



# CONR - 1 AF/AFNORTH

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## Ardent Sentry '10 scans Savannah skies

**SAVANNAH COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, GA.** – More than 250 Soldiers, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen in the Coastal Empire, along with 380 sailors on a destroyer off the Georgia coast, have begun 24-hour operations as a major air defense exercise kicked off Sunday morning.

Ardent Sentry '10 is a major North American Aerospace Defense Command air defense exercise directed by the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The exercise tests a joint force Deployable-Integrated Air Defense System comprised of a U.S. Navy destroyer patrolling coastal waters, military fighters and helicopters, federal aircraft, and a ground-based missile defense system, said Col. Tim Sheriff, Joint Task Force-Air and Missile Defense commander.



“For special events, this is an air defense system integrated between air, land and sea forces,” said Colonel Sheriff. “It has a proven capability to defend homeland skies against an air attack.”

Military and federal personnel are working in close coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration as U.S. Air Force, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Guard fixed-wing and rotary aircraft take to the skies in and around Savannah throughout the exercise.

Air Force F-16s from the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., are providing interdiction of high, fast Targets of Interest while Savannah-based U.S. Coast Guard H-65 Dolphin helicopters and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection aircraft are providing interdiction TOIs flying low and slow.

The U.S.S. James E. Williams (DDG-95), a U.S. Navy Aegis-equipped destroyer, is patrolling more than 25 miles off the Georgia coast, utilizing radars and computer systems to track and detect TOIs.

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The South Carolina Army National Guard's 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command has deployed Avenger short-range air defense and Sentinel ground-based radar systems in a perimeter around the area that will help detect and eliminate potential threats from the air.

"The Deployable- Integrated Air Defense System is a combination of the Navy destroyer, overhead Air Force fighters and the ground-based missiles," said Colonel Sheriff.

This is the second exercise of the D-IADS, the first took place last year at Camp Rilea, Ore.

As the continental U.S. geographical component of the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command, Continental U.S. NORAD Region provides airspace surveillance and control and directs all air sovereignty activities

From the 601st Air and Space Operations Center at Tyndall AFB, Fla., the CONR commander and his staff will direct Air Force, Army, Navy, and Coast Guard assets, ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States.

"This exercise provides us with the opportunity to train for potential scenarios which could affect the continental U.S.," said Maj. Gen. Garry Dean, CONR commander. "Exercises like this allow us to review processes and procedures and focus our future training efforts to identifying areas that may need attention."

No live munitions will be used during the exercise. Air Force aircraft will not fly at night; however, there will be some night flying by the Civil Air Patrol.

The exercise will continue until May 20.

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**CONR Public Affairs will have a representative in Savannah starting May 13. Media interested in additional information or covering the exercise can contact Mr. Al Eakle at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center at (850) 276-8855 or via email at [allen.eakle@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:allen.eakle@tyndall.af.mil).**