

THE SECTOR

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EASTERN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR

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RCAF Commander Attends Mess Night

As Belt-Tightening Continues, Streamlining is a Must

As everyone is aware, the on-going federal budget issues have created several challenges. At this point, it appears there will be furloughs for our civilian workforce, some Federal Aviation Administration tower closures and alert aircraft training flights will be curtailed. And these are the impacts we know about. In all likelihood, there will be at least a few sudden, unintended consequences that have to be dealt with as sequestration plays itself out.

So what do we do? The first thing is to help ourselves by becoming as efficient with time, money and resources as possible. We've made significant strides in regards to travel over the last several months and we need to bring the same level of scrutiny to our other expenditures.

The Air Force has taken the lead in this area, implementing a service-wide program designed to identify efficiencies by leveraging the innovation of Airmen. Called the Every Dollar Counts campaign, it encourages Airmen to submit ideas for improving and streamlining business. Gen. Larry Spencer, the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff who's in charge of the effort, explains the program in detail on page 4.

My goal is for EADS to embrace the spirit behind Every Dollar Counts. Every section and office should thoroughly examine their business



Col. Dawne Deskins
EADS Commander

practices to identify efficiencies and I'm asking our professional organizations, specifically the Top 3 and Junior Enlisted Council, for their ideas and input as well. The Top 3, on their own initiative, has already started the process by undertaking a review of the Management Handbook.

And this is just the beginning. I want anyone with thoughts on saving money, time or resources to submit them to their supervisors. In the current fiscal environment, we must utilize the talents, skills and ideas of all our people to remain successful.

Critical Days of Summer. The Air Force's summer safety campaign starts on May 24 and runs through Sept. 3. The campaign's goal is to reduce the injuries and deaths from summertime activities and emphasizes sound risk management and personal discipline. Supervisors should ensure all Airmen read the e-mailed summer safety message issued on April 23 from Gen. Mike Hostage, the ACC Commander. More information on the campaign will be provided in the weeks to come.

Tech. Sgt. Ken Allen Memorial. Tech. Sgt. Ken Allen, who worked at EADS for 14 years, passed away earlier this month. Ken was an extremely reliable Airman and was considered a good and decent man by everyone who knew him. The unit will hold a memorial service for Ken on Saturday, May 4 at 1030 at the FRG.

THE SECTOR

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Chief's Corner: We Need Your Ideas

Happy Spring everyone! I know it doesn't feel like it but it will come, promise.

Wow, it has been a very interesting time to be in the military and NYANG. With sequestration and the budget restraints we are being tasked to be creative and use our resources wisely. I am asking that we as Airmen all step up to the challenge to look for improved ways of completing our missions at the lowest level. No idea is "dumb" if you haven't given it a chance to be heard. Could it be turned down or not accepted, yes. But, the fact is it could also be accepted as a new way of doing business, saving time, manning and money.

We have also been thrown another curve ball with the educational tuition assistance being taken and then, as you also might have heard, being reinstated based on legislation just signed by the President. The key here is that each service now must decide how to fund it accordingly. The jury is still out on how the Air Force will fund the program and more information will be forthcoming. I understand that this may create a bit of a speed bump for those who are pursuing their education, but please know, we will continue to find alternate ways for you to succeed. As I type this, there are folks gathering information for options to continue at no or little cost to the individual. It will take more effort on your part to receive this aid, but it's definitely worth it.

One more item and I will sign off. I am very excited to see how fitness minded many airmen are becoming and how many are making the effort to help others get in shape. Airmen helping Airmen to succeed, this folks is the exact definition of Wingman. It is the responsibility of every airman to attain and maintain excellent physical conditioning. If we make our physical fitness a daily routine, the 60 minutes of testing each year will not be a big deal. It is as important as being the best you can be at your job. When you signed the dotted line, it incorporated the "whole Airman," it was not a proportional agreement. We have come a long way in this endeavor to create a physically fit force here at EADS and will continue to do so. We have all that is needed at our disposal to include support from the Commander on down. So let's take advantage of it! Continue to attain and maintain your fitness, we are 11 weeks away from our test!

Thank you all for everything you do each day, we are proud of you and want you to be proud of the mission you help to accomplish every day. Please relax and enjoy your family and friends on the down time. Again, thank you!



