

# Minnesota National Guard 2006 Annual Report

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# 150 Years of Excellence







# Excellence in Leadership



Major General Larry Shellito



Governor Tim Pawlenty

"150 Years of Excellence"

To the Citizens of Minnesota,

2006 was a historic year. From our humble beginnings in 1856 as the Pioneer Guard, to 150 years later when we deployed over 3,000 Soldiers and Airmen, Minnesotans continue to answer their Nation's call with pride, excellence and distinction.

We are a nation at war, and all of America is depending on its citizen-Soldiers and Airmen here in Minnesota. Whether we are fighting floods along the Red River, helping to quell forest fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, or fighting our nation's foes in Afghanistan and Iraq, all the reports read the same—Minnesota's sons and daughters are trained, disciplined, confident and competent. When you call out the Guard, you call out the best in Minnesota.

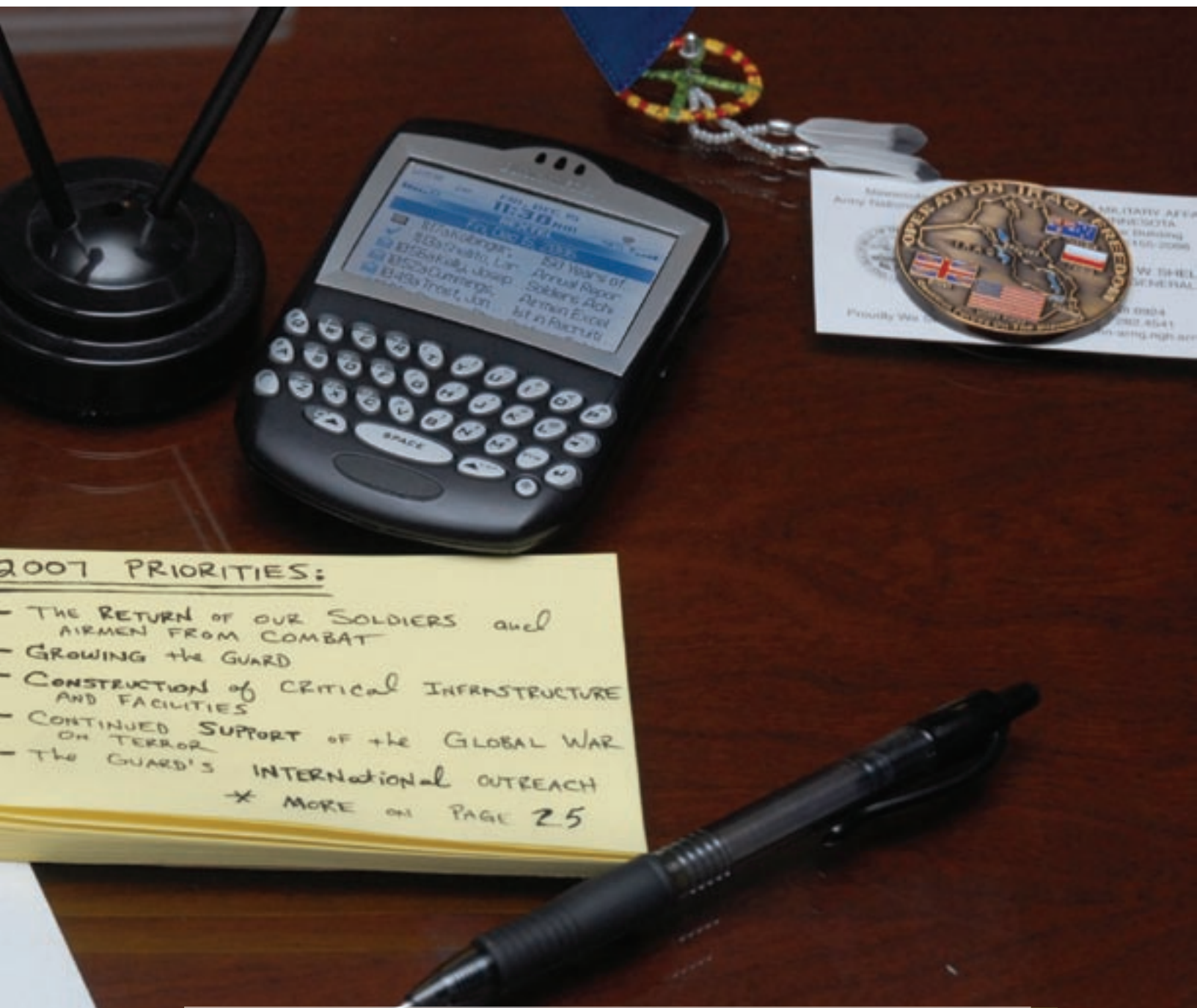
In looking forward to 2007, I have five major objectives to accomplish. The first is the redeployment of the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team, the 148th Fighter Wing and the 133rd Airlift Wing from Iraq and Afghanistan. The second is to sustain our commitment to growing the Guard; third, strengthening our state's infrastructure and facilities. Next is to continue supporting our nation's role in fighting the Global War on Terror and last, to continue building the Guard's international outreach with our allies overseas. These are all high priority objectives and will require a combined and unified effort from federal, state and private agencies alike.

