



MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
2017 ANNUAL REPORT | 2018 OBJECTIVES

MMXVII



MAJOR GENERAL JON JENSEN,
31ST ADJUTANT GENERAL, MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen assumed the office of Adjutant General by order of Gov. Mark Dayton, Nov. 1, 2017.

FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



TO THE CITIZENS OF MINNESOTA:

On behalf of the more than 13,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians of the Minnesota National Guard, I am proud to submit our Annual Report for the period ending December 31, 2017. This report captures a small portion of the many contributions made by our Soldiers, Airmen and civilians to our communities, state and nation. Your Minnesota National Guard and Department of Military Affairs once again lived up to our motto: "Always Ready, Always There."

During this past year, our Army and Air Guardsmen continued to provide support to federal forces across the globe. Since 2001, more than 26,000 Minnesota National Guard Citizen Soldiers and Airmen have deployed overseas to implement our nation's security strategy. Our homeland mission included the deployment of service members throughout Minnesota and the United States supporting local incident commanders and U.S. citizens.

2018 marks an evolutionary change in how our nation utilizes the reserve component. Since the end of the Vietnam War, the National Guard has changed with the implementation of the all-volunteer force in the 1970s; the investment in military infrastructure in the 1980s; and the post-9/11 shift from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

Today, in addition to our projected deployments in support of global military operations, our men and women of the Minnesota National Guard face increasingly demanding readiness requirements to ensure we can fight and win our nation's wars. All the while, our commitment to support civil authorities endures.

With the continued support of our elected officials, employers and communities, the Minnesota National Guard will continue to prosper and be of service to the citizens of our great state. I thank you all.

MY VERY BEST REGARDS,

MAJOR GENERAL JON JENSEN, MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ADJUTANT GENERAL

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VISION

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen capable of fighting our nation's wars, protecting our country, and responding to our state's emergencies, while remaining the most trusted institution in Minnesota.

PRIORITIES

Our bottom line responsibility is to be ready to fight our nation's wars and win. Everything we do supports and is connected to our primary responsibility. Each service member must be competent in his or her assigned duties. We are all responsible, each Soldier and Airman, to maintain baseline physical, administrative, medical and dental requirements.



PEOPLE FIRST

Our Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees are our most important resources. We will train, coach and mentor for our future through four imperatives: first, we must engage our diverse force through effective, leader-driven retention and recruiting; next, our team must be trained, ethical leaders and understand the many opportunities for professional and personal growth; third, our families will be supported by robust community-based services and programs; and finally, our formations are trained and educated to accomplish global and local missions.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The future of the Minnesota National Guard depends on developing professional, ethical, and caring leaders that can motivate and inspire our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to accomplish any mission in any environment. We focus on mentorship and provide critical feedback to further develop our men and women. Our inclusive organization delivers a breadth of leadership opportunities that enable our service members to grow and serve their nation and state. Our leadership culture enables officers and non-commissioned officers to make decisions appropriate at their level.

ORGANIZATIONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to providing a workplace that is safe from internal and external physical threats and harassment; and is cyber-aware so as to execute sound practices that mitigate cyber-based threats. The Minnesota National Guard has been entrusted with society's most precious resources: our sons and daughters. We demand and maintain a culture free of sexual harassment and sexual assault. Additionally, we cherish and value the lives of all of those who serve in the Minnesota National Guard and vow to uphold all aspects of resiliency; in particular, assisting with service member health and suicide prevention.

FISCAL AND PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITY

The National Guard remains a community-based force, with readiness centers, armories, bases and training facilities strategically throughout our state. Minnesota National Guard facilities are built to be energy independent. Organizationally, we are audit ready; we expend resources in a responsible manner to build and sustain combat readiness; and we review and update policies and processes that are cost and time prohibitive to maximize federal and state funding.

COMMUNICATE AND PARTNER

The Minnesota National Guard takes great pride in effectively engaging our key audiences. First and foremost, we develop meaningful relationships with our families so that they are well cared for when a service member deploys. We ensure that we are involved in the communities where we serve so that we can be most helpful to incident commanders in an emergency. Our partnerships with local communities are amplified by our "Yellow Ribbon" program and military outreach. We are instrumental in leveraging and integrating national Department of Defense programs. We take every opportunity to advance the Minnesota National Guard's bilateral relationship with Norway, and State Partnership with Croatia. We strive to make sure that local, state, and national elected officials are informed about our team and emerging needs.



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 BEST WARRIOR

Minnesota's state competition was held in April where Spc. Marcel Thompson with the 34th Military Police Company and Staff Sgt. Daniel Sebo with the 2nd Battalion, 175th Regiment won the title of Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. In May, Spc. Jacob Moseng, the runner-up for Soldier of the Year, and Sebo traveled to Iowa where they competed in the Region 4 Best Warrior Competition. Sebo took first place in the competition, earning the right to represent the region in the National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Ripley Training Center.

Minnesota had the honor of hosting the 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition. Fourteen Soldiers representing 12 states converged on Camp Ripley, July 17-20, for the four-day competition that tested their physical and mental endurance.

For the staff of the Minnesota National Guard, the planning started nearly a year in advance to coordinate and host the competition. Members of Minnesota's planning team attended the 2016 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in Massachusetts and received initial guidance from the Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major for the 2017 event. Using lessons learned from past competitions, the Minnesota National Guard put together a series of events that would stress, but not break, the competitors.

The first day of the national competition began with an opening ceremony welcoming the competitors to Camp Ripley. In a break from the norm, the competitors then went directly into the competition events, beginning with the essay and written exam. Inclement weather that included severe thunderstorms and a potential tornado caused the evening's events to be moved to the next day.

Throughout the four days the competitors were kept in the dark about which events would take place. An example of this was on the morning of day two. Competitors took an Army Physical Fitness Test and at the end of the two-mile run were told to put their boots on, grab their weapon and continue running.