**Chief Master Sgt.
Maureen Dooley**



On the cover: Canadian Detachment Commander LCol David Pletz hands the CanAm Cup to EADS Vice Commander Col. Wade Dewey after the annual hockey games on April 6. The Americans won the game, 8-7. For more on the game and the new cup, see the story by Capt. Greg Wallace on page 9.

Air Force Announces Every Dollar Counts Campaign

by Amaani Lyle, Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- With budgets shrinking, Air Force leaders are calling on Airmen to share their best money-saving ideas through the Every Dollar Counts campaign.

In the wake of sequestration, the initiative marks a cultural shift that empowers Airmen to find and recommend areas for savings that may be used to support readiness needs, said Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Spencer.

Beginning May 1, Airmen can submit their cost-reducing ideas via the Airmen Powered by Innovation websites while at home, the office or on their smartphone.

Links to those sites will be released soon.

Both uniformed and civilian Air Force members can participate in the month-long open call for ideas and share their creative and efficient ways to save money and time.

"When things get tough, Airmen figure out a way to get it done," Spencer said. "We have some of the most innovative folks in the world, so I know there are ideas about how we can do things better."

Spencer's resource management and budget-related background amplifies the urgency to mine those ideas.

"We stopped flying one-third of Air Force active duty combat-coded fighter squadrons in April, and we're projected to slow down or stop the flow of aircraft and engines in the depots," Spencer said.

Furthermore, he said, the Air Force must trim about \$11 billion in the last half of fiscal year 2013. Additionally, our overseas contingency operations funding is almost \$2 billion short so we have to make up that difference as well.

And the challenge is compounded by the sequester timeline, which officially began March 1.

"We have to squeeze a year's worth of cuts into about six months," Spencer said of the Air Force budget. "So there's a lot of money to be taken out of our budget in a short period of time ... I've never seen anything quite like it."

Airmen at every level should feel less encumbered by perhaps dated or unnecessary Air Force Instructions or guidelines when brainstorming cost-cutting measures, the general said.

"Airmen Powered by Innovation means go into that file of good ideas that were maybe 'too hard to do,' pull them out and submit them," Spencer declared. "If it's a good idea and requires an Air Force Instruction change, then we'll see if we can do that."

Spencer wants Airmen to submit their ideas regardless of the idea's potential savings.

"Whether it's \$500, \$1 million or \$30 million, we want to hear it because those dollars add up," he said.

"We're taking every angle we can to manage our money and 'buy' as much mission as we can," he said. "In that sense, every Airman, whether they're at a wing or headquarters can help."

Spencer said the Every Dollar Counts campaign does not just focus on our wings but includes those large centrally managed accounts as well.

"The Centralized Asset Management Office at Wright Patterson AFB manages the money we spend on flying hours, sustaining space operations and depot operations -- over \$16 billion -- so we're taking a close review of that account to determine how we can stretch those dollars.

"This is an opportunity to not only look at homegrown ideas, but broader ideas that affect the larger Air Force as well."

The general expressed optimism in quickly finding solutions through ideas.

"Innovation is what we're all about," Spencer said. "This is our family and we're going to get through this because we've got great Airmen to help see us through this."



Gen. Clarke Becomes Air National Guard Director, Visits Detachment 1

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. -- Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III assumed the duties and responsibilities of director, Air National Guard on March 23 during a ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

Clarke took over as director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, who retired.

A command pilot with more than 4000 hours--including more than 100 combat hours-- in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, Clarke assumed his current position after serving as commander of 1st Air Force and Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command.

"The opportunity to watch (Clarke) at 1st Air Force was tremendous for me to learn his great capabilities," said Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during the ceremony.

And because of his background, Clarke was uniquely positioned and had the right skill set to take on the duties of director, Grass said.

"An Alabama Air Guardsman who served as the assistant adjutant general for air, an A-10 and F-16 pilot who commanded a squadron, wing and expeditionary wing, all of that prepared him for this job and to represent everyone in this building and all those in the Air National Guard across the map in the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia," Grass said.

And Clarke has been busy as he settles into his new role.

"There's a lot to learn," said Clarke. "But, I've hit the ground running and am drinking from the fire hose. I have already been on the Hill seven times and testified twice."

However, he said his new role is a humbling one.

"This is quite an honor and I am humbled at the opportunity to serve (those in the Air Guard)," said Clarke.

And, as Clarke takes the reins as director, he said he sees tremendous opportunities despite recent budget cutbacks.