The Minnesota National Guard continues to answer the country's call to duty from our start 150 years ago as the Pioneer Guard, to the First Minnesota at Gettysburg, to the implementation of the nation's first Air Guard in 1921, through the wars of WWII and Korea, and our most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am humbled to lead such an accomplished organization. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the families, Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and elected officials who continue to make this organization a national model. All have played a critical role in achieving this status.

Sincerely,

*Larry W. Shellito*

LARRY W. SHELLITO  
Major General, Army  
National Guard  
The Adjutant General



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# Joint Units of Excellence

## Joint Force Headquarters

The Joint Force Headquarters is an operational military unit with an integrated Air and Army Guard staff responsible for the command and control of the Minnesota National Guard. The Joint Force Headquarters has oversight of all administrative, personnel, intelligence, operational planning, logistics, civil-military affairs, information technology, legislative affairs, public information and financial functions of the Minnesota National Guard.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/jfhq](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/jfhq)

## Camp Ripley

The state-owned, 53,000-acre Camp Ripley is "The Warrior's Choice" for training in Minnesota. This multi-faceted training center serves as a world-class military training center for all branches and components of service. Minnesota state agencies also rely on Camp Ripley's exceptional facilities for training. Community interest groups across the spectrum of Minnesota life utilize Camp Ripley for its resources, expertise and commitment to award-winning environmental stewardship.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/camp\\_ripley](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/camp_ripley)

## Homeland Security

The Minnesota National Guard is postured to respond and assist federal, state, and local authorities in a variety of homeland security scenarios. Quick Reaction Forces are prepared to muster on short notice to counter any emerging threat. The 55th Civil Support Team is at the ready to facilitate, advise, and assist local officials in their response to nuclear, chemical, radiological, or biological events in Minnesota. Additionally, the Minnesota National Guard Counterdrug Team continues to partner with Minnesota law enforcement agencies, schools, and various community organizations to provide assistance with drug interdiction, drug demand reduction and educational efforts.



# Army Units of Excellence

2,006 new recruits joined the Minnesota Army National Guard in 2006, ending the year with 10,825 Soldiers, the highest strength in Minnesota Army National Guard history.

## 34th Infantry Division

Minnesota's "Red Bulls" are routinely recognized as the best division-sized unit in the Army National Guard structure. The 34th Infantry Division is living up to its proud history by serving gallantly in the Global War on Terror. The first National Guard division to transform to the new Army modular structure, the 34th Infantry Division is capable of deploying its Main Command Post, Tactical Command Post, and Special Troops Battalion to provide command and control structure for Army Brigade Combat Teams.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id)

## 1st Brigade Combat Team

In 2006, the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division was the only Army National Guard Brigade serving in Iraq. Over 2,600 "Desert Bulls" deployed in spring 2006 and are serving bravely as the Theater Security Brigade, providing protection to convoys, logistics bases, and critical infrastructure throughout Iraq. These troops are returning home in the first half of 2007 and are the primary catalyst propelling the Minnesota National Guard's "Beyond The Yellow Ribbon" effort to reintegrate these combat heroes back into civilian life. In Minnesota, Soldiers of the 1st Brigade deployed to the Red River Valley to combat spring flooding.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/1bct](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/1bct)

## 34th Combat Aviation Brigade

The Soldiers of the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade excel whether they are supporting combatant commanders in a war zone or assisting local authorities during state emergencies. In 2006, the aviators and crews of the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade were instrumental in suppressing forest fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area using specially-designed buckets to drop water on hot spots from UH-60 Blackhawks. Simultaneously, Minnesota Army National Guard CH-47 Chinooks from the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade were preparing to deploy to Iraq to ferry troops, cargo, and supplies in support of coalition forces.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34cab](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34cab)