(BEST WARRIOR CONTINUED)

The unknown distance run required the Soldiers to tactically maneuver through a series of obstacles. After the competitors were physically exhausted, they moved on to an afternoon filled with weapons ranges, a confidence course, medical simulation and basic warrior tasks and drills.

Day three included both night and day land navigation, a crew-served weapons range and a call-for-fire event. The competitors went to bed relatively early, to rest up for a 2:00 a.m. start the next morning.

The competition culminated on day four with a 13-mile road-march held at Lake Itasca State Park, showcasing a uniquely-Minnesotan flair to those involved. Competitors were flown to the starting point via CH-47 Chinook helicopter for their grueling march around Lake Itasca. Members of the community came out to support the competitors as they finished at the headwaters to the Mississippi River. When the Soldiers returned, they had a chance to shower and change into their dress uniforms for the formal board appearance.

At the end of the competition two competitors were named to advance to the All-Army Best Warrior Competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in October: Sgt. Grant Reimers of the Nevada National Guard and Staff Sgt. Daniel Sebo of the Minnesota National Guard.

NCOs from each National Guard region assisted in setting up and conducting the events, ensuring that everything from planning to execution was a team effort.

ADJUTANT GENERAL CHANGE OF COMMAND

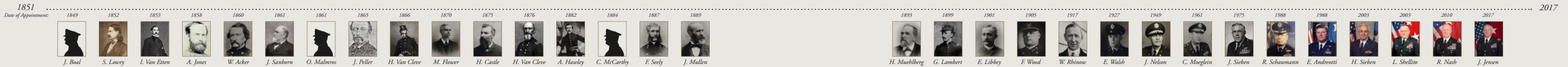
In a ceremony on November 4, 2017, Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen took over as the 31st Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. The Adjutant General (TAG) is the senior leader of the Minnesota National Guard, which includes the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard and all joint (combined Army and Air Guard) units and personnel. The adjutant general serves for a term of seven years and is a state employee appointed by the governor of Minnesota.

Minnesota's adjutant general is the administrative head of the state's Department of Military Affairs whose duties and responsibilities are defined in Minnesota State Statute 190.09. In addition to those responsibilities defined in state statute, the adjutant general is responsible to the federal government for the use and care of federal assets under the state's control.

The adjutant general designates a deputy to perform the duties of the appointment during periods when he or she is absent or unable. Brig. Gen. Sandy Best was designated as Deputy Adjutant General on November 1, 2017.

Prior to 1976, the Department of Military Affairs was known as the Department of Military and Naval Affairs which included the currently inactive Minnesota Naval Militia. These state military forces can be called to active duty by the President of the United States to support federal missions.

Shown below are the state of Minnesota's Adjutant Generals in order of their service in that position.



YEAR IN REVIEW

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

In the span of a few weeks, three major hurricanes hit different parts of the southern United States, causing widespread damage and destruction and requiring the response of agencies around the country. The Minnesota National Guard responded alongside multiple military and civilian organizations, sending Soldiers and Airmen to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

On Sept. 1, two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and 11 personnel from the St. Cloud-based B Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment left for Texas following Hurricane Harvey to transport personnel and equipment in support of response efforts. The crews returned to Minnesota Sept. 8, after completing six missions and moving 29,000 lbs. of cargo.

Following Hurricane Irma, the Minnesota National Guard dispatched another CH-47 aircraft and crew to Jacksonville, Florida, at the request of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The six personnel assisted the Florida National Guard, operating out of Cecil Field, moving cargo in support of relief efforts.

In response to the destruction Hurricane Irma brought to the Caribbean, the 133rd Airlift Wing sent 14 personnel from the unit's Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to be on standby to conduct emergency medical evacuations. The Airmen remained at Scott Air Force Base from Sept. 9-15.

At the same time, 27 Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing traveled to the U.S. Virgin Islands to conduct aerial port operations at Cyril King Airport in St. Thomas. They re-established airport operations after Hurricane Irma and assisted in evacuating individuals out of the area before Hurricane Maria hit. The Airmen evacuated to Savannah, Georgia, until the hurricane passed. On Sept. 20, an additional 10 Airmen from the 133rd joined the group in Savannah, which then returned to St. Thomas where they continued to assist with airport operations. Seven additional Airmen and a C-130 aircraft left Sept. 27, to also support the mission. By Oct. 1, all Airmen had ended operations in St. Thomas.

The Minnesota National Guard also sent its Chief Information Officer, Col. Stefanie Horvath, to the U.S. Virgin Islands from Oct. 3-Nov. 3, to serve as the Current Operations Chief for the National Guard Bureau Joint Enabling Team and also to provide senior signal planning support to the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team."

In addition to the Airmen in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the 133rd Airlift Wing sent seven Airmen with specialized communications equipment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sept. 25. The Airmen assisted in re-establishing critical communications in support of Hurricane Maria recovery efforts. Specifically, the Airmen provided phone, radio and internet support to the mayor of Caguas, Puerto Rico, to ensure continuity of government and to support the 190th Military Police Company. By Nov. 17, the Airmen ended the communications mission in Puerto Rico.

On Oct. 23, two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and crews departed for Puerto Rico to conduct port operations. The mission ended Nov. 25, when all personnel and equipment returned safely to Minnesota.

One Airman from the 148th Fighter Wing traveled to Puerto Rico, Oct. 30 to provide airfield management support.

A weather analyst from the 133rd Airlift Wing traveled to Puerto Rico, Nov. 2-22, to provide weather-related information in support of operations there.

On Nov. 13, 11 Airmen from both the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing departed for Puerto Rico to conduct food service operations, returning Dec. 15.

On Nov. 20, one Airman from the 148th Fighter Wing departed for Puerto Rico to support public affairs operations. The Airman returned to Minnesota Dec. 19, closing out the Minnesota National Guard's hurricane support for the year.

