

Spotlight On

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Air Force Master Sgt. Gary Wayne Sorensen II  
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A Las Vegas native, Air Force Master Sgt. Gary Wayne Sorensen II is honored to play a role in defending his homeland.

As the requirements branch superintendent for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Sorensen is responsible for processing communications and computer system purchases that support the NORAD and USNORTHCOM missions.



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"The products acquired through my office help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, National Guard Bureau, and other civil authorities all communicate with and through NORAD and USNORTHCOM," Sorensen explained.

Additionally, Sorensen evaluates operational plans and policy documents to ensure staff agencies, subordinate commands, adjacent combatant commands and key federal agencies have the necessary communication assets to execute their mission.

"My job is to ensure everybody has the quality communications systems necessary to successfully carry out their mission," Sorensen said.

Sorensen joined the U.S. Air Force in August 1981. "I enjoyed scouting as a boy and teenager," he said. "I figured the military was the next logical step to surround myself with others who enjoy doing the right thing for the right reason."

Prior to coming to NORAD and USNORTHCOM in July 2002, Sorensen was stationed at Plattsburg Air Force Base, N.Y.; Torrejon Air Base, Spain; Hill AFB Utah; Keflavic AB, Iceland; and Travis AFB, Calif. He also served tours of duty at AL Minhad AB, Dubai, United Arab Emirates for Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Dahrn AB, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Southern Watch; and Incirlik AB, Turkey for Operations Northern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

Sorensen looks no further than his father for a role model. "He instilled in me the confidence to see and do what is right," he said explaining his father fought City Hall and won for his fellow firefighters. The elder Sorensen noticed and corrected shortfalls between the effects his duties had on the health of his subordinates and what the City was willing to do to help.

Noting he will do the right thing for the right reason, Sorensen says he's most motivated by challenges "others say are beyond my capabilities."

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