

Liberty Press Weekly

Dec. 20, 2010, Vol. 2, No. 49

512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Norad to track Santa for Christmas

For the 55th consecutive year, the men and women of the North American Aerospace Defense Command are preparing to track Santa. The NORAD Tracks Santa website, www.noradsanta.org, went live Dec. 3 and features holiday games and activities that change daily.

The web site is available in seven languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and Chinese. The web site will stream videos, captured by NORAD "Santa Cams," from cities along Santa's journey Dec. 24.

This year, children are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and TroopTube. To follow NORAD on these Santa-tracking tools, type in "@noradsanta" into the search engine to start your tracking.

Also, beginning at midnight Mountain Standard Time Dec. 24, visitors to the website can watch Santa as he prepares his sleigh,

checks his list, and goes through all of his preparations to ensure he has a successful journey.

As soon as Santa takes off from the North Pole, children can also track him with up-to-the-minute updates on Google Maps and Google Earth through the NORAD Tracks Santa website.

Santa trackers will begin answering phones and replying to e-mail at 2 a.m. MST (4 a.m. Eastern Standard Time) on Dec. 24 and will continue until 3:00 a.m. MST (5 a.m. EST) Dec. 25. Children of all ages can then call the NTS toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or send an e-mail to noradtrackssanta@gmail.com.

The NORAD Tracks Santa program began in 1955 after a phone call was made to the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The call was from a local youngster who dialed a misprinted telephone number in



Photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie

a local newspaper advertisement. The commander on duty who answered the phone that night gave the youngster the information requested -- the whereabouts of Santa. This began the tradition of tracking Santa, a tradition that was carried on by NORAD when it was formed in 1958.

The NORAD Tracks Santa program has grown immensely since first presented on the Inter-

net in 1998. The web site receives millions of visitors from hundreds of countries and territories around the world. In addition, a live operations center is occupied for 25 hours with more than 1,200 volunteers each year who receive hundreds of thousands of phone calls and e-mails from families around the world.

(Courtesy of 21st Space Wing Public Affairs)

Senate repeals 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law

President Barack Obama hailed the Senate's vote today to repeal the law that banned gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military and expressed confidence the Defense Department can institute the new policy while maintaining military strength and readiness.

The Senate, during a rare Saturday session, voted 65 to 31 to overturn the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that's been in effect since 1993. Read the full story at www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=62163.

Two wing members make "full bird"

When the Air Reserve Personnel Center announced the results of the colonel promotion selection board Dec. 15, the names of two commanders from the 512th Airlift Wing were on the list.

They are Lt. Col. James Lackey, 709th Airlift Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Gretchen Wiltse, 512th Logistics Readiness Flight commander. Board members selected 218 of 1,794 officers considered. After Senate confirmation, the officers will be promoted in increments announced by Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

Base Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Chapel 2
Christmas Midnight Mass, Dec. 24, 12 a.m., Chapel 2
Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Chapel 2
New Years Holy Day Vigil Mass, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.

Protestant

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Chapel 2
Watch Night Service, Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Chapel 2

Commissary announces holiday hours

The Dover Air Force Base Commissary's holiday hours are:

- Dec. 20, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
- Dec. 21-23, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.,
- Dec. 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
- Dec. 25, Closed and
- Dec. 26, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. unless otherwise directed.