2017 DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

TOTAL PERSONNEL ACTIVATED FOR HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

110

Since September 1st, 2017, more than 110 Soldiers and Airmen have been activated to aid in hurricane relief around the nation.

LOCATIONS ASSISTED

ILLINOIS: *Hurricane Relief staging*

TEXAS: *Hurricane Relief*

FLORIDA: *Hurricane Relief*

ST THOMAS: *Hurricane Relief*

PUERTO RICO: *Hurricane Relief*

MINNESOTA: *Search and rescue, Blizzard Assistance*

WISCONSIN: *Explosive Ordnance Disposal Support*

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED

\$682,402

1 SEP: \$13,177 worth of medical supplies, as well as 50 combat Lifesaver bags and 74 combat medic kits to Texas National Guard

9-11 SEP: \$650,000 worth of medical supplies to Florida National Guard

13 SEP: \$19,225 worth of medical supplies to USVI National Guard

ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

3

1-2 JUN: (34th CAB) Search and Rescue mission supporting MN State Patrol in locating three missing paddlers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

4-5 DEC: (224th Transportation Company) Two unit members supported opening the armory in Olivia to shelter motorists during a blizzard

23 DEC - 4 JAN: (2-136 Infantry) Unit members helped staff the opening of the Moorhead Armory to be used as a shelter during extreme cold weather for more than 200 people in the community.



January



December



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 58 communities. The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs is the state agency that oversees and supports military operations of the Minnesota National Guard. 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 equipment to support overseas missions. The resources of the Minnesota National Guard are available to the governor to support domestic response missions in communities throughout the state.





JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 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. The Joint Force Headquarters can also provide a dual-status commander, specially qualified to command state and federal forces operating in Minnesota.

In 2017 the Minnesota National Guard held its third annual Women's Leadership Forum as part of an overall effort to promote an inclusive culture, diversify the organization, grow strong leaders and provide professional development for the entire force. This year's forum focused on emotional intelligence.

The Minnesota National Guard received three awards in 2017 for excellence in diversity from the National Guard Bureau for its success in implementing national diversity goals. As an organization, the Minnesota National Guard's special emphasis councils were ranked highest in the nation for their significant contributions to readiness. As a state, Minnesota was recognized for its commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives. In the individual category, Air Force Master Sgt. Leon Peterson from the 133rd Airlift Wing was recognized for his professional and personal accomplishments to promote diversity.

In an effort to promote healthier lifestyles for our service members, the Minnesota National Guard offered a two-week comprehensive Soldier fitness course in September. The participants learned about healthy lifestyle decisions coupled with proper diet and exercise. Three months after the course

was conducted, the number of participants who had a passing Army Physical Fitness Test increased by 38 percent and the number of participants who were in compliance with Army height and weight standards increased by 49 percent. As of mid-December, several participants who were previously not eligible for re-enlistment had re-committed to staying in the organization.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018, JFHQ will assist in security efforts for the National Football League's Super Bowl LII held in Minneapolis at U.S. Bank Stadium on February 4, to ensure the safety of residents and visitors during one of the world's most highly-spectated events. The headquarters will provide command and control over Minnesota National Guard forces supporting local law enforcement in conducting security operations.

More than 400 members of the Minnesota National Guard will provide direct support to, and work alongside, law enforcement officers from across the state. The Minnesota National Guard's involvement in Super Bowl LII is part of a coordinated response between local, state and federal agencies and is the result of months of planning.



JFHQ

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
620 Soldiers & Airmen

COMMANDER
Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Wortham

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/JFHQ

(PICTURED LEFT)

Chief Master Sgt. Rich Schumacher of the 133rd Airlift Wing marshals in an incoming C-17 Globemaster full of aid and supplies for the hurricane relief effort in the U.S. Virgin Islands at Cyril King Airport in St. Thomas.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. PAUL SANTIKKO



34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provides training and readiness oversight for ten National Guard brigades with a total of more than 23,000 Soldiers across Minnesota and eight other states.

In Minnesota, the 34ID includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, 84th Troop Command and the 347th Regional Support Group.

The Division also conducts interagency coordination within Minnesota for Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

2017 marked the centennial anniversary of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division which was formed in 1917 just after the U.S. entered World War I. Soldiers from the 34ID participated in both world wars and have served in countries across the globe since 2001 in support of the Global War on Terrorism. One hundred years after the Soldiers of the "Sandstorm Division" mustered at Camp Cody, New Mexico, the Red Bulls received word in 2017 of an upcoming deployment. In the fall of 2018 the Division Headquarters will deploy in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The 34ID took part in two major exercises in 2017. Austere Challenge was a U.S. European Command-led, computer-assisted, command post exercise designed to train multi-combatant command coordination in fictitious scenarios. The last time the 34ID participated in Austere Challenge was 2011. The division also participated in the Talisman Saber exercise, working alongside U.S. Pacific Command and Australian Defense forces to provide command and control of simulated units conducting combat operations.

Exercises such as these ensure the Red Bulls maintain a high standard of proficiency and sustained readiness and build relationships that lay the foundation for successful future operations.

In January 2017 Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen took command of the Division. In November, Jensen was selected by Governor Mark Dayton to become Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. The Division finished the year with a new commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell, an Iowa Guardsman, who will lead the Division as the headquarters prepares to deploy to Kuwait and Jordan this fall.

2018 OBJECTIVES

Building on the Division's previously successful training exercises, in the summer of 2018, the 34th Infantry Division will conduct a Division Warfighter exercise at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. This capstone exercise will validate the division's ability to conduct operations in a high-intensity, decisive action environment.

As the Red Bulls prepare to enter a new century of service to the nation, the 34th Infantry Division will once again prepare the Division Headquarters for deployment overseas. This will require additional training days and an increased operations tempo in the year leading up to the deployment.



