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'Slow-moving blob' that may have been a flock of birds caused White House lockdown

By Zachary Cohen, Kristin Wilson, Noah Gray, Rene Marsh and Barbara Starr, CNN
Updated 7:45 PM ET, Tue November 26, 2019



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Washington (CNN) — A "slow-moving blob" that may have been a flock of birds triggered a lockdown of the White House and caused the US Capitol to be placed on "restrictive access" Tuesday morning.

Senior national security officials across the agencies convened to coordinate and monitor the situation after the mysterious "blob" was seen on radar at the Capitol Police command center flying just south of the National Mall, according to a law enforcement source.

Military aircraft were scrambled in response.

Initial assessments indicated that the "blob" was an unauthorized aircraft entering restrictive airspace, leading to the brief lockdown.

The airspace around Washington is [more restricted](#) than anywhere else in the country, according to the FAA, as "rules put in place after the 9/11 attacks establish 'national defense airspace' over the area and limit aircraft operations to those with an FAA and Transportation Security Administration authorization."



Related Article: Pompeo refuses to counter Ukraine conspiracy theory and deflects Trump suggestion he may testify

"Senior officials across the interagency are monitoring the situation on a national event conference call. NORAD aircraft are on site and responding. Plane is not considered hostile at this time," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell said during the early stages of the event.

But hours after the all clear was given, a defense official told CNN that a final determination had not yet been made as to what exactly caused the event.

There are currently three possible causes being analyzed, a US defense official confirmed to CNN: Birds, an atmospheric anomaly or a drone.

Slow Moving Blob...*continued from previous page*

A US Capitol Police source also said it is "still not known" what happened other than there was "a big slow-moving blob of something" on radar that caused concern the object could be a drone.

US Coast Guard helicopters that arrived to intercept found no threat requiring further action, prompting law enforcement to search on the ground for a possible drone, the defense official said.

A White House official also told CNN that the lockdown was in response to a possible drone.

But two Capitol Police sources told CNN that the flying object may have just been a flock of birds, given how slowly it was moving and how it appeared on radar, then dissipated.

That theory has only been bolstered by the fact that military jets and helicopters scrambled in response reported that they saw nothing in the sky, according to a defense official.

A US official told CNN that the Federal Aviation Administration also did not see any aircraft on its radar.

However, air traffic control audio reviewed by CNN showed that the responding military aircraft, operated by a pilot going by the call sign "Blackjack," did report seeing a flock of birds while in the air.

Pilot: "And we, uh, almost just hit a flock of birds here at about one thousand three hundred."

Control: "Blackjack, you see the direction they're going?"

Pilot: "Yeah, they're going north, northwest."

"A trained radar operator should be able to differentiate between a flock of birds and an aircraft, but this mistake is actually a fairly common one," according to retired Air Force Col. Cedric Leighton.

"How the flock of birds appears on a radar screen can be very similar to the radar 'look' of a small aircraft. This happens sometimes with older radar systems," he added.

"How the flock of birds appears on a radar screen can be very similar to the radar 'look' of a small aircraft. This happens sometimes with older radar systems," he added.

Tuesday's event highlights the need for radar images to be "enhanced by other sources of information that can either confirm or call into question the radar operator's -- or air traffic controller's -- interpretation of those blips on his or her screen," Leighton added.

The Capitol Police source said the US Capitol went to "Aircon yellow" at 8:27 a.m. when the object was first identified. AIRCON is the alert status triggered when an aircraft enters the restricted airspace in Washington without authorization.

It took 11 minutes before the object was in the range that caused the alert at the Capitol to go to aircon orange, indicating it was slow moving.

US Capitol Police spokeswoman Eva Malecki said on Tuesday that "access to Capitol Complex buildings was restricted for a short time" out of an "abundance of caution" and that the situation was cleared about 45 minutes after the report of a possible aircraft in restricted space.

This story has been updated with additional reporting.

CNN's Dave Brooks, Suzanne Malveaux and Chandells Duster contributed to this report.

Raise your hand if you had a piece of this. I know many of you did from all three of our locations... Rome, JBAB, Herndon. Good job showing up to the fight on time and ready as ever. Talk about feeling between a rock and a hard place. This is serious business you do every day, with serious consequences. I'm proud of you. This is a reminder to me that the next 9/11 will not be like 9/11. We have to remember that we have to think on our feet to be ready to respond effectively against our next 9/11. And its why we've been beating the drum for change and for improvements to our ability to be

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Slow Moving Blob...continued from page 3

ready. So I applaud you if you were there and leaned into the events that challenged air defense on 26 November. The ramifications and discussions of this event are improving our processes, as they should. Every event is an opportunity to sharpen the sword. Take advantage of them, and be the one sharpening the sword. How about the news article though? This is one version of what the millions of Americans we defend read and understood about what we did that Tuesday in November. If you were involved.....does the story get it right? I think in some spots factual reporting was done. But I have to tell you that the expert analysis got me bothered enough to do a little something emotional about it. I'll keep my characterizations professional for the purposes of this article, but I reached out directly to the so-called expert that decided to weigh in with the "a trained radar operator should be able to differentiate between a flock of birds and an aircraft, but this mistake is actually a fairly common one" comment. After checking his bio I was left wondering where his expertise in this matter came from. I let him know that I was disappointed that he would provide a public assessment suggesting that "a trained radar operator should be able to differentiate between a flock of birds and an aircraft." 🤔🤔 Really?



Col. Emil Filkorn

OK.

