th RW (Westhampton Beach), 109th AW (Scotia), 213th EIS (Newburgh) and 224th SS participated in the event.

At the meeting, the 109 Inspector General visited as a guest speaker and conducted a high level briefing on the way forward for inspections and deficiencies. As it is throughout the Air Force, the method in which Communications Flights are inspected has radically changed over the past few years and is still evolving rapidly. Gone are the days of regularly

scheduled formal inspections, and in is the new MICT system. There is room for interpretation of how AFI requirements translate into line items within the MICT databases, and how individual units will be judged based on MICT input. Attendees found value in discussions involving how each Flight is accomplishing MICT and the experiences of some flights during inspections. Going forward as it is so often the case, understanding expectations and standardizing the process will help eliminate much of the confusion.

The group was fortunate to host Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge as the keynote speaker. Gen. LaBarge currently serves as the NYANG Chief of Staff. In this role he is the primary advisor to the NY Adjutant General on all topics related to the Air Guard. Manning levels across the Guard continues to be an area of concern; one that is very actively worked by leadership. Gen. LaBarge provided insight on the potential impact of fluctuating manning levels on Cyber. Title 5 conversions may be more important to Cyber units than to the rest of the Guard. Congress seeks to replace military members with civilians where the job is not an inherently military function, and some benefit can be realized by making the switch. Information Technology is generally viewed as a role that civilians can fill. In addition, due to high market demand, technical fields have traditionally struggled to retain top talent in uniform and therefore many view Cyber as a logical place to replace blue-suiters with Government civilians and contractors. Gen. LaBarge pointed out that National Guard leadership at the national level is contending this conversion and what will actually be instituted on the ground remains uncertain.

The Civil Support Team (CST) is a highly capable force charged with responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The NY CST is stationed at Stratton ANGB. Included in their expansive capability is an impressive mobile communications suite. The CST can deploy their communication suite to assist in disaster relief, or to mitigate the impact of a military installation experiencing technical difficulty, or when some additional communications capability is required. The Cyber leaders toured CST's facility, received a briefing on their mission, and participated in a hands-on demonstration of their expansive self-sufficient, mobile communications capability.

Unit leaders again agreed that in-person meetings are beneficial. These meetings should continue, but it was decided to change the frequency goal to biannually as opposed to the quarterly target that was originally decided upon. Lt. Col. Silver from the 105th in Newburgh volunteered to organize and host the next Cyber leadership meeting at a date that is yet to be determined.

# Dining with Danger: Safe Food Preparation

by Colt Brumm, 224th ADG Safety and Occupational Health Manager

While the stated purpose of my job is to “provide a safe and healthy work environment” here at EADS, the implied task is to ensure that each of you are physically available to conduct the duties that the commanders need you to do in order for the unit to accomplish its mission. Among other things, this means that I have to be on the lookout for threats which could remove personnel from duty, with particular attention to those which could impact multiple personnel at the same time. One example of this type of threat is foodborne illness.

In the time that I have been here, I have learned that our periodic food-based fundraisers and unit functions are a great way to raise funds and, more importantly, are an important part of the social culture of the unit. They provide opportunities for us to get together outside of our job duties and get to know one another better as people. Unfortunately, they also expose us to the possibility of getting a lot of unit members sick at the same time. Even though most foodborne illnesses are relatively mild in nature and typically last only a couple of days, a large number of people getting sick simultaneously for several days, as could happen at a party or fundraiser with mishandled or contaminated food, could make it more difficult to maintain appropriate manning levels.

The good news is that it is fairly easy to mitigate the risk. In each break-room here at EADS, you will see a poster on the refrigerator describing the four key principles of food safety: CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK, CHILL.

**CLEAN** – Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and ensure that utensils and dishes are properly cleaned before use.

**SEPARATE** – Keep raw meats, poultry, fish, and their juices away from other foods.

**COOK** – Use a meat thermometer to ensure that meats reach a safe temperature. Note: Food thermometers have been provided in each break room, and I recommend that you use them to ensure that meats, especially those intended for several people, are cooked to a safe temperature. The refrigerator posters have a guide to safe internal food temperatures.

**CHILL** – Perishable items should be refrigerated, frozen, or discarded after 2 hours at room temperature. If you plan on leaving leftovers “just in case somebody wants some later”, leave them in the refrigerator, not on the counter. Trust me, people will find them in the fridge just as easily as on the counter (leave a note if you’re worried they won’t), and proper handling will ensure that 1-36 hours later you won’t hear curses thrown your direction from the nearest restroom.

