In This Issue
ANG Deputy Director delivers 9/11 address
SF providing firearms safety course
Road trip to Adirondack Joint Range
CSAF urges Airmen to eliminate constraints

Team EADS,

Happy fall! As we have safely traversed the perils of summer time fun (well, MOST of us anyway) we find ourselves staring down the barrel of over-hyped pumpkin spiced everything and the threat of lake effect “you know what” looms! Enjoy the fall, arguably the most beautiful time of the year in upstate New York. Carve out some time to enjoy your family, your friends, your flight-mates, squadron and group mates, neighbors, or whoever this Halloween!

Recently, I had the privilege to meet Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF) Gen. C.Q. Brown and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (CMSAF) Joann Bass at the CSAF Commanders Call at the National Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. It was a rewarding experience, humbling for sure, and it reinforced my belief that the Air Force has the right leaders, in the right place, at the right time… which is now!

As a reminder, Gen. Brown’s directives released last year compel us to empower Airmen, shrink bureaucracy, compete globally, and design for the future. Gen. Brown urged Airmen to take matters into their hands rather than wait for leadership to act. Obviously, some left/right limits are in play here. Think “does this action meet commander intent or positively impact the mission?”

The CSAF also challenged us to think about what CONSTRAINTS we can relieve ourselves of, as it’s unlikely that the Air Force is getting more money or manning. Luckily, there’s a process for this! Think Air Force Inspection System – see Lt. Col. Aaron Mahoney or any of your squadron Self-Assessment Program Managers for more info on this!

We heard about upcoming changes to the officer and enlisted performance reports, more from CSS as we near implementation. Big changes – look for static close-out dates for officer reports (like the enlisted SCODs), and narrative versus bullet writing style to describe Airman impact on the graded areas (executing the mission, improving the mission, managing resources, and leading Airmen). Those areas should all sound familiar! Please see Lt Col Mahoney if you need amplifying data.

The CSAF and CMSAF had a great book recommendation, *Think Again* by Dr. Adam Grant. Dr. Grant joined us for a 90-minute Zoom session and we had a great discussion centered on the topics covered in his book. Check it out when you get a chance. My hard copy will be available to borrow once I’m done.

I’ll share with you some key points that I’ve found so far. First, it’s important to build a challenge network of people that think differently than you to expose yourself to potential better ideas than you can muster by yourself. Second, challenge network success hinges on the ability to create psychological safety where teammates are not afraid to offer dissent. Third, evaluate bureaucracies to determine if it’s an “enabling bureaucracy” (good) or a “coercive bureaucracy” (bad).

Thank you all for continuing to care for yourselves, your families, and each other as we continue to protect the homeland.

Col. Bishop

On the Cover: Maj. Gen. Dawne L. Deskins, Deputy Director, Air National Guard, right, and retired Brig. Gen. Robert K. Marr unveil the inscription for the Eastern Air Defense Sector’s 9/11 memorial on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 in Rome, New York. Deskins delivered the keynote address at EADS 9/11 remembrance ceremony, which was attended by more than 200 Airmen, local elected officials, invited guests and former members. EADS, then known at the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS), was the first military unit to be informed that planes had been hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001. *Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Tiffany Scofield, 174th Attack Wing.*
ANG Deputy Director emphasizes resilience during 9/11 speech

by Tim Jones, 224th ADG Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Dawne L. Deskins, Air National Guard deputy director, praised the resilience, determination and volunteer spirit of Air National Guardsmen during a 9/11 remembrance address Saturday at the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS).

“Today we remember the almost 3,000 lives lost in that terrible tragedy, but today is also about something else. It is about determination, resilience and hope,” Deskins said.

A former EADS Commander, Deskins was the keynote speaker at the ceremony, which marked the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York City, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa. The ceremony featured a 9/11 memorial unveiling and was attended by more than 200 Airmen, local elected officials, invited guests and former members.