34TH ID

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Rosemount, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
841 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. John Lepowsky

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/34ID

(PICTURED LEFT)

Command Sgt. Maj. John Lepowsky (center) attaches a historic campaign streamer of the 34th Infantry Division to the unit's guidon during a Red Bull centennial celebration at the 2017 Minnesota State Fair.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. PAUL SANTIKKO



34TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The St. Paul-based 34th Expeditionary 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 April the brigade welcomed home 20 Soldiers from Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment from a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. The unit provided air assault and aerial movement of troops, equipment and supplies. Over the course of the deployment, the company logged over 2,700 flight hours, executed more than 300 combat missions, moved more than 1,000,000 pounds of cargo and performed thousands of aircraft maintenance hours. Upon return, the unit was awarded the John J. Stanko Army National Guard unit of the year award by the Army Aviation Association of America.

Over Memorial Day weekend Soldiers of Company C, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion conducted a short-notice domestic operation mission with Minnesota State Patrol, helping to rescue two missing paddlers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

In June, the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion supported the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment during an eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise. It was the first reserve component-dedicated aviation support for an XCTC rotation.

Also in June, Company C, 2-211th GSAB traveled to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, as an element of the aviation task force. While at NTC, the unit supported the training rotation with medical evacuation aircrews.

In July, the 34th ECAB Headquarters participated in the biennial Talisman Saber exercise hosted by U.S. Pacific Command and the Australian Defense Force. The Soldiers traveled to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, to conduct the command post exercise, synchronizing aviation operations with the ground forces.

In the fall of 2017, the 34th ECAB responded to the need for aviation assets in the Southern United States to support hurricane relief efforts. In early September, 11 Soldiers and two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Company B, 2-211th GSAB deployed to Texas to transport personnel and equipment out of the communities damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Later in September, an additional CH-47 and six personnel partnered with the Florida National Guard to provide relief from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Finally, in late October, 13 Soldiers and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Company C, 2-211th GSAB mobilized for 30 days to Puerto Rico in support hurricane recovery efforts. These Soldiers provided humanitarian support to multiple locations within Puerto Rico and flew over 40 hours while working as part of an aviation task force.

In September, the brigade officially transitioned from a combat aviation brigade to an expeditionary combat aviation brigade as part of the U.S. Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In March the 834th Aviation Support Battalion will conduct a Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa. In May, 2-147th AHB will conduct a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California, in support of the 278th Armored Brigade Combat Team. In June the Brigade headquarters will participate as a training audience as part of the 34th Infantry Division's Warfighter exercise. These major training events will continue to build collective readiness as the brigade prepares for future federal and domestic missions.

Company C, 2-211th GSAB will mobilize in June to deploy with the 35th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade. The unit will provide medical evacuation in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.



34TH ECAB

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
1,192 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Col. Shawn Manke

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Hellkamp

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/34CAB

(PICTURED LEFT)

Soldiers from the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade provide support to the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment during an eXportable Combat Training Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, in June.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: 1ST LT. KATHERINE ZINS



1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Bloomington-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division consists of eight major subordinate commands. Nearly 5,500 Soldiers make up the brigade's combined arms, cavalry, artillery, engineer and brigade support battalions, constituting more than half of the Minnesota National Guard's total force structure.

Coming off of a highly-successful rotation at the National Training Center in 2016, the 1/34th ABCT built on its momentum by participating in several overseas training events in 2017 to ensure the brigade continues to be tested and ready when called upon.

In June, the brigade headquarters and 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, participated in the Saber Strike exercise, an annual, U.S.-led exercise conducted in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The exercise brought together seven nations and four service branches to test their ability to work together as one cohesive NATO enhanced forward presence battle group. It also strengthened the Minnesota's state partnership with Croatia as U.S. and Croatian service members trained side-by-side with a common goal of promoting interoperability and deterring international threats.

Transporting the unit's vehicles overseas required a significant logistical operation involving a week-long rail load at Camp Ripley. The hard work continued overseas when the vehicles arrived at port in Lithuania. Within just 72 hours the Soldiers moved all of the vehicles from the port to the training area without incident. Upon completion of the exercise, the Soldiers coordinated the transport of a company's-worth of equipment to Sweden for use in a future exercise by one of their sister units and the return and reset of the remaining equipment.

The mission served to validate that a National Guard armored brigade could quickly and successfully forward deploy to the European theater and that the infrastructure exists to support such a massive operation.

In June, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry returned from a nine-month peacekeeping mission to the Sinai Peninsula. The unit worked in support of the Multinational Force and Observers to enforce the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

A company from the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor traveled to Sweden in September to take part in Exercise Aurora 17. The cooperative, national defense training exercise organized by the Swedish Armed Forces was the first of its kind to be conducted in the country in over 20 years. The Soldiers worked with the armed forces of France, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to simulate an opponent, challenging the Swedish defense.

Two company teams from the 1-194th traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, in 2017 to serve as opposing forces for the Tennessee National Guard's 278th ABCT's eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In June, the brigade will participate in the 34th ID Warfighter exercise as a subordinate unit. During the division's Warfighter, the 1st ABCT will also conduct a command post exercise to maintain the proficiency of the brigade staff.

Two units from the brigade will conduct force-on-force operations in support of XCTC exercises this year. The 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry will travel to Texas in August to train with the 30th ABCT and the brigade's Ohio-based 1st Battalion, 145th Armor Regiment will travel to Idaho to train with the 116th ABCT in June.

The 1-194 Armor and 2-136 Infantry will focus on platoon-level maneuver validation and crew live fire at Camp Ripley Training Center this summer with integrated fires support from the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery.

The 2-135 Infantry will participate in a Warfighter exercise in April with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, and conduct squad-level live fire and platoon maneuver training.



1st ABCT

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Bloomington, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
5,471 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Col. Charles Kemper

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hjelmstad

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/1ABCT

(PICTURED LEFT)

Sgt. Krissy Shogren, medic with 1-194 Armor, scans the terrain while commanding an M113 medical vehicle during a maneuver training event along with Swedish Armed Forces counterparts September 12, 2017, near Skovde, Sweden.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. ANTHONY HOUSEY



347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 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.