With knowledge, attention, and liberal use of food thermometers, we can continue to hold burger burns, spaghetti lunches, and other fun get-togethers without worrying about the potential impact on the mission. If you have any questions or need help planning a safe event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Safe Cooking Temps**

Use a food thermometer. You can't tell food is cooked safely by how it looks.

Whole Poultry	Chicken Breast	165°F
Ground Beef	Leftovers	160°F
Fish	*Steaks & Roasts	145°F
	*Pork	145°F

\*with a 3 minute stand time

www.fightbac.org  
Partnership for Food Safety Education  
Clean • Separate • Cook • Chill

## Huntress Hustlers Complete Ragnar Trail Run in Western Massachusetts

by Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley, 224th ADG Senior Enlisted Leader

The Huntress Hustlers recently completed the 121-mile Ragnar Trail Relay at Northfield Mountain in western Massachusetts. The team consisted of Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley, Sr. Master Sgt. Tom Whiteman, Master Sgt. Natasha VanDeusen, Master Sgt. Matt VanDeusen, Master Sgt. Jason Cheramie, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carrier, retired Master Sgt. Chris Hanson and Karen Harrison, a Richmond area resident a great addition to our Huntress team.

The relay consists of three different loops – a 3-mile green loop, a 4.9-mile yellow loop and a 7.3 mile red one – totaling 15.2 miles. Loops are completed in succession (green, yellow, red, green, yellow, red, etc...) until all team members have completed each loop for a total of 24 loops.

These trails were tough, technical and climbed 2,700 feet in total elevation.

It was an awesome and truly challenging event. If you see one of the Huntress Hustlers congratulate them on this significant accomplishment!



*The Huntress Hustlers Ragnar Team: Master Sgt. Natasha VanDeusen, Master Sgt. Matt VanDeusen, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carrier, Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley. Back row: Karen Harrison, Master Sgt. Jason Cheramie, Sr. Master Sgt. Tom Whiteman, retired Master Sgt. Chris Hanson. Photo courtesy of Karen Harrison.*

## EADS Part of ANG Outreach Effort at New York State Fair



Staff Sgt. Dan Schmitt, left, and Sr. Master Sgt. Dave Layton pose for a photo at EADS booth at the New York State Fair on Aug. 25, the fair's opening day. EADS manned the informational booth 16-hours-a-day for the length of the fair, which ended on Sept. 5. Sr. Master Sgt. Layton and Staff Sgt. Marie Coar coordinated the unit's participation. Volunteers were: Lt. Col. Catherine Sundet, Maj. Joakim Hanson, Maj. Gareth Scofield, Maj. Jason Taylor, Maj. Rex Vinales, 1st Lt. Tom Perkins, Chief Master Sgt. Maureen Dooley, Sr. Master Sgt. Tom Whiteman, Sr. Master Sgt. Tammy Weber, Master Sgt. Natasha VanDeusen, Master Sgt. Derek Gagnon, Master Sgt. Myles Macey, Master Sgt. Jason Cheramie, Master Sgt. Jeremy Marcolini, Master Sgt. Jeremiah Martinez, Master Sgt. Linda Mies, Master Sgt. Christopher Kent, Master Sgt. William Stickel,

Tech. Sgt. Clifford Fallico, Tech. Sgt. Jordan Farrell, Tech. Sgt. Michelle Gagnon, Tech. Sgt. Rory Lawrence, Tech. Sgt. Eric Lewis, Staff Sgt. Frank Aleamar, Staff Sgt. Kathleen Bielecki, Staff Sgt. David Bowers, Staff Sgt. Michelle Crosby, Staff Sgt. Robert Crosby, Staff Sgt. Timothy Deckard, Staff Sgt. Monte Hall, Staff Sgt. King, Staff Sgt. Asa Peterson, Staff Sgt. Robert Raymond, Staff Sgt. Dan Schmitt, Staff Sgt. Eric Stone, Staff Sgt. Matthew Weber, Sr. Airman Ciera Ayers, Sr. Airman Ricky Best, Sr. Airman Damien Buchwald, Sr. Airman Tyler Eberley, Sr. Airman Jordan Jarecki, Sr. Airman Brandon Kerr, Sr. Airman Kameron Goodsell, Sr. Airman Christopher Dorion, Sr. Airman Laura Patnode and Sr. Airman Edward Pugh. *Photo courtesy of Sr. Master Sgt. Dave Layton.*

## Understanding Derivative Classification

by Mr. Brad Ramie, 224th ADG IP

The 224 ADG/IP currently tracks 227 personnel who need Derivative Classification Training to maintain access to SIPR/NEN systems. Derivative Classifiers are required to complete an initial derivative classification course or refresher training at least once every two years. Failure to complete the required training results in LOSS OF SIPRNET/NEN ACCESS and the authority to apply derivative classification markings.

