

# MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2016 ANNUAL REPORT & 2017 OBJECTIVES

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## TO THE CITIZENS OF MINNESOTA

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Minnesota's steadfast commitment to advancing our National Guard priorities have yielded measurable results, and I know that our force is better manned, equipped and trained to take on any challenge that the future may hold for our great team. As I begin my last full year as Minnesota's Adjutant General, I swell with pride about the incredible results that Minnesota's Soldiers and Airmen have accomplished on behalf of our state and nation during my seven-year term.

2016 has indeed emphasized that our service members are committed to advancing the journey that began in 2010. By all measurements, we are more diverse and inclusive; not one, but two, female leaders were promoted to general officer in 2016. We are a more competent, ready force; Minnesota has established the standard by which reserve force readiness is measured. We have moved the bar for optimal force structure; Minnesota continues to advance partnerships with major commands to ensure the correct equipment and people can assist our national and state security. We have solidified Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; with support of service members, veterans and military families established in 98 networks, 217 communities and 25 counties. Our sustainable infrastructure is envied throughout the Department of Defense. And lastly our Cyber Security and Response training, collaboration and future force structure has advanced our preparedness to make Minnesota a safer place for generations to come.

The men and women of the Minnesota National Guard have once again distinguished themselves across the globe in 2016: our 148th Fighter Wing assisted in a major deployment of 300 Airmen to the Republic of Korea to train under the guidance of the U.S. Pacific Air Force; the 34th Infantry Division rose above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that U.S. Army Europe had adequate forces to participate in a variety of exercises; the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade provided helicopters and crews for *Operation Freedom Sentinel* in Afghanistan; and the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry, provided security and support to the Multinational Force and Observers on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. In addition, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team completed a successful rotation at the U.S. Army's National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California, ensuring its status as the most trained, ready and deployable brigade in the U.S. Army in 2017.

2017 will indeed be an important year for the Minnesota National Guard. The famed 34th Red Bull Infantry Division will recognize its centennial, the 257th Military Police Company will execute Minnesota's first mission in Cuba since the Spanish-American War, and both the Army and Air National Guard will continue to maintain the standard of "Always Ready, Always There" against the backdrop of yet another peaceful exchange of power at our national level.

Fellow Minnesotans, it has been an honor to serve as your Adjutant General over the last seven years. It is my distinct privilege to serve alongside such great men and women who are dedicated to service in the armed forces. Your Minnesota National Guard is one of the best in the nation, and that is a fact due to our incredible men and women in uniform. Minnesotans should take pride in their Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

Thank you for your continued support of the Minnesota National Guard. It has been an honor to lead these great men and women.

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD C. NASH | THE ADJUTANT GENERAL | MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD | PRIORITIES

*The Minnesota National Guard's enduring goal is to provide an agile, resilient force, ready to fulfill any federal, state or community need. The Minnesota National Guard's success relies on its ability to provide military assets when called upon, working with interagency partners to enhance joint-response capabilities. In order to fulfill its obligations to the state and nation, the Minnesota National Guard focuses on six priorities that guide the organization through decision-making and mission-planning processes, ultimately ensuring a unified and consistent response. The Minnesota National Guard's six priorities provide a fundamental blueprint that ensures success of the mission while maintaining personnel and equipment at optimal levels.*





An Airman with the 133rd Airlift Wing's maintenance group pauses in front of a C-130 Hercules on July 27, 2016. He and his team are responsible for keeping the wing's aircraft ready for operations across the globe.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Lynette Olivares



A security forces member of the 148th Fighter Wing stands guard in front of a C-130 Hercules while participating in a major accident response exercise at the Duluth International Airport on May 24, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Amy Lovgren

## DIVERSITY

*We value diversity in our organization to broaden our perspective, incorporate a variety of strengths and better represent the communities we serve.*

Five years ago, the Minnesota National Guard established a diversity goal that aimed to shape a force with a commensurate percentage of diverse individuals relative to the state of Minnesota's population; an effort that also focuses on recognizing and embracing the values and skills that come from different sets of opinions, thoughts, attributes and experiences.

In 2011, 7.8 percent of service members in the Minnesota National Guard were from diverse ethnicities, compared to the 16.6 percent that make up Minnesota's population. In 2016, the Minnesota National Guard closed that gap by attaining 15.5 percent of its force from diverse ethnicities, and is approaching the nearly 19 percent of Minnesotans that currently come from diverse ethnicities.

As the percentage of diverse individuals in the state continues to increase, so do the Minnesota National Guard's efforts to close the gap and achieve its goal. The organization has expanded its community outreach, further encouraging units across the state to engage with the communities they serve by participating in various cultural events. By attending Rondo Days, Twin Cities Pride and Cinco de Mayo, for example, Soldiers and Airmen build relationships with other Minnesotans and highlight the fact that members of the Minnesota National Guard live, work and serve in their communities.

Community outreach from a diversity and inclusion standpoint increased this past year as a result of feedback received from the Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General's Junior Diversity Council. The council, established in 2016, is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen from diverse ethnicities, genders and backgrounds. The Junior Diversity Council, which meets several times throughout the year, is directly led by the adjutant general, giving junior service members in the Minnesota National Guard

unfiltered access to the organization's most senior leader. By eliminating the many layers of chain-of-command, the council can relay first-hand experiences, feedback and knowledge to the adjutant general and other key leaders who are capable of affecting change.

The Junior Diversity Council also provides unique perspectives, as the youngest generation of Soldiers and Airmen best understand new challenges with technology and shifting demographics, and can help identify solutions. Council members have the opportunity to take these issues back to their units – specifically their peers – to further explore solutions and be advocates for their concerns. By building and fostering an inclusive culture through the council, the Minnesota National Guard seeks to provide every member a path toward success and an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Additionally, the Minnesota National Guard has eight special emphasis councils that focus on diversity: African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Disability, Holocaust Remembrance, Latino, LGBT, Native American and Women. By facilitating educational opportunities for service members, such as visits to Holocaust memorials, powwows and the Hmong New Year celebration, the special emphasis councils provides an opportunity for all Minnesota National Guard members to become more culturally aware and better prepared to serve the vast array of backgrounds that make up both the organization and the state.

## COMPETENT READY FORCE

*We provide the required personnel, equipment and partnerships to ensure we have a competent, ready force to meet the needs of our state and nation.*

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to providing the state and nation a trained, prepared and equipped force, capable of responding to any community need or federal mission.

A competent and ready force is achieved by recruiting the right mix of people training them to do specific jobs and assigning them to units across the state. Additionally, units are required to ensure their Soldiers and Airmen are proficient in operating the most up-to-date equipment, and large-scale exercises are routinely executed to evaluate performance and strengthen partnerships with civilian agencies, military counterparts and allied countries. Personnel readiness, which is achieved when units ensure that all of their people are administratively and medically prepared, is the final component to fielding a competent and ready force.

For the Minnesota National Guard – and the Army National Guard as a whole – the past two years were marked by decreased funding for military schools training, challenging the organization's ability to ensure Soldiers were trained and equipment was maintained. In 2016, however, the Minnesota National Guard saw an increase in military school funding that was nearly double what was received in 2015. The additional funding allows Soldiers to attend both Military Occupational Specialty training or professional development training as well as their Annual Training requirements in the same year, which ensures complete training for the service member and unit without sacrificing one military school or training event for the other.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard began transitioning to a new method for reporting the training readiness of its units using a metric known as "Objective T." The new model – to be implemented in 2017 – will provide a more objective assessment of a unit's training status and preparedness for mobilization. The model will paint a more accurate picture of a unit's readiness by standardizing and detailing requirements for unit training tasks, external evaluations, role players, weapons qualification and collective live-fire proficiency.

The Minnesota National Guard will use the new readiness model, in conjunction with adequate funding levels, to ensure service members attend military development schools as well as annual training to maintain mission readiness levels that have historically been tops in all branches throughout the nation.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard also began a process to enhance readiness at its premier facility, Camp Ripley Training Center, by planning for complex, multi-dimensional events that include role-playing participants in collective training events. Role players are injected into scenarios as city mayors, tribal chiefs, non-government organizations, religious figures and other key leaders that a Minnesota National Guard unit would potentially interact with during a deployment.

The organization's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, which underwent a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California, in 2016, experienced firsthand the value role players add to a training event. During their rotation in the Mojave Desert, 1/34th ABCT Soldiers were required to navigate political and social challenges in addition to battling both conventional and non-conventional forces.

The 1/34th ABCT's NTC rotation resulted in the unit being rated as one of the U.S. Army's most prepared armored brigades, capable of rapidly deploying to support a variety of global missions. Goals for 2017 and beyond include adding a role-playing element to training events at Camp Ripley to ensure all Minnesota National Guard units can maintain a similar readiness posture.



Members of the 347th Regional Support Group off-load equipment on June 1, 2016, at the Yermo Railhead Annex at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, prior to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation at nearby Fort Irwin.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Capt. Kevin Cronen



Military-connected youth and their families celebrate Month of the Military Child with the Minnesota Timberwolves by participating in pregame events at Target Center on April 11, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Patrick Loch

## OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE

*We optimize our force by organizing our personnel, equipment and capabilities to accomplish current and anticipated missions.*

The priority of ensuring the Minnesota National Guard has the right units, in the right locations, trained to do the right job, requires constant evaluation and organizational flexibility. Coupled with budgets, strategies and mission requirements – both state and federal – that change from year-to-year, the Minnesota National Guard is continually focused on fine-tuning its force structure, upgrading equipment and improving training efficiency.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard fielded dozens of new pieces of equipment, weapons systems and information technology enhancements in the form of tactical communication systems and application software upgrades. Because the Minnesota National Guard has gained a reputation for quickly training service members on proper use and maintenance of new equipment, the organization's physical property has moved to the forefront of military-issued equipment. This effort also aligns the Minnesota National Guard with the Department of Defense's Total Force Policy, an effort to enhance the interoperability of active and reserve units in order to seamlessly combine efforts to accomplish both domestic and overseas missions.

New equipment in 2016 included the addition of two retrofitted Small Unit Support Vehicles, a tracked vehicle designed to support small teams during operations in all types of environments and terrains. With the increase of inventory allocated to units across the state, the Minnesota National Guard has enhanced its ability to support local responders in emergency response utilizing a vehicle that can navigate snow, ice and water.

A total of 11 units moved geographic locations in 2016 to ensure specialized teams are stationed as close as possible to where their skills will be best utilized, while taking advantage of new building openings and armory renovations. The 434th Chemical

Company, which was based out of the now-closed Northfield armory, moved to the recently-remodeled Hastings armory allowing a more robust work space while shortening unit distance to the 55th Civil Support Team in St. Paul – a unit the 434th often works and trains with. Additionally, as preparation efforts for the implementation of additional cyber defense teams into the organization continues, the Minnesota National Guard is exploring the most robust and tech-savvy communities as potential homes of these new assets.

In 2017 the Minnesota National Guard will continue to develop and maintain its relationships with the National Guard Bureau to keep abreast of new equipment offerings and national policy changes that may affect the Minnesota National Guard's future force structure.

Additionally, the organization will continue to implement the Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan, a 20-year plan implemented in 2015 that guides the Minnesota National Guard through a process of constructing, consolidating and closing some of its facilities. The plan was the result of a years-long study that assessed long-term facility condition, capacity for improvements, demographics and travel considerations for unit members – all of which will ensure the Minnesota National Guard's force structure is prepared for changes in the years to come.

## BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

*We connect current and former service members, veterans and military families with employers, community resources and services to ensure the resilience of those who serve.*

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is one of several programs housed under the Minnesota National Guard's State Family Programs office. Through a massive synchronization effort that ties military-connected families to employers, communities, resources, providers and other service-support organizations, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon fosters resilience among Soldiers and Airmen while creating awareness of the challenges of military service and providing an opportunity for Minnesotans to support service members, veterans and their families.

Since the first Yellow Ribbon Network was proclaimed in 2008, 98 networks in 217 communities and 25 counties have emerged in Minnesota. These self-sustaining, cross-community networks, which draw together agencies, community leaders and volunteers, strive to support the service members, veterans and military families – of any age and from any era – that reside in their areas. In 2016, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program saw the city of Lino Lakes join the effort.