# Army Units of Excellence

## 84th Troop Command



The 84th Troop Command expanded its combat capability in 2006 by reorganizing to include Minnesota Army National Guard field artillery, engineer and chemical units. Soldiers of the 84th Troop Command returned from a variety of deployments in 2006 and are capable of providing trained and ready combat forces for federal and state missions.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/84tc](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/84tc)

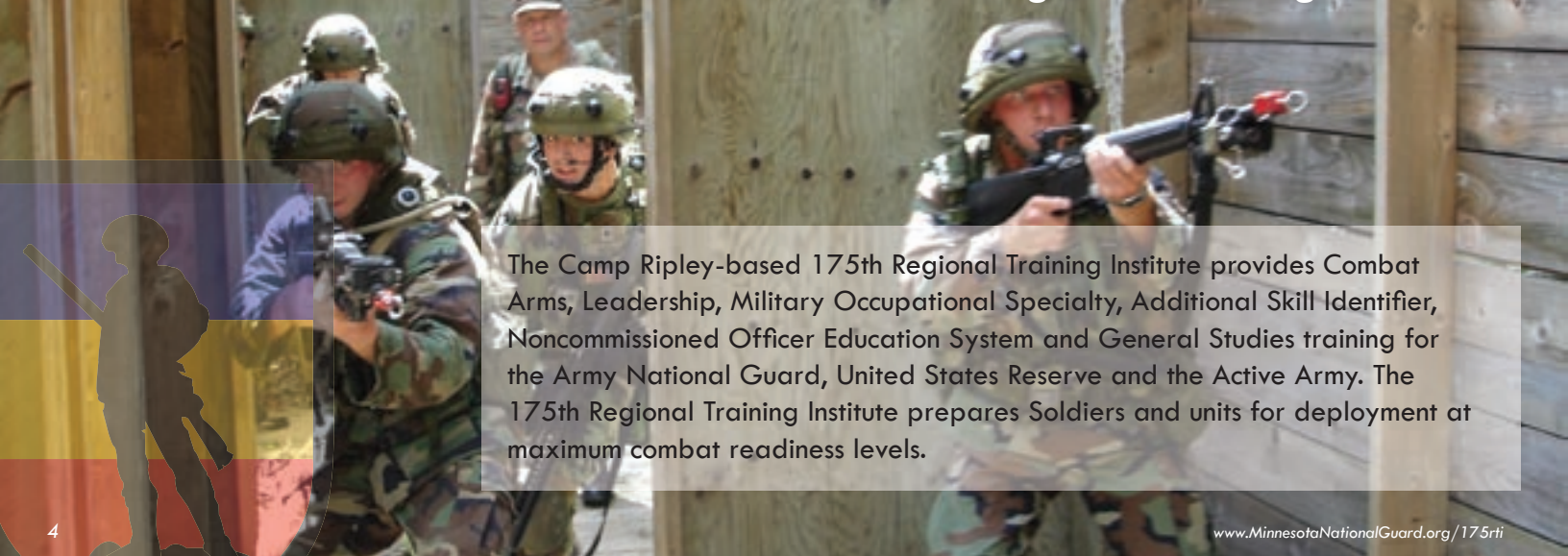
## 347th Regional Support Group



Newly established in 2006, the 347th Regional Support Group consists of vital and unique specialty elements. Minnesota's 347th provides military police, medical, and finance units for both state and federal missions. Additionally, the 34th Infantry Division Band delights audiences statewide and represents the Minnesota National Guard with pride.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/rsg](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/rsg)

## 175th Regional Training Institute



The Camp Ripley-based 175th Regional Training Institute provides Combat Arms, Leadership, Military Occupational Specialty, Additional Skill Identifier, Noncommissioned Officer Education System and General Studies training for the Army National Guard, United States Reserve and the Active Army. The 175th Regional Training Institute prepares Soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels.

[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/175rti](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/175rti)



# Air Units of Excellence

## 133rd Airlift Wing

Over one-hundred Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing marched as the opening element of the Christmas City of the North Parade in Duluth Minnesota on Nov. 17, 2006.

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard Wing headquartered in St. Paul. Utilizing the C-130 Hercules, the 133rd Airlift Wing provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift of troops, cargo and medical patients anywhere in the world. Additionally, the 133rd Airlift Wing is prepared to support the state of Minnesota with troops capable of assisting in a disaster. 160 Airmen of the 133rd Airlift Wing are scheduled to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in early 2007.



