

**State of Minnesota
Department of Military Affairs**



**Annual Report
July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997**

Major General Eugene R. Andreotti, The Adjutant General



Arne H. Carlson, Governor of the State of Minnesota, and Commander-In-Chief of the Minnesota National Guard.

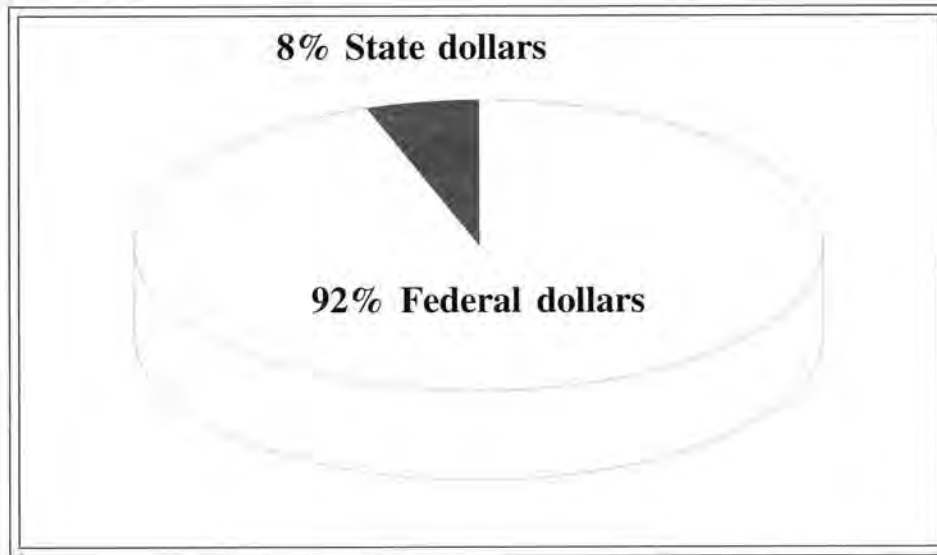


Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, Adjutant General for the State of Minnesota

Table of Contents

Budget	1
Economic Impact	2
Federal, state and community mission	7
Army National Guard	8
Air National Guard	9
Overseas Training	10
Camp Ripley	11
Counterdrug Program	12
Family Programs	13
Construction	14
History	15
Guard responds to 1997 floods	18
Unit Locations	20

Fiscal Year 1997 Budget



Federal Expenditures

Army National Guard	\$72,526,440
Air National Guard	\$64,229,038
Total Federal Expenditures	\$136,755,478

State Expenditures

Department Headquarters Operations	\$1,490,816
Enlistment Incentives	\$3,841,057
Army National Guard	\$4,779,764
Air National Guard	\$661,076
Capital Improvements	\$1,763,033
*State Active Duty	\$4,929,600
Total State Expenditures	\$12,535,746

Total Expenditures \$154,220,824

*State Active Duty includes \$ 2.5 million to be federally reimbursed in fiscal year 1998.

National Guard Economic Impact

Community Unit name	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
Albert Lea Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	27A	1	100	\$471,252	\$42,311
Alexandria Company B, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry (Mechanized)	10B	7	99	\$497,473	\$46,481
Anoka HHB (Det 1), 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Battery E, 151st Field Artillery (Target Acquisition)	49A	6	159	\$681,243	\$122,297
Appleton Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	13A	2	54	\$300,582	\$33,467
Austin Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Detachment 1), 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	27B	1	94	\$364,512	\$55,852
Bemidji Company C, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry (Mechanized)	04A	7	125	\$531,457	\$65,871
Bloomington Headquarters and Material Management Center, 34th Division Support Command Battery A, 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery	41A	3	263	\$2,504,514	\$322,082
Brainerd Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 194th Infantry (Mechanized)	12A	8	183	\$1,074,666	\$64,150
Brooklyn Park Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 34th Division Artillery Battery C, 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery	48A	6	297	\$1,752,561	\$45,867
Chisholm Company C, 1st Battalion, 94th Armor	05B	8	67	\$320,035	\$56,132
Cloquet Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Detachment 1), 1st Battalion, 94th Armor	08A	8	88	\$452,797	\$57,393
Cottage Grove Company F, 434th Main Support Battalion Company C, 134th Forward Support Battalion	57B	6	207	\$961,794	\$49,161
Crookston Company B (-), 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry (Mechanized)	02A	7	72	\$402,845	\$57,933