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program also recognizes Minnesota companies that make a commitment to supporting the service members, veterans and military families that they employ. Yellow Ribbon Companies go above and beyond in their efforts to hire and recruit veterans in addition to connecting with military-support efforts in their local communities. In 2016 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, ALLETE/Minnesota Power, United Parcel Service, North Hennepin Community College and Minnesota Sports & Entertainment were proclaimed, bringing the number of Yellow Ribbon Companies to 53.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard's State Family Programs office was nationally certified by the Council on Accreditation, an organization that promotes and recognizes excellence in community-based support. The accreditation not only highlights the strength and effectiveness of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, but also ensures the program has sound financial management principles, ethical decision-making practices and provides high-quality service with positive outcomes.

The State Family Programs office created a directory of resources in Minnesota for service members and military families, allowing military-connected families to easily find professional support for their specific needs. Whether the need be related to finance, insurance, employment or housing, support can now be found through the Service Provider Network hosted online by Joint Service Support, the national advocate for National Guard service members, families and veterans.

Additionally, the State Family Programs office increased its family outreach efforts to provide more opportunities for military-connected families to connect and build stronger bonds. With the demands of military service straining families due to time spent apart and other stressors, family outreach efforts such as the "Minnesota Military Family Challenge" and overnight stays at the Minnesota Zoo provide structured programs that allow families to build resilience and cement relationships.

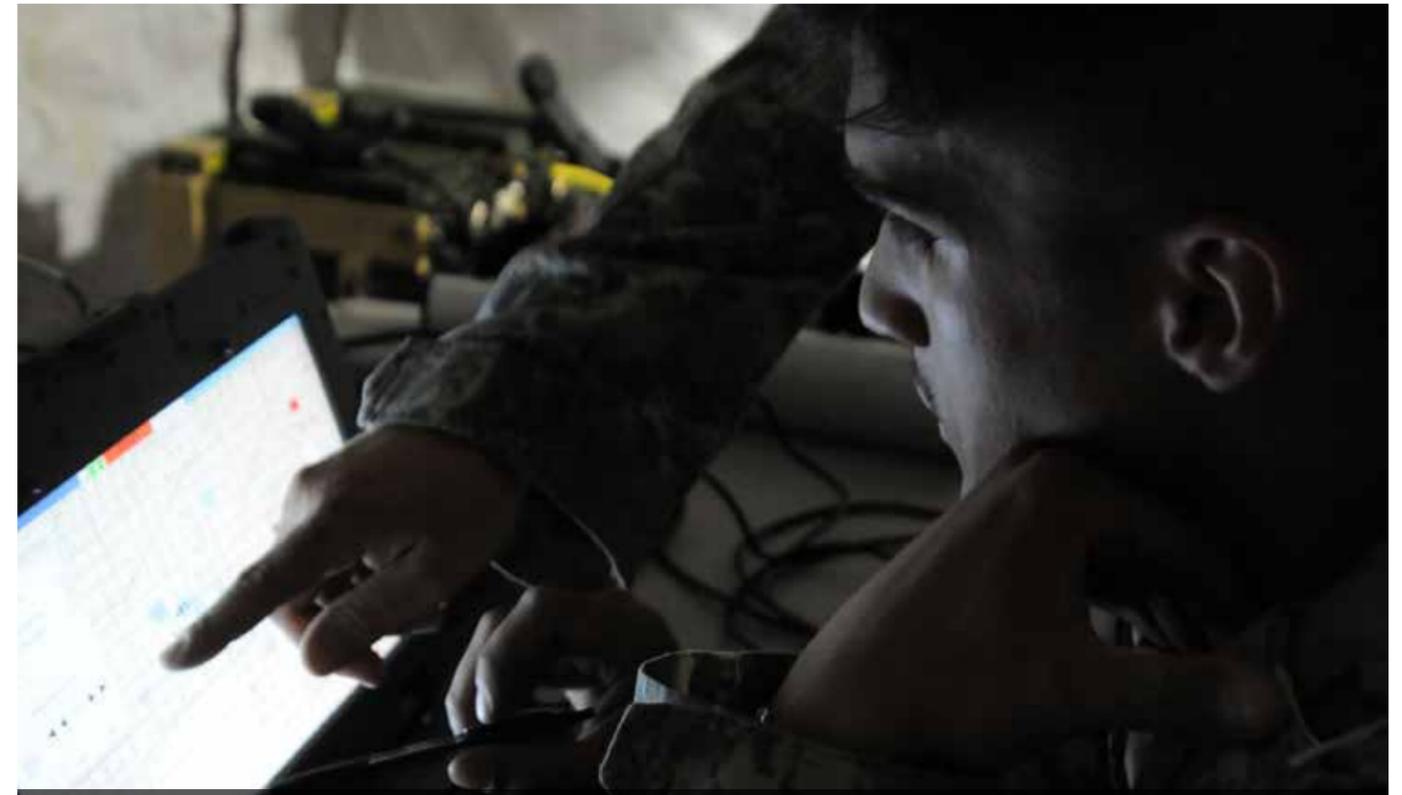
In 2017 the Beyond the Yellow Program seeks to have all Fortune 500 companies in Minnesota aspire to become Yellow Ribbon Companies. Currently there are seven of 17 Fortune 500 companies proclaimed. Additional support by employers of this magnitude would not only significantly increase resilience of military-connected employees, but also expand employment opportunities for service members, veterans and military families.

The continued growth and maturation of the program – and especially the communities and companies that foster the program – are of vital importance to the Minnesota National Guard as service members and family members adjust to an increase in responsibility and training requirements being seen throughout the nation's entire National Guard.



*An Airmen with the 210th Engineer Installation Squadron, 133rd Airlift Wing, conducts signal tower training to ensure communication capabilities throughout Camp Ripley Training Center on April 16, 2016.*

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Austen Adriaens



*Soldiers transmit logistical information over a secure network during the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California, on June 11, 2016.*

NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Sgt. Leticia Samuels

## SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

*We invest in sustainable infrastructure to ensure our facilities are economically and environmentally sound and remain assets to service members and communities.*

Sustaining the infrastructure that facilitates training and maintenance for a 13,000-member force with thousands of pieces of equipment is more than a priority – it is a necessity. By exploring ways to harness renewable energy and identifying the right solution for outdated facilities that are too costly or no longer viable to meet modern-day training objectives, the Minnesota National Guard continually invests in good stewardship and modernization.

The Minnesota National Guard's keynote accomplishment in terms of sustainable energy was the construction of a 60-acre solar array at Camp Ripley Training Center. The array, owned and maintained by Minnesota Power, is capable of producing enough electricity to power all of CRTC while earning the Minnesota National Guard Renewable Energy Credits. Earned through the lease agreement with Minnesota Power, RECs apply toward the organization's goal of becoming Net Zero, which would mean the Minnesota National Guard produces as much energy as it consumes.

In 2016 CRTC reached another milestone toward its Net Zero goal after receiving funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for the construction of a biomass heating facility. In conjunction with the Minnesota National Guard's own budget, the additional funds will move this long sought-after plan from vision to reality with design of the facility to begin in 2017 and construction beginning in 2018. The heating facility, fueled by woody biomass abundant on the 53,000-acre post, would significantly reduce the installation's reliance on natural gas.

The Minnesota National Guard's ongoing initiative to reduce waste has come through both physical and behavioral changes. In 2016 the organization identified out-state readiness centers with waste-hauling servicers that do not offer recycling. The Minnesota National Guard allowed facility managers the flexibility to re-work existing contracts, or find ways to divert recycled goods to processing centers, further reducing the organization's footprint.

In 2015 the Minnesota National Guard published the Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan, a 20-year vision that recommends new construction, consolidation and closure of some Minnesota National Guard armories. The plan took into account changing population trends, the practicality of maintaining decades-old buildings and projected military construction to ensure each of the organization's readiness centers remain in the right community.

Though the plan has yet to receive federal funding – which would guarantee fiscally responsible and environmentally sound state-of-the-art training centers for the Minnesota National Guard – the results of the study are utilized to prioritize spending and address readiness centers that will soon be unable to meet the needs of the military unit and community.

One such armory was the 94-year old building in Stillwater, which exceeded its useful life for modern-day military use. A new facility in Stillwater – shared with the city's fire department – was completed in 2016 and will accommodate additional units, consolidating other outdated buildings and freeing them up for remodel or divesture.

The Minnesota Air National Guard base in Minneapolis decreased its total annual energy intensity by 40 percent from 2003 to 2015, and its total annual water usage by nearly 50 percent from 2007 to 2015. The 133rd Airlift Wing accomplished these reductions through a comprehensive strategy that includes local policy, community partnership, user education, high efficiency system upgrades, submetering and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning controls.

## CYBER SECURITY & RESPONSE

*We secure our state's military network and collaborate with interagency partners to enhance our response to and recovery from negative cyber events.*

Working with federal, military and state partners, in particular the Minnesota Information Technology Services, the Minnesota National Guard maintains and defends its communications infrastructure while improving its ability to react to a cyber event.

The Minnesota National Guard defends its information infrastructure as outlined in the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, which requires all federal agencies to develop, document and implement agency-wide plans to ensure information security. As part of its recovery strategy the Minnesota National Guard monitors for indicators, such as severe weather, that could possibly degrade its information network and require action as outlined in established Communication Response Plans.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard participated in its largest cyber capabilities exercise to date, the National Guard Bureau-led *Cyber Shield* exercise. Held at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, the two-week, joint exercise included nearly 900 service members from 47 states. By bringing together professionals from around the country, in addition to industry experts representing water, utility and other critical infrastructure companies, the exercise enabled the training for cyber warriors to defend against the ever-growing threat posed by cyber warfare.

Additionally, the *Cyber Shield* exercise provided the unique opportunity for Minnesota National Guard Soldiers to be the target audience in the training event – something not always possible, as they are usually needed to provide network support for the scenario. As such, the Minnesota National Guard's Cyber Network Team participating in the exercise finished fourth out of 32 teams evaluated during the execution phase of *Cyber Shield*.

In 2016 the Minnesota National Guard sent three information security envoys to Croatia, fostering an ongoing partnership to bolster both countries' ability to combat cyber threats. Since the two countries' first cyber engagement in 2012, the partnership has quickly grown to a mutually beneficial relationship grounded by the sharing of ideas, strategies and information. Engagements this year were focused on building a three-to-five year plan for continued collaboration and planning for a cyber symposium that will bring together industry professionals, academics and military leaders to further develop cyber strategies.

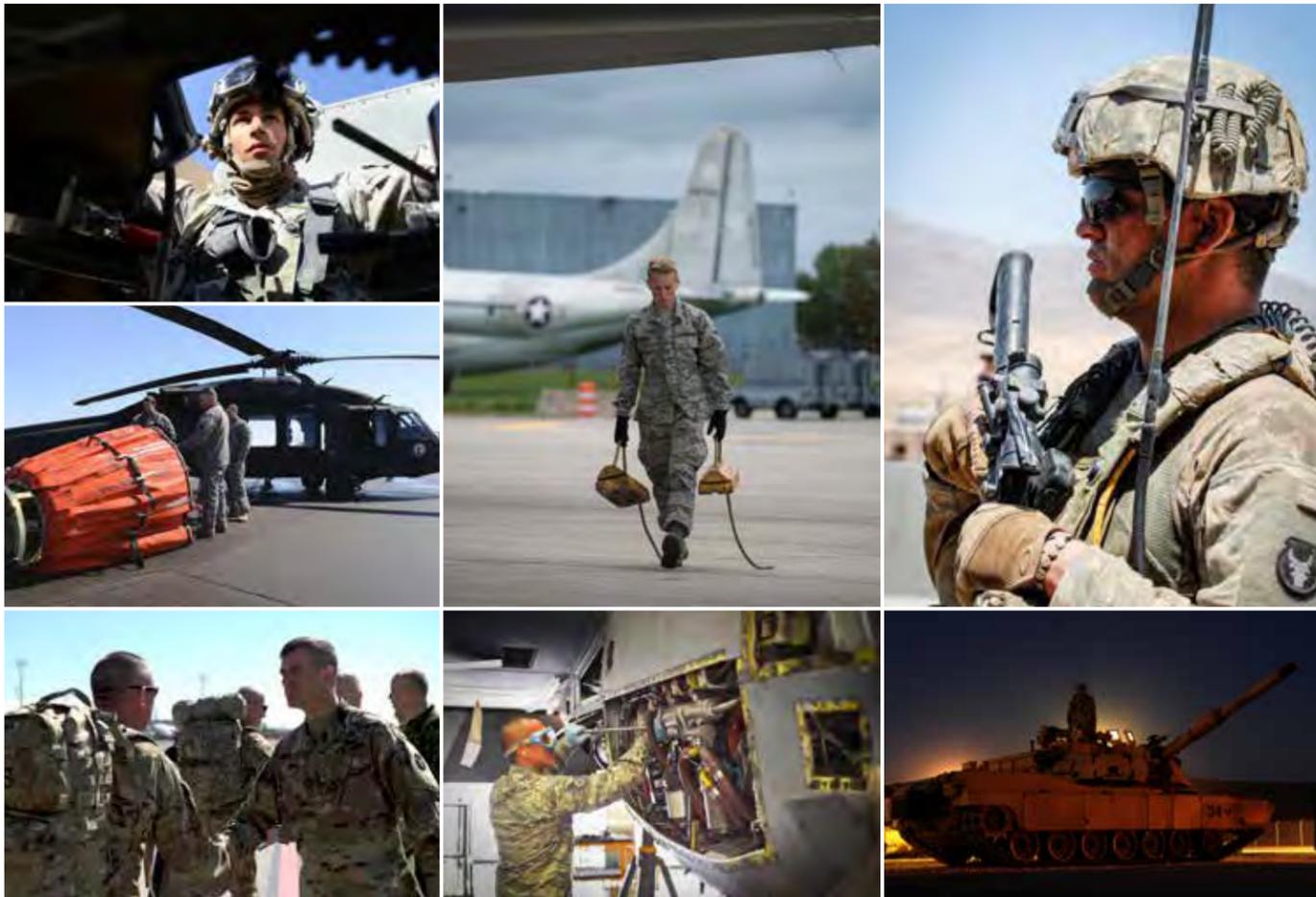
In 2017 the Minnesota National Guard will once again benchmark its participation in large-scale cyber exercises by participating in the U.S. Cyber Command's *Cyber Guard* exercise. The organization's participation in the exercise – as one of only nine National Guard teams to be selected to attend – is significant in that it will bring together nearly 50 organizations representing a variety of civilian, government and military agencies, as well partners from allied countries, with the goal of coalescing the many stakeholders interested in maintaining a safe and secure cyber infrastructure in a joint, multinational effort.