[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/133aw](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/133aw)

## 148th Fighter Wing

Winner of the Air Force Association's 2006 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit award, the 148th Fighter Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard wing headquartered in Duluth. The 148th Fighter Wing provides the U.S. Air Force with combat Air Sovereignty and Air Defense. Airmen of the 148th Fighter Wing stand prepared to support the State of Minnesota with Airmen capable of responding to homeland security incidents or natural disasters. More than 400 Airmen of the 148th Fighter Wing are expected to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2007.



[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/148fw](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/148fw)







# A History of Excellence

**In April 2006** the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives passed concurrent resolutions honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard, on its 150th anniversary, for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and the Nation...

**Whereas** the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to the formation of the Pioneer Guard in the Minnesota territory in 1856, two years before Minnesota became the 32nd State in the Union;



**Whereas** during a critical moment in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, 262 soldiers of the First Minnesota Infantry, along with other Union forces, bravely charged and stopped Confederate troops attacking the center of the Union position on Cemetery Ridge;

**Whereas** only 47 men answered the roll after this valiant charge. The First Minnesota Infantry had the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War;

**Whereas** the First Minnesota Infantry regiment was among the first militia regiments in the Nation to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops in April 1861 when it volunteered for three years of service during the Civil War;

**Whereas** during the Civil War the First Minnesota Infantry regiment saw battle at Bull Run, Antietam, and Gettysburg;



**Whereas** after the cross-border raids of Pancho Villa and the attempted instigation of a war between the United States and Mexico, the border was secured in part by the Minnesota National Guard;

**Whereas** the first federally recognized Air National Guard unit in the Nation was the 109th Observation Squadron of the Minnesota National Guard, which passed its muster inspection on January 17, 1921;



1856

1861

1863

1898

1917

1921



**Whereas** the 34th Division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, which led to the division being credited with taking many of the enemy-defended hills in the European Theater as well as having more combat days than any other division in Europe;

**Whereas** men of the Minnesota National Guard's 175th Field Artillery, as part of the 34th "Red Bull" Division, became the first American Division to be deployed to Europe in January of 1942;



**Whereas** these men from Brainerd fought hard and bravely as American forces were pushed into the Bataan Peninsula and ultimately endured the Bataan Death March;



**Whereas** when the 34th Division was shipped to North Africa, it fired the first American shells against the Nazi forces;

**Whereas** a tank company of the Minnesota National Guard from Brainerd, Minnesota was shipped to the Philippines in 1941 to shore up American defenses against Japan as World War II neared;

**Whereas** Minnesota National Guard troops have helped keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, including 1,100 troops who have seen service in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo;

**Whereas** the Minnesota National Guard has participated in keeping America safe after September 11th, 2001, in numerous ways, including airport security;

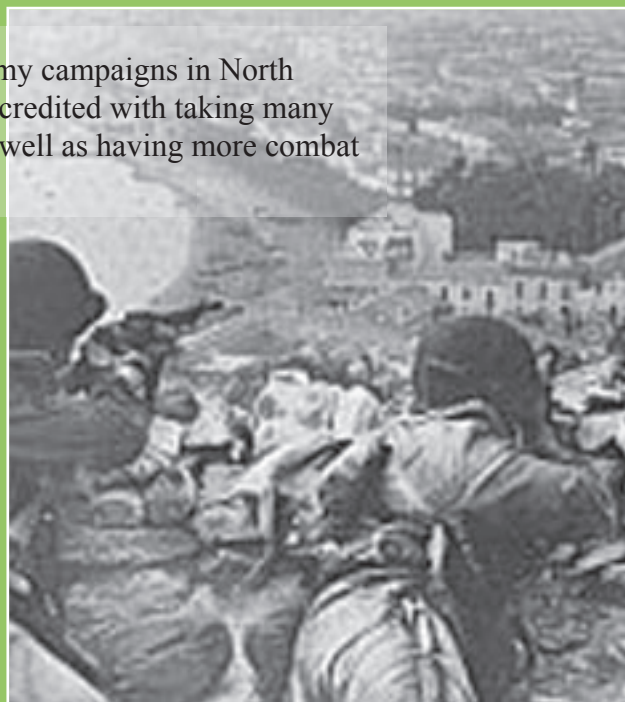
**Whereas** more than 600 Minnesota National Guard troops have been deployed to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom;

**Whereas** the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing's F-16s flew patrols over cities after September 11th for a longer time than any other air defense unit;

**Whereas** as of March 20, 2006, Minnesota National Guard troops are serving in national defense missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq;

Now, **therefore**, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, that Congress—

- (1) honors and congratulates the Minnesota National Guard for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and to the Nation on its 150th anniversary; and
- (2) recognizes that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.