Community Unit name	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
Detroit Lakes Company D, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry	11A	7	137	\$663,015	\$72,581
Duluth Headquarters and Headquarters Company (-), 1st Battalion, 94th Armor Company C (-) 434th Main Support Battalion Battery B, 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery	08A	8	309	\$1,758,438	\$243,524
Duluth (Air National Guard Base) 148th Fighter Group	08A	8	972	\$31,452,834	\$347,000
East St. Paul Company A, 134th Signal Battalion	67A	4	123	\$525,541	\$102,162
Fairmont Company E, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	26A	2	62	\$315,990	\$53,757
Faribault Company C (-), 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	25B	1	44	\$233,421	\$32,383
Fergus Falls Company A (Detachment 1), 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry (Mechanized)	10A	7	68	\$275,360	\$44,266
Grand Rapids Company D, 1st Battalion, 94th Armor	03B	8	78	\$411,354.56	\$38,328.79
Hastings Company B (-), 134th Signal Battalion	29A	6	74	\$435,565	\$130,529
Hibbing Company A, 1st Battalion, 94th Armor	05B	8	67	\$397,961	\$36,030
Hutchinson Company B (-), 682nd Engineer Battalion	20A	2	112	\$430,611	\$109,617
Inver Grove Heights Headquarters, 134th Signal Battalion				\$0	\$1,199,657
Jackson Battery B, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	22B	2	76	\$297,322	\$45,648
Litchfield Company A, 682nd Engineer Battalion	20A	2	142	\$447,895	\$33,778
Little Falls (Camp Ripley) Company C, 142nd Engineer Battalion	12B	7	973	\$12,602,507	\$1,147,973

Community Unit name	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
Little Falls (Cont.)					
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Companies A, C (Detachment 1), and D, 434th Main Support Battalion					
47th Air Traffic Services Company					
STARC (Detachment 2)					
Headquarters, 175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)					
Installation Support Unit					
Long Prairie Company E, 434th Main Support Battalion	11B	7	67	\$363,120	\$33,168
Luverne Battery A (Detachment 1), 1st Battalion, 125th Artillery	21B	2	49	\$259,782	\$28,614
Madison Battery B (-), 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	13B	2	72	\$352,244	\$66,385
Mankato Headquarters and Headquarters Company (-), 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	24A	1	127	\$810,116	\$69,870
Marshall Battery A, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	21A	2	129	\$569,210	\$42,372
Minneapolis Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Company A, Company B, 134th Forward Support Battalion	59B	5	296	\$1,783,569	\$102,052
Minneapolis/St. Paul (Air National Guard) 133rd Airlift Wing	63B	5	1390	\$32,776,204	\$317,851
Montevideo Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	13B	2	120	\$796,162	\$97,391
Monticello Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry (Mechanized) Company C, 134th Signal Battalion				\$250,619	\$0
Moorhead Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry (Mechanized) Company C, 134th Signal Battalion	09A	7	216	\$1,455,284	\$97,159
Morris Company C (-), 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	13A	7	45	\$279,650	\$40,120
New Ulm Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (-), 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	23A	2	115	\$702,882	\$47,838
New Brighton Organizational Maintenance Shop #8	52B		4	\$0	\$8,518