EADS, then known as the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS), was the first military unit informed that planes had been hijacked on 9/11. NEADS Airmen, working with limited information and less time, coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration and searched radar in an attempt to find the hijacked planes and direct fighter jets to intercept them.

Part of the NEADS battle command staff on 9/11, Deskins has recounted the day in dozens of media interviews over the years. Reporters always ask about the operations floor, with the expectation that it was a chaotic scene.

“Instead, I tell them how controlled and quiet it really was,” Deskins said.

“The men and women of the Northeast Air Defense Sector knew what they were doing and did it well,” the general added. “There was an urgency in their every move and I was never prouder of them than I was on that day.”

The Air National Guard’s volunteer spirit was a memorable part of the day as well. Retired Brig. Gen. Robert K. Marr, the NEADS Commander on 9/11, realized quickly that he needed more fighter aircraft. Deskins joined others to organize a phone bank and started calling guard units across the northeastern U.S., asking if they could get jets airborne and armed with missiles.

“Every single Air National Guard unit we asked for help that morning answered the call without hesitation,” she said. Individual Airmen even drove to their units and offered to do whatever was needed. “They were not asked, they merely did what they felt they should do,” Deskins said.

That spirit is still evident 20 years later.

“After 20 years of war since the attacks of 9/11, I can safely say the state of the Air National Guard is strong. We are made up of an incredible cadre of strong, resilient and diverse Airmen of all backgrounds and walks of life,” Deskins said.

In addition to Deskins, retired Brig. Gen. Marr and Col. Paul M. Bishop, the EADS Commander, spoke at the ceremony.

The ceremony’s highlight was the unveiling of EADS’ 9/11 memorial. Situated in a small, open field near the facility’s entrance, the memorial is a circular brick walkway built around a sapling from the Survivor Tree, which was found alive during recovery operations at the World Trade Center in October 2001 and rehabilitated. The memorial will eventually include a small steel beam from the World Trade Center and benches.
Have you ever believed that we must make some improvement, only to find that no one else cares? Have you ever sensed that something was wrong, but couldn’t pinpoint it? Have you ever been caught off guard when something you thought was working suddenly failed? It’s probably because you have no data to shine light upon problems. Data can increase your consciousness, showing you things that are difficult to see. It can convince others.

Col. Steve Rathmell, the 224th Air Defense Squadron (ADS) Commander, recently appointed us as the ADS’s Self-Assessment Program Managers (SAPM). He asked us to develop a means to collect and analyze performance metrics across the squadron in order to enable data-driven decision making to better manage resources in accordance with AFI 1-2 (3.4.4). We recently met with him to discuss our plan to do so. We began by describing tools that a unit’s self-assessment program (USAP) could include:

- **The minimum USAP = Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT)** – AFI 90-201 (2.5.1) states that “Utilizing MICT alone is insufficient to be considered an effective [USAP]” because it only samples a small subset of an AFI’s compliance items. Its purpose is to provide Headquarters Air Force (HAF) information regarding what it believes is important, which may differ from what the unit commander finds valuable.

- **A better USAP includes compliance checklists** – According to AFI 90-201 (2.5.1.1), “An effective [USAP] depends on Airmen reporting the status of compliance with directives, and when they cannot comply, reporting what constraints prevent them from doing so.” In order to do so, self-assessors must know all of the items that state someone in the unit “will”/“must”/“shall” do something. The best way to make those items transparent is to create a “compliance checklist” modelled on MICT, but containing all of the compliance items. Inspectors General (IG) often make such lists prior to conducting an inspection in order to spot non-compliance resulting from failed self-assessment.

- **The best USAP includes performance metrics** – It is important to know whether or not your unit is complying with AFIs and AFMANs, yet compliance does not imply effectiveness. In fact, it may be wasteful or harmful to the mission to comply, which is why waivers are an option for managing non-compliance. One can assess effectiveness by employing process performance metrics. Col. Rathmell desires this kind of USAP so that ADS leaders can make informed decisions to allocate their resources to better execute the mission.

We briefed Col. Rathmell on a four-step plan to create such a USAP. It will not be an overnight project. We anticipate that it will take about a year to complete.