Derivative Classification is the act of incorporating, paraphrasing, restating, or generating in new form information that is already classified and marking the newly developed material consistent with the markings of the source information.

- Use only authorized sources of instructions about the classification of the information in question.
- Authorized sources of instructions about classification are security classification guides, other forms of classification guidance and markings on material from which the information is extracted.
- The use of memory or “general rules” about the classification of broad classes of information is prohibited.

For more information: <https://stepp.dss.mil/SelfRegistration/Login.aspx>



## Why and How to Check Your IMR

*...It's a simple tool all Airmen have access to*

by Tech. Sgt. Lori Olsen, 174th Medical Group, Aerospace Medical Technician

Being physically capable to support the Air Force mission is critical for all military personnel. Monitoring medical requirements is vital to ensuring the Air Force goal of 82 percent Individual Medical Readiness compliance rate is met. Viewing your IMR status regularly (monthly is a good option – it only takes a minute or so) allows commanders and medical support providers to monitor the medical readiness status of personnel, ensuring a fit force medically ready.

Three easy steps allow all members to view their IMR status: Step 1, log on to the AF Portal. Step 2, under quick links, click “My IMR/ASIMS” and Step 3, click “My Individual Medical Readiness Status”. Your IMR status shows seven elements; Preventative Health Assessment, Dental readiness, Immunization status, Laboratory studies, Profile’s (AF 469)/Duty Limiting Conditions, Individual Medical Equipment, and annual Occupational Health dates for those members in hazardous duty shops. Each of the seven elements serves a significant purpose to not only Air Force goals, but for the individual’s own health. If any of the seven elements are red, you are considered overdue and should take care of that requirement as soon as possible.

The PHA identifies potential risk factors that could lead to decreased health; and allows for an annual record review and medical history updates. Dental readiness is important because only classes one and two are considered “medically ready” and dental health is important to overall health as well. It is Department of Defense and Air Force policy to keep all CDC recommended immunizations current. Immunizations are vital to building immunity and preventing disability or even death. Laboratory studies consist of blood type, G6PD, Sickle cell trait, DNA specimen, and HIV. Lab studies are completed once, except for HIV, which is drawn every two years or, when necessary for packages such as AGR. Profiles and Duty Limiting Conditions determine if a member is medically fit to deploy (for example, pregnant members and those who have asthma are not deployable). Gas mask inserts, for members with visual deficiencies, are necessary medical equipment so that eye wear can fit effectively under the gasmask. Occupational health requirements are based on the specific hazards found within high risk shops. Audiograms are performed once a year to monitor changes in hearing for individuals who work around constant loud noise. Audiograms, special vision testing, skin tests are all examples of annual occupational health requirements.

With the Air Force high operations tempo, working as a team to keep IMR status in the “green” increases a healthy and fit force, medically ready. For any questions regarding your IMR, please contact your liaison Tech. Sgt. Lori Olsen on her cell via text or call at 607.373.5326 or email at [lora.k.olsen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:lora.k.olsen.mil@mail.mil). As a reminder, you can view your IMR status anytime: <https://asims.afms.mil/webapp/MyIMR.aspx>



## First Annual Gate to Gate Run Honors Former CC, Col. Wade Dewey

by Sr. Master Sgt. Raam David, 224th ADS Operations Support Flight Superintendent

The initial Gate-to-Gate Run was held the morning of Family Day on Aug. 13 and enjoyed an excellent turnout. The route started at the softball field (on the hill), and headed out to Perimeter Road. The turnaround point was the gate by the old Weapons Storage Area, 3.5 miles out, and then back to our softball field for a total of seven miles. There was also a 5K turnaround point.



The mile markers contained some of Col. Dewey's favorite sayings, such as....

- Mile 1 - It's a self-licking ice cream cone;
- Mile 2 - You can't stop stupid.
- Mile 3 - I'm smellin' what you're smoking.
- 5K turn - So easy my cat can do it.
- Mile 4 - It's like a bullfrog staring at a wrist watch.
- Mile 5 - That's just a chocolate mess.
- Mile 6 - Embrace the suck.
- Mile 7 - Welcome to the check of the month club.