Community Unit name	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
Northfield 434th Chemical Company (-)	25A	1	74	\$331,728	\$32,679
Olivia Battery B (Detachment 1), 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	15B	2	68	\$345,373	\$67,637
Ortonville Battery C (Detachment), 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	13B	2	75	\$358,011	\$124,684
Owatonna Company C (Detachment 1), 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	28A	1	47	\$235,251	\$46,911
Pine City Company B, 1st Battalion, 94th Armor	18B	8	84	\$395,667	\$24,508
Pipestone Battery A (-), 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	21B	2	49	\$554,449	\$124,683
Red Wing 434th Chemical Company (Detachment 1)	29A	1	54	\$270,964	\$127,100
Redwood Falls Company B (Detachment 1), 682nd Engineer Battalion	23A	2	66	\$270,900	\$43,509
Rochester Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (Mechanized)	30B	1	101	\$442,580	\$44,901
Rosemount Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Division 34th Infantry Division Rear Operations Center 34th Military Police Company 34th Division Band 634th Military Intelligence Battalion	37A	6	568	\$4,182,407	\$139,791
Roseville Recruiting and Retention Center 84th Troop Command Headquarters 135th Public Affairs Detachment (Det 1) 798th Transportation Detachment Headquarters, 147th Finance Battalion F Battery, 151st Field Artillery 147th, 247th, 347th Finance Detachments State Area Command Medical Detachment	54A	4	354	\$2,615,255	\$83,209
Sauk Centre Company C, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry (Mechanized)	10B	7	127	\$520,280	\$28,956

Community Unit name	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
St. Cloud Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Detachment 1) and Company E, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry (Mechanized) Company B, 434th Main Support Battalion	16A	7	275	\$1,337,707	\$90,471
St. James Battery C, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	26A	2	69	\$275,246	\$57,422
St. Paul (Army Aviation Support Facility) Headquarters, Aviation Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company (-), 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Company A, E, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Company F, 147th Aviation Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 147th Attack Helicopter Company A, B, C and D, 3rd Battalion, 147th Attack Helicopter	65B	4	714	\$8,366,801	\$55,833
St. Paul (State Capitol Complex) Headquarters, Minnesota Air National Guard Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command (-) Department of Military Affairs Headquarters and Headquarters Company, B (Detachment 1), 134th Signal Battalion Headquarters, 147th Personnel Services Battalion 247th, 347th Personnel Services Detachments Company A, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry Detachment 39, Operational Support Airlift Command	65B	4	576	\$7,352,403	\$287,185
St. Peter Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	24B	2	71	\$271,593	\$51,814
Stillwater Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division	56A	6	99	\$989,380	\$49,827
Thief River Falls Company B (Detachment 1), 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry	01B	7	92	\$347,647	\$75,323
Wadena Company A (-), 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry	11A	7	81	\$399,030	\$117,532
West St. Paul Company D, 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry	39A	4	134	\$547,389	\$38,094
Willmar Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion	15A	2	159	\$962,753	\$150,623
Winona Company D, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry	32A	1	119	\$492,135	\$45,371

The National Guard Missions

The National Guard is unique among the United States reserve military forces, performing both federal and state missions. In peacetime, the National Guard is commanded by the governors of the states and territories and may be called to state active duty in response to natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other state emergencies.

During a war or national emergency, the National Guard may be called to federal active duty by the President or Congress, and serves as the primary source of augmentation for the active Army and active Air Force. The "dual mission" of the National Guard has its roots in Article I of the United States Constitution.

The men and women of the National Guard are described as citizen-soldiers and airmen. They have full-time civilian careers, but each month they meet with their unit

for military training. They use the same equipment, and wear the same uniform as their active duty counterparts.

The map on the last page of this report shows Minnesota

National Guard installations spread evenly across the state. This distribution of soldiers, airmen, facilities and equipment enables the National Guard to quickly and efficiently respond to an emergency in any area.



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 147th Attack Helicopter finish loading a Cobra helicopter as it leaves to fire on a range at Camp Ripley.

Community Mission....

The National Guard's dual mission of service to nation and state is unique among all branches of the United States armed forces. The Guard is America's community based defense force, located in more than 2,700 cities and towns, some 60 of them right here in Minnesota.

National Guard members are citizen-soldiers and airmen who are integral members of their communities. Guard members live, shop, work, worship, and go to school in Minnesota's cities and towns.