Here is what ADS work centers can expect to happen over that time:

**Step 1 – Baseline: Assess the current state of the ADS’s USAP.** On Aug. 22, Maj. Matherly sent an email to ADS shop leadership and program managers asking them some questions about what they do to self-assess. We will use that information to determine the current state of the ADS’s USAP, then report the results in the monthly SAPM meeting so that everyone knows where we stand, and where we need to go.

**Step 2 – First “Doctor’s Visit”: Create a list of all of the ADS’s processes and categorize them according to mission criticality and Major Graded Area (MGA).** AFI 1-2 (3.4.2) states that “Leaders [at all levels] must be aware of critical processes” and seek to improve them. In order to do so, one must first know what processes exist. So, the SAPMs will visit shops and assist them in developing a list of their processes using Dr. Tuttle’s “White Belt” Workshop #1, which defines the term **process** and then facilitates a brainstorming session to come up with a list. The SAPMs will
...Performance metrics ...continued from previous page

take that list of processes and categorize them according to importance (critical, significant or minor based on AFI 90-201 definitions) and by Major Graded Area (MGA) as described in AFI 1-2 (Execute the Mission, Manage Resources, Lead People, Improve the Unit).

**Step 3 – Rack and Stack: Identify the commander’s priorities.** We will bring the categorized list (from step 2) to the commander. He will choose which processes that he would like each work center to assess with data collection and metrics, likely based upon importance and in order to cover each MGA. We will inform the process owners of Col. Rathmell’s decision.

**Step 4 – Second “Doctor’s Visit”: Develop performance metrics for processes.** The last step will be for the SAPMs to return to the process owners and assist them in developing performance metrics. We will also identify data for the process owner to collect and analyze, and assist them in developing a method to do so. At a minimum, we will help identify the data needed only to generate performance metrics, which can indicate only whether or not the process is working. More drill-down data may be needed to isolate on problems so that the process owner can “improve and standardize processes to produce more reliable results, remove any bottle-necks or limiting factors” (AFI 1-2, 3.4.2). We will assist work centers in developing data collection plans that will enable them to consciously manage their processes with information.

Once these steps are complete, the ADS’s process owners will collect the needed data and report the performance metrics in the monthly ADS Commander’s SAPM staff meeting. To the extent that the metrics are well-designed, tracking them will make our mission readiness more transparent, and enable us to see improvement or decline. This information will facilitate data-driven decisions that enable leaders at all levels to better manage resources. For instance, if the metrics suggest that an important process is at risk of failure (or could be improved), a leader might decide to allocate more resources to it.

Even if we were only to complete the second step above, it would greatly increase the ADS’s understanding of what it does, who is responsible, and what is most important. Once they have metrics in place and process owners are reporting them, they will be better able to assess its mission readiness. That transparency will help the ADS determine where to focus its resources, and to develop stronger business cases when petitioning higher-headquarters for resources it doesn’t yet have. Ultimately, by assessing the right performance metrics, the ADS will be better able to envision a path to improve its mission readiness.
Det 1 has #GotMySix
by Master Sgt. Jimmy Morgan, 224th ADG Det 1 Additional Duty First Sergeant

September was National Suicide Prevention Month. The 224th Air Defense Group and Detachment 1 teamed up with the Human Performance Resource by CHAMP to bring their recognition campaign, #GotMySix, to the New York Air National Guard.

In the past, the Air Force worked to identify existing signs of depression amongst our ranks and how to help those in need. This year, we wanted to focus on how to get in front of this issue proactively. This campaign seeks to ensure that the people in our lives understand what they mean to us and how much they impact our lives. The 224th Air Defense Group Detachment 1 accomplished this by hosting an ice cream social with our Army brothers and sisters, discussing the positive impact of recognition.

Unfortunately, COVID has had a profound impact on all our lives in many ways. We face challenges that can be stressful, overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Public health actions, such as social distancing, are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but they can make us feel isolated and lonely and increase stress and anxiety.