"I've arrived in a time of budget turmoil and uncertainty, but I view this as a time of opportunity as well," he said, adding that his focus and commitment are clear.

"My commitment to the (Airmen) and the adjutants general is clear," he said. "We will do everything within our authority to ensure our Airmen have clear policies, equipment, training and resources to accomplish assigned missions. We remain community based, team oriented and experienced."

And Clarke is ready to face those challenges, said Grass.

"(He) has stepped up to the challenge," said Grass. "And I can tell you I've already watched him as he's taken on that challenge."



Top photo: Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, the former IAF-CONR Commander, visited the Joint Air Defense Operations Center, shortly after taking over as the new ANG Director. In the top photo, Col. Todd Mayer, Commander of Task Force Grant, and Lt. Col. Dave Ellingson, Commander, EADS Detachment 1, present Lt. Gen. Clarke with a JADOC NCR-IADS flag. In the bottom photo, Gen. Clarke poses for a quick photo with the officers and Airmen of Detachment 1.

Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Tim Garlak, USA

CADS Group Completes Month-Long Training Deployment at EADS

by Tim Jones, EADS Public Affairs

Eight Royal Canadian Air Force members from North Bay, Ontario spent the last month working at the Eastern Air Defense Sector as part of an innovative training effort designed to sharpen tactical skills.

The five tracking technicians and three air weapons officers were at EADS from March 23 to April 20 and integrated quickly into operations. This rapid “plug-in” was essential to the deployment’s success.

“The idea was to fully integrate the CADS technicians and air weapons officers right away, so they could get as much experience as possible with the wide range of operations and exercises conducted at EADS,” said LCol Dave Pletz, the Canadian Detachment Commanding Officer at EADS. Pletz coordinated the training deployment with LCol James Peck, the CO of the 21 Aerospace Control and Warning Squadron at North Bay, and Col. Dawne Deskins, the EADS Commander.

Three of the CADS tracking technicians received theatre certification within three days of arrival, while the other two technicians, who worked primarily in the Joint Interface Control Cell, were theater certified midway through the deployment. The AWO theater certification requires more simulations and training vignettes and took five days to accomplish. As soon as certifications were completed, the CADS personnel were placed on shifts and worked positions just like any other EADS operator.

Capt. Ben Adair, a senior director at CADS, said the volume and pace of operational activity at EADS was an eye-opening experience for most of the group. “EADS is generally a busier Sector than CADS,” Adair said. “We don’t have anything, for instance, that’s quite as robust on a day-to-day basis as the National Capital Region.”

For the AWOs, controlling the larger continuation training missions involving multiple aircraft was an invaluable experience, Adair said, as was controlling Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) missions. Additional benefits were gleaned from JICC training, where the CADS technicians picked up several best practices that they hope to incorporate into their operations.

On a larger scale, Pletz noted that the CADS training deployment to EADS was the first in more than 11 years and served to rekindle a long-standing relationship between the two Sectors. At one time, the Sectors routinely conducted training exchanges but the deployments had ceased after 9/11.

From EADS perspective, the training contributed to NORAD’s goal of improved theater security cooperation and served as a force multiplier by increasing the number of theater certified controllers and technicians. Since the deployment was paid for by the Canadian Forces, it was also cost-effective for EADS.

“I knew the CADS’ operators would be trained, professional and prepared, but their performance exceeded my high expectations,” said Col. Deskins, the EADS Commander. “The group was enthusiastic, learned quickly and integrated seamlessly into our daily operations. Hopefully, we’ll be able to continue with training deployments like this in the future.”



Lt. Joey Baker (left), Cpl. Adam Royer (standing) and Capt. Ben Adair of CADS work in the weapons section during their recent training deployment at EADS. The three were part of a group of eight Royal Canadian Air Force members from CADS that trained at EADS from March 23 through April 20.

JAG Advice: Make Sure Your Personal Affairs are in Order

by Maj. Frank Madia, EADS legal Officer

If you pass away unexpectedly, will your loved ones be in a position to carry out your last wishes and administer your estate without additional heartache? Probate court can become very costly, stressful and time consuming. Don't increase the burden by failing to properly prepare for the unexpected surprises in life.

Did you designate death beneficiaries on your stocks, annuities, bonds and bank accounts? If married, do you have joint bank accounts with your spouse? Does your life insurance policy designate the proper beneficiary? Does your beneficiary designation(s) need to be changed? If you are married, does the deed to your real property list you and your spouse as "tenants by the entirety" or "joint tenants" with rights of survivorship?