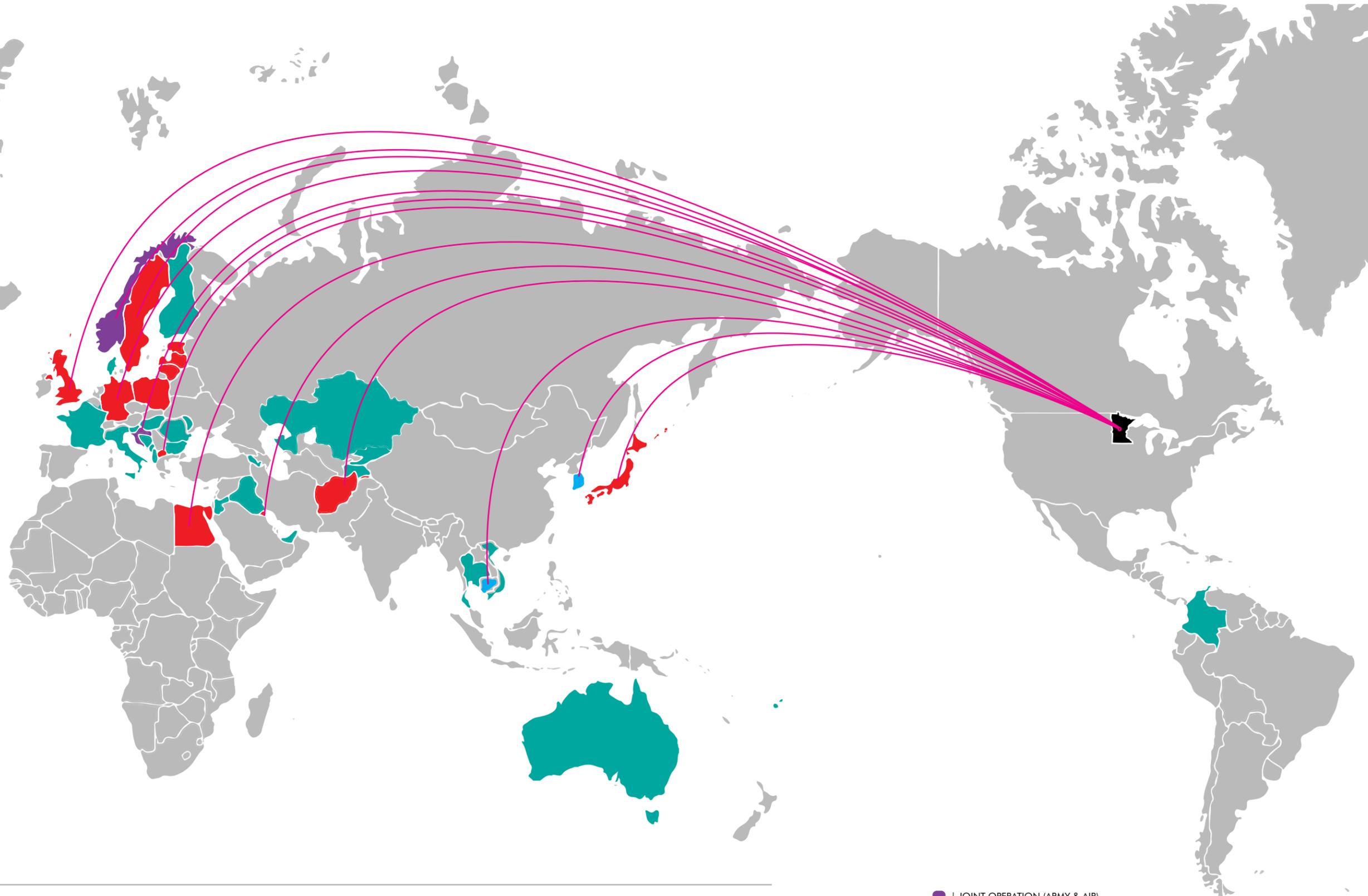
In 2017 the Minnesota National Guard continued taking steps to implement its Cyber Protection Team – which will be fully operational in the coming years – to enhance the Minnesota National Guard's ability to conduct defensive cyberspace operations, including vulnerability assessments, critical infrastructure assessments, theater security cooperation and Federal Emergency Management Agency support.



## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD | MAJOR COMMANDS

*The men and women who serve in the Minnesota National Guard do so under 10 major commands, covering all corners of the state with a physical presence in 61 communities. The Minnesota National Guard supports both state and federal missions with more than 13,000 Soldiers and Airmen from across the state. When directed by the president, the Minnesota National Guard deploys mission-trained Soldiers, airmen and units to support overseas missions. The resources of the Minnesota National Guard are also available to the governor to support domestic response missions in communities throughout the state.*





**MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD | AROUND THE WORLD**

*The Minnesota National Guard is relied upon by the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force as part of the operational force. This map depicts the countries Minnesota Guardsmen traveled to outside of the continental United States.*

- | JOINT OPERATION (ARMY & AIR)
- | ARMY OPERATION
- | AIR OPERATION
- | WORKED WITH
- | MINNESOTA (HOME STATION)
- | TRAVEL

- OPERATION/EXERCISE NAME (Location)**  
*Allied country participated/worked with*
- STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (Norway)**  
*Norway*
- STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (Croatia)**  
*Croatia*
- SABER STRIKE | DRAGOON RIDE (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and Poland)**  
*Estonia  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Luxembourg  
Norway  
Poland  
Slovenia  
United Kingdom*
- YAMA SAKURA (Japan)**  
*Japan*
- OPERATION FREEDOM SENTINEL (Afghanistan)**  
*Afghanistan*
- OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD (Kuwait)**  
*Kuwait  
Iraq  
United Arab Emirates  
Jordan  
Afghanistan  
United Kingdom (joint exercise Steppe Eagle)*
- STEPPE EAGLE (United Kingdom)**  
*Kazakhstan  
United Kingdom  
Tajikistan  
Kyrgyzstan*
- JOINT MULTINATIONAL READINESS CENTER (Germany)**  
*Germany*
- MULTINATIONAL FORCE OBSERVER (Egypt)**  
*Egypt  
Columbia  
Fiji*
- SABER JUNCTION (Germany)**  
*Albania  
Armenia  
Bosnia  
Bulgaria  
Hungary  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Macedonia  
Moldova  
Romania  
Serbia  
Slovenia  
Sweden  
United Kingdom*
- PACIFIC ANGEL (Cambodia)**  
*Cambodia  
Australia  
Vietnam  
Thailand*
- THEATER SECURITY PACKAGE (South Korea)**  
*South Korea*
- AURORA (Sweden)**  
*Sweden  
Denmark  
Estonia  
France  
Finland  
Germany  
Norway*
- JOINT REACTION (Macedonia)**  
*Macedonia  
Bosnia  
Croatia  
Albania  
Montenegro*



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
624 Soldiers and Airmen

COMMANDER  
Maj. Gen. Richard Nash

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Wortham

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/jfhq



Nearly 200 service members from the Minnesota National Guard join together to display the U.S. flag before the inaugural game at U.S. Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings, on Sept. 18, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Rosemount, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
816 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Brig. Gen. Jon Jensen

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. John Lepowsky

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id



Soldiers of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, fire day- and night-weapons qualification on the M2 .50 caliber machine gun at Camp Ripley Training Center on June 18, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Anthony Housey



## JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Located in St. Paul, the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air National Guard unit tasked to oversee operations for all state National Guard forces. Joint Force Headquarters coordinates military support at the request of the governor in the event of a disaster or state emergency. Joint Force Headquarters can also provide a dual-status commander, specially qualified to command state and federal forces operating in Minnesota.

The year 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard's State Partnership Program with Croatia. The relationship, which has matured in scope and significance over the years, provides an opportunity for Soldiers and Airmen to cross-train with Croatian counterparts and affirm the U.S.'s commitment to its allies and global mission. The two militaries shared best practices in the fields of information technology, domestic response and military doctrine, which enables contingency planning and awareness between the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian military in the European theater.

In 2016 Joint Force Headquarters invested greatly in the training of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, which conducted a rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The rotation was significant not only in the execution of the U.S. Army's premier event for armored brigade combat teams, but in the logistics of moving a full brigade with all of its equipment across the country, something that has never been done in the Minnesota National Guard.

Because of the complexity of moving more than 6,000 Soldiers and hundreds of armored and tactical vehicles, The Adjutant General's directors of logistics and operations provided planning and resourcing to enable movements requiring nearly 70 chartered flights and 400 railcars out of Minnesota alone – an additional 20 charter flights and 100 railcars from 15 different states were coordinated for movement from across the nation. Upon the brigade's return, Joint Force Headquarters prioritized the efforts of the Minnesota National Guard's 400 mechanics and several maintenance facilities to ensure all equipment used during the month-long training exercise in the Mojave Desert remained serviceable – a key component of the brigade retaining its top readiness rating following its NTC rotation.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 Joint Force Headquarters' Training Support Unit will deploy two Soldiers from the 47th Chaplain Detachment to support the Black Sea Area Support Team, which provides base camp operations for U.S. forces in the Black Sea theater of operations. While deployed, the ministry team will coordinate religious services for all faith backgrounds, provide morale and welfare programs, and conduct religious engagements with the local populace.

In 2017 Joint Force Headquarters will continue efforts to maintain the organization's strong readiness posture, one that ranks the Minnesota National Guard in the top 20 percent in terms of readiness.

Not only does the high readiness rating ensure a swift, effective response by the Minnesota National Guard to support missions at home or across the globe, it also helps to protect the Minnesota National Guard's force structure – of particular importance during a time of military drawdowns.

Joint Force Headquarters is prepared to assist, if requested, to support law enforcement efforts related to the National Football League's Super Bowl LII.

## 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION



### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provides command and control for four National Guard brigades and is aligned-for-training with six others, across seven different states. In Minnesota the 34th ID includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, 84th Troop Command and the 347th Regional Support Group.

In 2016 the 34th ID once again successfully completed a series of joint and multinational exercises. By steadily ramping up involvement and expertise in these exercises during the past several years, the Red Bulls have become globally recognized and proficient in maintaining a sustained readiness model that allows them to deploy in support of operations around the world quickly and effectively. The sustained model the division supports the Department of Defense's Total Force Policy, a principle that recognizes that global challenges are greater than what one component of the Armed Forces can meet alone.

One such exercise the division participated in was *Saber Strike*, which took place throughout Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The long-standing, U.S. Army Europe-led exercise is designed to improve joint interoperability by partnering with allied forces to conduct live-fire, command post and cyber warfare training, to include the integration of U.S. close-air support with multinational ground forces.