1941

1942

1947

1997

2005

2006





# Communities of Excellence



## ~ Soldiers of Excellence ~

2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion

### Spec. Jessica Gaulke

The Minneapolis Aquatennial Queen of the Lakes traded her tiara for a Kevlar helmet and the sands of Iraq.

Jessica Gaulke, chosen in July as the 2006 Queen of the Lakes, gave up her title because of her National Guard unit's activation for duty in Iraq. Gaulke, 22, a sociology student at Augsburg College, deploys to the Middle East as a diesel generator mechanic.

As far as anyone knows, it's the first time an Aquatennial queen has been in the military, let alone called to active duty during her reign. "It really wasn't a decision that was mine to be made," said Gaulke, a former Miss Robbinsdale. "My unit's going. I've accepted it. It's part of the whole scope of why I joined; I'll be there for all of us over here."

Gaulke said her interest in the military stems from her father. He spent 28 years with the Minnesota National Guard, including six months on active duty in Kosovo.

After being notified she'd be going on active duty, Gaulke and her fiancé decided to get married Jan. 13. She'll go with her unit in March to Ft. Hood, Texas, for training, then to Iraq in August for 12 months. She plans to finish her final semester of college after she returns.

- Provided 13,842 hours of community support throughout Minnesota, while sustaining the state's largest mobilization since World War II.
- Assisted local law enforcement in seizing more than \$22.5 million in drugs, vehicles, cash, weapons and property associated with drug trafficking.
- Facilitated educational efforts for more than 3,000 students in the Minneapolis and St. Paul school systems through the STARBASE Minnesota program.
- Performed 311 military funeral honors missions for veterans from all branches of service.
- Recognized for the second time in five years by the Secretary of Defense for Camp Ripley's receipt of the top award in outstanding environmental management.
- Completed two "no notice" Minnesota Pollution Control Agency inspections at the 148th Fighter Wing with zero violations.
- Embedded for the first time a regional sports network media crew in Iraq, resulting in Fox Sports Net North's reporting live from Iraq during a special Minnesota Twins telecast.
- Hosted 11 tribal nations at Camp Ripley for "Nation to Nation" land use conference.
- Hosted Vice President Dick Cheney as he presided over the Minnesota National Guard's 150th Anniversary celebration rally.
- Coordinated St. Paul civic group's hosting of a farewell ceremony for more than 8,000 deploying Soldiers in Camp Shelby, Miss.
- Organized the Disabled America Veterans 15th annual deer hunt at Camp Ripley and included nearly 40 Soldiers home from deployment.
- Utilized educational video conferencing for more than 2,000 school-age children across the state.
- Leveraged Distance Learning classrooms for "Virtual Exchanges" between elementary schools in Minnesota and the United Kingdom.
- Supported 19,635 military member and family requests and reached out to 15,328 military family members through 11 Family Assistance Centers.



# People of Excellence

- Exceeded nation-wide recruiting record by enlisting 2,006 Soldiers in 2006, ending 2006 with the highest personnel strength in Minnesota Army National Guard history.
- Hosted more than 100 reintegration community events reaching 6,740 community members preparing to assist returning combat veterans.
- Organized the Governor's Summit on Reintegration, attracting more than 800 attendees.
- Returned only two percent of Soldiers from active duty, due to non-deployability, well below the national average of five percent.
- Prepared 2,120 Guard members for deployment at Camp Ripley's Soldier Readiness Processing Center.
- Expanded tuition reimbursement to 2,019 Soldiers and Airmen, totaling \$7.6 million in educational assistance awards.
- Awarded 25 Leadership, Excellence, and Dedicated Service (LEADS) scholarships, totaling \$25,000.
- Promoted 130 Soldiers deployed in combat zones.
- Issued nearly 500 service awards to Soldiers in combat zones.
- Honored nineteen Minnesota National Guard Soldiers who attained citizenship while serving in Iraq.
- Citizen-Soldier named "Person of the Week" by ABC World News for stepping down from her "Aquatennial Queen" position to deploy with her unit to Iraq.
- Presented Air National Guard's "First Sergeant of the Year" award to 148th Fighter Wing Airman by Vice President Dick Cheney.
- Graduated the first Warrant Officer Training program class of seven students at the State Capitol Rotunda.
- Reintegrated 1,126 Soldiers and Airmen after they returned home from combat deployments.

## Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer

*Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer, of the 148th Fighter Wing, won one of eight Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year awards. The award was presented to Master Sgt. Wasserbauer by Vice President Dick Cheney.*

*Wasserbauer recently deployed to Iraq and also served as first sergeant for three support projects, including extensive work with the Guard Family Network.*

*"I never dreamed for this to happen. First to receive this award, and then to have it presented by the Vice President — it's hard to put into words," he said. "It was pretty special."*

## 148th Fighter Wing



~ Airmen of Excellence ~





# Technological Excellence



## Joint Force Headquarters

### Staff Sgt. Jill Wirtzfeld

While troops deploy within the country and to overseas locations, many Soldiers work to ensure physical readiness and administrative documentation are in order so the deploying troops can focus on their mission.

Staff Sgt. Jill Wirtzfeld tracks the readiness of Soldiers in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

"Seeing the dedication of the Minnesota National Guard Soldiers is a large part of what makes my job so important to me," said Staff Sgt. Wirtzfeld.

- Launched [www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org) – a new interactive public Website featuring progressive media tools including e-zines, blogs, video, photos, podcasts, wikis and social networking.
- Upgraded vehicle tracking software to allow real time convoy location, status and messaging.
- Established [www.RedBullWeb.com](http://www.RedBullWeb.com) as the 34th Brigade Combat Team's tool to keep families and the public informed during the unit's Iraq deployment.
- Procured two secure satellite communication systems for state and national command authorities during deployments, homeland security missions and natural disasters.
- Connected more than 400 deployed military members via video teleconference to their families in Minnesota and around the country.
- Utilized video conferencing to connect nearly 500 students in Minnesota to National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Saved an estimated \$1 million by using video conferencing for training, force management and disaster response missions.
- Designed new server room with fire suppression, uninterruptable power supply, redundant cooling and power to improve application and network availability.

- Improved network bandwidth providing voice, data and video at every armory in the state.
- Implemented Smartcard-based network to improve security and replace vulnerable username-password systems.
- Implemented Cisco's MeetingPlace to share information securely over the intranet and internet.
- Implemented a wide area network solution to train the Army Battle Command System for the 34th Infantry Division.

# Logistical Excellence

- Celebrated the grand opening of the 148th Fighter Wing's new maintenance facility in Duluth.
- Received Honorable Mention for the Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award for Willmar-based 682nd Engineer Battalion.
- Implemented upgrades to vehicles and communication equipment, including the new Medium Tactical Vehicles used for spring flooding in northwestern Minnesota.
- Issued more than 16,000 uniforms and 32,000 pairs of boots through the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative program.
- Expanded the Urban Training Model program at Camp Ripley with a fully functional Forward Operating Base to prepare Soldiers for worldwide operations.



# Operational Excellence

- Supported the deployment of more than 2,900 Soldiers to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle.
- Deployed 430 Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing to seven states and 16 overseas locations.
- Returned C-130 “Gofer 5” aircraft to duty after a landing gear mishap in 2004; the incident uncovered a structural defect to the fleet that was corrected throughout the Air Force.
- Deployed more than 40 Airmen in support of Operation Jump Start border patrol missions in southwestern United States.
- Conducted levee patrols and manned vehicle checkpoints during severe flooding along the Red River Valley.
- Suppressed wild fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.
- Executed joint multinational training with the State Department, Joint Force Command, Navy 2nd Fleet, 9th Air Force and the 38th Canadian Brigade Group.
- Welcomed home more than 670 Soldiers after supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle.
- Operated Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for surveillance missions in support of Coalition forces in Iraq.
- Awarded the Army Aviation Association of America Unmanned Aircraft Systems “Unit of the Year” award for 1st Platoon, B Co., 634th Military Intelligence Battalion.
- Relocated Duluth’s 148th Fighter Wing “Alert Team” to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport during runway construction at Duluth.
- Enjoyed the 148th Fighter Wing’s was recognition as the Air Force Association’s Outstanding Air National Guard Flying unit.
- Received the Air National Guard’s “Outstanding” rating in the Air Combat Command Standardization Evaluation and the “Outstanding Military Personnel Flight” award for the 148th Fighter Wing
- Opened a secure \$3.5 million entrance to the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth.
- Certified 150 Minnesota Department of Transportation snowplow drivers at Camp Ripley.
- Developed the Civilian Transportation Improvement Team, providing tribal employment and arranging for local tribes to protect and clear highways in Iraq.
- Completed and initiated more than 85 reconstruction projects in Iraq worth an estimated \$8.8 million.

## Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shimek

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shimek, of the 133rd Airlift Wing, evacuated injured soldiers from Balad, Iraq, to a military hospital in Germany during her deployment.

However, before she even unpacked her bags after returning home from deployment, Shimek was preparing for her next mission. Shimek as well as several Airmen of the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron used their deployment to train for the Twin Cities Marathon, Oct. 1.

“The training has been rough. There were very hard conditions to run in, but we’re ready,” Shimek said. “Finishing will be the biggest thing.”

## 133rd Airlift Wing



~ Airmen of Excellence ~





# State Mission



## ~ Airmen of Excellence ~

133rd Airlift Wing

Tech. Sgt. Apryl Wagner

The 133rd Airlift Wing's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Apryl Wagner epitomized the high quality of individuals in the Minnesota Air National Guard throughout 2006 with the successful execution of her missions as well as her outreach to her community.

"To me, it's exciting and rewarding to be able to provide a service that is appreciated."

Tech. Sgt. Wagner went above and beyond in the personnel section of the Wing during a time when the Air National Guard has been seeing the highest number of deployments. Tech. Sgt. Wagner is also extremely involved in her community as a Sunday-school teacher and an avid volunteer in School District 200.

When directed by the Governor, the Minnesota National Guard alerts ready units to perform missions relating to state emergencies and the protection of our citizens.



▲ Soldiers and Airmen of the 55th Civil Support Team (CST) conduct a surprise emergency inspection May 24 in Hopkins, Minn.



▲ Two C-130s from the 133rd Airlift Wing transport Kentucky National Guard members home from Arizona in support of Operation Jump Start, Aug. 11 ▼



▲ Kids explore the museum during the Camp Ripley 75th Anniversary Celebration in June



▲ A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter dumps water on fires in the BWCA in July

Spc. Hose and Lt. Col. Miller pass along information to National Guard units throughout the Twin-Cities during a tabletop exercise with other state agencies during a Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant exercise ►



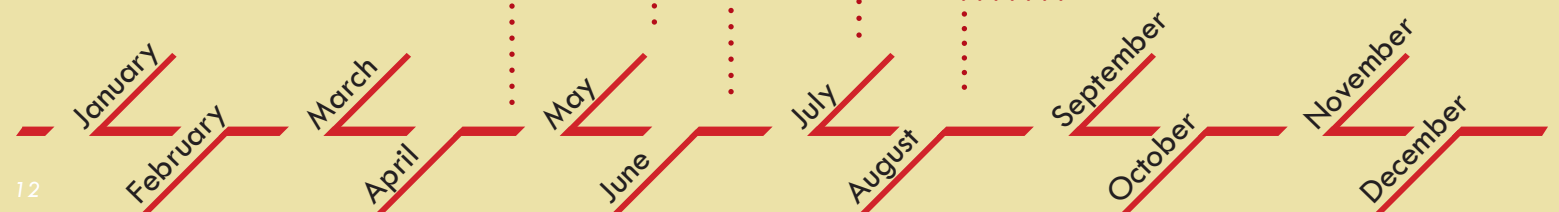
◀ The Department of Natural Resources train Soldiers from the 850th Engineering Company on wild fire containment in August ▼



The Guard ► and the Croatia Armed Forces continue the State Partnership Program in June



◀ The Minnesota National Guard assisted local agencies during the Red River flooding in April





# Community Mission

When requested by community leaders, the Minnesota National Guard authorizes ready Soldiers, Airmen and units to perform service projects that add value to our local communities.