The 1903rd Acquisition Team deployed to Kuwait in January for a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. The five-person specialized team provided contracting support to the 408th Contracting Support Brigade which supervises, administers and supports contingency contracting operations in theater.

In August the 347th RSG conducted simultaneous, collective training at Camp Ripley, Minnesota and Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, with all of the unit's assigned companies. The three-week Combat Support Training Exercise provided Soldiers with a complex training scenario that required staff sections and headquarters elements to support and coordinate among units on the ground executing their missions.

The exercise included 24-hour operations in a contested environment. The 347th Headquarters element and the 147th Human Resources Company supported 900 Soldiers from 17 units – Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard – from nine states, working as they would in a tactical environment.

Simultaneously, the 147th and 247th Financial Management Support Detachments set up at Fort McCoy to conduct their concurrent exercise, Diamond Saber. The units exercised dispersing operations, military pay and contracting functions.

The 204th Area Support Medical Company participated in Operation Global Medic, demonstrating their ability to provide medical life-support services in a tactical and austere environment.

Both the 114th and 224th Transportation Companies provided convoy escort support for participating units during the Combat Support Training Exercise.

Much of 2017 was spent validating units and their readiness through collective training, as well as ensuring individual Soldiers were trained and prepared to deploy as well. With several units from the RSG scheduled to deploy in 2018, the unit used annual training as a means of validation, decreasing time Soldiers will have to spend at mobilization station prior to deployment.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018 the 347th RSG will focus on deploying several units under its command, including members of its headquarters.

The 347th Regional Support Group will deploy a portion of its headquarters to Kuwait to provide command and control and force protection to U.S. personnel and base camps.

Teams from the 147th Human Resources Company will deploy to Afghanistan and to Kuwait to provide personnel support. The 147th Finance Detachment will deploy to Kuwait in 2018 in support of Operation Spartan Shield to provide financial management support.

The RSG will gain the 434th Component Repair Company, which will be headquartered at Camp Ripley. The 434th CRC will provide field maintenance on ground support and electronic equipment as well as sustainment maintenance on equipment in support of the supply system.



347TH RSG

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
759 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Col. Stephen Schemenauer

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Erickson

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/347RSG

(PICTURED LEFT)

The food service section of the 347th RSG provides tactical field feeding at Camp Ripley Training Center for nearly 270 Soldiers during the Combat Support Training Exercise, August 6, 2017.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. PATRICK LOCH



84TH TROOP COMMAND

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 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.

The 84th Troop Command's domestic operations is the responsibility of two sections: the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and the 55th Civil Support Team. 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 of notification.

In January, the 257th Military Police Company deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to support Joint Task Force Guantanamo by conducting military detention facility operations. The deployment was the first time a Minnesota National Guard unit had supported this mission. The company weathered the force of Hurricane Irma passing by the island in September and returned safely to the U.S. and their families before Christmas.

In April, the 34th Military Police Company moved into a new facility in Stillwater – adjoining the Stillwater Fire Station. The 80,000 square-foot building was built with sustainability in mind and is rated as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Silver facility. The building is nearly three times the size of the previous armory and will house the 34th Military Police Company and Soldiers from the 334th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

In June, the 84th Troop Command's 55th Civil Support Team conducted a joint exercise in Duluth with the CERFP, the 54th Civil

Support Team out of Wisconsin, the U.S. Coast Guard and the fire departments from Duluth and nearby Superior, Wisconsin. The exercise allowed participants to practice skills in hazardous materials operations, command and control, urban search and rescue, mass casualty decontamination and medical triage.

In September, Soldiers from the 34th Military Police Company participated in Joint Reaction 17, a biennial exercise with Adriatic Charter countries hosted this year by the Republic of Macedonia. The scenario was based upon a humanitarian aid and refugee crisis that required a multi-national military police response.

84th Troop Command retired a historically significant unit in 2017 as E Battery of the 151st Field Artillery cased its colors in August. The Target Acquisition Battery was one of the oldest and most decorated units in the Minnesota National Guard with a lineage that goes back to the Civil War.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018 the 84th Troop Command will play a significant role in the Minnesota National Guard's support to Super Bowl LII. At the request of the city of Minneapolis and with the approval of Governor Dayton, the unit will provide more than 400 Soldiers to augment security efforts in the metro area for the game and related events. This will be the culmination of months of planning, preparation and training to ensure a safe and well-executed Super Bowl LII experience for all residents and visitors.

Later this year, the Camp Ripley-based 851st Vertical Engineer Company will deploy to Kuwait in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel to provide engineering support throughout the area of operations.



84TH TRC

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Cambridge, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
1,819 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Col. Brian Pfarr

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Whitehead

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/84TC

(PICTURED LEFT)

Members of the 55th Civil Support Team continually maintain their readiness and training in order to respond as a quick reactionary force to assist across the state within 72 hours.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. PAUL SANTIKKO



175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 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.

In 2017, the RTI continued its transition to the One Army School System which trains Soldiers from across all three Army Components. The RTI fully divested from the 68W Combat Medic course to posture the 2nd Modular Training Battalion for a maneuver training mission focus in 2018. This transition will deliver the potential of 392 maneuver training seats for Non-Commissioned Officers to meet their military education requirements and increase unit readiness. The regimental subordinate battalions conducted 37 courses which qualified 663 Soldiers and achieved a graduation rate of 93 percent.

The 1st Battalion (Warrant/Officer Candidate School) produced nine warrant officers and 15 commissioned officers in 2017. In June, the 1st Battalion conducted a regional OCS Phase 1 training for 95 officer candidates from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.