Leading up to the exercise, Soldiers of C Company, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, joined the 2nd Cavalry Regiment as it demonstrated U.S. land forces' dynamic presence throughout the region by exhibiting freedom of movement during a 2,200-kilometer tactical road march, called *Dragoon Ride II*, from Germany to Estonia.

By participating in *Saber Strike* and other large-scale, annual exercises such as *Yama Sakura* and *Talisman Saber*, the Red Bulls continue to sharpen their technical skills and leadership abilities. Moreover, the division strengthens its relationship with U.S. allies to enhance international security and broadens the capacity of the Minnesota National Guard to assist in future coalition operations.

Additionally, the 34th ID provided command support for the 1/34th ABCT's training event at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The opportunity to undergo the rigorous training at NTC is limited to only one National Guard brigade per year. The division commander defined the training objectives to ensure the best training for the brigade, resulting in the 1/34th ABCT being unequivocally ready to deploy and engage in decisive action.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

While building on a cooperative relationship and becoming instrumental in I Corps' success in exercises such as *Yama Sakura*, the division was requested by U.S. Army Europe to join I Corps on another large-scale event dubbed *Austere Challenge*, which the 34th ID has not participated in since 2011. During *Austere Challenge*, which will take place in Germany, major commands will establish a Joint Land Force and exercise Unified Land Operations in a contested and degraded environment.

Also of great importance will be the successful completion of the *Talisman Saber* exercise – an event that ultimately validates the corps-level command in terms of being a combined-forces land component headquarters. *Talisman Saber* will be the division staff's largest exercise this year and will lay the foundation for a future *Warfighter* exercise, which is an essential training event that ensures the division's ability to provide command and control of units conducting combat operations.



## 2017 | YEAR OF THE RED BULLS



CAMPAIGN STREAMERS of the RED BULLS earned since WWI:  
 WWI No Inscription; Tunisia Campaign; Naples-Foggia; Anzio; Rome Arno;  
 North Apennines; Po Valley; Iraqi Sovereignty; Global War on Terrorism

### 1917 | 100 YEARS

The 34th Infantry Division was created from National Guard troops of Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska in late summer 1917, four months after the U.S. entered WWI. Training was conducted at Camp Cody, near Deming, New Mexico. Dusty wind squalls swirled daily through the area, giving the new Division a nickname: the "Sandstorm Division." As the men arrived at Camp Cody other enlistees from the Midwest and Southwest joined them. Many of the Guardsmen had been together a year earlier at Camp Llano Grande, near Mercedes, Texas, where they had conducted border patrol duties on the U.S.-Mexican border in response to border raids conducted by Pancho Villa.

Training went well, and the officers and men waited anxiously throughout the long fall and winter of 1917-18 for orders to ship for France. Their anticipation turned to anger and frustration, however, when word was received that spring that the 34th had been chosen to become a replacement division. Companies, batteries and regiments, which had developed esprit de corps and cohesion, were broken up, and within two months nearly all personnel were reassigned to other commands in France.

Reduced to a skeleton of cadre NCOs and officers, the 34th remained at Camp Cody just long enough for new draftees to refill its ranks. The reconstituted Division then went to France, but by the time it arrived in October 1918, it was too late to see action. The 151st Field Artillery and the 168th Infantry Regiment, serving under the 42nd Rainbow Division, earned battle streamers for Aisne-Marne, Champagne 1918, Champagne-Marne, Lorraine, Meuse-Argonne, and St. Mihiel. The 125th Field Artillery, 135th Infantry, and 136th Infantry also earned a WWI streamer with no inscription.

(TOP) The very first 34th Infantry Division Soldiers amass for a photo while training in preparation of WWI at Camp Cody, New Mexico, in 1917. The Division was formed when National Guard regiments were redesignated as the 133rd Infantry Regiment (formerly First Iowa), the 134th Infantry Regiment (formerly First Nebraska) and the 135th and 136th Infantry Regiments (formerly First and Second Minnesota). (PAGE 18, TOP LEFT) Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division coordinate for a human portrait of the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia, which was designed by American regional artist Marvin Cone – who was then a Soldier enlisted in the unit. The Red Bull logo was conceptualized by representing the desert training grounds with a red steer skull and black Mexican water jug called an "olla." (PAGE 18, TOP CENTER) Infantrymen from C Company, 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, conduct a patrol in the Tazzola Area, Italy, on Jan. 25, 1945. For their tenacity in battle, Soldiers of the division were dubbed "Red Devils" by German troops. (PAGE 18, TOP RIGHT) The 34th Infantry Division was activated during WWII on Feb. 10, 1941. As the first U.S. Division to be shipped overseas, Pvt. Milburn H. Henke of Hutchinson, Minnesota, was credited as being the first American Soldier to step off the boat in Europe.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA MILITARY MUSEUM.

### 1942 | THE RED BULLS BATTLE

The Division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. The Division is also credited with amassing 517 days of continuous frontline combat, more than any other division in the European theater. Portions of the 34th Division are credited with more than 600 days of frontline combat.

After training in Northern Ireland, the 34th Infantry Division saw its first combat in North Africa on Nov. 8, 1942. In conjunction with British units, they landed at Algiers and seized the port and outlying airfields. Elements of the Division took part in numerous subsequent engagements in Tunisia.

The Division then landed in Salerno, Italy, before pushing up the Italian boot to Monte Cassino. As a result, they sustained losses of about 80 percent in the infantry battalions. They were relieved from their positions Feb. 11 to 13, 1944. Eventually, it took the combined force of five allied infantry divisions to finish what the 34th nearly accomplished on its own. The performance of the Red Bulls in the mountains is considered to rank as one of the finest feats of arms carried out during the war.

After rest and rehabilitation, the 34th Infantry Division landed in Anzio on March 25, 1944, where they held defensive positions until May 23, 1944. At that point, it was a race to Rome and then to the French border. Pursuit of the routed enemy to the French border was halted on May 2, 1944, upon the German surrender in Italy.

"Attack, attack, attack!" had become the Division's slogan early in its fighting career. With that battle cry Soldiers of the Division saw frontline combat in five major campaigns that resulted in 21,362 casualties (3,737 killed, 14,165 wounded,



3,460 missing in action). Individual awards included 11 Medals of Honor, 98 Distinguished Service Crosses and 15,000 purple hearts.

In addition to the personal awards and decorations, the Division garnered three Presidential Unit Citations, 15 Unit Commendations and 525 separate division citations. The French government awarded the 34th the Croix de Guerre with Palms for gallantry in action alongside French troops.

### 2001 | GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 11,000 Red Bulls have deployed on missions supporting the Global War on Terror, including: Operation Joint Forge (Bosnia); Operation Joint Guardian (Kosovo); Operation Vigilant Hammer (Europe); Multinational Force Observer (Egypt); Joint Task Force Bravo (Honduras); Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq); Operation Freedom Sentinel (Afghanistan); Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq and Syria); Operation Spartan Shield (Kuwait); as well as multiple homeland defense missions for Operation Noble Eagle.

In May 2004, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, and with nearly 100 key positions filled by members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, commenced combat operations throughout Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, returning the Red Bulls to combat after 59 years and earning the

battalion the distinction of becoming the first unit in the 34th Infantry Division to wear the Red Bull patch as a right-shoulder combat patch since WWII.

In March 2006, the 1st Brigade of the 34th Infantry Division commenced combat operations in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, marking the largest single unit deployment for the 34th Infantry Division since WWII. With its return in July 2007, the brigade became the second-longest serving military unit (22 months total with 16 in combat) in Iraq.

In addition to these wartime roles, the 34th has continued its responsibilities during natural disasters and Homeland Security events, such as providing security for the Republican National Convention in 2008.

### 2017 | THE RED BULLS CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

In 2017 the Red Bulls will mark their centennial year with a series of events to celebrate 100 years of proud service. The year-long celebration, punctuated by several events throughout the year, will be highlighted by a day of festivities honoring current and former Red Bulls during Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair on Aug. 29, 2017.

Additionally, Red Bull subordinate units will celebrate the 100th year of the Division through training and other recognition events during 2017.

(BOTTOM LEFT) A gunner from Crookston, Minnesota, is one of two on a patrol in the hills of Zelinika, Bosnia, to confiscate illegal weapons on Dec. 2, 2003. MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Spc. Daniel Webster.

(BOTTOM CENTER) An Iraqi child tries on Red Bull Soldier Spc. Taryn Emery's sunglasses during a humanitarian assistance mission in Qaryat Al Majarrab, Iraq, on Nov. 27, 2006. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PHOTO BY: Lance Cpl. Ryan Busse.

(BOTTOM RIGHT) A Soldier with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Redhorse, scans a nearby hilltop during a search of the Qual-e Jala village in Parwan Province, Afghanistan, on Feb. 21, 2011. Task Force Redhorse is a part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, also known as Task Force Red Bulls, and maintains security throughout Parwan Province. MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus.



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
1,179 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Col. Shawn Manke

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Cunnien

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34cab



Soldiers of B Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, conduct sling load training at Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in St. Cloud on Dec. 18, 2015.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper



## 34TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade is an Army National Guard unit that supports the 34th Infantry Division and the state of Minnesota by providing aviation capabilities – both UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters – for federal and state missions.

In 2016 the 34th CAB deployed 20 Soldiers and four of its Chinooks from B Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of *Operation Freedom Sentinel*. Incorporated into an aviation task force with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, aircrew members logged more than 1,000 hours of combat flight time in support of operations in Afghanistan.

Additionally, 40 Soldiers from both B and C Companies, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, returned from a seven-month deployment in support of *Operation Spartan Shield*. Soldiers with 834th ASB provided aviation, mechanical and communication operations for U.S. Army Central units stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

In spring 2016 the 34th CAB conducted domestic operations to assist in the suppression of wildfires near Skibo and Hibbing, Minnesota. At the request of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and under the authority of Gov. Mark Dayton, 20 personnel and four Black Hawk helicopters flew a total of 34 hours, dropping 112,200 gallons of water to help contain the fires.

In 2016 members of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion, realized a great training achievement after its Soldiers completed new equipment training on the UH-60M model Black Hawk helicopter. All pilots, staff officers, maintainers and crew chiefs underwent the UH-60 conversion to fully employ the brigade's fleet of state-of-the-art airframes.

Additionally, Headquarters Support Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, completed a rotation at the U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Readiness Center, located at U.S. Army Garrison, Hohenfels, Germany. The training provides leaders, staffs and units the experience to execute unified land operations in support of combat operations around the world.

Lastly in 2016, the 34th CAB strengthened ongoing relationships with its active duty counterparts under the Army Total Force Partnership Program, which directs commanders from all components to undergo collective training to improve integration and readiness. Working with the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Carson, Colorado, the 34th CAB executed four training events, including a division *Warfighter* exercise, to enhance its own readiness and ensure the two brigades' ability to support one another in future operations.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 the 34th CAB will undergo two major training events: *Talisman Saber*, an annual training event with I Corps and the Australian Defense Force to prepare for worldwide combat operations and humanitarian aid missions; and an *eXportable Combat Training Capabilities* exercise, an intense, platoon-level field training event at Fort Hood, Texas.

Additionally, C Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, will deploy an element of medical evacuation aircrews and medics to support an aviation task force undergoing a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California.



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Bloomington, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
5,626 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Col. Charles Kemper

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Hjelmstad

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/1abct



Soldiers with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team prepare to enter "The Box" and begin their National Training Center rotation in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, California.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Capt. Melanie Nelson

## 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM



### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Bloomington-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division consists of eight major subordinate commands. More than 5,600 Soldiers make up the brigade's combined arms, cavalry, artillery, engineer and brigade support battalions, constituting more than half of the Minnesota Army National Guard's total force structure.

After two years of intense planning and preparation, the 1/34th ABCT finally executed its National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California. By completing the preparatory *Warfighter* and *eXportable Combat Training Capabilities* exercises in 2015 – intense and complex exercises in their own rights – the brigade was finally able to facilitate movement of more than 6,000 Soldiers and 1,400 pieces of equipment to Fort Irwin to conduct the U.S. Army's premier training event for armored brigade combat teams.

Equal in weight to the logistical operation of moving an entire brigade's worth of personnel and equipment across the country was the execution of the 14-day force-on-force maneuver exercise in the Mojave Desert. While in "The Box," the brigade tested on its ability to move, communicate and conduct decisive action against an enemy nearly equal in size, role-played by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, an active duty regiment dedicated to contesting brigades that enter Fort Irwin's massive training area.