By implementing the #GotMySix recognition campaign, we focus on giving thanks to those who have been there for us in our time of need; those who have guided us in matters personally, professionally and spiritually, or simply taking the time to remind us that we’re not alone. While we continue to find our way through this pandemic, it is critical to reach out to our families, friends and peers and remind them of how they impact our lives, and that without them, we wouldn’t be where we are now.

Det 1 welcomes Senior Airman Colon
by Master Sgt. Janelle Acain, 224th ADG Det 1/CSS

Senior Airman Colon, pictured on the left with Det 1 Commander Lt. Col. Joshua Jessup, joined the detachment on Sept. 20 to support the Cyber Security section as a Communications Focal Point and Mission Systems Administrator for the next six months. He came from the 255th Air Control Squadron in Gulfport, Mississippi and was recently promoted to Senior Airman, effective Aug. 18. We had the honor of hosting his promotion ceremony and pinning on his new rank!

Please welcome Senior Airman Colon to the 224th ADG Family!

Photo by Master Sgt. Acain.
Sweezey and Kilborne promoted in September

224th Support Squadron Commander Col. Jeffrey Kerneklian, on the left in the above photos, served as the promoting officer on Sept. 17 for two Airmen. From left to right, Master Sgt. Michael Sweezey and Tech. Sgt. Brett Kilborne are pictured with Col. Kerneklian. The two Airmen received their new ranks during a short ceremony in the Building 703 auditorium. Photo by Alicia Morales, 224th ADG Group Program Coordinator.

What does the Inspector General’s office do?

by Master Sgt. Noah Yousey, Wing Self Assessment Program Manager (SAPM), 224th ADG

Since joining the Inspector General (IG) team, I’ve been asked several times about the IG team’s purpose, what we do on a daily basis, and what our role is within the Sector. Full disclosure…prior to joining this office, my understanding of the IG work center was lacking and I struggled with many of the same questions that have been recently asked of me. Since joining the office, though, I have learned much and present the following answers to the primary question I’ve been asked.

What exactly does IG do?

1) **Inspections** are the primary IG function and the one that allows IGs to have the greatest impact on readiness and warfighting capability throughout the Air Force. The primary purpose of all IG inspections is to resolve systemic issues throughout the Air Force and, in doing so, to evaluate the effectiveness of Air Force policies, determine the root causes of noncompliance, and recommend changes to policy.

2) **Investigations** are the IG function that provides the commander with the means through which to resolve allegations of impropriety. Inspectors General may investigate violations of policy, regulation, mismanagement, unethical behavior, fraud, or misconduct. Commanders may also direct an IG investigation when extreme discretion is necessary or the allegation requires preliminary fact finding before deciding on a course of action to resolve the alleged impropriety.

3) **Assistance** is the IG function that provides members the ability to seek help from the IG on matters affecting their health, welfare, and personal readiness. Anyone may submit a complaint, allegation, or request for information or assistance to the IG concerning a matter of Air Force interest. The IG’s role, as the commander’s representative, is to resolve these issues within the limits of the IG system.

4) **Teaching and training** is the last of the IG system’s four functions and is traditionally embedded in the first three—inspections, assistance, and investigations. While inspecting, assisting, or investigating, IGs enhance the warfighting and readiness capabilities of the Air Force by teaching and training commanders, Airmen, and civilians at all levels on current Air Force policy and doctrine.

In a nutshell, the IG office serves as the commander’s eyes and ears and seeks to improve both unit effectiveness and personnel accountability. Your cooperation with the IG office will help enable improvements in these areas across the Sector. Put another way: “Help us, help you... help the unit!”
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Karen Silcott, 224th Air Defense Group Director of Psychological Health

I spent four years working for the Air Force Family Advocacy Program at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska and at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. I worked with couples and families who were in the midst of difficult situations.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a specific type of domestic violence that refers to physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as stalking between intimate partners. Unfortunately, by the time Airmen come into the program, it is usually after things have escalated to the point that there has been an incident and someone is injured.