The 2nd Modular Training Battalion conducted a course load of 352 students in 2017. In support of the State Partnership Program, the 2nd Battalion sent medic instructors to Pozega, Croatia, to conduct an Advanced Combat Lifesaver course. The training also included students from Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The instructors shared tactical combat casualty care techniques with NATO allies and partner nations.

The Regional Training Site – Maintenance qualified over 162 maintenance personnel in 14 courses. The RTS-M also sent five instructors to Croatia to train 18 Croatian soldiers on the operation, maintenance and diagnostics of Mine Resistant Ambush Protectant vehicles and wreckers. Additionally, the RTS-M continues to expand its training capabilities by conducting recovery operations courses for the Air National Guard and training law enforcement agencies.

Also in 2017, Staff Sgt. Daniel Sebo, a combat medic instructor with 2-175th RTI, competed and won at the state, regional and national Best Warrior Competitions, representing the RTI, Minnesota and the National Guard at the All-Army Best Warrior Competition in October.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018, the RTI is preparing for accreditation of its maneuver, recovery and leadership courses. The RTI will increase instructor certifications to conduct maximum course load with available resources. The Company Commander, First Sergeant Pre-Command Course will undergo enhancements to increase the capabilities and competencies of future leaders. The RTI will continue to seek training opportunities within the State Partnership Program.

In its effort to maintain its ranking as one of the top training facilities in the nation, the RTI will continue to seek out premier Soldiers to become quality instructors.

In 2018 the RTI will transition to the Common Faculty Development Program – Instructor Course. The CFDP-IC combines both the Foundation Instructor course and Small Group Instructor Training course into one course and reduces the schedule by five training days.



175TH RTI

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
95 Soldiers

COMMANDER
Col. Stefanie Horvath

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Klinkner

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/175RTI

(PICTURED LEFT)

Staff Sgt. Daniel Sebo, a medic combat instructor with the Minnesota National Guard's 175th RTI, put all of his skills to the test as he competed in the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. PAUL SANTIKKO



CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Camp Ripley, located near Little Falls, Minnesota, is a 53,000-acre regional training center hosting numerous ranges and state-of-the-art facilities to support the training requirements of military and civilian agencies. In addition to providing resources enabling customers to train in a realistic environment, CRTC sustains lodging, administrative 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.

During the 2017 training year, CRTC oversaw approximately 389,000 man-days of military training – an increase of more than 50 percent – and 61,500 training man-days for local and state inter-agency partners. The increase in man-hours can be attributed to an increase of out-of-state organizations, law enforcement agencies and state partners utilizing Camp Ripley's resources.

Camp Ripley welcomed its first senior commander, Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse. Col. Brian Melton assumed the role of garrison commander from Col. Scott St. Sauver. Camp Ripley also gained a new senior enlisted advisor in 2017 – Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Erickson.

In 2017 Camp Ripley was recognized with the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation. The award recognizes individuals, teams and installations for their exceptional environmental achievements and innovative, cost-effective environmental practices. Camp Ripley's environmental programs in conservation and compliance continue to maintain the triple bottom line of mission, environment and community through partnership opportunities, forestry and wildlife management, as well as community outreach.

In April, CRTC held the official opening of its 10-megawatt solar field, celebrating a partnership between Minnesota Power and the Minnesota National Guard that provides clean energy benefits for CRTC and the surrounding community.

Camp Ripley supported international partnerships, including the 44th Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange. Several state agencies trained at Camp Ripley: the Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Department of Corrections.

CRTC supported several large events over the summer, providing quality support, facilities and resources to customers during the busy training season. The 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition took place at Camp Ripley, July 17-20, bringing the 14 best Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers from across the National Guard to compete for the chance to represent the National Guard at the All-Army Best Warrior Competition. Camp Ripley also hosted a regional, multi-branch combat support training exercise in September that brought Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard units together to conduct operations in a tactical environment.

Additionally, CRTC provided direct logistical support to units from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, loading and shipping via rail vehicles and equipment destined for training exercises in Europe.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018 Camp Ripley will continue to expand its customer base by reaching out to external agencies and offer the best training experience possible to all customers.

The Center Range facility will be complete in 2018 to provide combat vehicle crews a wider variety of training opportunities as the complex battlefield changes. CRTC will also remodel or replace structures that were damaged by a tornado in 2016. These improvements will increase the availability of modern billeting, with a focus on environmental stewardship.

Ongoing construction and improvements on the installation will help to make Camp Ripley a user-friendly resource with the latest in up-to-date products while sustaining contemporary and environmental trends.



CRTC

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

EMPLOYED
730 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians

SENIOR COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse

COMMANDER
Col. Brian Melton

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Erickson

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/CRTC

(PICTURED LEFT)

Service members of the Ready Reaction Force with the Norwegian Home Guard train at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, Feb. 12, 2017, as part of the 44th Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: SGT. LUTHER TALKS



133RD AIRLIFT WING

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 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.

In the fall, the Wing supported response and recovery operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Airlift Control Flight package provided airport support in St. Thomas, serving as the senior airport authority, coordinating movements in support of multiple response and relief efforts. Members of the Logistics Readiness Squadron supported 184 missions and moved 4.5 million pounds of cargo and 2,000 passengers during hurricane relief efforts.

The Wing deployed Airmen with a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability platform to Puerto Rico to re-establish communications in support of hurricane recovery efforts. An additional team of Airmen deployed concurrently to Puerto Rico to feed recovery workers.

In addition to domestic support, the wing deployed more than 800 Airmen to 15 countries in support of ongoing overseas operations, training and exercises. While deployed overseas, the 109th Airlift Squadron flew over 2,000 sorties and almost 3,000 hours, hauling 12 million pounds of cargo and 20,000 passengers. The support of Air Expeditionary Forces and Reserve Component Period deployments, while simultaneously responding to domestic operations, showcased the unit's ability to support both its state and federal missions.

In October, the wing participated in Exercise Southern Katipo, a biennial, multinational training exercise held in New Zealand. The exercise is designed to improve combat training, readiness and interoperability among allied and partner nations. The Airmen conducted air drops, cargo missions and troop movements.