This inexorable link between the community and its citizen soldiers is what makes the National Guard unique.

The Minnesota National Guard takes its "community mission" very

seriously, and is participating in several programs that reinforce this commitment.

Minnesota's 61 Training and Community Centers, formerly called armories, located throughout the state provide shared meeting and recreational space for the local community. Facility costs are met by a partnership of federal, state and local governments. One recently built center was an addition to an existing high school.

The National Guard is also very involved in education. One program which is sponsored by the Minnesota National Guard is STARBASE.

STARBASE is a non-profit corporation funded, in part, by the

Minnesota National Guard. It conducts a number of educational programs designed to increase youth awareness of mathematics, science and technology by using aviation and aerospace curriculums. Classroom instruction can be conducted at the STARBASE facility at the 133rd Airlift Wing base in Minneapolis, or STARBASE can provide the curriculum to individual schools and school districts for incorporation into their own programs.

The Minnesota National Guard is also very active in community based drug demand reduction education.

Army National Guard

The Minnesota Army National Guard includes over 9,000 men and women who belong to units that train in the Guard's 61 Training and Community Centers located across the state. They train to meet the same standards as their active duty counterparts.

Most of these citizen-soldiers belong to the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division. The historic "Red Bull", headquartered in Rosemount,

has units in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Minnesota units include military police, communications, armor, engineers, aviation, medical, artillery, infantry, supply, transportation, and maintenance.

The rest of Minnesota's Army Guard soldiers are assigned to either Troop Command, State Area Command or Camp Ripley. The Roseville-based Troop Command

units include medical professionals, transportation, public affairs, finance and personnel specialists. Personnel assigned to Camp Ripley manage the use and facilities of the 53,000 acre training installation. State Area Command, the Army Guard's main headquarters in St. Paul, includes the Adjutant General's office and general support staff.



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 216th Air Defense Artillery spot a target during a live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Air National Guard



A C-130 from the 133rd Airlift Wing and an F-16 from the 148th Fighter Wing fly side by side.

Today's Minnesota Air National Guard traces its lineage to the 109th Observation Squadron, which in 1921 became the first federally-recognized flying unit in the National Guard. Throughout its history the Minnesota Air National Guard has proudly served both state and nation.

Trained to the same standards as their active duty counterparts, Air Guard members are fully combat-ready and completely integrated into the nation's defense structure.

133rd Airlift Wing

The 133rd Airlift Wing (AW) located at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport, is an air transport organization flying C-130 aircraft. Its normal flying operations include air-drop training and transport missions.

The four-engine C-130 turbo-

prop aircraft can land on short runways or airdrop personnel and equipment into areas lacking an airfield. These capabilities are well suited for disaster relief missions.

The 133rd AW's mission is to provide combat-ready air crews, support personnel, and aircraft for the airlift of passengers and cargo anywhere in the world. Upon direction of the Governor, the unit can furnish personnel and equipment, including aircraft, to assist in natural disaster relief or to safeguard life and property in Minnesota.

148th Fighter Wing

The 148th Fighter Wing (FW), located at Duluth International Airport, is a fighter unit flying F-16 aircraft in an air defense role. It also maintains aircraft and crews on runway alert around the clock, 365 days a year, at Tyndall Air Force

Base, Florida.

The 148th's federal mission is to maintain air sovereignty and support air defense operations. Additionally, the 148th provides personnel and equipment for state emergencies when needed.

Other Air National Guard Units

The 208th Weather Flight, co-located with the 133rd Airlift Wing, provides combat-ready weather observers and forecasters for the active Air Force and the Army Guard's 34th Infantry Division.

The 210th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) supports the active Air Force worldwide by providing teams to install, repair and replace telecommunications and electronic equipment.

Overseas Training

Both the Air and Army National Guard train outside the United States to practice the skills needed for loading and moving people and equipment overseas. Overseas training prepares National Guard units for actual mobilization.

