



# CONR - 1 AF/AFNORTH

Continental United States NORAD Region – First Air Force (Air Forces Northern)  
Office of Public Affairs

1210 Beacon Beach Road \* Tyndall AFB FL 32403-5549  
(850) 283-8080 \* FAX (850) 283-3376 \* DSN 523-8080

[afnorthpa@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:afnorthpa@tyndall.af.mil) \* [www.1af.acc.af.mil](http://www.1af.acc.af.mil) \* [twitter@1staf](https://twitter.com/1staf) \* [Facebook@AmericasAOC](https://www.facebook.com/AmericasAOC)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release 10-01-08/001  
Jan. 8, 2010

## **NORAD scrambles F-16s in response to unruly passenger**

**TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** – Two F-16 fighters under the direction of Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region launched at 11:44 a.m. MST today in response to reports of an unruly passenger aboard AirTran Flight 39 from Atlanta bound for San Francisco.

The fighters arrived overhead of Colorado Springs Municipal Airport as the pilot of the commercial airliner landed the Boeing 737 there safely at approximately noon MST, where the plane was met by law enforcement.

NORAD's mission - in close collaboration with homeland defense, security, and law enforcement partners - is to prevent air attacks against North America, safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada by responding to unknown, unwanted and unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within these airspaces, and provide aerospace and maritime warning for North America. NORAD may be required to monitor, shadow, divert from flight path, direct to land and/or destroy platforms deemed a potential threat to North America.

NORAD is the bi-national Canadian and American command that is responsible for the air defense of North America and maritime warning. The command has three subordinate regional headquarters: the Alaskan NORAD Region at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; the Canadian NORAD Region at Winnipeg, Manitoba; and the Continental NORAD Region at Tyndall AFB, Fla. The command is poised both tactically and strategically in our nation's capital to provide a multilayered defense to detect, deter and prevent potential threats flying over the airspace of the United States and Canada.