I received a response that was effectively a non-response, and not worth repeating here. This is a tough business we're in. We haven't been organized, trained and equipped these last twenty years to support Homeland Defense properly. Homeland Defense is the #1 priority. Keep defending the nation. Keep innovating. Don't accept "no" answers from elements of the machine that should be pitching in alongside of us improving our ability to dominate the aerospace domain for Homeland Defense, bolster incident response, and ensure our collective security. There is no playbook on how to get after improving our Capabilities, so get in there, every one of you, and figure it out. Your leaders trust you. I trust you. And we all have your back.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

CNN story via <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/26/politics/white-house-lockdown-airspace/index.html>

On the cover: Tech. Sgt. Jose Marrero and Staff Sgt. Bienvenido Knowles respond to a simulated active shooter during the Federal Gold 20-01 exercise on Friday, Dec. 6.

Enjoy the Holidays and Take Care of One Another

This time of the year is one of my favorites because for me it's a time of celebration, spending time with friends and family, and a time for reflection of the last year. For me, the Holidays help reenergize my soul by spending time with people I love and helping others that are in need. I hope everyone else enjoys this time of the year too, though I realize there are many that find this time of the year very stressful and lonely. I ask supervisors to ensure that your subordinates are not alone and are dealing with the stress appropriately, especially through the Holidays.

As I stated above, for me this time of year is also when I reflect on the year. Some of things I think that were pretty amazing was the first trip to New York City to visit the 9/11 Memorial with a group of our senior and junior leaders. Seeing how the 9/11 Memorial trip affected each person, proved that we need to continue making the trip at least once a year, and also consider adding the Flight 93 Museum to the agenda. Another trip that was interesting was a visit to the Saratoga Battle Field during the New York State Professional Development. Maybe our people here could benefit from a trip to our own local Fort Stanwix National Monument which wouldn't cost us anything but our time. The successful grass roots endeavor from our junior enlisted members was the EADS Community Open House tours that brought educators to our facility to see what we do. We plan to do an event like this a few times through the year. I am very excited to see how this will impact our recruiting efforts in the future.

The Halloween event we did this year was the best seen to date and I was thrilled to see all the people working together to make the event spooktacular. Of all the different events we did, the Resiliency Tactical Pause was my favorite because the time that was spent and information we received is very valuable. First, I would like to say thank you to all the people that facilitated and participated in this important event. The event would not have been successful without everyone's participation. We are collecting the feedback and you can expect to see more connectedness activities in the future and action taken to address some of the other concerns.

As I am writing about connectedness, I want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season and please take time out of your busy schedules to make time for whatever makes you happy. Take care of yourself and others and see you next year.



**Chief Master Sgt.
Tammy Weber**

CONR-1st Air Force Command Chief Visits EADS



Chief Master Sgt. Tony L. Whitehead, second from right, visited EADS on Nov. 8. The Continental U.S. NORAD Region (CONR)-1st Air Force Command Chief, Chief Whitehead replaced Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, who retired earlier this year. Pictured with Chief Whitehead, from left to right, are: Master Sgt. Jason Cheramie; Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Castro, CONR-1AF; Col. Joe Roos, Commander, 224th ADS; Chief Whitehead and Chief Master Sgt. Tammy Weber, 224th ADG SEL. *Photo by Tim Jones, 224th ADG Public Affairs.*

Task Force Buckeye Assumes Command at JADOC

by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Schlubach, 224th ADG Detachment 1 Operations Superintendent

The 20th Transfer of Authority of the ground-based air defense of the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System mission took place on Nov. 26. During this special event, command authority was transferred from Task Force Sentinel, 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, commanded by Col. Alvin “Donnie” Wilson, to Task Force Buckeye, 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ohio Army National Guard, commanded by Col. Shane Hartley.

The presiding officials for the 20th TOA ceremony were Lt. Gen. Marc H. Sasseville, Commander, 1st Air Force and Commander, Continental United States NORAD Region (CONR) and Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Sherrif, Commander, 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

As Army tradition dictates the formal transfer of authority and responsibility is marked by the “Exchange of Guidons.” During this ceremony outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Scott handed off Task Force Sentinel’s guidon allowing incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Hobson to post the Task Force Buckeye guidon symbolizing the “Transition of Authority” from the mobilized elements of the South Carolina Army National Guard to the mobilized elements of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Also present for the ceremony were Eastern Air Defense Sector Commander, Col. Emil Filkorn. Lt. Col. Michael Pelphrey, 224th Air Defense Group Detachment 1 Commander, addressed the outgoing Task Force and presented several soldiers the Air Force Commendation Medal.



Pictured from left to right during the Transition of authority are: Lt. Gen. Marc Sasseville, 1st Air Force/CONR Commander; Maj. Gen. Timothy Sherrif, Commander, 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command; Col. Alvin Wilson, Task Force Sentinel Commander, South Carolina Army National Guard and Col. Shane Hartley, Task Force Buckeye Commander, Ohio Army National Guard. Photo courtesy of Sr. Master Sgt. Robert Schlubach, 224th ADG Det 1.