Overseas Training Locations:

Belize
Bosnia
Brazil
Chile
Croatia
Ecuador
England
Germany
Greece
Guam
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Italy
Japan
Korea
Norway
Peru
Panama
Puerto Rico
Saudi Arabia
Turkey

Camp Ripley



Camp Ripley is the second largest wildlife refuge in the state of Minnesota. This Blanding Turtle is one of several rare species found at Camp Ripley.

Camp Ripley, located seven miles north of Little Falls, is the primary field training site for the Minnesota National Guard. The state-owned site provides state-of-the-art, year-round military training facilities to units of virtually every branch of the service from across the nation. The National Guard Bureau has also designated Camp Ripley as the primary winter training site for National Guard units.

The camp's 53,000 acres of

varied terrain provide ideal territory for military tactical training. The installation has a bridging site on the Mississippi River; numerous weapons ranges; an airfield runway which provides enhanced accessibility to out-of-state military units; all-season troop housing; and a medical clinic.

Camp Ripley has an important economic impact on communities in central Minnesota, bringing in more than \$96 million annually.

Camp Ripley is also Minnesota's second largest wildlife refuge,

managed in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Minnesota Legislature recently designated Camp Ripley as the official training center for state agencies. While military training remains the primary focus, several civilian agencies are taking advantage of the unique environment provided at Camp Ripley.

Counterdrug Program

Interdiction and Eradication

The Minnesota National Guard supports law enforcement agencies in their efforts to reduce the supply of illegal drugs. The Guard assists in the interdiction of illegal drugs flowing into this country and in the eradication of drugs grown and manufactured within the state. Guard assistance includes aerial and ground reconnaissance and surveillance, transportation, cargo inspection, and administrative/maintenance support. Guard assistance helped eliminate millions of dollars of illegal drugs from Minnesota streets.

During fiscal year 1997, the Minnesota National Guard assisted in seizing almost \$292 million in drugs, cash, property and other assets.

The Guard also assisted in 115 arrests.



Many students write letters like this one to thank those who bring drug demand reduction programs to schools throughout the state.

Drug Demand Reduction

Despite efforts in interdiction and eradication, the demand for drugs continues to thrive. The Minnesota National Guard believes the war on drugs will be won through drug demand reduction efforts. The Guard works in conjunction with existing community organizations to tell young people across the state about the dire consequences of drug use and help them develop the skills necessary to choose a drug-free life. The Guard's involvement enhances community programs and helps to form partnerships in the fight against drugs.

Working with law enforcement officials, the Minnesota National Guard conducts helicopter "fly-ins" in communities to complement local education programs.

During the past year, Minnesota National Guard personnel spoke to thousands of students in communities throughout the state. Since 1993, presentations have been given to over 100,000 young people.



The Minnesota National Guard flew to hundreds of schools to present their anti-drug message to thousands of students.

Family Programs

The support received from the families of Minnesota National Guard soldiers and airmen greatly contributes to the successful accomplishment of the Guard's missions. The National Guard's Family Program endeavors to develop and nurture that support through its various activities and programs. These programs include: family support groups within the units; volunteer training; family assistance briefings to units and families going through mobilization training; and a summer Youth Camp held at Camp Ripley for 10-12 year old children of Guard members.

The Guard's family assistance office also helps family members of active duty personnel, and estab-



The Minnesota National Guard sponsors a youth camp each year at Camp Ripley for the children and relatives of National Guard members

lishes assistance centers across the state during a major military

operation such as Operation Desert Storm.



The State Volunteer Council poses for a picture at an annual awards banquet. The State Volunteer Council or members dedicates its time to ensure the success of family programs throughout the state.

Construction

	Federal Funds	State Funds	Total
Camp Ripley	\$9,311,761	\$135,772	\$9,447,533
Statewide	\$7,778,725	\$2,938,456	\$10,717,181
Twin Cities	\$134,000	\$0	\$134,000
Air National Guard Duluth	\$0	\$0	\$0
Air National Guard			
Totals	\$17,224,486	\$3,074,228	\$20,298,714



The Inver Grove Heights Training and Community Center was built in 1997. It is home to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 134th Signal Battalion.