After interviewing and working with couples experiencing IPV a common thread emerged – no one plans for a relationship to turn violent. It usually starts with a gradual process of “slipping.” You start to notice “red flags” and accepting behavior from your partner that you normally would not accept. Your boundaries for what is healthy and unhealthy become fogged up. You become more isolated and fearful of what is going on in your relationship and reaching out for help seems too scary.

Kids, money, shame and fear are the top concerns that keep people in unhealthy relationships. Feeling scared, ashamed, or guilty can keep you in an unhealthy relationship for far too long.

If you are in a relationship that has some red flags, it’s time to intervene to help yourself. If you think you are hiding the abuse from your kids, you are not. They hear it and they worry about you.

Domestic violence does not discriminate against social class, rank, gender, or race.

Red Flags
Embarrassing you or putting you down.
Looking at you or acting in ways that scare you.
Controlling who you see, where you go, what you do.
Keeping you, or discouraging you, from seeing friends and family.
Taking your money or refusing to give you money.
Telling you that you are a bad parent or threatening to harm or take away the kids (VERY COMMON).
Blaming you for the abuse, or acting like it’s not really happening.
Intimidating you with guns, weapons or knives.
Shoving, slapping, choking, or hitting you.
Threatening to commit suicide if you leave or if you have done something.
Tracking your cell phone, demanding to check your social media, tracking text messages.

Help is here
DPH – Counseling support and or link to Family Advocacy Services.
Family Advocacy Program has Victim Advocates who you have 24/7 access for support services (creating a safe move out plan, obtaining a protective order, resources for legal aid etc).
Fort Drum Family Advocacy Services, 315-772-5914. Services are available to all military members and family members. They have prevention classes for couples and parenting courses.
VeraHouse, Syracuse, 315-468-3260. Offers support for people who experience abuse and for people who use violence in their relationships. Webchat services also available (safe house and services).
YWCA of Mohawk Valley, 315-797-7740.
The VA also has a safety planning guide that I’ll make it available to everyone via e-mail.
Defenders bring awareness to firearms safety

by Senior Master Sgt. Mark McAfee, 224th SPTS Security Forces Flight Superintendent

Did you know that there were more than 39,000 gun-related deaths in the United States in 2019? Of those deaths, 23,941 – 60 percent – were suicides. This means firearms were used in a little more than half of the 47,000 suicides recorded that year.

I don’t have the statistics, but I wonder how many of them may have been avoidable if the owner had secured the firearm correctly, or family members and friends had known about the signs of suicide, and requested to take custody of the weapons, or intervened in other ways?

The Security Forces Combat Arms section will be hosting a course for all unit members to support firearms safety and suicide awareness. The training will cover safe weapons handling and storage to prevent negligent discharges. It will also be providing ways to support suicide prevention.

Tech. Sgt. Adam Scott and Staff Sgt. Trevor Beebe will be providing the course to unit members throughout the next couple weeks and during the November UTA. The course dives into ways to properly store personal weapons in accordance with local laws while also giving personnel the ability to keep their families safe.

Additionally, the course will show the steps to take to help unit and family members struggling with depression in regards to weapons and how to store them safely and legally. Members that participate in the course are entered in for a chance to win the one of five biometric pistol lock boxes.

More to follow at Commanders Call.
Virtual Noncommissioned Officers Academy: A first-person view

by Tech. Sgt. Jarrod Becker, 224th ADS, Bravo Crew, Weapons Director

COVID-19 has affected many things in our everyday lives, including how the military operates. One area where it has changed how we function is in Professional Military Education (PME).

While correspondence PME has been always readily available, the desire for in-residence has remained in high demand despite COVID restrictions. Air University reacted to this need by developing a way to utilize updated technology for a virtual in-residence Noncommissioned Officers Academy (VNCOA), which provides students with more than 200 academic hours on Air Force culture, leadership, problem solving, and mission. PME instructors used the TEAMS software to facilitate shared video learning with members in the comfort of their own home. Each student had their camera on and could see all classmates throughout the classroom instruction.