Task Force Buckeye Commander Col. Shane Hartley, Ohio Army National Guard, addressed the group during the Transfer of Authority ceremony. Held on Nov. 26, the ceremony was the 20th Transfer of Authority for ground-based air defense units at the JADOC. *Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Robert Schlubach, 224th ADG Det 1.*

Hail and Farewells

Detachment 1 welcome incoming Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) members: **Lt. Col. Jessica Rutenber**, NGB A8 (Tactical Coordinator), **Maj. Steven Allen**, 552nd OSS (Air Defense Coordinator), **Airman 1st Class William Santiago**, 607th ACS (ERSA Operator), **Tech. Sgt. Sgt Yzoyna Maull**, ACC Det 4 (ERSA Operator), **Staff Sgt. Tyler Dalton**, 729th ACS (COM Focal Point), **Staff Sgt Joshua Allen**, 6th MSG (COM Focal Point)...

..and bids a fond farewell to departing AEF members: **Lt. Col. Brad Rothwell**, 505th CCW (Tactical Coordinator), **Maj. Eric Benkoski**, A-5 Pentagon (Air Defense Coordinator); **Staff Sgt. Paul Parra** (ERSA Operator), **Airman 1st Class Jaeda Gilmore** (ERSA Operator), **Tech. Sgt. Daniel Miller** (COM Focal Point) and **Tech. Sgt. Bryan Turner** (COM Focal Point).

Det 1 Says Goodbye to Master Sgt. Guevara After 22 Years of Service

by Maj James "Freak" Mundt, 224 ADG Det 1/DOB Flight Commander

On Nov. 15, the JADOC said a fond farewell to one of its own as Master Sgt. Nestor Guevara retired after 22 years of honorable service. While assigned to the 224th ADG Det 1, Master Sgt. Guevara served as a C2 Battle Manager and his positions included ERSA Operator, Track Data Coordinator and most recently NCOIC of Operations Training. Along with a multitude of parting gifts, Master Sgt. Guevara was awarded a coin from Task Force Sentinel, a letter from former President George W. Bush, and the Meritorious Service Medal 1st Oak Leaf Cluster. His wife, Frances, mother and children were in attendance.

Master Sgt. Guevara completed the Aerospace and Warning Systems Operator course at Keesler AFB, Mississippi in March 1998. He then went to pursue his career with the 140th Air Defense Squadron in Punta Salinas, Puerto Rico. During his time with the PRANG he was selected to become a Detection Enforcement Officer working jointly with the Department of Homeland Security. After eight years with the 140th ADS, he transitioned to the 141st Air Control Squadron becoming an Interface Control Technician. In 2010 he deployed to Qatar as the NCOIC of the Interface Control Technicians in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After 14 years of meritorious Active Guard service with the Puerto Rico Air National Guard, he transitioned into the New York Air National Guard in 2013.

Master Sgt. Guevara (Ret.) has accepted a position with the USCG working in the National Capital Region Coordination Center (NCRCC) as a liaison passing tactical information in a congested high threat airspace to mission partners. The members of the 224th ADG Det 1 wish their colleague and friend luck in his new job and his next chapter of life.



Det 1 members with retiring Master Sgt. Nestor Guevarra (civilian clothes). Retiring after 22 years, Master Sgt. Guevarra is going to work for the Coast Guard at the National Capital Region Coordination Center. Photo courtesy of Maj. Jame Mundt, 224th ADG Det 1.

From PT Failure to Triathlete: My Fitness Journey

By Master Sgt. Chris Spurrier, 224th ADG Detachment 1

Summer 2009

I cannot believe that it is almost 2020, yet alone that it has been 10 years that I have been on this journey. Summer 2009, I was back home packing a U-Haul and spending some time with family before moving to the East Coast to embark on the next chapter of our lives. I routinely fished with friends, would go on hikes, did a little biking and rock climbing. After a few years of working construction, I felt I was active. I was happy with the way I felt and looked, just a normal guy making a living. My military career was a little stagnant and I faked my way between PT tests, but soon this would all change.

I had accepted an AGR position on Bolling AFB in D.C. and the move meant a new start for us. After numerous deployments and several jobs we were barely living paycheck to paycheck. This would be steady income and even more provide health insurance. I was young and had never given much thought to my health or even considered any kind of fitness routine. Soon I would be in for a rude awakening. The years prior to going AGR I was able to skate by once a year on my PT test. My weight was becoming an issue. When things didn't go right, I was told to make sure I was "good to go for the next time", we kicked the can down the road. I was given multiple opportunities to make things right, but I never saw it that way. Nonetheless, that didn't matter anymore, as an AGR I had to test every six months and my first one was right around the corner.

Failed Test & Facing Reality

On test day I showed up to the track and after barely making the minimums for the sit-ups and pushups I stepped onto the track for my 1.5 mile run. I only had to do it in 14 minutes. How hard could that be? Apparently hard enough. I missed the time by over two minutes, and suffice to say I didn't pass. The following week I found myself standing in front of my new commander. He did not offer a "do better next time." He gave me the cold hard facts, "I am about to send you and your family back to Cincinnati, you have 90 days to get this straight." It hit me hard and I realized that I needed to make some life changes.

My Fitness Journey Begins

Luckily, PT was not a chore at my new unit. Many of my peers were into fitness and exercised regularly and even better everyone was eager to help. Conversations often turned into discussions about diet and exercise. My peers helped me by sharing their secrets to becoming healthier as well as successfully passing the fitness test. This became the focus of my life.