Selena, Cori and Mitch Dewey were on hand, received bibs 1-3, and rooted on all finishers. The plan is to hold this commemorative run yearly, on the morning of our annual picnic as a way to remember a great leader and person who shaped EADS in so many ways. *Photos by Sr. Airman Jordan Jarecki, 224th ADS.*



## Support Squadron Takes Commander's Cup



EADS Annual Sports Day was held on Aug. 12. The 224th Support Squadron outpaced the ADS and the Air Force Research Lab's competitors to take the overall first place award. Individual winners were:

**12-Mile-Cycling:** Tech. Sgt. Clifford Fallico (M); Master Sgt. Amy Taylor (F)

**3-on -3 Basketball:** Capt. Robert Croxen, Master Sgt. Gary Miller, Staff Sgt. Cole, Airman 1st Class Myles Perks

**5K Run:** Bennett (M) AFRL; Master Sgt. Natasha VanDeusen (F)

**Badminton Doubles:** Mr. Sonepith Keoviengsamay, Master Sgt. John Mills

**Bowling:** Col. John Balbierer, 1st Lt. Tom Perkins, Mr. Brad Ramie, Staff Sgt. Chris Dutcher

**Golf:** Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carrier

**Racquetball:** Ramstad (AFRL); 2nd PLACE - Sr. Master Sgt. Rob Zoldi

**Strength:** Tech. Sgt. Eric Stone (M); Capt. Willingbrink (F) AFRL

**Volleyball:** Mr. Keoviengsamay, Sr. Master Sgt. Zoldi, Mr. Steve Barry, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Plumley

**Kickball:** 224th SS

**Softball:** 224th ADS

*Pictured above, left to right: Staff Sgt. Bryan Severs shoots a mid-range jumper during the basketball tournament, Staff Sgt. Ian Stone makes a tough kickball catch and Master Sgt. Randall Wehrung attempts a spike as Staff Sgt. Benjamin Plumley tries a block during the volleyball final between the ADS and SS. Photos by Tim Jones, 224th ADG Public Affairs.*

# Hot Off the Presses: EADSI 90-201 Published!

by Lt. Col. Joseph Roos, 224th ADG Inspector General

EADS Instruction 90-201, Commander's Inspection Program (CCIP), is now a signed and approved publication applicable to all EADS personnel. It details how the CCIP is implemented throughout the EADS organization to include the group, squadrons and detachments. Highlights include Self-Assessment Program (think MICT) requirements, inspection planning and scheduling, and inspection deficiency management. The IG office has used the guidance in AFI 90-201, The Air Force Inspection System (AFIS) and the supporting EADS Instruction 90-201 to develop guidebooks with detailed instructions for each of these areas. Here are three important details:

Units determine which Self-Assessment Communicators (SACs) are applicable. The unit commander (Squadron, Detachment or Group) is the closure authority for all locally identified minor deficiencies. SAV requests require EADS/CC approval and must be sent to ANG/IG for processing.

## Dates Shift for UEI CAPSTONE

The dates of the ACC/IG Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI) Capstone visit have shifted. Personnel in Rome can expect ACC/IG Inspectors present from Oct. 19-22, with the Commander getting out-briefed by the IG on Oct. 22. The IG team will be visiting Detachment 1 and 2 as well over those dates. They are still working out the details of those visits.

## MICT Tip of the Month

Each unit Self-Assessment Program Manager (SAPM) is responsible for the following items: Maintain unit administrative roles, assignments, and permissions in MICT; provide MICT assistance for their commanders, validators and assessors; approve locally generated SACs; monitor MICT observations and brief their respective commanders

If you have any questions please see your unit SAPM for assistance:

- 224th SS: Staff Sgt. Brian Severs and Master Sgt. Natasha Van Deusen
- 224th ADS: Capt. Greg Elliott
- 224th ADG/Detachment 1: Maj. Dana Brown
- 224th ADG/Detachment 2: Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
- 224th ADG: Mr. Randy Rauch

## SAPR News: New Personnel, Frontline Training Coming Soon

by Sr. Master Sgt. Geoffrey Christian, 224th SS SCOE Superintendent

If you have not been to the EADS SAPR SharePoint lately then here is how to locate it: EADS SharePoint homepage/Programs (left column)/SAPR. Once you get to the page it is divided into five sections: quick links, poster, contacts, library and links.

On the poster, several changes have been made over the last several months. The most recent include listing the Alternate SARC, Capt. Fitzgibbon, located at NY JFHQ; hiring the new SARC, Mr. Beatty, at the 174th and Lt. Col. Marcia Cole assuming the Alternate SARC role at the 174th. In the near future we will be adding another VVA here at EADS: Tech. Sgt. Renee Hight. If you would like to print a copy of the poster for your work center it can be found under the SAPR Library section in the SAPR 2016 folder.

