



LEARNING ABOUT THE THREAT



Maj. Drew Eisenhofer, right, 108th Wing Inspector General instructs students on the aspects of the SA-7 Grail surface-to air missile system at the Air Force Expeditionary Training Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Dec. 16, 2015. According to Eisenhofer, it's important for the students, who are from vari-

ous Air Force intelligence Specialty Codes, to know how surfaceto air missile systems work because it's their job to brief aircrews on these type of threats. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Carl Clegg, Released)

Cover: He's on his way

A screen capture from a North American Aerospace Defense Command video about the NORAD Tracks Santa website www.noradsanta.org. Starting at 12:01 a.m. MST, Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos as Santa makes his way around the world delivering presents. (U.S. Air Force photo/Released)

Veterans Outreach Campaign

Veterans Outreach Campaign and Medal Ceremony Jan. 26 – 28 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. DMAVA medal ceremony Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. at Center Court Quaker Bridge Mall 150 Quakerbridge Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 E-mail your Highlights submissions to: <u>mark.olsen@</u> <u>dmava.nj.gov</u> by close of business Wednesday

35 years of volunteerism

Photos by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Dottie and Friends made their annual holiday visit at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, Dec. 15, 2015. Every December, for the last 35 years, Dottie Cullen and her group of volunteers have brought cheer and gifts to the Home's residents. This year, Cumberland Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol cadets performed the flag folding ceremony; The Boys and Girls Club of Vineland sang holiday songs and local dance academies performed for the veterans. Photos clockwise: Dottie Cullen, right, holds hands with a Veterans Home resident. Residents listen as members of the Boys and Girls Club of Vineland sing the 12 Days of Christmas. Santa Claus, right, shakes hands with a resident. A Memorial Home staff member and a Civil Air Patrol cadet pass out pastries to Home residents. A resident smiles for the camera.











NORAD TRACKS SANTA: A 60-YEAR TRADITION

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

In 1955, the Cold War was eight years old.

Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union were high.

Joseph Stalin was dead, Nikita Khrushchev had taken his place, the Warsaw Pact had been created and the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) – NORAD's (North American Aerospace Defense Command) predecessor – had been established with the mission of "defending the United States against air attack." This was all part of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's New Look Policy toward containing the Soviet threat.

At the CONAD operations center in Colorado Springs, Colo., there was a direct line phone to the center's director of operations. Its purpose: To inform CON-AD that United States was at war with the Soviet Union.

In December 1955, the phone rang.

Fortunately for Col. Harry Shoup, the director of operations, the United States had not gone to war with Russia. Instead of the President, it was a little girl in Colorado Springs. The child, who was following the directions in a Sears Roebuck & Co. advertisement printed in a local newspaper.



It started with this advertisement.

The ad read: "Hey, Kiddies! Call me direct and be sure and dial the correct number." The number in the advertisement was one digit off and instead of getting the local department store it went directly to CONAD.

The child asked Shoup if he



Col. Harry Shoup, Air Defense Command Director of Operations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Released)

was Santa Claus.

Shoup paused, but he recovered and replied, "Yes, I am."

More calls started coming in. Shoup eventually had his Airmen take over telling them that they now had an additional duty: Whoever answered the phone was Santa Claus.

Sixty years later, the tradition continues.

Beginning Dec. 1, visitors can visit www.noradsanta.org. The website features a mobile version, a holiday countdown, new games, daily activities and is available in eight languages: English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps

are available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets.

Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google. Santa followers can go to any of these sites and search for "@noradsanta" to get started.

On Dec. 24, the

website will be on duty as Santa Claus makes his way around the world.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. MST on Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos as Santa makes his way around the world delivering presents.

At 4 a.m. MST-6 a.m. EST, trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

Now the most important part is making sure you are on Santa's "Nice" list.



Screenshot of the official Santa Tracker website:www.noradsanta.org. Less than two days until Santa visits your home.

Across the State



Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Ryan Woods, 108th Maintenance Squadron, takes down the Stars and Stripes prior to the 108th Wing, annual commander's call at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 12, 2015. The Wing's primary mission is to provide Global Reach and Global Power. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Legion donates TV

Frank Ferguson, right, American Legion Father and Son Post 435, presents a 48-inch TV set for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park to CEO Joseph Brandspiegel. The TV is for the Home's smoking room, which was built 12 years ago by funding Ferguson had raised. (Courtesy photo)



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For more information contact Jennifer Myers at 973-297-3384



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1-844-645-6261

The Military "MOM 2 MOM" Peer Helpline Program

By dialing **1-844-MIL-M2M1** (1-844-645-6261) **Military MOM 2 MOM** helpline program a military parent will receive the following services;

<u>Military Mom 2 Mom Peer Support</u>- Military M2M Peer Supporters will be available to provide telephone peer support to callers in need. Military family members trained in peer counseling and crisis support will offer peer support, explain resources, and explore your needs. Military Mom 2 Mom peer support is also available through our website for a live chat experience online.

<u>Military Mom 2 Mom Clinical Assessment</u> – Military M2M Clinicians will be on the helpline as part of the team of clinical professionals available to do telephonic assessment and gage the depression, anxiety, and family & marital issues, etc. that may be impacting your life.

<u>Military Mom 2 Mom Network</u>- A Military M2M database of specially trained service providers will be available for referrals for your mental health needs.

<u>Military Mom 2 Mom Support Groups</u>- Within your communities Mom Peer Supporters will be available for Military Mom 2 Mom support groups.



University Behavioral Health Care

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Confidential Peer Support For New Jersey Veterans

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