Livestrong

I still couldn't run more than a quarter lap on the track without needing to stop. We were eating out for most lunches. With four children, we couldn't afford to eat healthy at home. These were all roadblocks I had to overcome, and quickly. A few of the folks at work used Livestrong to track their food intake so I decided to try it. I started tracking everything I ate, not making any changes, and just seeing where I was. Then slowly I tried to make some changes. Instead of getting a sandwich and chips, I ordered a larger sandwich. After two weeks of tracking, I started to analyze the data. This is when it first hit me; I was going about it the wrong way. It wasn't about the chips, it was about the sandwich and the meal in general. My lunch alone surpassed my entire daily caloric intake. I also realized that making dramatic changes would be unsustainable, so I made a game out of it. I choose one thing to give up without changing anything else. First was soft drinks, a few weeks later it was fried foods, soon it was ketchup, and little by little I was making these changes. I would do this for about two weeks, and then try something else. Then I started to stare at the numbers more. I would try to get my calories down. Then eventually worked to get the macros nutrients down such as sugar, salt, carbs, and proteins. I started to lose weight! I began to feel better, sleep better, and even look better. However, the running was still off, I still couldn't get past a few laps on the track.



Master Sgt. Chris Spurrier (before)

Continued on next page

...Fitness Journey (continued from previous page)

Passed Test!

It was the PT test; I have to run six laps on the track, so I was trying to run six laps. One day I was chatting with a co-worker and he mentioned he'd run with me the next day. I warned him several times I am slow and can't finish a mile. He assured me it was fine and said we weren't running on the track. I really didn't think it was going to go well, but I said I'd try. The next day we left the gym in a slow trot with me following him up to the running path on base. As we got to the running path I was prepared to stop and walk, but urged me to keep going. "To the light pole" he said, and I begrudgingly followed. I made it to the light pole, and then to the next one and so on. I was noticing a common theme here. Eventually we get to the two-mile mark and we turned around. I couldn't believe I was still running! I wasn't breaking any speed records but that day I ran four miles. I felt invincible, accomplished, and a little more confident. I followed the same routine over the next four weeks. Then it was time for the PT test. Fear started to settle in, but I knew I put forth an effort and was committed to this. By now, I was running consistently and felt I had my diet in control. I stepped onto the scale, down 15 pounds. Sit-ups/push-ups? Done, it was rough but I knocked them out for 8 points each. Here it comes time to run. I get to the track, take a breath and start the run. Six laps later, I was just under 14 minutes. I passed, increasing my test score by almost 20 points.

Challenging Myself



Master Sgt. Chris Spurrier (after)

I knew I could do better. My goal was to get 100 on the fitness test. I was feeling better, looking better, and just wanted more. I kept running. I kept refining my nutrition. I asked friends about their run times, it all became competitive to me. Even better was that my changes were affecting my family. Christina started to lose weight, the kids were eating healthier, and it became a lifestyle. By November I had to test again, I was down to a 36" waist, and ran a 12:26 getting an 83 on the test. I accomplished something special and soon signed up for my first race. Friends and co-workers noticed the changes and I felt good about my appearance. It was still not enough, I wanted more. I surrounded myself with more like-minded people. I did a few more races. After competing in a duathlon on base, I remembered how I liked to ride my bike in high school. I bought a bike and signed up for a triathlon. Eventually I was competing regularly in Olympic distance triathlons. I got an 86 on my next PT test, and then I passed 90. Then I had several 100s and went for bigger and bigger events. Constantly looking for the next adventure or challenge.

Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle

Ten years later and I am still living an active lifestyle. Sure, I have fluctuated in weight from time to time, but never more than five pounds. I continue to find ways to keep myself active and new challenges. This is mostly due to the people in my life. I have enjoyed helping others see the benefits of health. I have started coaching and have nurtured several service members through weight loss and PT test struggles. I have found a calling and am looking forward to being able to continue and build upon in into my retirement. Ultimately (and the reason for publishing this) I have found two things that have been the most valuable. We are a reflection of those we surround ourselves with and small changes are easier to make. People fail diets or nutrition goals because they fall for a fad diet, or are looking for a quick fix. We need to make changes that we can sustain, and chances are if we change too much at one time, we will fall off. I truly feel that making one change every few weeks to a month is what has helped me to create my lifestyle. The second is that we are a reflection of those in our social circles. If your friends or family eat healthy and exercise, you are more likely to participate. If they all spend the weekends binge watching and eating pizza, then you may as well. Like our careers, if we surround ourselves with like-minded people we are less apt to do the wrong things or make the wrong choices. I love racing my bikes because the people around me love racing.

Let me close by saying that it is never too late to make a change. The change doesn't need to be big, it just has to be a change. Take it one-step at a time and surround yourself with the right people.

ADS Captain Helps Replace Legion's Medal of Honor

by Tim Jones, 224th ADG Public Affairs. *Information for this story provided by Linda G. Kramer, City of Berea, Ohio.*

It took three years of writing letters, filing forms and cutting through red tape, but thanks to New York Air National Guard Capt. Jason Cole, the actions of a World War I Soldier are being commemorated again in Berea, Ohio.

Cole, a member of the 224th Air Defense Group at the Eastern Air Defense Sector, is the great-nephew of Second Lt. Albert Baesel, a Berea native who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in World War I.

Baesel, a member of the Ohio National Guard's 148th Infantry Regiment, was killed while attempting to rescue a wounded Soldier under fire.

For years his medal was on display at American Legion Post 91, which is named in Baesel's honor. The medal went missing in the 1980s and the Army had refused to replace it.

So Cole and his father Gary Cole got involved. "The Legion had been named after my great, great uncle for 100 years and I wanted to help the organization," Cole said. "I also wanted to honor Albert's legacy. Medal of Honor recipients are heroes, and every one of them should have their story told, and re-told, for many, many generations."