The 133rd Airlift Wing conducted an Innovative Readiness Training exercise in Cass Lake, Minnesota, in which medical service personnel provided medical, dental, pharmacy and optometry services to under served populations in Minnesota. The training resulted in \$450,000 worth of medical services provided to 777 patients at no cost.

In 2017, they earned national recognition by the Inspector General Office for the Best Commander's Inspection Program in the U.S. Air Force. The 210th Engineer Installation Squadron won the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018, the 133rd Airlift Wing will continue to regroup and reintegrate as Airmen return from deployments. The Wing's focus will be on building readiness for full-spectrum operations with a focus on theaters where U.S. forces could potentially operate in the future.

The wing will participate in several exercises in 2018, including a fly-away exercise in Yuma, Arizona, and a readiness exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Michigan. These exercises will assess the wing's ability to deploy as an organic unit and demonstrate its ability to operate in theater.



133RD AW

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
St. Paul, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
1,233 Airmen

COMMANDER
Col. Dan Gabrielli

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Chief Master Sgt. Lance Burg

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/133AW

(PICTURED LEFT)

Airmen from the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron add an antenna to a newly installed Giant Voice stack located on the roof of the Small Air Terminal at the 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, Minn., June 19, 2017

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: TECH. SGT. AUSTEN ADRIAENS



148TH FIGHTER WING

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 148th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Duluth, operates the F-16C Block 50 Fighting Falcon to provide air sovereignty at home and abroad. The full wing structure, which includes headquarters, communications, logistics, civil engineer, maintenance and security sections, is comprised of Airmen prepared to rapidly respond to support federal and state missions and community needs. The 148th Fighter Wing remains the seventh-largest employer in Duluth, employing more than 1,000 Airmen and maintaining 22 airplanes.

In 2017 the 148th Fighter Wing participated in several large-scale, joint training events. In January, the 148th took part in the Sentry Aloha exercise, participating in simulated combat exercises in the airspaces in and around Hawaii. In May, the Wing hosted multiple units for a fly-in, showcasing the Duluth airspace with a force integration exercise. In June, Airmen from the 148th participated in the Northern Lightning exercise at Volk Field. In August, Airmen from the 148th conducted live weapons employment while participating in the Northern Strike exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Michigan. And in September, the Weasel Maker scenario at Nellis Air Force Base tested the Wing's abilities to neutralize surface-to-air threats.

In the fall of 2017, Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing contributed to response efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Eight Airmen deployed to conduct food service operations for first responders. One Airman provided airfield management support at the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan and another was sent to San Juan to assist with public affairs operations.

In 2017, the 148th Fighter Wing was rated as "highly effective" following a four-day capstone inspection by the Air Combat Command Inspector General that evaluated, verified and validated the Wing's effectiveness. The "highly effective" rating was the first given to an Air National Guard unit under the Air Combat Command and only the third ACC unit to receive this designation since 2014.

STARBASE Duluth began programming at the 148th Fighter Wing in November to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math offerings to students in school districts in the area. STARBASE Minnesota has been operating in the Twin Cities out of the 133rd Airlift Wing since 1993, serving more than 58,500 metro youth. STARBASE partners military volunteers with youth to inspire interest in STEM and introduce students to potential careers in technology.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018 the 148th Fighter Wing will continue to improve full-spectrum mission and deployment readiness. The wing will work to incorporate business practices and greater fiscal responsibility into daily operations. In addition, the wing will make improvements to its campus to efficiently support and enhance current missions and future capabilities.

In order to prepare the 148th for the most capable follow-on fifth-generation fighter aircraft, the 148th Fighter Wing will advocate for the extension of Duluth runway 3/21 by 8,000 feet to enhance safety flexibility and increase training and operational capabilities. The wing also seeks to lead the combat Air Force in operational training infrastructure by improving airspace with live and virtual interoperability.



148TH FW

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
Duluth, Minnesota

UNIT STRENGTH
1,042 Airmen

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Blomquist

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Erickson

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG/148FW

(PICTURED LEFT)

An Airman from of the 148th Fighter Wing prepares a Block-50 F-16 Fighting Falcon during training flights as part of Sentry Aloha at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 24, 2017.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: MASTER SGT. STEVE REGAS



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs is the state agency that oversees and supports the military operations of the National Guard when it is operating under the authority of Title 32, United States Code.

According to Minnesota Law, the department is comprised of the military forces of the state, including the National Guard, the office of the Adjutant General, all military reservations, installations, armories and air bases owned or controlled by the state for military purposes. The Adjutant General serves as the department commissioner.

Located at Camp Ripley, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Cloud and St. Paul, over 350 civilian and military employees of the agency provide critical support and resources such as security, fire-fighting, administrative support and contracting support to units and members of the National Guard.

The department works closely with the United States Property and Fiscal Officer to execute several programs under Cooperative Agreements between the Adjutant General and the Chief, National Guard Bureau. These agreements allow the State and Federal governments to cooperatively provide services and support to each other without violating federal fiscal law.

In State Fiscal Year 2017, the department executed \$57.5 million in federal funds through cooperative agreements. Additionally, \$30.4 million in state funds were spent from the four core state appropriations that support the Minnesota National Guard.

The Maintenance of Military Training Facilities Program maintains the state's facilities used to train and house the members of the Minnesota National Guard and to protect the state's investment in facilities. Each Air National Guard base has a civil engineering function responsible for the maintenance of federal facilities that are supported with state and federal dollars.

The Enlistment Incentives Program supports and manages the department's enlistment and retention incentives and tuition reimbursement programs. These programs provide incentives to the men and women who enlist and maintain their memberships in the Army and Air National Guard.

Emergency Services funds emergency response activities at the order of the Governor when the National Guard is activated in response to state emergencies.