The brigade's rotation was significant in that it brought 91 percent of its assigned strength to Fort Irwin, a number not normally surpassed by units undergoing a NTC rotation. And reporting only minor injuries, the brigade executed one of the safest and most successful rotations at the training center. Lastly, with a coordinated effort among several other major commands in the Minnesota National Guard, the 1/34th ABCT was able to return all of its equipment back to home station for repairs and maintenance before the end of the fiscal year – ensuring the brigade's status as the U.S. Army's most ready brigade for 2017.

In 2016 the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry, deployed 200 Soldiers to the Sinai Peninsula in support of the Multinational Force and Observer's mission to enforce the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Working closely with the Columbian

and Fijian militaries, the unit provides force protection, serves as a quick reaction force and observes and reports violations of the treaty in support of the 37-year-old agreement.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, will participate in the *Saber Strike* exercise, an annual, U.S.-led exercise conducted in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Joining several nations in the multi-national training event, including Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom, the 2-136 IN (CAB) will help improve interoperability and readiness of participating nations, enhance freedom of movement within the Baltic states and demonstrate U.S. Army Europe's speed of assembly and operational reach in the area.

In addition to executing its second-consecutive large-scale training event, the 2-136 IN (CAB) will undergo another massive logistical operation in moving all of its assigned equipment from the continental U.S. to the Baltic region by rail and boat.

Lastly, the brigade's 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, will participate in the *Aurora* exercise, a Swedish-led training event. *Aurora* is a multinational exercise that is projected to have approximately 19,000 participants from Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Norway and the U.S. 2017 will mark the first year of participation for the U.S.



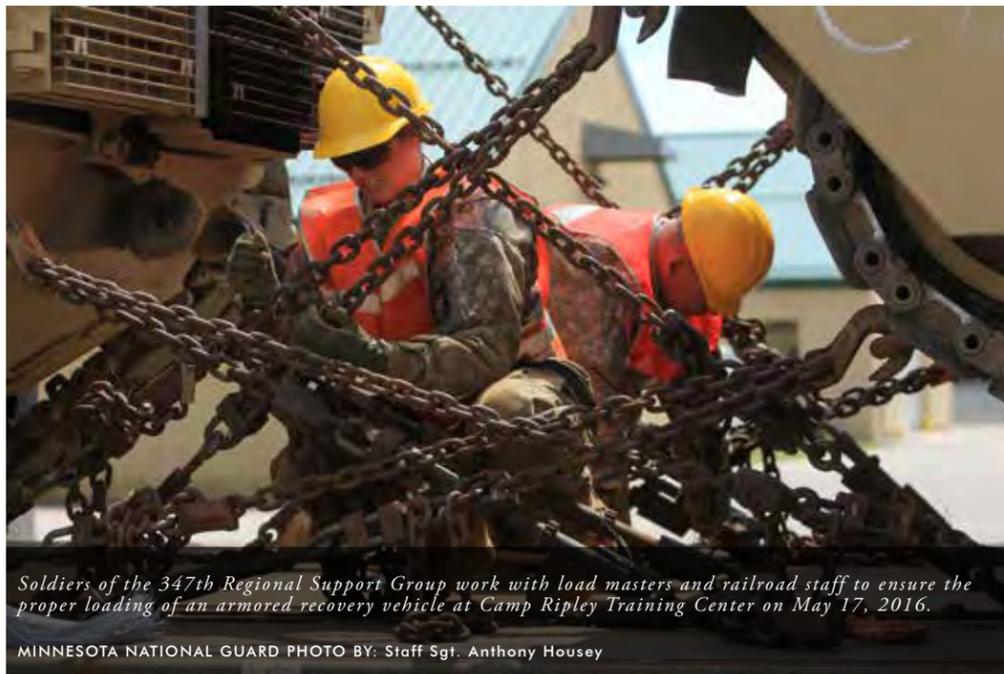
HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
734 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Col. Lowell Kruse

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Erickson

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/347rsg



Soldiers of the 347th Regional Support Group work with load masters and railroad staff to ensure the proper loading of an armored recovery vehicle at Camp Ripley Training Center on May 17, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Anthony Housey



## 347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The mission of the 347th Regional Support Group is to deploy to provide life support and command and control of base operations. Responsibilities include leading the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of supporting forces, managing facilities, and providing administrative, medical and logistical support for troop services on a base camp. The brigade provides support for units during homeland security, homeland defense and other civil support missions.

In 2016 Soldiers of the 347th RSG mobilized to support the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, during a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California. The 347th RSG's logistic specialists from the 114th and 224th Transportation Companies undertook the monumental task of moving a brigade's worth of equipment – valued at more than \$750 million – from Camp Ripley Training Center to Fort Irwin and eventually back to home station.

The task began at CRTC, where more than 1,200 pieces of equipment were loaded onto more than 400 railcars, building a total of eight trains for movement to California. Upon arrival at the Yermo Railhead Annex at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, the transportation companies assisted in the second stage of the historic movement, first unloading then either driving or line-hauling the equipment down the Manix Trail, a 30-mile trek through the Mojave Desert bridging the final leg of the journey to Fort Irwin. This provided valuable training on an unprecedented scope for the 347th RSG's transportation specialists.

Additionally, while at NTC, the 347th RSG provided customer service and supported the 1/34th ABCT with everything from medical support to hauling away trash in order to maintain a high quality of life for Soldiers inhabiting the Rotational Unit Bivouac Area, a mini city housing more than 6,000 Soldiers. The 347th RSG also performed JRSOI, postal service and Joint Visitor Bureau duties, escorting 20 distinguished visitors including Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, Director of the Army National Guard.

The brigade's support of the NTC rotation not only gave its Soldiers valuable experience, but also allowed them to maximize training within their occupational skill set.

Lastly in 2016, the 147th and 247th Financial Management Support Detachments conducted the *Diamond Saber* finance exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The two detachments were evaluated in the areas of disbursing, commercial vendor services and military pay.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 the 1903rd Acquisition Team, which plans and coordinates contracting functions up to the corps level and supports the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office, will deploy to Kuwait as part of a contracting support brigade executing theater support contracting plans.

The 347th RSG will prepare for and conduct a *Combat Support Training eXercise* with units at Camp Ripley Training Center and Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The training will include the brigade's human resources, medical, headquarters and financial management companies and one of its contract acquisition teams. The *CSTX*, which builds upon the experience garnered at NTC to hone the brigade's specialized, support abilities, is in preparation of a 2018 deployment. This will reduce time spent during pre-mobilization training in 2018, which in turn reduces time away from families and employers and lowers cost.



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Cambridge, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
1,760 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Col. Troy Soukup

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Rollyn Wold

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/84trc



Soldiers with Headquarters Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion, muscle through an obstacle course at the Kuwait Land Forces Institute, a Kuwaiti Base, on Jan. 21, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Spc. Megan Doran



## 84TH TROOP COMMAND

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 84th Troop Command, headquartered in Cambridge, maintains control of field artillery, military police, engineer and civil support forces, providing a force capable of performing a wide variety of missions. A specialized command with a unique mission, the 84th Troop Command maintains traditional training standards to remain ready to support federal missions in addition to being challenged with the responsibility of conducting domestic operations throughout the state.

A large portion of the 84th Troop Command's domestic operations is the responsibility of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear response capabilities within the 55th Civil Support Team and the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package. Additionally, the 84th Troop Command maintains the task of training the Minnesota National Guard's Quick Reaction Force, which deploys within six hours to assist in incidents across the state, and the National Guard Reaction Force, which responds within 72 hours.

In 2016 members of 682nd Engineer Battalion returned from a deployment to Kuwait in support of *Operation Spartan Shield*. Utilizing the battalion's horizontal and vertical engineering capabilities, their mission was to oversee construction projects to both build and rebuild infrastructure throughout the Middle East and provide a presence to maintain stability in the region. Additionally while deployed, several Soldiers traveled to the United Kingdom to participate in the *Steppe Eagle* exercise, a multinational training event bringing together Soldiers from the U.S., U.K., Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to hone peacekeeping and peace support capabilities.

This year the CERF-P conducted the challenging *Miles Paratus* exercise in Wisconsin. Working with CERF-P and CST units from three other states, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Emergency Management, Soldiers and Airmen that make up the CERF-P worked with the many partners that would be on-scene during a catastrophic incident. The CERF-P capabilities included specialists to provide mass decontamination, search and extraction, medical support and fatality recovery.

Lastly, the 851st Vertical Engineer Company conducted its Annual Training in support of the Minnesota National Guard's State Partnership Program with Croatia. During the month-long training event, the 851st VEC – accompanied by engineers from the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing – worked with Croatia Armed Forces engineers to remodel the Dubovac School. The opportunity not only allowed Soldiers and Airmen to both execute and enhance their construction skills, but also work side-by-side with their Croatian counterparts for the betterment of Croatia itself.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 the 257th Military Police Company will deploy to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base for a nine-month rotation to support Joint Task Force Guantanamo by providing security operations. Though several National Guard units have deployed to support Joint Task Force Guantanamo's mission, it will be the first such rotation for a Minnesota National Guard unit.

The 34th Military Police Company will participate in the Joint Reaction exercise, a biannual training event hosted by the Army of the Republic of Macedonia. The 34th MPs will join the countries of Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia, Albania and Montenegro in conducting training to ensure a multinational military police response for humanitarian aid and refugee crisis management missions.

In 2017 the 84th Troop Command's CERF-P and CST will conduct a joint exercise in Duluth, further enabling the two teams' ability to collaborate during an incident.



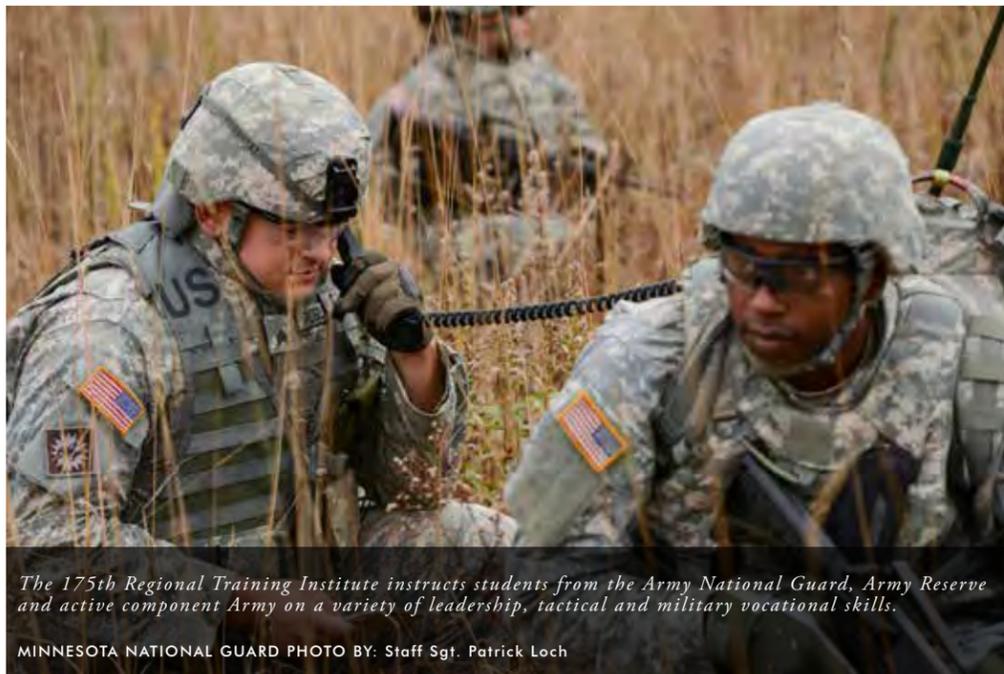
HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
93 Soldiers

COMMANDER  
Col. Stefanie Horvath

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/175rti



The 175th Regional Training Institute instructs students from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve and active component Army on a variety of leadership, tactical and military vocational skills.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Patrick Loch



## 175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Camp Ripley-based 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute provides combat arms, Military Occupational Specialty and leadership training to the U.S. Army to prepare Soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels.

Each year hundreds of Soldiers from both the reserve and active components travel to the Camp Ripley Training Center to attend one of 31 courses offered by the 175th RTI. The institute ensures the courses offered meet requirements for all components, drawing students from across the country and supporting the One Army School System. The One Army School System is a force-wide, national effort that aligns course capacity with demand to minimize wait times for Soldiers trying to complete professional development, leadership and skills-based schools.