The Coles first tried working with the Army through the Legion but the Army refused the Legion's request. This led to the family contacting the Army directly.

"We discovered the regulations limit replacement requests to spouses, parents and direct descendants," Cole said.

"Since my great, great uncle did not have children, it took some time to convince the Army that we were the closest thing he had to a direct descendant."

After 80 e-mails, numerous phone calls and an estimated 100 hours researching regulations and family genealogy, the Coles were able to make their case. In October, the Army Human Resources Command Awards and Decorations Branch at Ft. Knox, Kentucky awarded a replacement medal, which Cole presented to the Post on Nov. 18 during a ceremony at Berea's City Hall.

Cole told the group at the presentation that the Medal represents a legacy.

"When the military salute, we don't salute people; we salute ideals, the things they represent," he said. Military members salute the flag, higher ranking military and the office of the President. The President salutes no one except those who have received the Medal of Honor," Cole said.

There are four criteria to receive the Medal, Cole said: two eyewitnesses, outstanding gallantry beyond the call of duty, risk of life and a deed of such bravery and self-sacrifice that it can be justified beyond all criticism.

"A moment like that happened 101 years ago," Cole said. "A Berean was killed but a hero was born."

Air Force veteran Mel Baher, past commander of Post 91, accepted the Medal of Honor on behalf of the Post's 100th anniversary. Post 91 was founded on Sept. 5, 1919, by 20 World War I veterans. The Berea City Council presented the Post with a special resolution marking the anniversary.

"We would all put on our uniforms again and defend our great country," Baher said. "We will carry on the tradition. We'll be here another 100 years."

Gary Cole said the family will work with Post 91 and the Berea Historical Society to work out a security plan for the Medal. Army regulations governing Medal of Honor public displays require 24-hour surveillance – or a central alarm system – and a display case that is unbreakable, bulletproof and weatherproof.

The Baesel family will hold a reunion next year and it will include an open house for the community to view the Medal of Honor.

Baesel is buried in Woodvale Cemetery. On the 100th anniversary of his death, the City of Berea and the city's Veterans Outreach Office dedicated a plaque to Lt. Baesel on the downtown Triangle's clock tower.

Cole said his family was proud to bring the Medal of Honor to Post 91 and the community "to commemorate the next 100 years."



Attending the Medal of Honor presentation at Berea, Ohio City Hall were Capt. Jason Cole; Marianna Peris, president of American Legion Post 91 Auxiliary; Mel Baher, past commander of Post 91; and Gary Cole, Capt. Cole's father. The Coles are direct descendants of Lt. Albert Baesel, who earned the Medal of Honor in World War I. Photo courtesy of Linda G. Kramer, City of Berea.

Five Airmen received new ranks at the Nov. 20 promotion ceremony and another was promoted on Dec. 6. Promoted Airmen are pictured on the right and identified by their new ranks. The promoting officers are pictured on the left in each photo.



Lt. Col. Ricardo Rivera & 1st Lt. Philip Gentile



Col. Joseph Roos & 1st Lt. Quinn Tilley



Col. Joseph Roos & Master Sgt. Jesse Bucenec



Capt. Tom Perkins & Staff Sgt. Ryan Moore



Maj. Jacob Searles & Sr. Airman Maynard Brown



Col. Joseph Roos & Staff Sgt. Edward Pugh

Understanding “Left of Scramble” Processes

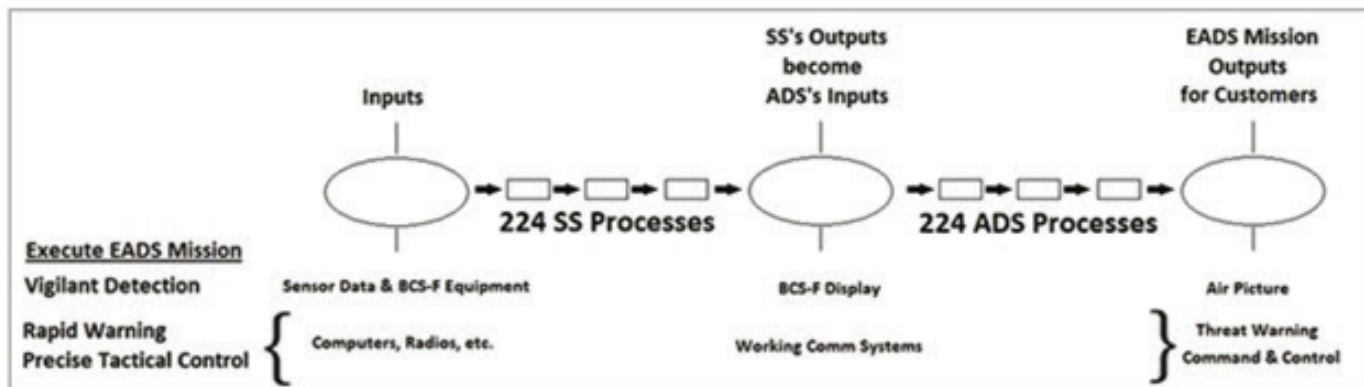
by Lt. Col. Brian “Doogie” Tuttle, 224th ADS

One of the biggest roadblocks that the BCC community faces is that outsiders do not understand what we call “left of scramble”—the actions we take before scrambling air defense assets to intercept a Track of Interest (TOI). To convince them to help us, we must be able to define and describe those processes. I want to propose a way to talk about these processes so that we can consistently articulate how they work to those who might help us improve them.