Do you have a safe deposit bank? If so, did you designate the proper person(s) with authority to obtain access to the deposit box?

Do you have a will or trust executed, which clearly sets forth your last wishes with regards to how you want your estate assets to be distributed? Do you have a legal guardian appointed in the will to take care of your minor children? Who do you want to handle the administration of your estate? Who do you want to be responsible for paying the taxes, debts and disburse the assets of the estate? Do you have an executor or executrix appointed? Have you talked to an accountant about tax planning and how to disburse your assets without huge tax penalties to your loved ones, who will inherit your estate?

What if you need emergency medical care? Do you have a trusted agent designated to make health care decisions for you, if you are physically or mentally incapable of doing so? If a physician is of the medical opinion that you are unable to live without life support, have you expressed your wishes in writing, regarding life-sustaining treatment?

Do you have someone available to act as your power of attorney, if you are unable to carry out your own legal affairs? Who will sign your deed and other necessary documents to close on the sale of your home, if you are otherwise unavailable to do so?

Be a good Wingman to yourself and family. Get organized and take some time to make certain that if you need emergency medical care, if you need to sell a car or sell a home, or if you find yourself in the unexpected situation where you are in need of life sustaining treatment, or if your loved ones need access to your safe deposit box, or in the unlikely event that you die unexpectedly, that you and your loved ones are protected from the unexpected.



Maj. Frank Madia

RCAF Commander Guest of Honor at Annual Mixed Mess Dinner

By Capt. Gregory Wallace, Royal Canadian Air Force, President, Canadian Combined Mess

The Canadian Detachment Rome mixed mess held an annual mixed mess dinner to celebrate the anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. This year, the Mixed Mess Dinner was held at the Beeches Inn and Conference Center on the evening of April 19.

The event is a staple of the calendar at the Eastern Air Defense Sector with a great turn out of all ranks and notable members of the community. This year, LCol D.J. Pletz, the Commander of Canadian Detachment Rome and official host of the event welcomed guests from across our two services. The guest of honour LGen Y.J. Blondin, Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, was kind enough to share his experiences past with the audience. He spoke of our strong international relationships, our past, our present, and our future within the RCAF. He also mixed in a few funny tales of LCol Pletz as well as a call sign explanation.

We were fortunate enough to have Mayor Joseph Fusco of Rome in attendance and he provided a static display of his uncle's RCAF heritage. Some other notable attendees included Col. David Blanks, Commander of the Rome Research Site and Deputy Director of AFRL; LCol James Peck, Commander, 21 Aerospace Control and Warning Squadron, North Bay; Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, NY ANG Command Chief Master Sgt., and Chief Master Sgt. Diane Manno from the 106th Air Rescue Wing Command.

There was a fantastic pipe and drum performance provided by the world class Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada Princess Louise's pipe band. Music during the dinner was courtesy of the 22 Wing North Bay band. Following the dinner there was a dance where many people took the opportunity to unwind from the formalities and share a drink with friends.

The event was a definite success and I consider myself fortunate to have been able to participate as the master of ceremony.

I would like to thank the duty drivers: Master Sgt. Robert Zecca, Tech. Sgt. Amy Ough, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Preston and Staff Sgt. Jason Garner for ensuring that all guests had a safe ride home. I look forward to seeing everyone back out next year for the 90th anniversary.



Above: LGen Blondin presented Capt. Colin Randell with a NATO medal for his support of operations in Libya. Below: LCol Dave Pletz, Canadian Detachment CO, and WO Randy Reisch present LGen Blondin with a gift from the Mess. Photos courtesy of Capt. Andrew Lawton.

Canadians Host Annual Family Skate and CanAm Hockey Game

Americans Take CanAm Cup with 8-7 Victory

by Captain Gregory Wallace, Royal Canadian Air Force

The Annual CanAmhockey game and family skate are events put on by members of the Canadian Detachment, Rome and the Canadian Military Family Resource Centre each year. It is a day where many of the families who typically would not find themselves on the ice for a skate get out to enjoy the great company of friends, and the rivalry of friendly international competition.

The events this year were held at the Clinton Arena, a historic building steeped in hockey history. The family skate preceded the CanAm hockey game. There was a great turn out of people who are veterans on the ice and those who were on the ice for their first time. A great time was had by all as skating lessons and games of tag took place. The focus was on fun and fun was had. Then it was time...