The courses offered at the 175th RTI qualify Soldiers as infantrymen, cavalry scouts, health care specialists, wheeled vehicle mechanics and tracked vehicle repairers. The 175th RTI also offers Advanced Leader Courses for several Military Occupational Specialties, Maneuver Senior Leader Course Phases I and II and more than 10 functional courses. The institute also contributes to the commissioned ranks by offering Phases I and II of Officer Candidate School, and Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School.

In 2016, 58 company commanders and first sergeants graduated from the Company Command/First Sergeant Pre-Command Course, which provides company-level leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain and improve unit readiness and training.

Also during this year, 115 officer candidates graduated Phase I of OCS, the highest number of graduates in more than six years. Soldiers attending Phase I will return to their units in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana – six states that make up the entire officer candidate region that the 175th RTI supports – and continue their progression toward receiving a commission in their home states.

Of the 18 Minnesota officer candidates to move on from Phase I of OCS, all completed Phase II with the 175th RTI and eventually Phase III, which is held at

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. This was not only a 100 percent graduation rate, but also the highest number of candidates to make it all the way through the challenging courses since 2012. And, after years of women being barred from serving in combat roles, the institute commissioned its first female Soldier into the armor branch. Lastly, nine warrant officer candidates graduated WOCS in 2016.

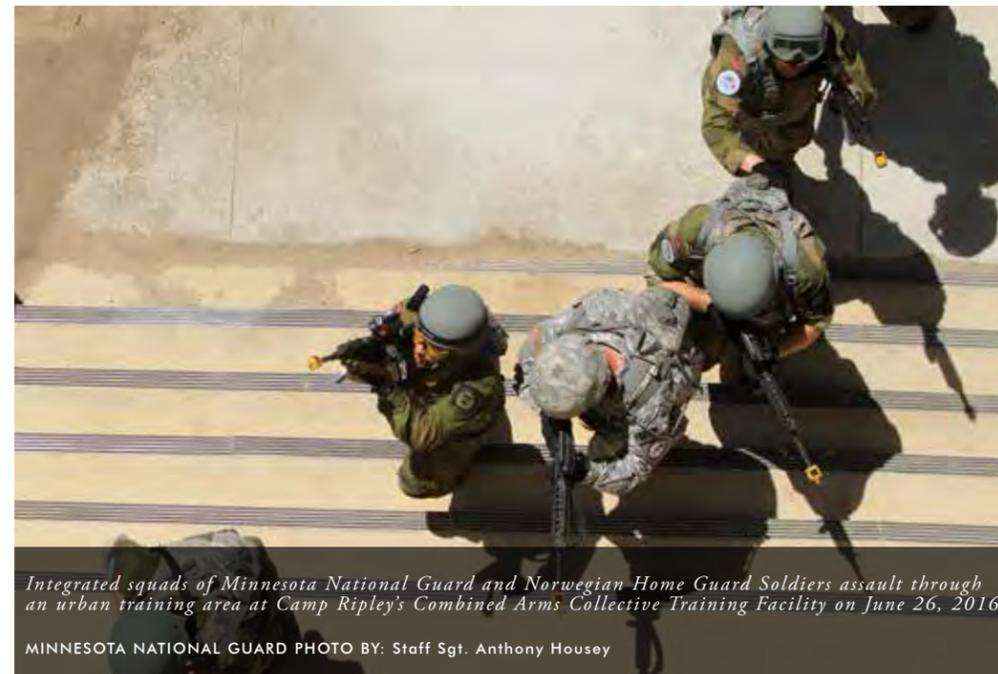
In 2016, as part of the Minnesota National Guard's State Partnership Program, the institute's Regional Training Site-Maintenance team sent three instructors to Croatia to conduct Mine Resistant Ambush Protected maintenance training. The five-day training event enabled the Croatian military to operate and maintain its newly-acquired fleet of MRAP vehicles.

Soldiers attending the 175th RTI's courses in 2016 have done so at CRTC's premier Education Facility, which offers 22 classrooms, two computer labs, conference room and an auditorium. The building maximizes training by offering a dining facility and state-of-the-art technology, enhancing the 175th RTI's educational offerings with the goal of sustaining the Institution of Excellence rating it received in 2012 and 2015.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

In 2017 the 175th RTI will continue to improve on its current plan to support the One Army School System. Additionally, the RTS-M will support international training initiatives by sending five trainers to Croatia for a three-week MRAP recovery course, building on the relationships and training that was fostered in 2016.

Lastly, the 175th RTI will continue its efforts to sustain the professional conduct and organizational expertise of its cadre to provide the best trained Soldiers and professional military education. In its effort to maintain its ranking as one of the top training facilities in the nation, the 175th RTI will continue to seek out exceptional Soldiers to become quality instructors that produce agile and adaptive leaders.



Integrated squads of Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard Soldiers assault through an urban training area at Camp Ripley's Combined Arms Collective Training Facility on June 26, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Anthony Housey



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

EMPLOYED  
879 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians

COMMANDER  
Col. Scott St. Sawyer

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Erickson

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/crtc

## CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER



### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Camp Ripley Training Center, located near Little Falls, is a 53,000-acre regional training center hosting numerous ranges and state-of-the-art facilities to support training requirements for military and civilian agencies. CRTC provides resources enabling customers to train in a realistic environment while sustaining lodging and conference space for customer events, programs and education.

Additionally, CRTC remains committed to environmentally-sound stewardship throughout Central Minnesota, to include its 18 miles of undeveloped Mississippi River shoreline. Through the efforts of the post's Environmental Office and partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Camp Ripley is committed to success in the fields of natural and cultural resource management, highlighted by the construction of the 10 megawatt solar field in conjunction with Minnesota Power – efforts aimed at making CRTC a Net Zero installation.

In July 2016 CRTC was federally recognized as a Sentinel Landscape, which is a conservation and encroachment effort that builds off of the Department of Defense's Army Compatible Use Buffer program. The designation creates a partnership between state and federal agencies to conserve natural habitat, maintain landscapes and prevent incompatible development that would inhibit military training.

During the 2016 training year, CRTC oversaw approximately 254,000 days of military training and 60,500 training days for local and state interagency partners. Additionally, CRTC provided direct support to organizations deploying at home and abroad for training or missions, such as the 1st ABCT's rail movement to California.

With the increase in available training space, additional agencies and out-of-state units took advantage of CRTC's training capacity, providing seamless and effective opportunities for several new organizations. CRTC's ranges and facilities were made available to military units regionally and internationally – to include Canada, Croatia and Norway – as well as the State Highway Patrol, Department of Natural Resources and law enforcement agencies from across the state.

Additionally, the Arden Hills Army Training Site continued to expand opportunities for training to interagency partners as well, and in 2016 provided a venue for law enforcement to train on close-quarters engagement skills and riot control.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

Building off of a 2016 visit by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, CRTC leadership will continue to foster Minnesota's State Partnership Program through coordination with Croatian Army counterparts in development of Croatia's Slunj Training Ranges, which will ultimately replicate the capabilities on CRTC and become a regional training center for NATO forces.

CRTC leaders also worked in cooperation with Department of Public Safety and state legislators in planning for the development of the CRTC Joint Emergency Response Training Center, which will provide the Minnesota National Guard, emergency responders and other departments the opportunities to train for large-scale, disaster-based scenarios. The first implementation of the collective training venture will be the development of a train derailment and oil pipeline response area, with future plans to continue development based on training needs.

In 2017 CRTC will continue to expand on its installation security and readiness plan by building off of a 2016 post-wide active shooter training event. The continued emphasis on security for 2017 includes further training and staffing of the military security guards and a large-scale, post-wide exercise to gauge the installation's ability to react to threats on personnel and infrastructure.

CRTC received significant storm damage from a tornado on Sept. 7, 2016. There were no injuries caused by the severe weather, though several buildings used for housing, training and maintenance received major damage. In 2017 repairs will begin, which will eventually allow the installation to resume supporting training events at maximum capacity.



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
1,200 Airmen

COMMANDER  
Col. Dan Gabrielli

ENLISTED LEADER  
Command Chief Master Sgt. Paul Kessler

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/133aw



Maj. Dana Novinski, a pilot with the 109th Airlift Squadron, 133rd Airlift Wing, poses after being named the wing's first-ever female instructor pilot.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



## 133RD AIRLIFT WING

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard flying wing headquartered at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport. Utilizing the C-130 Hercules, the wing provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift capability to transport troops, cargo and medical patients across the globe in addition to providing the citizens of Minnesota with domestic operations and disaster response support. The 133rd is known as the first federally recognized National Guard flying unit in the country.

In 2016 the 133rd Airlift Wing participated in the *Saber Junction* exercise, the wing's second rotation with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center with U.S. European Command. During the exercise, which provides a large-scale venue to exercise interoperability with allied forces while integrating air and land components, the 133rd Airlift Wing conducted 17 missions, flying 49 sorties and airdropping 511 personnel and 17,000 pounds of cargo. Additionally, aircrews transported 140 passengers and 61,000 pounds of cargo.

The 133rd Airlift Wing also deployed its Airmen to support the Pacific Air Forces' *Pacific Angel* operation, an ongoing, joint and combined humanitarian assistance mission conducted in various countries throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region. The 2016 exercise – the sixth rotation for the 133rd Airlift Wing – took place in Cambodia, and the wing's continued participation in the event enhances its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities while providing needed services to people throughout the region.

In 2016 the 133rd Airlift Wing also participated in the *Snowbird Yuma* exercise, conducted in the Arizona desert to gain familiarity with the terrain and operation environment of ongoing deployments. The wing also participated in *Red Flag Alaska*, which provides an opportunity for the unit's transport aircrafts to integrate with escort fighter jets as well as evade enemy fighters.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

After successfully conducting its first two rotations in support off the *Saber Junction* exercise, the 133rd Airlift Wing has gained recognition as a valuable contributor to the ongoing readiness training exercise, and will aggressively pursue opportunities for the 2017 event and beyond. As such, the 133rd Airlift Wing will continue its participation in training events and humanitarian missions around the globe, both improving its ability to conduct its assigned mission and gaining familiarity with cultures and geographies in a variety of regions around the world.

In 2017 the 133rd Airlift Wing will continue to build on its gains in unit readiness as it upholds high standards in the MILE – Managing resources, Improving the unit, Leading people and Executing the mission. Unit readiness was validated through successful completion of the 2016 Capstone event, which was the culmination of the Wing's five-year Unit Effectiveness Inspection cycle. The unit's focus on self-assessment and continuous improvement throughout the five-year cycle will ensure the wing is always ready and relevant.



HEADQUARTERS LOCATION  
Duluth, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH  
1,024 Airmen

COMMANDER  
Col. Jon Safstrom

ENLISTED LEADER  
Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina

WEBSITE  
MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/148fw



Pilots with the 148th Fighter Wing prepare for their flights to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, as part of a Theater Security Package to provide stability to the region on April 12, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



## 148TH FIGHTER WING

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 148th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Duluth, operates the F-16CM Block 50 Fighting Falcon to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense. The full wing structure, which includes headquarters, operations, maintenance, medical and mission support, is comprised of Airmen prepared to rapidly respond to support federal and state missions and community needs.

As of 2016 the 148th Fighter Wing was the seventh-largest employer in Duluth, employing more than 1,000 Airmen and maintaining 22 aircraft. The jets are the most advanced F-16s in the U.S. inventory, and the 148th Fighter Wing is one of only two National Guard wings operating the aircraft and flying Suppression of Enemy Air Defense missions. In addition to its SEAD capabilities, the 148th Fighter Wing supports domestic operations with Airmen trained in firefighting, handling of hazardous materials, biological response, explosive ordnance disposal and medical support.

In 2016 the 148th Fighter Wing deployed more than 300 Airmen and 10 F-16s to South Korea to provide U.S. Pacific Command and Pacific Air Forces with Theater Security Packages, which help maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability. In addition to flying more than 600 sorties in support of the mission, the 148th Fighter Wing enabled the regional commander's mission by providing maintenance, fuel and other flight operations support.

Airmen with the 148th Fighter Wing also conducted the *Northern Lightning* exercise at Volk Field, Wisconsin. The two-week training event brought together Airmen from more than 10 states, flying five different aircraft to perform counter-air, SEAD and close air support missions.

### 2017 OBJECTIVES

The 148th Fighter Wing continues to maintain the resources and infrastructure to support the Active Associate Program, which provides a unique opportunity to gain experience and training for Airmen of the U.S. Air Force. The wing not only has the capacity to maintain and support active duty pilots that require flight time in the F-16, but could also support training on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter – the next generation of fighter jet.

