

Colorado Springs Chapter, CO Article for Officer Review Magazine

TITLE: COS MOWW Learns about NORTHCOM & NORAD

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW was honored to welcome LTC Nathan Watanabe, USA (Retired) at our monthly Companions Luncheon on Saturday, 18 April 2026. Nathan is currently a Strategic Campaign Planner and Deputy Branch Chief at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and US Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM), Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. He provided a very informative briefing on the Unified Command Plan (UCP) and the role of USNORTHCOM as a US geographic Combatant Command. He also discussed the role of NORAD, a Combined US/Canada Military Command charged with protecting North America from ground, sea, air, and space attacks by threat actors. Both commands are headquartered at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO and led by a US four star commander. Nathan presented the roles and responsibilities of the two commands, the organizational structures, and the current missions and threats that they face. He ended with a brief discussion of the current wars in Iraq and Ukraine and the newly acquired mission for USNORTHCOM of managing relations with Greenland. We thank LTC Watanabe for his insight, his support to USNORTHCOM & NORAD, and his support to COS MOWW.



COL Steve Shambach provides a MOWW Certificate to LTC Nathan Watanabe, USA (Ret), NORTHCOM Strategic Planner