“Left of scramble” processes convert data into actionable information that facilitates a response to a tactical situation. In order to improve our ability to make the right tactical decision at the right time to Execute the EADS Mission, we must understand the nature of those processes.

What are our “left of scramble” processes? Our mission statement gives us the names of three processes that we—the entire Group—do to Execute the EADS Mission: **Vigilant Detection, Rapid Warning, and Precise Tactical Control** as shown in the figure 1 (which first appeared in *The Sector* in August 2019).

Figure 1 – How Support Squadron (SS) and Air Defense Squadron (ADS) work together to Execute the EADS Mission (our most critical large-scale process).



I propose that the Vigilant Detection processes are what we mean by “left of scramble.” Let’s zoom in and fill in some of the empty boxes in the process map.

Vigilant Detection begins in the SS. After they’ve established and secured the computing environment, the steps they take (painted with a broad brush) might be called:

- (1) **Receive Sensor Data** – ingest data from many sensors
- (2) **Vet and Clean Sensor Data** – ensure data represents reality
- (3) **Fuse Sensor Data** – display data (from multiple sources) that represents one track as such on the BCS-F

When the systems that do these steps fail, EADS becomes partially- or non-mission capable (PMC or NMC). Thus, SS personnel involved in operating, monitoring and maintaining those systems are Executing the EADS Mission not by supporting, but by performing mission-essential “left of scramble” tasks.

Vigilant Detection then flows to the ADS who use the BCS-F Display to create the final product, an Air Picture (i.e., data converted into actionable information). To do so, mission crews:

- (1) **Optimize the BCS-F Display** – set up BCS-F to facilitate “scope interpretation”
- (2) **See and Report Tracks** – recognize and report potential tracks of interest (TOIs)

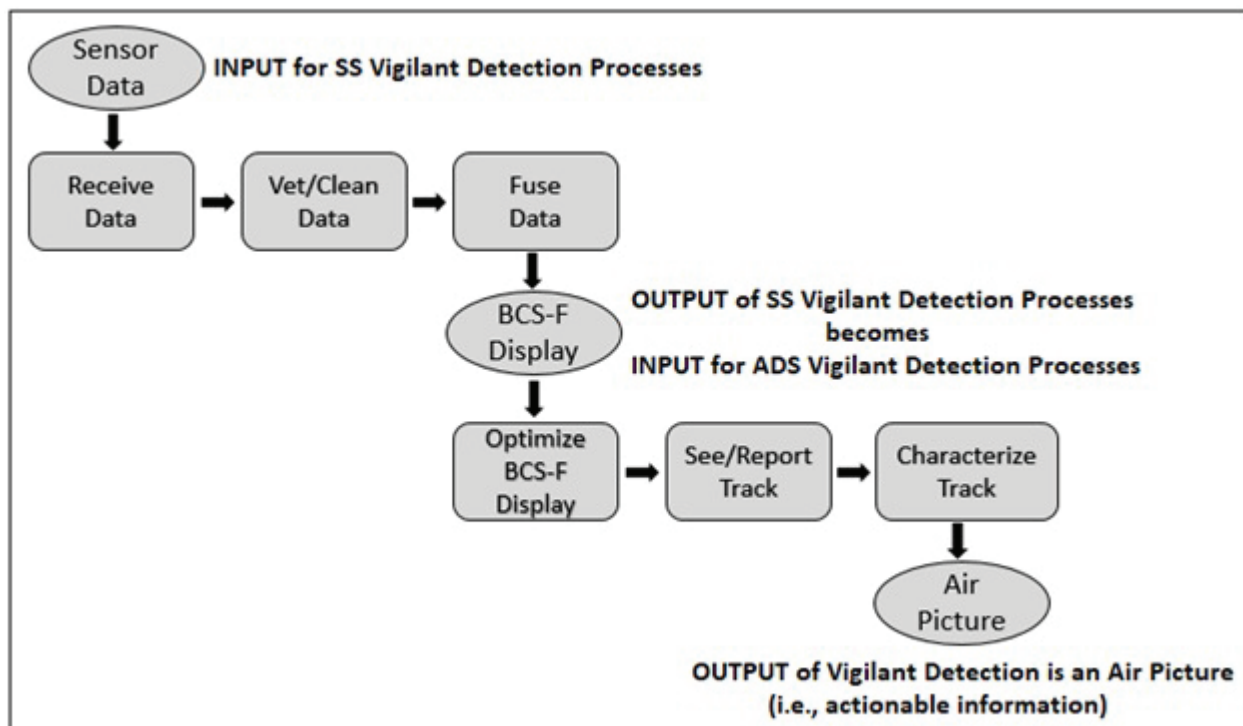
Continued on next page

...Left of Scramble Processes *(continued from previous page)*

(3) **Characterize Tracks** – validate tracks, identify (ID) tracks, and assess threat

By adding these processes to the “Execute the EADS Mission” map in figure 1, we create a high-level “Vigilant Detection” process map in figure 2.

Figure 2 – Vigilant Detection high-level process map (converts data into actionable information)



Due to limited space (and expertise), I did not discuss all of the processes within the Vigilant Detection set. Others include Intel’s “The Watch” process, the Weapons section’s “Guard Calls”/“Unknown Rider” processes, and some of Det. 1’s and Det. 2’s processes. I encourage others to jump in this conversation and fill in more blanks!