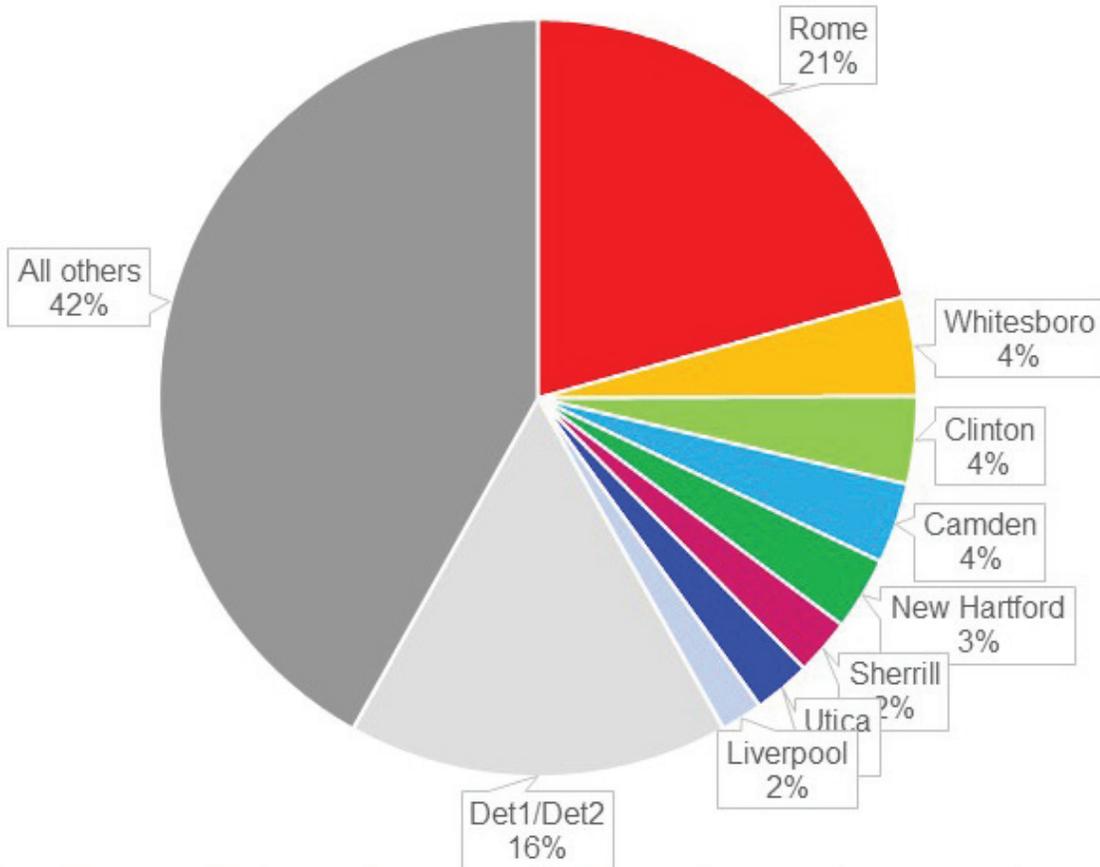
The last item that I want to mention concerns a short notice SAPR training requirement that targets First Line Supervisors. The suspense is to be Sept. 30, which makes it time critical.

Summary of SAPR Front Line Supervisor training:

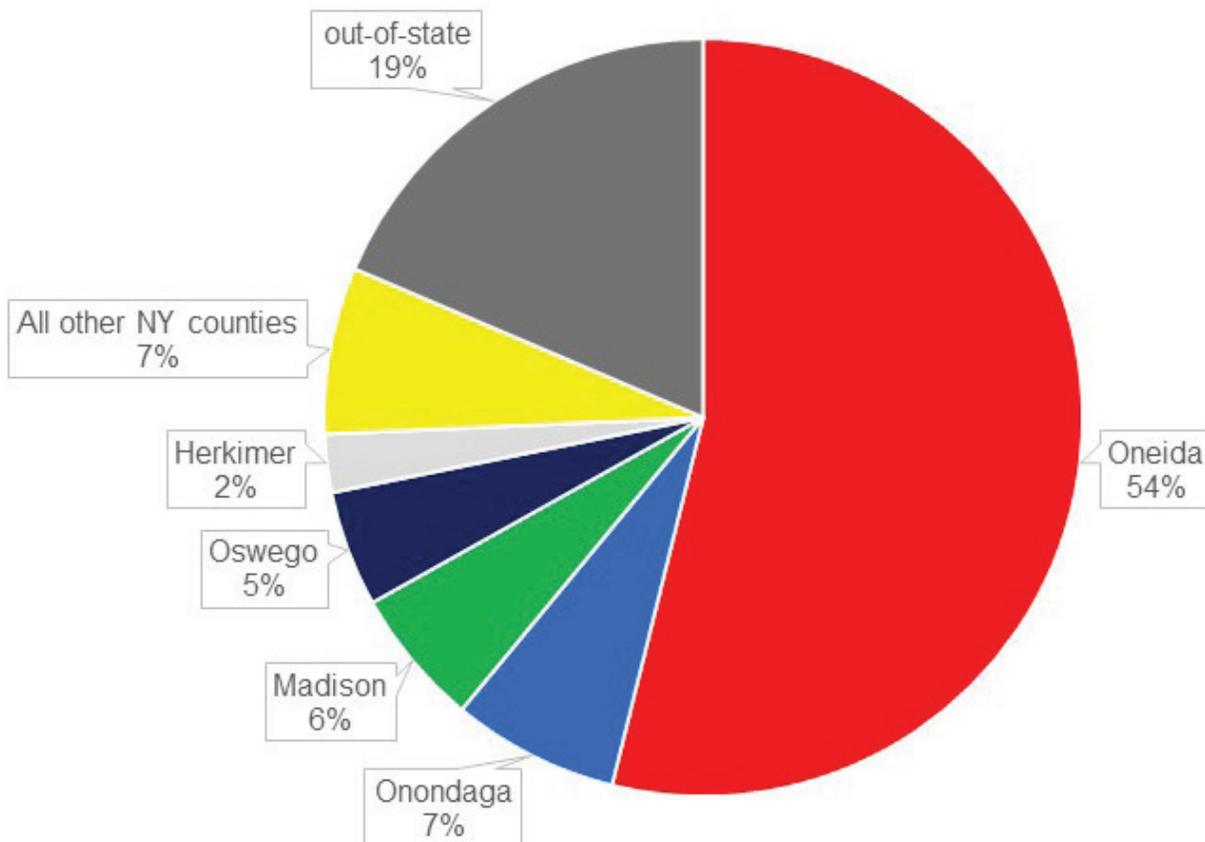
- Topic: Preventing Retaliation
- Target Audience: Enlisted - Staff Sgt. and below; Officer - Capt. and below, Civilian-GS11 & below; \*\*This may be adjusted for other ranks as appropriate\*\*
- Format: Small groups of 25 or less.
- Time: up to one hour.



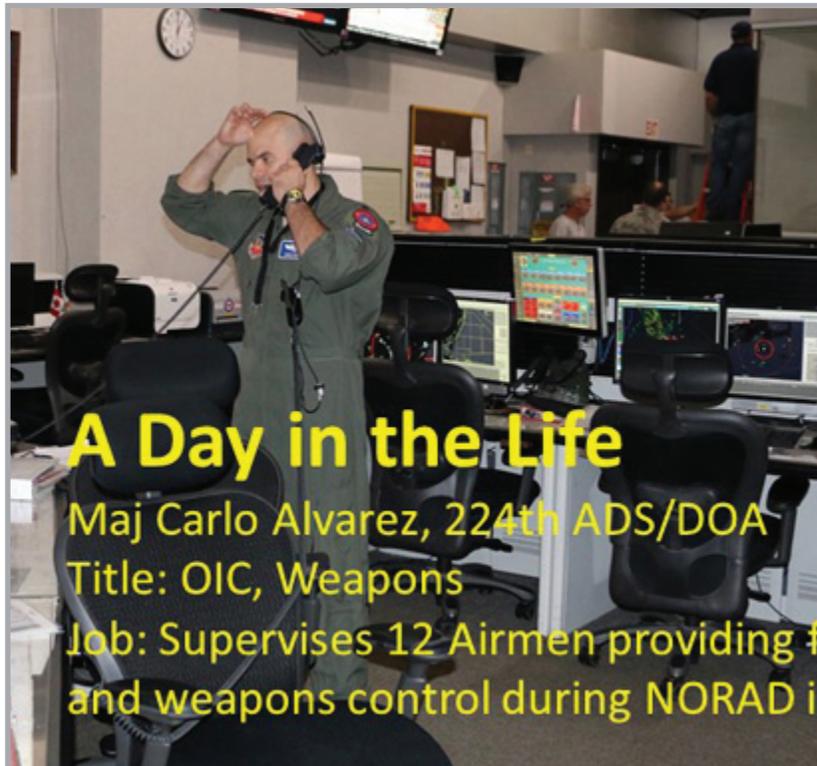
## Where EADS Members Live: By Zip Code



## Where EADS Members Live: By County



The first "Day in the Life" photos have started appearing on the monitors in Bldg. 700 and 703. The project highlights EADS Airmen and civilians and the many crucial jobs they perform every day.