The typical day offered leadership opportunities by working in groups to reach a central goal disclosed by the instructor. There was also some homework that had to be completed weekly. However, working together made completing the workload easier.

Is Virtual NCOA In-Residence Worth the Effort?

Yes. Accomplishing PME solely through correspondence deprives Airmen of skill-building opportunities and experiences. Nor does correspondence offer any interaction with other students. The average VNCOA in-residence PME class contained up to 15 students from different career fields and the different perspectives and experiences enabled students to increase their resource tools. Despite the fact that you are working from home, you constantly interacted with all members of the class. TEAMS also allowed for the class to use home video meetings to get to understand each person’s strengths and weaknesses. As the class leader, I spent much of my time working with each person. Each step of the program tied directly to priorities set forth by our commander here at EADS. The priority of strengthening relationships was accomplished by networking with those outside of our career field. The course facilitated discussions that disclosed how units operate differently, yet share similar problems. It enabled connections to outside career field members where ideas can be shared at any time. Students also built ideas and plans that may provide innovative solutions and help develop a brighter future for units. This process of team building also helped individuals understand their own leadership style and find success in their career.

I was fortunate to earn the Commandant and Distinguished Graduate awards at the course. Much of that success was because I was able to test new leadership styles and see the direct impact. Through group efforts, I facilitated getting classmates together to increase each person’s core competencies and one of my significant accomplishments was teaching my peers how to utilize TEAMS to their advantage. The software was the critical aid that allowed me to facilitate pairing students together in a way that would improve their weaknesses.

The technology era will continue to grow. We must all continue to adapt and use the available resources to meet our commander’s intent.
Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 3-9

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

From Oct. 8-10, 1871 the Great Chicago Fire ripped through one of the nation’s largest cities, leaving in its wake 17,400 destroyed buildings, 2,000 acres of destruction, 100,000 people without homes, and 300 people dead. It was a catastrophe that, in conjunction with the Great Boston Fire of 1872, led to numerous reforms in building designs, municipal fire codes, and fire departments.

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been held during the week encompassing October 9th in remembrance of this event. Every president since Calvin Coolidge in 1925 has declared a national observance during this time in recognition that the best tribute to the lives impacted by the fire is keep others from sharing in that experience. This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9.

We can all do our part to work towards this goal. Here are some tips to help prevent fires:

- Never leave a fire, even a small one, unattended. Ensure flames and embers are extinguished before leaving the area.
- Don’t set fires at work – no candles.
- Be careful with power strips – Power strips and surge protectors can get hot enough to start a fire when overloaded.
- Coffee pots, refrigerators, space heaters, microwaves, and other high-power items should not be plugged into extension cords or power strips.
- Ensure that space heaters, coffee pots, and other heat-producing appliances have plenty of space around them, are turned off at the end of the work shift, and do not have combustibles (paper, cardboard, napkins, paper towels, etc.) stored on or near them.
- Don’t “daisy chain” – Never plug a power strip or surge protector into another power strip or into an extension cord.
- Check electrical cords for signs of wear and replace worn-out cords.
- Practice good housekeeping to avoid creating fuel for fires and to keep exit paths clear of obstructions.
- Smoke only in designated areas equipped with fire extinguishers. Ensure that cigarette butts are completely extinguished.
Greetings from the South! I trust everyone had a great summer. I am on the tail end of my training and look forward to seeing you all again!

For our October issue, I thought I’d cover the Battle of Yorktown, the battle that ended major land operations in North America, bringing the American Revolutionary War to a close soon after.

Fought from Sept. 29 to Oct. 19, 1781, the engagement saw the Continental Army, augmented by France’s army and navy, lay siege to the British encampment at Yorktown, Va. The British forces were trapped, as the combined colonial and French forces advanced from the northwest, while the French warships approached the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

What took place was an outstanding coordination of infantry assaults supported by heavy artillery and engineering efforts. In addition to counter-battery fire against enemy artillery with 24-pound and 18-pound guns, both the colonial and French forces utilized the longer ranged mortars and howitzers to keep British warships at bay and prevent them from providing cover fire for the trapped British troops in their entrenchments.