History

Origins of the National Guard

The idea of a militia, or body of citizen soldiers as distinct from career soldiers, was borrowed from England and dates in this country from 1636, when three militia regiments were organized for the common defense in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Militia companies were eventually organized throughout colonial America, and they provided its principal defense force.

In spite of shortcomings, the various colonial militias became indispensable to the cause of American independence. They were the back-up for General Washington's Continental Army, providing large numbers of armed men when needed on short notice, and they assured the authority of colonial governors against British sympathizers. Later, the United States Constitution (Article I) and Militia Act of 1792 provided for continuation of a state-based militia system. The federal government could employ the militia for purposes of national security, but its organization was left with the individual states.

Minnesota's Early Militia

Minnesota formed a Territorial Enrolled Militia in 1850, but it only existed on paper until April 1856 when the first uniformed, volunteer company was formed in St. Paul. Called the Minnesota Pioneer Guards, it was a source of such civic pride that soon nine other companies were formed in St. Paul, St. Anthony (Minneapolis) and in river towns from Stillwater to Winona. Minnesota's National Guard traces its beginning to these early militia

companies.

The Civil and Indian Wars

When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, volunteers from Minnesota's militia formed a nucleus for the first three companies of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Both sides in the war had to rely on volunteer regiments, battalions and separate companies recruited by the states. The "First Minnesota" is officially recognized as the senior such regiment in the Union Army because Alexander Ramsey was the first governor to offer state troops to President Lincoln. The regiment went on to serve with distinction in the Army of the Potomac and became legend as a result of its gallant charge at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863.

Minnesota eventually organized and recruited volunteers for 11 infantry regiments, two cavalry regiments, a heavy artillery regiment, three light artillery batteries and two sharpshooter companies, totalling 22,000 men. Many of these soldiers also served on Minnesota's frontier;

in fact, hastily organized local militias and detached companies from several volunteer regiments were the only line of defense during Minnesota's Dakota (Sioux) War of 1862.

After the Civil War, the Minnesota Militia re-emerged to become officially known as the Minnesota National Guard. These organizations became a colorful part of community social life but when called upon never failed to deal with civil disturbances and other state emergencies requiring military aid. Annual summer encampments were held at Camp Lakeview on Lake Pepin near Lake City. Control was vested with the state and funding came largely from modest state appropriations and from the members themselves.

The Spanish American War and Beginnings of Federal Control

Minnesota's National Guard was converted to four U.S. Volunteer Regiments when the war



Major General Charles Bolte, Commanding General of the 34th Division, pins the Bronze Star on Maj. Everett Thomas of Minneapolis for meritorious service in combat with Headquarters, 151st Field Artillery, June 1944.



Men of the 34th Infantry Division catch up on home town news in the San Vittore area, Italy, January 1944.

with Spain began in April 1898. Only the First Regiment, however, was destined to see foreign service. Redesignated during the war as the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteers, it fought Spanish troops and Filipino insurrectionists in the Philippines to 1899.

The U.S. gained status as a first-rate world power as a result of its war with Spain, but the war also called attention to serious military deficiencies. Among them was the nature of the National Guard, which had been functioning, more or less, as a group of autonomous "state armies." Landmark federal legislation in 1903, 1908 and 1916 resulted in federal controls that brought standardization and affirmed the National Guard as the Army's

primary organized reserve.

World War I

In July 1916, because of border raids conducted by Pancho Villa and the courting of an unstable Mexican government by Germany, President Wilson used his new legal authority to mobilize the nation's entire National Guard for patrol duty on the U.S.- Mexican border. The Minnesota Guard was sent to Camp Llano Grande near Mercedes, Texas. Although they never saw fighting, their border duty helped prepare them for a much bigger challenge: World War I.