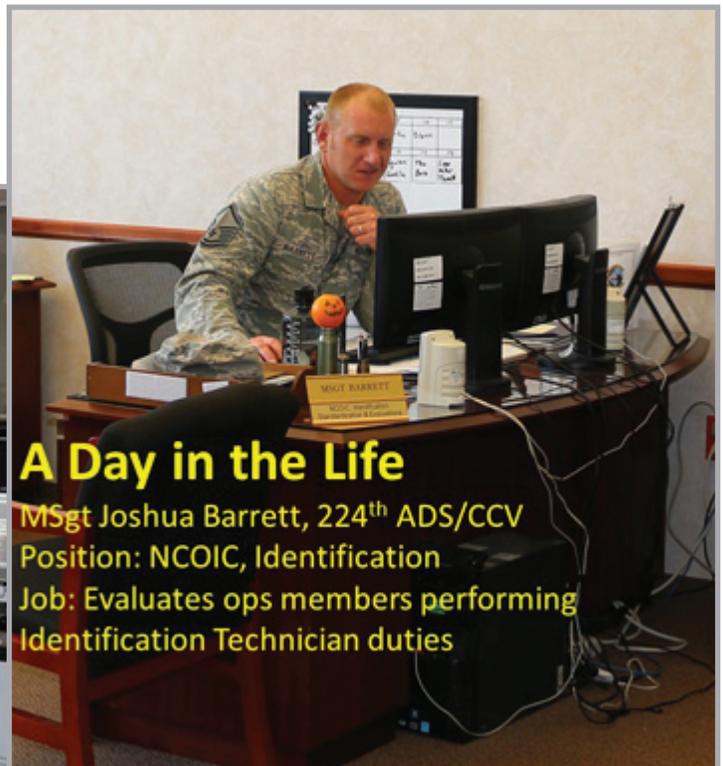


## A Day in the Life

Maj Carlo Alvarez, 224th ADS/DOA

Title: OIC, Weapons

Job: Supervises 12 Airmen providing flight safety and weapons control during NORAD intercepts