With each bombardment, the Continental Army would dig new entrenchments and earthworks even closer to the British lines each time. The strategy went like clockwork, and within several days, they were able to launch a full-scale attempt to seize the British redoubts, overwhelming position after position.

The British realized they were fighting a losing battle and attempted to make their way to the sea, however they were blocked by the French fleet, rendering it impossible. On Oct. 19, 1781, Lord Cornwallis formally surrendered to Gen. Washington, using Brig. Gen. Charles O’Hara as his proxy, as Cornwallis was taken ill.

Less than two years later, on Sept. 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed, formally ending the war and completing the fight for independence of the 13 Colonies.

The legacy of the battle lives on with the battlefield site being a part of the Colonial National Historical Park, a collection of several sites in Virginia administered under the protection of the National Park Service. Several U.S.Navy ships have also borne the name Yorktown in commemoration of the battle. These ships included a 16-gun sloop-of-war, a gunboat, two aircraft carriers, and one guided-missile cruiser.

References:
Battle of Yorktown in the American Revolution | American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org)
USS Yorktown – The Watermen’s Museum (watermens.org)
Revolutionary War Artillery - Yorktown Battlefield Part of Colonial National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)
Fix Bayonets: The Revolution’s Climactic Assault at Yorktown | American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org)
The French Victory at Yorktown: 19 October 1781 | OUPblog
EADS Family,

Just three short months ago my wife, Bekah and I made one of the most, if not the most, difficult decisions of our lives when we chose to accept a position with the Illinois Air National Guard. Uprooting our family after having built a life in Central New York over the past thirteen years made for a lightning fast, chaotic and immensely sad summer. Now we are here in Illinois and it feels as though we came to an abrupt end of a motorcycle road trip—the sound of rushing wind suddenly ceased, I am sunburned and dead bugs are splattered all over my face.

EADS gambled on me in 2008 when, to my shock, Col. John Bartholf offered a fulltime AGR position to a completely unknown, newly commissioned undergraduate ABM. What followed was an enormously rewarding career defending the skies of America. How fortunate am I that for the rest of my life I may proudly tell my friends and family I was part of this unit and mission? Far more rewarding than the mission itself was having shouldered it with each of you.

Years from now our grandkids will surely hear stories of Russian bombers, presidential missions, Super Bowls and space launches. They will hear of near engagements, intercepting stolen aircraft, the underwear bomber and derelict dirigibles carving up the state of Pennsylvania. But they will also hear about the early days on Charlie Crew, controlling back-to-back-to-back fighter missions with the likes of Rene Gendron, Aaron Mahoney, Gary Scofield, Brian Carloni, Rob Zecca, Raam David, Chris Kent, Bonnie Graziano, Matt Cummings, Jose Ortiz, Jay Santaferrera and Leah Richmond. They will hear how Mike Roberts and I found ourselves simultaneously scrambling multiple fighter units on three separate occasions during my first solo shift as Senior Director. I will tell them of Mark Coleman’s mid-shift breakfast sandwiches, Kip Trausch’s bullet writing marathons and Ward Seymour’s hyper-enthusiastic approach to tracking. There was the Chad Gerrard Stan/Eval Christmas Tree—a bare twig stuffed in a pot of dirt from which we suspended ornamental tributes to Lawrence Brooks, Jesse Bucenec, Randy Reisch and Scott Wehrung. I will tell them how Blue Scofield and I once unwittingly illegally parked a GOV and wound up blocking an entire lane of rush hour D.C. traffic, and somehow our commander (now Maj. Gen. Deskins) was none the wiser. And how Greg Elliott took a group of us out for barbeque in what had to be the creepiest neighborhood in all of Las Vegas, and how Eric Schenck made it his personal mission in life to never let me forget it. I will tell them of my earliest mentors, then Majors Quigley, Bishop, Roos and Rathmell—that from my very first interactions with them I knew they were destined to command. And how EADS struck gold in 2011 and 2012 with the arrival of Jeremy Wood, Jen King, Brian Freshwater, Erica Campbell, Matt Duda, Mike Kidd, J.R. Kemp, and Pete Onan. The impact these superb officers had on me was immediate, profound and lasting.