Why make such analysis? In order to make the changes that we must make to stay relevant within a rapidly changing world, we must be able to coherently articulate what we do. We need a simple, common language to talk about our critical mission processes so that we can determine which parts we should improve first. Breaking down these processes and naming the steps gives us a language that we can use to communicate so that outsiders who might help us restore readiness can understand “left of scramble.”

11 Airmen Complete Professional Development Course

For the sixth consecutive year, EADS conducted a Professional Development Course for its junior enlisted members. Individual blocks of instruction included public speaking, financial management, social networking, Air Force standards, effective communication, counseling and mentoring, performance feedback, bullet writing, Canadian customs and courtesies, emotional intelligence, and risk management. The first day was a teambuilding day, where students went through various exercises that enabled them to perform as an efficient team the rest of the week.

Thank you to this year's instructors: Master Sgt. Jason Rutherford, Master Sgt. Amanda Barthle, Master Sgt. Amy Taylor, Master Sgt. Matt Pelland, Master Sgt. Carrie Pelland, Master Sgt. Miller, Master Sgt. Evan Thorn, Master Sgt. Reynolds, Master Sgt. Robby Moss, Master Sgt. Myles Macey, Master Sgt. Amy Ough, Master Sgt. Jim Mauthe, Master Sgt. Shane Reid, Master Sgt. Paul Bryant, Master Sgt. Todd Sullivan, Master Sgt. Eric Stone, Senior Master Sgt. Russell Delmedico, Sgt. Shane Burden, RCAF and Mr. Colt Brumm. This year's facilitators were Master Sgt. Reid and Master Sgt. Taylor and Master Sgt. Carrie Pelland and Master Sgt. Matt Pelland were facilitators in training.

In the photos, Col. Paul Bishop, 224th ADG CC, presents certificates to the graduates, who are identified at the bottom of the photo. *Article provided by Master Sgt. Amy Taylor, 224th Support Squadron.*



Staff Sgt. Jarrod Becker



Tech. Sgt. Alex Bobka



Staff Sgt. Ethan Dudden



Staff Sgt. Joseph Manning



Staff Sgt. Ryan Moore

Continued on next page

...Professional Development Course Graduates *(continued from previous page)*



Tech. Sgt. Marcus Padgett



Senior Airman AnnaMarie Roberts



Staff Sgt. Brandon Silvernail



Staff Sgt. Justin Stadler



Staff Sgt. Camrin Stuckey



Staff Sgt. Gerald Williams

What is a Security Incident?

by Mr. Brad Ramie, 224th Air Defense Group Information Protection

Security Infraction: A security incident involving failure to comply with requirements which **cannot reasonably be expected to**, or **does not result in** the loss, suspected compromise, or compromise of classified information

Example: Accidentally carrying a personal cell phone into a Secure Room or Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)

Security Violation: A security incident that indicates **knowing, willful, or negligent action**, which could be **expected to result in** the loss of, or compromise of classified information

Example: Knowingly removing classified documents or notes from a Secure Room or SCIF without proper authorization



- **Compromise:** A Security Violation in which there is an **unauthorized disclosure of classified information** (i.e., disclosure to a person who does not have a valid clearance, authorized access, or need-to-know)
- **Loss:** Occurs when classified information **cannot be physically located or accounted for** (e.g., classified information/equipment is discovered missing during an audit and cannot be immediately located)

If a member discovers unsecured classified information/CUI or identifies a security vulnerability, they must:

- **Take control and protect the material until it can be turned over to those responsible for its protection**
- **Report incident to a Supervisor, Unit Security Manager (USM), or Special Security Officer (SSO)**
- **USM or SSO will notify the IPO**
- **IPO will initiate a Security Incident Inquiry**

Winter Weather Driving Preparedness

by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Findore, 224th Air Defense Group Emergency Manager

Now that Thanksgiving is over, we can now look forward to that time of year that we all know and love! WINTER!!!

Safety and preparedness go hand in hand when it comes to traveling during the winter months. As we discussed during this past year's AT Week in June, it is as basic as having a communication plan with you and your family. Inform your friends and/or family of what roads you are taking to work or while traveling. Have a plan, at home as well as when you are away from home, on where to meet in case of an emergency.

According to the National Weather Service: "Traveling in snow, ice, fog or soaking rain can be a major challenge for even the most experienced motorists. According to the Department of Transportation, there are approximately 1.2 million weather-related vehicle crashes every year - leading to, on average, nearly 6,000 fatalities and over 445,000 injuries. It's clear we could all use a little refresher when it comes to navigating those slick roads this winter."

Before you go, make sure your vehicle is ready. Check your vehicle's battery, wipers, coolant, tires and other systems that are most affected when the temperature drops. Make sure your tires have good tread. Before driving, clear your car of snow, ice or dirt from the windows, forward sensors, headlights, tail lights and backup camera.

Stock your vehicle with a winter supply kit that includes: mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets, flashlight with extra batteries, first-aid kit, high-calorie, non-perishable food, small can with waterproof matches and candle to melt snow for drinking water, sack of sand or cat litter for traction, shovel, windshield scraper and brush, and battery booster cables.

While driving, stay alert for changing weather conditions, and other drivers. As we all know, slow down. It is better to be a few minutes late, than get into an accident due to your rushing, and not make it at all.

Accidents happen. Always wear your seatbelt and ensure everyone in your vehicle does the same. Make sure young children are in car seats.