The CanAm hockey game is one that the Eastern Air Defense Sector looks forward to for an entire year. The game has a strong rivalry between the players that is strengthened by friendly jeering by both teams in the months and weeks leading up to the game. This year there was new reason to fight for the victory, the Canadian players donated a silver chalice trophy to the Canadian Detachment Unit Fund (the fund responsible for the game) and its beauty is unmatched. It is worth fighting for.

The Americans drew first blood. The scoring was opened early in the first period by none other than Sr. Master Sgt. Cavalier. The Canadians quickly recovered tying the game. At the intermission, both teams were beyond tired and the Americans held a substantial lead. The Canadian players dug deep and managed to tie the game 6-6.

With only minutes left the Canadians snatched the lead 7-6. With less than two minutes remaining, the American players fought harder than ever. They did not want a loss on home turf, and they wanted the glory of winning the championship, a year's worth of bragging. They scored two goals in less than two minutes, snatching victory from the Canadians 8-7, a well-deserved win. All players played hard and put on a show for the loudest CanAm crowd to date.

Playing for family and fans makes the experience even greater. I would like to thank all the members and their families for coming out for the family skate and for sticking around and cheering loudly for their teams during the CanAmhockey game. It was a memorable event that showcased our esprit de corps, nationality, sportsmanship and, most importantly, the camaraderie between players from different nations working together.



Canadian and American teams pose for a photo at the annual Can-Am hockey. This year's game, was held at the Clinton Arena on April 6 along with the Canadian Detachment's family skate. The Americans won the game, 8-7, securing the first-ever CanAm Cup. Front row, from left to right, are: Capt. Colin Randell, Capt. Pete Ryan, Kyle Clark, LCol David Pletz, Lt. Col. Kevin Tracy, Capt. Michael Geer, Lt. Col. Paul Rotter, Donovan Watson, and Logan Dorfman. Back row, left to right, Capt. Ben Adair, Kevin Nasypany, Capt. Bruce Derbyshire, Lt. Joey Baker, Cpl. Adam Royer, Capt. Greg Wallace, Col. Wade Dewey, Sr. Master Sgt. Mike Cavalier, Staff Sgt. James Sigg, Frank Tizanno, Master Sgt. Rob Zecca, Lt. Col. Ed Danis, Lt. Col. Steve Watson and Kris Dorfman. Photo courtesy of Capt. Andrew Lawton.

Support the Huntress Club, It Supports You

by Tech. Sgt. Jason Rutherford, Huntress Club President

The Huntress Club is a registered not-for-profit organization. Its ongoing mission is to enhance the quality of life for its members by supporting various aspects of the member's professional and personal life. Our goal is to provide the means to contribute to members overall wellbeing, increase morale, and esprit de corps

What does that mean to you?

The Huntress Club is much more than a bar and money. The Club's intent is to ensure that the members of the Eastern Air Defense Sector have a professional organization that supports them. We help members in financial hardships, retirements, and have supported families that have suffered the loss of a loved one. This can only be accomplished through constant participation in events and fundraisers by members of EADS. The Huntress Club needs support from all unit members to be as good as it can be and is only limited by non-participation. All members have a voting right at the meetings on all issues that pertain to the club. So if you think you don't have a say in how things are conducted then bring your ideas to a meeting and give us a chance to that you do have a say.

If you haven't done so already, please become a member of the Huntress Club. The cost of membership is \$20 annually for full-time members (military and non-military), and \$15 for all guard status and retired members. Being a member helps support the growth of the club and allows for a half-price BJ's Whole Sale Club membership as well as future member-only promotions.



EADS Makes Presentation to Rome Academy of Sciences



Lt. Col. Dave Bartczak, DCO, and Mr. Steve Culbertson, EADS Federal Aviation Administration Air Defense Liaison Officer, provided a public presentation on Feb. 28 at Mohawk Valley Community College in Rome. The presentation was sponsored by the Rome Academy of Sciences and focused on EADS day-to-day operations, as well as the FAA's role. The event was attended by approximately 75 people.

Congratulations Corner

Airmen of the Quarter

Junior Enlisted Airman

Sr. Airman Bobby Holness

Noncommissioned Officer

Staff Sgt. Katie Guilleman

Sr. Noncommissioned Officer

Master Sgt. Tom Whiteman

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Jennifer King

Civilian

Mr. Tom Taylor

Promotions

Dawn Drinkwine

Adam Kujawski

Carrie Pelland

Natasha Van Deusen

Lawrence Brooks

Thomas Caracane

Marie Coar

Alex Makuch

Allyssa Wright

Lt. Col.