Barely home from Texas, Minnesota Guardsmen were again mobilized when the United States

entered the war against Germany in April 1917. Most went directly to Camp Cody near Deming, New Mexico, for training with a newly-organized 34th "Sandstorm" Infantry Division. The 34th consisted of Guardsmen from Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa and Nebraska.

To the dismay of its men, however, the 34th was eventually named as a depot division and broken up. Minnesotans were reassigned and sent to France as individual replacement troops while the division was reorganized and filled with new draftees from the southwest. Fortunately, Minnesota's field artillery regiment remained intact. Redesignated as the 151st Field Artillery, it became

part of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division where it fought with great distinction in France.

Reorganization

The years following the First World War found the Minnesota National Guard preoccupied with reorganization, recruitment and armory construction. Minnesota's 109th Observation Squadron became the first federally-recognized flying unit in the National Guard in January 1921. In June 1931, a new field training site was opened to troops at Camp Ripley north of Little Falls. It took its name from Fort Ripley, a long-abandoned 19th century army post which, coincidentally, had been located on land purchased for the new National Guard training camp.

World War II

With war threatening in Europe and the Far East, the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized again in February 1941. Most troops went to Camp Hahn, near Riverside, California, for coastal anti-aircraft artillery training or to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, for training with the 34th Infantry Division.

The 34th (soon to be renicknamed as the "Red Bull" Division) became the first American Division to leave for Europe in January 1942. It fought through North Africa (where men of Minnesota's 175th Field Artillery fired the first American shells against the Nazis), and Italy. Brainerd's tank company, after training with its newly organized 194th Tank Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington, was shipped to the Philippines in September 1941 to shore up American defenses there. When war broke out in December, the 194th fought the Japanese into the

Bataan Peninsula and endured the tragic Bataan Death March. The 109th Observation Squadron ended up in Europe where it initially flew Mark V "Spitfires" with the Royal Air Force and, later, reconnaissance missions with P-51 "Mustangs."

The Minnesota National Guard became part of a newly-organized 47th "Viking" Infantry Division following World War II, and its airmen became part of a new Air National Guard.

Korea

America again found itself at war in 1950-this time in Korea. In January 1951, as a result of the massive and sudden reinforcement of North Korean forces by soldiers from Communist China, the Minnesota Guard was again called up. Many of its members were seasoned World War II veterans and the 47th Division was selected to serve as a training division for two years during the Korean conflict. Most of its personnel were eventually reassigned as replacement troops in Korea or Germany. Minnesota's Air Guard was also activated, contributing pilots to Korea's "Mig Alley."

The Berlin Crisis and Vietnam

Threats by Russia to oust Western troops from West Berlin in 1961 prompted the "Berlin Crisis" and a call-up of selected National Guard forces throughout the nation. Included in this mobilization were members of the 133rd Air Transport Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, who served in federal active service for 11 months while operating out of their home station at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

During the Vietnam War, although never officially mobilized, the Air Guard flew hundreds of supply and transport missions to

Southeast Asia.

The Persian Gulf

Growing tensions in the Persian Gulf erupted in August 1990 when Iraq invaded its tiny, enormously wealthy neighbor, Kuwait. Within months this oil-rich region experienced the largest deployment of American combat forces since World War Two. "Operation Desert Shield," intended to protect Saudi Arabia, became "Operation Desert Storm," when a US-led international coalition used its military might to quickly liberate Kuwait and destroy Iraq's army and air force.

Unlike the war in Vietnam, Desert Shield/Desert Storm made heavy use of reservists. About a fourth of all U.S. military personnel deployed to the Persian Gulf were from the National Guard and Reserves. Over 600 Minnesota Guard members volunteered or were activated with their units, including the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, 109th Light Equipment Maintenance Company, the 1187th Medical Company, and the 257th Military Police Company. The war was over by April 1991, and soon Minnesota's troops headed home to a heroes' welcome.

Bosnia

The 135th Public Affairs Detachment left in June 1996 for Germany to support Operation Joint Endeavor. They were followed in August by Battery E, 151st Field Artillery when it deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia. Members of the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and other volunteers also served in support of the active Army and Air Force.