In 2017 Airmen with the 148th Fighter Wing will undergo several large-scale, joint training events, including the *Northern Lightning*, *Sentry Aloha* and *Weasel Maker* exercises. *Sentry Aloha* will provide the wing's F-16 pilots the opportunity to integrate with pilots from the Hawaii National Guard flying the F-22 Raptor, while the *Weasel Maker* scenario at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, offers the most realistic technology to test pilots' abilities to neutralize surface-to-air threats.



Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarović visited Gov. Mark Dayton's house and Camp Ripley, Minnesota, Jan. 4, 2016, as part of her visit to mark the 20 year anniversary of the successful cooperation between Croatia and Minnesota within the State Partnership Program.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



President Ronald Reagan selected Gen. John Vessey as the 10th chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, a position he held from June 18, 1982, to Sept. 30, 1985. Upon his retirement, he had served longer than anyone then in the Army, with over 46 years of active military service.

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO: courtesy of the Minnesota Military Museum

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY: State Partnership | Minnesota National Guard & Croatia

The Minnesota National Guard marked a significant milestone in its partnership with Croatia in 2016, celebrating 20 years under the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

The National Guard established the State Partnership Program in 1993 to assist several countries in Central Europe during their transition to democracy in the Post-Soviet era. The end of the Cold War marked a decrease in U.S. military's presence in Europe in the 1990s, but provided an opportunity for strategic partnerships with those former Soviet States. The National Guard was a good fit for the mission at the time as it was viewed as less aggressive than sending regular army units.

Minnesota's partnership with Croatia started in 1996 when Croatia was still considered a combat zone for Soldiers who traveled there. The relationship began with familiarization events which have over the years developed into hands-on training and military exchanges involving the sharing of tactics, engineer support to rebuild infrastructure in Croatian villages and combined multinational training exercises like GuardEx and Immediate Response.

As part of the State Partnership Program, the Minnesota National Guard provides support with common, shared issues such as homeland defense, civil response, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, border security and, most recently, cyber security.

The National Guard State Partnership program focuses on fostering mutually-beneficial relationships by building trust and understanding of partner nation tactics and capabilities. Those relationships benefitted Minnesota National Guardsmen who deployed to Bosnia in 2003 and Kosovo in 2003 and 2007. Many of the Soldiers

who deployed had worked with the Croatians in the past and had an understanding of the culture and traditions of the region.

Those relationships were also solidified in 2008 when the Minnesota National Guard partnered with Croatia to send the first of five Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The teams provided support to the Afghan National Army to increase the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces. In the span of 12 years, Minnesota and Croatia service members went from training partners to allies in combat.

In 2009 Croatia became a full member in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a recognition of the transformation that occurred in modernizing their military and moving toward a NATO model. In 2013 Croatia was also accessed into the European Union.

The partnership has also grown to include civilian exchanges between Minnesota state government officials and Croatian government officials and experts from both sides in various fields. The University of Minnesota's Technological Leadership Institute has partnered with the Minnesota National Guard to provide cyber security training in Croatia for the past three years.

The Minnesota National Guard's relationship with Croatia remains important as the United States continues to demonstrate its commitment to security, peace and stability in Europe and to deter further aggression from Russia.

## IN MEMORIAM: General John W. Vessey Jr. | 10th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff | Minnesota Red Bull

*From the Soldiers of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division,*

We Red Bulls owe a great debt to John Vessey, known as Jack to his family and friends. The Red Bulls are proudest of our service during WWII. We have accomplished much since, but our claim to fame was born in the sands of Africa. Jack served there. And in the mountains of Italy. Jack fought there too. Over the last 100 years our ranks have been filled with many accomplished Soldiers and Officers. Jack was both. Jack saw us lose our patch and lived to see the Red Bull returned to us. We are proud of Jack, but he was even more proud of us. He always wore the Red Bull. He kept the faith. The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division salutes 2Lt. John W. Vessey, Jr.

In 1939, at age 16, Jack joined the Minnesota National Guard to drive a motorcycle for one of our artillery brigades. He was a wireman, connecting units by telephone. Then, seeing promotion opportunities, he became a surveyor and a Morse code radio operator. By the time we deployed to Ireland, Staff Sgt. Vessey was the chief of our message center.

In Africa, 1st Sgt. Vessey's artillery unit fired on Rommel's German forces invading Tunisia. He was at Hill 609. He called for fire as an artillery forward observer at the Volturno River. He bore witness as we struggled across that river three times. He received artillery fire at Mount Pantano. After the loss of his commanding officer, 1st Sgt. Vessey became battery commander. He was stuck with us in the cold and mud of Cassino. During the stalemate at the Anzio beachhead the 21-year old battery first sergeant was given a battlefield commission and sent forward with an infantry company to direct artillery fire. Jack was our only spotter to survive the battle. He would tell you, there were times in some battles where he controlled the fire of five or six battalions. He passed through Rome during its liberation, moving forward to attack Civitavecchia. Lt Vessey flew in a Piper Cub as an artillery spotter, blocking the German advance in the Po Valley.

Jack was asked once by a reporter if he was disappointed when Rome was liberated and then overshadowed by the D-Day events in Normandy a couple of days later. Was he disappointed to have participated in great battles which some historians later had characterized as unimportant? Jack told the reporter, "if he wasn't a member of the warrior class, if he wasn't a Guardian, he wouldn't understand the answer so there was no point in my telling him." The Red Bulls know our contribution to success at Normandy was keeping 36 good German divisions engaged far from Normandy, including the 1st, 2nd and 4th Parachute Divisions, the Hermann Goering Division, and 10 Panzer and Panzer Grenadier Divisions.

Jack went on to greatness after WWII. During his record 46-year Army career he served in Germany Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and finally Washington, D.C. as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He was the last four star General who was also a combat veteran of World War II on active service. When he retired in 1985 at the age of 63, Gen. Vessey was the longest-serving active duty member in the United States Army. Red Bulls, however, remember him best as our Lt. Vessey, a Soldier's Soldier.

Jack was laid to rest Sept. 1, 2016 in his Minnesota birthplace next to Avis, his high school sweetheart.

Until we meet in that final formation,

Thank you Jack, we owe you one.

- The Red Bulls of the 34th Infantry Division

2016 ECONOMIC IMPACT

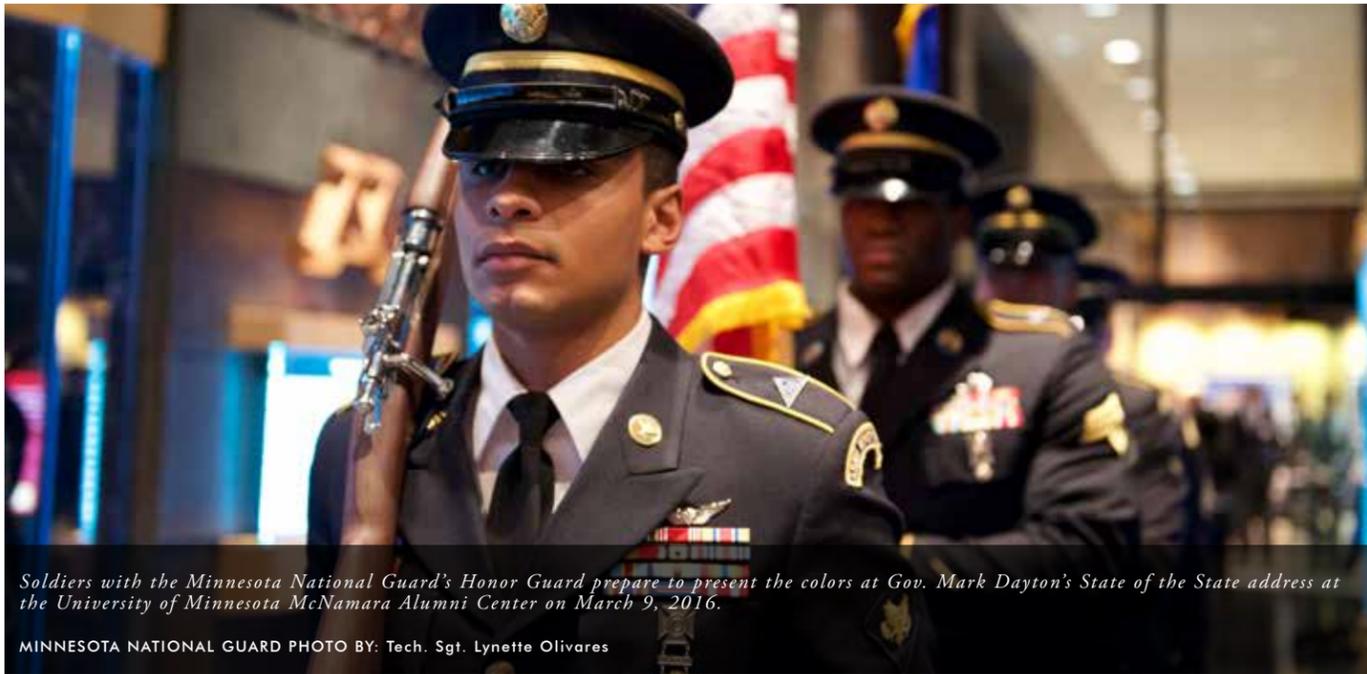
CITY	ASSIGNED PERSONNEL	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (PERSONS PER UNIT)	FEDERAL MASTER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (DOLLARS)	STATE IMPACT (DOLLARS)	FEDERAL IMPACT (DOLLARS)	STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (PERSONS PER UNIT)	STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT (DOLLARS)	CITY	ASSIGNED PERSONNEL	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (PERSONS PER UNIT)	FEDERAL MASTER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (DOLLARS)	STATE IMPACT (DOLLARS)	FEDERAL IMPACT (DOLLARS)	STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (PERSONS PER UNIT)	STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT (DOLLARS)		
ALBERT LEA	95	1 27A	4	\$173,269	\$300,946	\$2,386,683	\$6,787	12	\$58,440	MADISON	84	7 16A	0	\$24,099	\$69,009	\$2,110,330	\$0	9	\$43,981
ALEXANDRIA	128	7 08B	0	\$47,653	\$48,524	\$3,215,741	\$0	16	\$81,004	MANKATO	192	1 19B	9	\$117,907	\$686,420	\$4,823,612	\$16,744	15	\$74,070
ANOKA	227	6 35A	11	\$19,956	\$94,984	\$5,702,916	\$23,940	30	\$178,085	MARSHALL	90	7 16A	2	\$23,288	\$30,553	\$2,261,068	\$4,350	10	\$70,487
APPLETON	68	7 20A	2	\$70,967	\$63,567	\$1,708,363	\$2,388	4	\$31,536	MINNEAPOLIS	159	5 60A	13	\$76,342	\$76,601	\$3,994,554	\$27,495	16	\$56,563
ARDEN HILLS	769	4 42A	18	\$4,514,593	\$590,537	\$19,319,571	\$31,468	97	\$549,795	MPLS/ST PAUL (AIR BASE)	1,200	5 63B	0	\$2,223,827	\$383,670	\$64,976,681	\$0	312	\$1,920,405
AUSTIN	122	1 27B	1	\$53,379	\$48,113	\$3,065,003	\$2,135	14	\$63,946	MONTEVIDEO	98	7 17A	2	\$123,342	\$135,500	\$2,462,052	\$2,505	17	\$71,940
BEMIDJI	107	7 05A	3	\$164,380	\$128,708	\$2,688,159	\$3,114	12	\$67,198	MONTICELLO	197	6 29B	8	\$1,274	\$22,264	\$4,949,227	\$17,318	13	\$58,919
BLOOMINGTON	349	3 50B	12	\$496,268	\$55,959	\$8,767,920	\$24,084	46	\$273,026	MOORHEAD	217	7 04A	2	\$122,933	\$62,972	\$5,451,686	\$4,495	35	\$208,150
BRAINERD	165	8 10A	2	\$80,446	\$99,256	\$4,145,292	\$2,473	21	\$130,149	MORRIS	62	7 12A	1	\$48,727	\$42,332	\$1,557,625	\$2,747	7	\$57,917
BROOKLYN PARK	158	3 36B	7	\$25,925	\$93,674	\$3,969,431	\$11,869	30	\$171,407	NEW ULM	94	1 16B	2	\$49,853	\$95,305	\$2,361,560	\$6,099	13	\$90,062
CAMBRIDGE	231	8 32A	6	\$180,354	\$117,362	\$5,803,408	\$14,793	17	\$120,101	NORTHFIELD	0	2 20B	0	\$8,096	\$17,530	\$0	\$0	11	\$69,778
CHISHOLM	75	8 06A	2	\$127,463	\$133,990	\$1,884,223	\$4,032	9	\$49,236	OLIVIA	66	7 17A	0	\$31,553	\$58,003	\$1,658,117	\$0	13	\$56,965
CLOQUET	121	8 11A	0	\$33,326	\$34,064	\$3,039,880	\$0	12	\$79,502	ORTONVILLE	90	7 12A	0	\$58,292	\$50,777	\$2,261,068	\$0	10	\$62,220
COTTAGE GROVE	180	2 54A	7	\$89,652	\$79,155	\$4,522,136	\$19,640	35	\$239,992	OWATONNA	71	1 24A	3	\$660,158	\$1,487,704	\$1,783,732	\$2,250	16	\$121,411
CROOKSTON	111	7 01B	0	\$47,750	\$49,211	\$2,788,651	\$0	12	\$44,668	PINE CITY	124	8 11B	1	\$21,152	\$43,860	\$3,115,249	\$2,898	13	\$76,351
DETROIT LAKES	66	7 04B	0	\$26,631	\$42,412	\$1,658,117	\$0	8	\$58,728	PIPESTONE	71	7 22A	2	\$27,628	\$27,273	\$1,783,732	\$6,479	8	\$29,209
DULUTH	416	8 03B	4	\$177,046	\$105,457	\$10,451,159	\$7,371	36	\$242,327	RED WING	81	2 21A	4	\$36,231	\$35,100	\$2,034,961	\$6,034	12	\$82,575
DULUTH (AIR BASE)	1,024	8 03B	0	\$5,228,589	\$368,210	\$64,195,192	\$0	194	\$1,180,241	REDWOOD FALLS	64	7 16B	0	\$75,776	\$55,897	\$1,607,871	\$0	7	\$49,074
FAIRMONT	121	1 23A	2	\$27,162	\$28,828	\$3,039,880	\$4,750	7	\$24,663	ROCHESTER	168	1 26A	3	\$263,982	\$112,548	\$4,220,661	\$5,080	14	\$53,690
FARIBAULT	299	1 24B	7	\$147,974	\$121,783	\$7,511,771	\$15,059	24	\$141,409	ROSEMOUNT	549	2 57B	26	\$174,899	\$156,795	\$13,792,516	\$48,535	83	\$571,248
FERGUS FALLS	87	7 08A	2	\$22,578	\$31,973	\$2,185,699	\$7,000	9	\$62,015	ROSEVILLE	0	4 66A	0	\$23,903	\$37,715	\$0	\$0	46	\$227,970
GRAND RAPIDS	80	8 05B	0	\$21,212	\$23,754	\$2,009,838	\$0	8	\$35,632	SAUK CENTRE	70	6 14B	0	\$27,125	\$28,525	\$1,758,609	\$0	7	\$54,864
HASTINGS	85	2 21A	0	\$46,252	\$16,142	\$2,135,453	\$0	8	\$42,539	ST CLOUD	400	7 15B	11	\$1,107,038	\$813,848	\$10,049,192	\$23,060	48	\$240,560
HIBBING	113	8 06A	0	\$60,938	\$69,830	\$2,838,897	\$0	5	\$11,773	ST JAMES	78	1 23B	0	\$14,271	\$16,651	\$1,959,592	\$0	7	\$38,428
HUTCHINSON	85	7 18B	1	\$43,517	\$65,621	\$2,135,453	\$3,250	13	\$76,381	ST PAUL (& EAST ST PAUL)	926	4 65B	44	\$6,362,805	\$5,461,953	\$23,263,879	\$86,670	24	\$137,068
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS	239	2 52B	13	\$291,968	\$53,477	\$6,004,392	\$22,435	31	\$196,194	ST PETER	71	1 19A	0	\$46,916	\$36,559	\$1,783,732	\$0	16	\$83,413
JACKSON	124	1 23A	1	\$41,300	\$42,668	\$3,115,249	\$3,500	11	\$43,853	STILLWATER	210	6 39B	6	\$10,943,958	\$19,783	\$5,275,826	\$10,629	40	\$205,592
LITCHFIELD	145	7 18A	0	\$449,527	\$971,311	\$3,642,832	\$0	22	\$121,119	THIEF RIVER FALLS	68	7 01A	2	\$47,494	\$25,147	\$1,708,363	\$990	9	\$40,275
LITTLE FALLS (CAMP RIPLEY)	1285	8 09B	35	\$28,146,108	\$3,107,871	\$32,283,028	\$74,277	151	\$863,729	WADENA	87	8 09A	2	\$39,221	\$88,733	\$2,185,699	\$2,412	10	\$77,798
LONG PRAIRIE	0	7 09B	0	\$5,867	\$12,393	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	WEST ST PAUL	215	2 52A	2	\$22,432	\$49,656	\$5,401,441	\$3,011	25	\$137,947
LUVERNE	67	1 22A	4	\$18,899	\$67,107	\$1,683,240	\$10,661	7	\$37,359	WILLMAR	113	7 17B	0	\$80,154	\$43,985	\$2,838,897	\$0	9	\$41,404
										WINONA	115	1 28A	1	\$41,630	\$45,433	\$2,889,143	\$705	12	\$61,741

