

Commentary: NORAD at 60: A Canadian perspective

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NORAD at 60: A Canadian perspective

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Editor's note: This commentary is a follow-up to the front page photo featuring NORAD's 60th anniversary that ran last week in the May 18 Tinker Take Off issue.

This month marks the 60th Anniversary of NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command. In celebrating this occasion, we extend our debt and gratitude to the thousands of men and women of the Canadian and the United States Armed Forces who, over six decades, have worked together to serve, protect and defend North America.

The United States is Canada's most important ally and defense partner. Defense and security relations between our two countries are long-standing, well-entrenched and highly successful. Since 1979, Canadians have proudly served side-by-side with their American counterparts here at Tinker Air Force Base in support of NORAD's mission.

I had the honor of hosting a ceremony with Oklahoma State Gov. Mary Fallin, members of the state legislature, and representatives from Tinker, including Col. Geoffrey Weiss and Lt. Col. Donald Saunders, last

week to celebrate NORAD's anniversary. The men and women serving at Tinker AFB embody the values, dedication and talent that make the U.S.-Canadian defense and security partnership the best in the world.

Canada and the U.S. have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in every major conflict since World War II. Canada's commitment to NORAD is unwavering, and we will continue to work together as partners and allies to protect the safety of North America.

NORAD's motto is "we have the watch." Happy 60th anniversary to those on that watch, and thank you.