If you're involved in an accident, try to pull your vehicle off the road and use hazard lights, flares, reflectors or flashlights to warn other drivers. STAY OFF THE ROAD, dial 911, and wait for the police to arrive.

Drive smart. Don't text or make phone calls, speed, or drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. These activities are always dangerous, but the risk is much higher in winter weather.

I hope you and your friends and family have a safe and enjoyable holiday (winter) season!



71st New York Regiment in the Ardennes

By Staff Sgt. Andrew M. McNamara, 224th Support Squadron Cyber Transport Specialist (in-training)

For this year's December article, I decided to cover a New York unit in the Ardennes Counteroffensive, known as the "Battle of the Bulge." This surprise attack would be Germany's last desperate attempt to break the Allied advance into Europe. Towards the end of 1944, the Germans were on the retreat, having lost most of Europe, and many Allied soldiers believed that the war would be over by Christmas.

Led by the German SS, the strategy relied on using Tiger II tanks to storm Allied defenses, overwhelming their thinly armored tanks. The SS would also drop English-speaking soldiers behind American lines with American uniforms. They would spread rumors, carry out assassinations, and acts of sabotage.

On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched their offensive into France and Belgium, and the Allies were taken completely by surprise. They were not

prepared for winter combat, and the breakdown of vehicles due to weather, as well as exposure to the cold produced by lack of proper winter clothing, were all very real threats. Even more frightening was that the person you saw in an Allied uniform might actually be the enemy.

The battle earned a very dark reputation with sides engaging in horrific violations of the Geneva Convention, including executions of POWs and shooting medics. The most terrible incident was the Malmedy Massacre, in which an SS unit shot 84 American POWs.

The 71st New York Infantry Regiment was one of the first units attacked by the Thirteenth SS Corps. With German soldiers infiltrating their sector and making it difficult to communicate, American troops were left to their own devices. In the fighting, individual soldiers displayed heroic acts of courage. One of these, Sgt. Charles MacGillivray, took on the role of company commander, as a result of the casualties his officers had sustained.

Sgt. MacGillivray decided to destroy several German machine gun positions that pinned down his company, flanking them, carrying a submachine gun and a bag of grenades. Although he would lose an arm, he single-handedly destroyed the positions, allowing his unit to hold their line. For his actions, he would receive the Medal of Honor, and the unit, a Presidential Unit Citation.



An oil painting of U.S. troops examining a captured German Tiger II "King Tiger" tank. The bane of many Allied tanks and vehicles, its frontal armor of nearly 15 inches was never breached in combat. Fortunately, it was sent to battle far too late to turn course of the war to Germany's favor, with many of the tanks running out of deisel, forcing their crews to abandon them. Screen capture from <https://www.jamesdietz.com/proddetail.php?prod=jd-pr-064>

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<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-the-bulge>



Det 1 said goodbye to two long-time members last month. In the above photo, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Miller, center, poses with his Army Achievement Medal and his Detachment 1 Commander's Certificate of Appreciation. Senior Master Sgt. Angel Aponte is on the left and Col. Alvin Wilson, South Carolina Army National Guard, is on the right. In the lower photo, Lt. Col. Joshua Jessup, Det 1 Director of Operations, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Schlubach, the Det's Operations Superintendent, right, pose with departing Staff Sgt. Paul Parra. *Photos courtesy of Detachment 1.*

224th Air Defense Group Awards Ceremony

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!



Ticket sales will last from 2 – 24 December, and tickets are limited to 224, so get yours early!

Amn = \$10.

NCO / Civ Employees = \$15.

SNCO / Officers = \$20.



**Guests tickets will be the same category as their host.
Sponsoring Airmen is highly encouraged.**

To purchase tickets, please contact one of the following ticket sellers:

MSgt Angela Palmer: 315-334-6310

TSgt Frank Balash: 315-334-6760

SSgt Jordan Jarecki: 315-334-6344

Tickets will also be on sale in the Comm Focal Point, Room 102

THE SECTOR

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224 ADG 11TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

11 JAN 2019
EVENING MENU

STATIONED APPS

DELI PLATTER - THINLY SLICED TURKEY, HAM AND ROAST BEEF. ROLLS, LETTUCE, TOMATO, RED ONION & CONDIMENTS

CHEESE PLATTER - ASSORTED CHEESES & CRACKERS

VEGETABLE PLATTER - BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER, CARROTS, HEIRLOOM CHERRY TOMATOES, RANCH DRESSING, & ROASTED RED PEPPER AIOLI

FRUIT PLATTER - CANTALOUPE, HONEY DEW, PINEAPPLE, GRAPES, STRAWBERRY YOGURT DIPPING SAUCE

PASSED APPS

COCONUT SHRIMP SKEWERS

LEMON CHICKEN SATAYS

BEEF MEATBALLS

ASSORTED MINI QUESADILLAS - BEEF, CHICKEN, & CHEESE

CARVING STATION

HERB ROASTED TURKEY - WITH GRAVY

MAPLE SAGE PORK LOIN - WITH BROWN GRAVY

VEGETABLES - ASSORTED

DESSERTS

CHOCOLATE FUDGE BITES - FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE TORTE WITH CHOCOLATE GANACHE GLAZE

CHEESECAKE BITES - MINI VANILLA BEAN CHEESECAKE BITES WITH CLASSIC GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

MINI CUPCAKES - THREE FLAVORS WITH AMERICAN BUTTERCREAM FROSTING

BEVERAGES

ASSORTED SOFT DRINKS

COFFEE & TEA SERVICE

CASH BAR