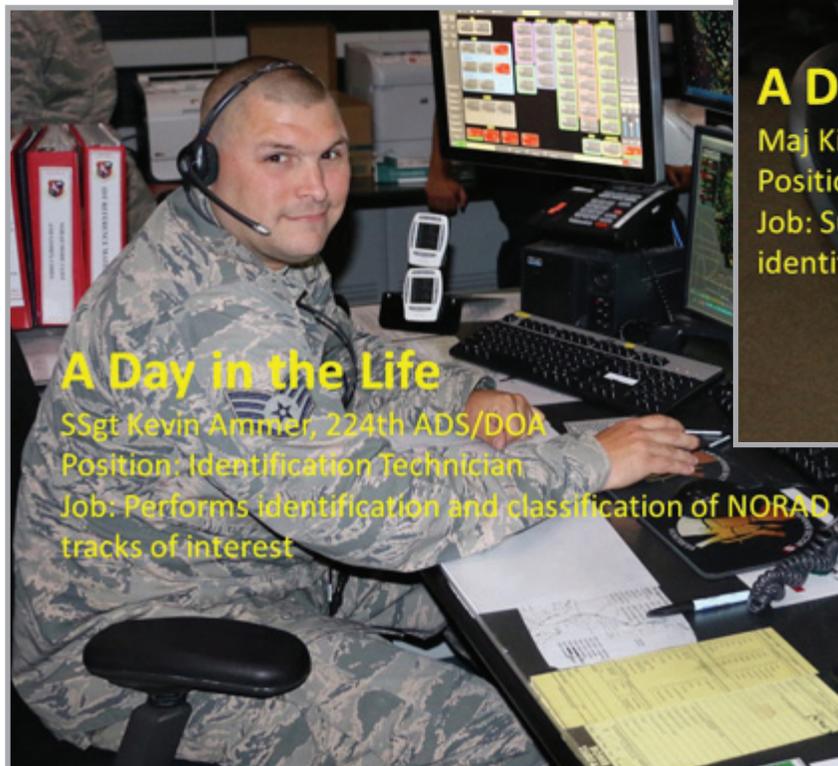


## A Day in the Life

MSgt Joshua Barrett, 224th ADS/CCV

Position: NCOIC, Identification

Job: Evaluates ops members performing Identification Technician duties

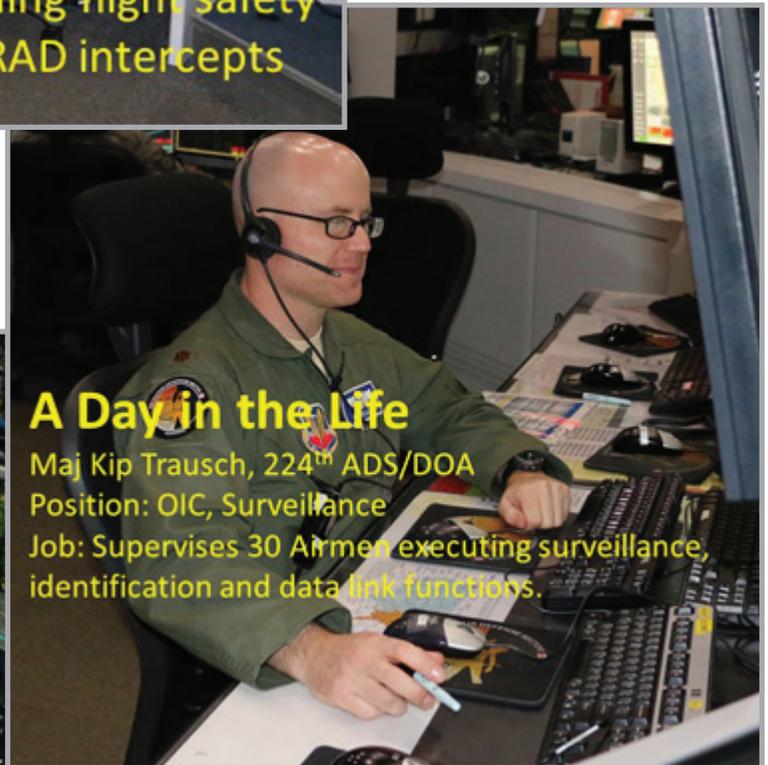


## A Day in the Life

SSgt Kevin Ammer, 224th ADS/DOA

Position: Identification Technician

Job: Performs identification and classification of NORAD tracks of interest



## A Day in the Life

Maj Kip Trausch, 224th ADS/DOA

Position: OIC, Surveillance

Job: Supervises 30 Airmen executing surveillance, identification and data link functions.



# Happy Birthday Air Force!



## THE WATCH

For over forty years we watched, and met the Russian Bear on high,  
 Descendants of the warriors who fought the Hun and won the sky.  
 With radar screen and fighter jet we blocked the bombers' speeding thrust,  
 In rain and wind and snow and ice we kept our nations' urgent trust.  
 We kept the watch-fires burning bright through endless day and endless night  
 We won that war of skill and nerve – won by strong resolve to fight.

But in the flush of fallen Wall, Peace Dividend and Ploughshares new  
 They judged our people safe from harm, and eased the Watch, save for we few  
 Who Stand on Guard, and Minutemen. Our leaders did not seem to know  
 That madmen holding hate so deep prepared to strike their evil blow.  
 And all our modern swords and shields, the vigil that had kept us free  
 Could not stop mujhadeen assassins that we could not see.

Descendants of the warriors, who scarf'd in white, with spirit light  
 Danced the sky, dueled on high, found honour in the lofty fight,  
 We watched in horror, disbelief, that vile and vicious act of hate.  
 We launched the fighters, knowing not what foe we faced, and too, too late  
 We cleared the skies and stood at bay, and begged to know the reason why  
 These men whose souls the Devil owns would come in stealth to foul our sky.

In agony we watch the smoke, the TV broadcast on the wall.  
 The obscene sight tears at our hearts, the bodies, then the buildings fall.  
 Our task it was to guard our home, and we had failed to turn the blow.  
 We'd failed to stop the hurtling craft, because of what we did not know.  
 But now we know, and fiercely say - the fight is ours, and come what may,  
 We watch the skies, prepared to fight; we'll drive the modern Hun away.

Tom Kupecz, LCol, RCAF (Ret). *Dedicated to the men and women of NORAD, especially those of the Northeast Air Defence Sector, who met the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.*