Master Sgt.

Master Sgt.

Master Sgt.

Tech. Sgt.

Tech. Sgt.

Staff Sgt.

Staff Sgt.

Airman 1st Class

Hail and Farewell

EADS extends a warm welcome to our recent new joins: **Capt. Susan Scott (Det. 2), 1st Lt. Pamela Masor, Staff Sgt. Aaron Alcorta, Sr. Airman Matthew Grinnell, Staff Sgt. Rachael Foreman, Sr. Airman Frank Balash and Airman 1st Class Kathleen Bielecki.**

EADS bids a fond farewell and good luck to following retirees and transfers: **Staff Sgt. Rivanita Tudela, Sr. Airman Andrew Bazyldo, Master Sgt. Don Florczyk.**

And a special EADS welcome to:

Matthew Lawrence Ross, son of Staff Sgt. Andrew Ross and wife Sarah, born on April 20.

Ahria LeAnn Merry, daughter of Staff Sgt. Casey Merry and wife Jerica, born on April 20.

Benjamin David Pelphrey, son of Maj. Mike Pelphrey and Capt. Jami Grosch, born on March 15.

Master Sgt. John Mills is New EADS 1st Sergeant

by Master Sgt. John Mills, EADS 1st Sergeant

As a First Sergeant, I am tasked with building morale and esprit de corps, enforcing military standards, and ensuring the enlisted members are always mission ready. As your First Sergeant, I have the distinct honor of serving with and focusing on the wellbeing of one of the premier enlisted forces in the Air National Guard, if not the entire Air Force.

I've been here at EADS for a long time and I know what it's like in our trenches. I've dealt with shift schedules, weekends and holidays. I've participated in both real world contingencies and exercises. The men and women of EADS and our detachments at the Joint Air Defense Operations Center and National Capital Region Coordination Center are dedicated professionals that have set high standards in all aspects of our mission. I have seen this on a daily basis since I arrived in 1997 and I intend to uphold these same standards as I assume my new responsibilities. As cliché as it may sound, my door is always open and my phone is always turned on and charged. What I will add to that is you should all expect to see me in YOUR work areas on a regular basis at any and all given times. We have a 24-hour mission, unique in the ANG, and that makes my job as your Shirt even more challenging and rewarding.

Quick-look bio: Master Sgt. Mills joined 158th Security Police

Squadron in September 1993 and was activated in 1996 to participate in the Joint Security Task Force at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. In April 1997, he joined NEADS Security Police and has participated numerous ORE/ORI and UCI evaluations. He was part of the heightened security postures during Woodstock '99 and during and after the 9/11 attacks. In addition to his duties as Flight Sergeant, Sergeant Mills has held positions as NCOIC of Combat Arms, Plans & Programs, and Standards and Evaluation. In 2007 he deployed to Manas AB in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he supervised the main entry control point/vehicle search area and worked closely with both K9 and Explosive Ordnance Disposal to better utilize those assets. Master Sgt. Mills was selected as an Additional Duty First Sergeant in the fall of 2009. He is currently pursuing a BA in philosophy through American Military University.



Master Sgt. John Mills

Hang on to Hope!

by Lt. Col. Todd Luce, EADS Chaplain

This time of year, we see rebirth all over the place.

What was dead comes back to life. No, I'm not talking about a television series. It's spring!

At this change of seasons, we see hope in the natural world around us. Its colors burst forth through the dirt and debris left over from a cold, dark winter. The dust and grime are washed away by fresh spring showers. There's a new warmth emerging.

Our lives are like that. We go through seasons. It's normal, happens to everybody (yes, even that person!). We need to remember in the dark times that they will pass. We need hope that the seasons will change and there'll be fresh, new beginnings.

This is a wonderful space for spirituality in our lives. It's when you reflect on difficult times and experiences to find where redemption breaks through. This is where you find God at work. You actively try to recognize it, to find healing and growth.

I pray that you, your family, your friends, loved ones and people you care about will experience a certain refreshing this spring. I pray that you'll find God there with you during those dark times and helping you step into brighter days.

Hang on to hope!



Lt. Col. Todd Luce