These are the stories I find myself thinking about as I wipe the bug splatter from my sunburned face. The names listed here are a mere sample of so many of you who changed my life forever. Suffice to say I consider you, the men and women of EADS, my family. I am so honored to have served with each of you. Thank you for your many sacrifices to protect the skies of this great nation. God bless you.

Maj. Brad Dunford
Several 224th ADS members recently visited National Capital Region sites that support or work with the EADS mission. Stops included Detachments 1 and 2, the U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 aviation facility and the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Pictured, front row left to right, are Staff Sgt. Kyra Hadley, Airman 1st Class Megan Mills, and Airman 1st Class David Demand. Back row, left to right, are Tech. Sgt. Andrew Washburn, Staff Sgt. Brandon Kerr, Senior Master Sgt. Jon Lake and Airman 1st Class Dustin Bryant. Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Jon Lake, 224th ADS.

Honor Guard supports Gold Star family event


The ceremony was sponsored by State Sen. Joe Griffo, who presented Liberty Medals to 11 local families whose sons were killed in action.

EADS group visits Adirondack Joint Range

by Master Sgt. Richard Baldwin, South Carolina Army National Guard, EADS Air Defense Coordination Officer

On Sept. 17, several EADS members visited the Adirondack Joint Range at Fort Drum, N.Y. The Adirondack Joint Range is operated by a detachment of the 174th Attack Wing. It is well hidden in the deep woods of the North Country, 18 nautical miles northeast of Ft. Drum, making it about a two-hour drive from EADS.

The range personnel were extremely professional and accommodating. They gave the EADS personnel a tour of the ground facility and a mission brief. Then, they escorted us up the long climb to the “Seventh Floor” to see the equipment used to assess how well the pilots are hitting their targets. This was followed by a short climb to the “Eighth Floor” where all the action is controlled. They have several monitors or displays and numerous radios to talk to both the air crews and the Fort Drum Range Control. This is truly a joint range.

From this perch 80 or 90 feet up, we got an up close and personal demonstration of Air Force and Army air power! The morning started out with a couple F-35s controlled by a team of Navy SEALS. Then, we got to see one of the Army’s Apache helicopters flying around the range. And then, buzz the tower.

We had to wait until after lunch to the see the stars of the show, the A-10 Warthogs. It was well worth the wait. They flew circles all over the range. Up and down the gentle valleys. They strafed and a few seconds later we heard the bur-ur-ur-urp of their guns. They flew a few loops. Then, they bombed the target. A few seconds later we heard and felt the kharumph of the blast. They circled the range some more. This time a couple rockets. Then, some flares. This went on for over an hour. Well worth the wait.

Thanks to Maj. Matthew Smith’s efforts, we are reestablishing a relationship with our sister 174th Attack Wing detachment and EADS will host an Adirondack Joint Range detachment visit in November. Keep an eye out for more opportunities in the near future to head up the range yourself. It is well worth the trip!
Sparrow coined for work on 9/11 ceremony

Staff Sgt. Zachary Sparrow, right, was coined by Col. Paul M. Bishop, EADS Commander, on Sept. 10 during the unit’s family picnic. Sparrow was recognized for his leadership and selfless work ethic since his arrival at the 224th Air Defense Squadron in January 2021.

Especially noteworthy was Sparrow’s involvement in acquiring steel from the World Trade Center that was used as a commemoration piece for the 20th anniversary 9/11 memorial. Sparrow coordinated with the 9/11 committee and the New York Fire Department Commissioner to acquire and transport the commemoration piece from Goshen, N.Y.