Guard Fights Floods of 1997

When Minnesota was hit with some of the worst flooding in its recorded history, the National Guard was called to help its neighbors.

Thousands of Guard members were mobilized by Gov. Arne Carlson during the month of April when the flood waters crested on two major rivers in the state, threatening lives and property.

More than 3,800 Guard members served on state active duty during the mission with about 1,200 Guard members serving at the peak time in the middle of April. The Guard helped evacuate 6,300 people during the flood, with about 600 by helicopter.

State and local officials expected extensive flooding long before April. Minnesota had experienced a very wet autumn and a winter that brought record levels of snow. The final winter storm of the year dumped more than eight inches of snow on the Red River Valley in early April.

The National Guard started working first in the Minnesota River Valley area. The flood waters began rising at the river's source, Big Stone Lake, at Ortonville, which lies on

the western border of the state.

In the cities of Granite Falls and Montevideo, Guard members worked alongside volunteers, city workers, residents and school children stacking sandbags, helping with evacuations and controlling traffic.

Granite Falls faced significant danger. Residents there, along with several Guard members, worked for several days prior to the anticipated crest to shore up dikes that ran through the center of town. During the last days of that preparation, the weather turned very cold. Experts later postulated that the cold weather may have hardened the dikes enough to withstand the driving river water.

Montevideo was the river's next destination. The Guard assisted with sandbagging, traffic control and dike

watching. Equipment, such as the Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV) was used to assist with evacuations from flooded areas.

As the water moved past Montevideo and farther along the river, the danger in the Minnesota River Valley subsided. However, further to the north, the Red River Valley began filling with dirty, brown swirling flood water.

The flood first hit the city of Breckenridge. Guard members there assisted with traffic control and dike work. As the flood progressed, and the water began to cover the city, the Guard began evacuating residents.

The flooding then moved north to Moorhead, Minn. and Fargo, N.D. There, the damage



Minnesota National Guard soldiers stack sandbags during the historic floods of 1997.



The Minnesota National Guard worked closely with local law enforcement during the floods of 1997.

was significant, but the two cities had prepared well enough to keep the flood's effects minimal.

The flood continued progressing northward. Smaller rivers in that part of the state, and a phenomenon called overland flooding, overtook a number of small towns. The city of Ada, which is 35 miles northeast of Moorhead was completely enveloped by the flooding. Almost the entire town was evacuated. The Guard secured Ada and provided electric generators which powered the city's emergency operations center for almost two weeks.

The Red River continued its northern march, gaining strength along the way. Residents and city officials in East Grand Forks, Minn. and Grand Forks, N.D., worked feverishly for several days adding height to dikes that were already above the record flood levels. The Minnesota Air National Guard flew

more than 150,000 sandbags from Minneapolis to Grand Forks to assist in the effort.

The Air Guard support also included flying soldiers from their home stations to the flood areas, and then back home. Minnesota Air Guard C-130s also hauled equipment, such as pumps, to the flooded areas.

The work on the East Grand Forks dikes ended up being for naught. The river crested at 54 feet, which was four feet about the anticipated crest. The Guard then assisted city residents with evacuations. Their efforts began with 5-ton trucks, and, when the water became too high, moved to helicopters. The helicopters were also used to transport people across the swollen river when the three bridges connecting Grand Forks and East Grand Forks were closed.

As the water moved past East Grand Forks, it swallowed up small

towns along the way. However, the city of St. Vincent, which just south of the Canadian border, fought a valiant fight. Guard members assisted that city with a sandbagging effort that kept the swirling waters out of the town. The situation was tense for a time, and Guard officials had helicopters ready in case immediate evacuation proved necessary.

By early May, the flood waters receded and Guard members began returning to their home stations. Wrap-up operations, including after action reviews, maintenance on vehicles and other administrative details continued into July.

The Guard's response to the floods, and its fulfillment of its state mission during the crisis, showed once again that the Minnesota National Guard is "always ready and always there."

Minnesota National Guard Unit Locations