94.7% FEDERAL FUNDING  
5.3% STATE FUNDING

TOTAL IMPACT: \$496,682,239  
IMPACT PER TROOP: \$37,707

Note: Financial figures are based on the state fiscal year ending June 30 and the federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30.  
Federal Impact | Master Cooperative Agreement: Indirect federal funding that reimburses state expenses for services and goods paid for using state general funds in accordance with an agreement between the adjutant general and the chief of the National Guard Bureau. These funds are accounted for separately from the agency's budget.  
State Impact: Services and purchases and that are paid for using funds appropriated by the Legislature to the Department of Military Affairs in the State General Fund, including the state share of maintenance costs for facilities jointly supported by the federal and state governments.

Federal Impact: Direct federal funding of operations and maintenance, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, federal technician salaries, active guard and reserve salaries and pay to service members for military training.  
Federal Tuition Assistance: This is a federal benefit. Figures are based on average tuition assistance per student, by unit.  
State Tuition Reimbursement: This is a state incentive provided to service members and their families to reimburse costs for tuition. It becomes available after all federal tuition benefits have been used. Figures reflect the location of the service member's unit.  
Federal Impact | Master Construction Cooperative Agreement: Direct federal construction funding.



Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's Honor Guard prepare to present the colors at Gov. Mark Dayton's State of the State address at the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center on March 9, 2016.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Lynette Olivares



The Adjutant General's Senior Advisory Task Force and Junior Diversity Council continue to play critical roles in informing the decision making process for the leadership of the Minnesota National Guard.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko

## 2016 STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT DEMOGRAPHIC

### EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

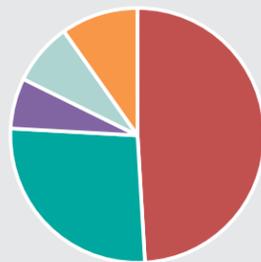
The Minnesota National Guard promotes the use of the educational benefits that are available through state and federal means. These benefits provide an essential resource for professional development and recruiting and retaining highly qualified service members.

### SEX



■ Males ■ Females

### RANK



■ Sr Grade NCO ■ Junior enlisted  
 ■ Mid grade NCO ■ Other (civilians: extended and survivor)  
 ■ Officer

### RACE



■ White/Caucasian ■ American Indian or Alaskan Native  
 ■ Asian ■ Black or African American  
 ■ Hispanic/Latino ■ More than one race/ethnicity  
 ■ Unknown

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

### 2016 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Minnesota National Guard applauds the veterans bill signed into law that expands the legal definition of a veteran, to include Guardsmen and Reservists who have honorably served 20 years. Previously, the definition of a veteran was limited to those who had spent more than 179 days on federal active duty for orders other than training, regardless of how many years they served.

The National Defense Authorization Act passed in late 2016, providing \$7.6 million for the 148th Fighter Wing to construct a 23,600-square-foot Load Crew Training and Weapons Release facility. The state-of-the-art indoor space will accommodate 70 personnel, one F-16 aircraft, test equipment, storage space and workspace to overhaul and repair fighter aircraft weapons release and gun systems to include bomb racks, weapons pylons, ejection racks and aircraft gun systems.

The U.S. Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Defense joined with state and federal partners to designate Camp Ripley Training Center as one-of-three new Sentinel Landscapes in 2016. Local, state and federal partners have committed over \$5.18 million within the Sentinel Landscape to protect or enhance 34,903 acres. The designation will protect Camp Ripley's training mission, the integrity of the region's natural resources and provide expanded access to hunting, fishing and recreation for local residents.

In 2017 the State of Minnesota will exempt military retirement pay from state income tax, benefiting 19,000 retired service members and their families, transitioning Minnesota from being one of a handful of states that tax an entire military pension to one of at least 12 that tax none of it.

The Minnesota National Guard appreciates the strong support shown by 100 percent of our federal congressional delegation, all of whom signed a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force in support of future basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth.

### 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

Continue to explore legislation to enhance eligibility of service members and their dependents for funding for treatment of existing substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Support a Department of Public Safety bonding request for a Rail and Pipeline Safety Training Facility at Camp Ripley (\$3.1 million).

Seek bonding funds for construction and renovation projects in St Cloud, Detroit Lakes, St Peter, Brainerd and other locations around the state (\$10.5 million).

Support a possible Department of Administration legislative initiative to raise the threshold for construction project referral to the Designer Selection Board.

Support Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council legislation, which includes funding for Phase VI of the Camp Ripley Training Center Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

Continue to seek funding to support treatment of service members and their dependents for substance abuse and chemical dependency treatment that is not covered by TRICARE or other programs.



*Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, mark their departure for a 9-month peacekeeping deployment to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula during a send-off event in Winona on July 8, 2016.*

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

### 2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Minnesota National Guard continues to support efforts to find an alternative to sequestration and automatic spending cuts which would result in a loss of readiness for both domestic emergencies and overseas combat missions.

The Minnesota National Guard supports efforts to correct the benefit disparities that exist under 12304(b), a federal mobilization authority created in the fiscal 2012 National Defense Authorization Act that makes it easier for the Pentagon to utilize the Guard and Reserve. Currently, active service under 12304(b) does not qualify service members for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. They do not receive pre- and post-mobilization TRICARE, and their service does not count toward early receipt of retirement payments.

The Minnesota National Guard intends to grow or maintain its force structure. Current force structure organizes and equips the organization to respond to natural disasters, provide assistance to local law enforcement or assist during a domestic emergency. The Minnesota National Guard's major commands, including the two air wings, are positioned to meet the governor's state requirements through ten essential capabilities, including cyber response, for homeland readiness.

The Minnesota National Guard seeks a change to the Department of Veterans Affairs' interpretation of a Department of Defense instruction that currently does not allow co-use of reserve component GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance for Minnesota service members. In addition, Federal Tuition Assistance should be made available to Guard and Reserve service members immediately upon completion of their Advanced Individual Training, rather than the current one-year delay after completion of AIT.

### 2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

Pursue an Air National Guard Cyber Operations unit in order to expand cyber capabilities within the Minnesota National Guard and support the adjutant general's cyber response strategy.

Continue to pursue next-generation equipment for upgrades to the C-130H3 simulator at the 133rd Airlift Wing.

Support efforts to pursue the C-130J Super Hercules model aircraft as a future, versatile airframe for the 133rd Airlift Wing. In the interim, the organization will encourage efforts to modernize the avionics in the current C-130H Hercules fleet to meet the 2020 world-wide Air Traffic Control deadline.

Continue to work with the National Guard Bureau to make up a personnel shortage of 49 Airmen for the 148th Fighter Wing. The wing was designated as an 18 Primary Aircraft Authorization Active Associate wing in 2012, with a portion of manning to be supplied by the active component. Delays in assigning the full complement of active duty Airmen have left the wing short of manpower requirements for its Suppression of Enemy Air Defense mission.

The Minnesota National Guard supports the request to establish a National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriations account with a separate line in the president's budget for National Guard Military Construction, which will improve our ability to replace, modify and consolidate Minnesota National Guard facilities as scheduled in our Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan.

## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD | MMXVI

### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT & 2017 OBJECTIVES

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