General Support provides the general administrative, financial, accounting, budgeting, project management, strategic planning and human resource support necessary for the operations of the department.

2018 OBJECTIVES

In 2018, the department will advocate for minor legislative changes to clarify the Adjutant General's authority with regard to the rental of state armories. The department will also submit a request for up to \$25.5 million in bonding to support the future renovation of facilities in St. Cloud, Wadena, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Rosemount and Fergus Falls.



DMA

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
St. Paul, Minnesota

EMPLOYEES
350 State Employees

COMMISSIONER
Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen

WEBSITE
WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG

(PICTURED LEFT)

Admiral Haakon Bruun-Hanssen, Norwegian Chief of Defense visits Camp Ripley firefighters while touring the installation, Oct. 25, 2017.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. ANTHONY HOUSEY



*2018 state constitutional officers: Governor Mark Dayton, Lieutenant Governor Michelle Fischbach, Attorney General Lori Swanson, State Auditor Rebecca Otto and Secretary of State Steve Simon
2018 federal elected officials: Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, Representative Tim Walz, Representative Jason Lewis, Representative Erik Paulsen, Representative Betty McCollum, Representative Keith Ellison, Representative Tom Emmer, Representative Collin Peterson and Representative Rick Nolan*

2017 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Minnesota National Guard requires increases in full-time staffing in order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of training time and resources for traditional Soldiers and Airmen. Authorizations and funding for full-time staff must be proportional to force structure growth, end strength increases and readiness enhancement requirements.

Our Soldiers and Airmen must be properly equipped with the same tools and resources as our active component counterparts in order to train to the same standards and perform the same missions abroad.

The Minnesota National Guard's facilities must be improved and maintained continually in order to support our formations and the 21st century technology that we utilize to accomplish our mission.

The families of our Soldiers and Airmen deserve the very best support to include access to health care, education and employment that ensures their stability, well-being and ultimately enhances readiness of our personnel.

2018 JOINT OBJECTIVES

» Full-time Manning: The Minnesota Army National Guard insists that increases to Army and Air National Guard end strength be supported with corresponding increases in authorizations for full-time staff in order to support the training and readiness of additional forces.

» Technician TRS Eligibility: The Minnesota National Guard seeks TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility for its full-time dual status technician workforce to improve readiness and continuity of health care benefits before and after deployments.

» 12304(b) Reduced Age Retirement: Modify current 12304(b) mobilization authority to fix the disparity in the ability to qualify these periods of duty towards reduced age for receipt of military retired pay in line with similar mobilization authorities.

» NGRE: The Minnesota National Guard supports establishment of 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.

2018 ARMY OBJECTIVES

» Federal Tuition Assistance: Army Federal Tuition Assistance should be made available to Guard and Reserve service members immediately upon completion of their Advanced Individual Training, or on the same terms as it is made available to members of the active component.

» GI Bill co-use: The Minnesota National Guard seeks a change to the Department of Veterans Affairs' interpretation of a DoD Instruction that currently does not allow co-use of reserve component GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance for our service members.

» Sentinel Landscape and Compatible Use Buffer: The Minnesota National Guard supports continued funding for programs that contribute to compatible land uses near military installations, such as the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and Army Compatible Use Buffer program. These include the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program and the Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

» Decentralized Management: The Minnesota National Guard opposes efforts to consolidate management of the ACUB program under the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Camp Ripley environmental team has set the standard across the Department of Defense in its cooperation with state and local entities to achieve mutually beneficial objectives for compatible land use and environmental stewardship.

2018 AIR OBJECTIVES

» C-130H3 Modernization at 133rd Airlift Wing: to complete modernization of both phases of AMP on our aircraft, to ensure the avionics in the current C-130H Hercules fleet meet the 2020 world-wide Air Traffic Control deadline, as well as keep focus on advocacy for the congressional add of new 3.5 engines and the NP2000 eight-bladed prop.

» Advanced Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars: AESA radars are essential for the accomplishment and survivability of the 148th FW's main mission set of Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) in a near peer environment

» C-130H3 Simulator in Minneapolis: pursue planned programmed funding of upgrades to the C-130H2 simulator at the 133rd Airlift Wing in Minneapolis to a C-130H3 simulator at 133 AW, along with upgrades to the AMP configuration.

» C-130J Super Hercules Aircraft: convert to C-130J Super Hercules to capitalize with the model currently fielded in active duty Air Force for longevity of 133 AW mission, increased cargo hauling and fuel efficiency/range capabilities for national and state support

» Fifth-generation Fighter Aircraft: the symbiosis of the nation's most modern fighter aircraft and the 148th FW will provide exponential improvement in capability to most efficiently support the defense of our state and nation

» Fighter Aircraft Shelter in Duluth: construct a three-bay fighter aircraft shelter facility in the footprint of three existing non-compliant, and dilapidated aircraft shelters at the 148th Fighter Wing to accommodate safe parking and reliable launch and recovery of current and future fighter mission aircraft

» Secondary Runway Extension in Duluth: the extension of the secondary 3/21 runway from 5,600 feet to 8,000 feet will provide an important safety buffer in the event the other runway becomes unusable. This dual use airfield benefits both civilian/commercial and military users with positive economic impact to the Duluth area, extension allows for F-16 use of secondary runway, improves safety of flight.

» STARBASE program funding in Duluth: continued operational funding for the Duluth STARBASE program and long term solution for a STARBASE instruction-friendly classroom facility

» Pursue/expand Virtual Training Environment: expand airspace and connectivity to airborne aircraft to realistically train against modern day air-to-air and surface-to-air threats; expand Operational Tracking Infrastructure (OTI) capabilities

(PICTURED LEFT)

Governor Mark Dayton delivers his annual State of the State address in the House chamber of Minnesota's Capitol building on January 23, 2017.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY: SGT. FIRST CLASS BEN HOUTKOOPER

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT & 2018 OBJECTIVES

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