▲ Counterdrug program representatives meet with kids in Bemidji in May



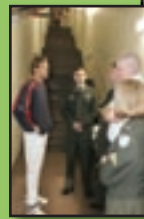
▲ The STARBASE program continues its mission to increase the knowledge, skills, and interest of inner city youth in science, mathematics, and technology for greater academic and lifelong success



▲ Members of the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth prepare Thanksgiving meals Nov. 23



▲ Twin Cities educators get an up-close look at the operation of the Guard on Educator Lift Day, May 24



▲ The Minnesota National Guard helps sports franchises such as the Minnesota Twins honor the service of our men and women in uniform

*The National Guard is America's community-based defense force, located in more than 2,700 cities and towns across the nation, including 63 communities in Minnesota.*



▲ More than 1,000 boy scouts participate in the Camp Ripley Rendezvous for a weekend in April every year



▲ Camp Ripley opens its doors to hunters several times a year



▲ High school students get hands-on experience with a Bradley Fighting Vehicle as part of The Job Shadow Program at Camp Ripley in July ▼



▲ Students and faculty of the Vessey Leadership Academy march for the Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund Sept. 30



▲ The Guard conducted a capabilities demonstration Sept. 11 with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December





# Federal Mission

When directed by the President, the Minnesota National Guard provides combatant commanders with mission-tailored, ready Soldiers, Airmen and units to support U.S. involvement in world-wide armed conflict and contingency operations. Additionally, the Minnesota National Guard provides Soldiers and Airmen who are capable of performing full-spectrum homeland security missions.



▲ Maj. Andy Ziehwein, a command pilot with the 109th Airlift Squadron, lines up his C-130H3 as he approaches the international airport, in support of Operation Joint Forge Feb. 12, at St. John's, Newfoundland



▲ Soldiers provide convoy security on a road Nov. 11, 2006, in Iraq. Forces in Iraq are employing Iraqi civilians to keep the roads free of debris that could potentially be hiding Improvised Explosive Devices.



▲ The 148th Fighter Wing executes a combat air patrol in April

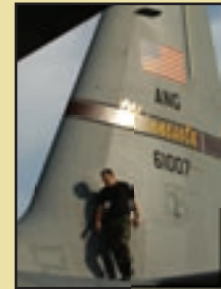


▲ An Iraqi child tries on Spc. Taryn Emery's sunglasses during a humanitarian assistance mission in Qaryat Al Majarrah, Iraq, Nov. 27

▼ Maj. Jake Kulzer delivers school supplies as part of the civil affairs operations at Al Batha



A Soldier of the 2-136th provides security at East Entry Control at Camp Anaconda



◀ A crew chief with the 133rd Airlift Wing Maintenance Group checks the tail of Gofer Seven, one of eight C-130H3s assigned to the Minnesota Air National Guard



▲ Minnesota National Guard soldiers train with Croatian Armed Forces in June as part of the State Partnership Program

▼ Chief Warrant Officer Paul Adamson hugs his daughter during the deployment ceremony for Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation March 18 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in St. Paul, Minn.



January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August





Soldiers of Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor conduct a casualty assessment exercise before deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Nov. 14, 2006 in Fort Dix, New Jersey.



◀ A Minnesota National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter sling-loads a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in March preparation for movement in southern Iraq.



◀ Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team hustle down the court in a heated game of basketball during their battalion's "Fun Day" Oct. 19 at Logistical Support Area Adder, Iraq



▲ Members of the 133rd Security Forces Squadron on patrol in November



▲ The 2-136th surveys the road through the windshield of their humvee during a patrol mission



▲ Spc. Raina Dow of the 147th Finance Detachment dispersed more than \$1 million a month at Camp Taji to ensure successful transactions, including soldier pay.

▼ Soldiers off-load new humvees at Camp Adder, Iraq



## Maj. Jake Kulzer

Minnesota's "Adopt a Highway" program has helped secure major roads in southern Iraq.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division is using the Minnesota model to maintain the highways through parts of southern Iraq.

Maj. Jake Kulzer has established the Civilian Transportation Improvement Team, which employs local Iraqis to protect and clear highways through their land. The 1-34th BCT provides convoy security for roads from Easra northward to Nasiriyah.

"This is a much more effective method of securing the roads," said Maj. Kulzer, adding that other units throughout the country have also begun to adopt the program.

## 1st Brigade Combat Team



~ Soldiers of Excellence ~

September

October

November

December





# Excellence in Reintegration



## ~ Soldiers of Excellence ~

### Joint Force Headquarters

#### Col. Kevin Gerdes

*The reintegration of Soldiers and Airmen as they return to civilian life after deployment is of paramount importance to the Minnesota National Guard. The organization has been extremely outgoing with communities to help civilians understand how they can take their support for their Guard Soldiers "Beyond The Yellow Ribbon" when it comes to reintegration into the community.*

*"I struggled with getting back into a routine at work," said Col. Kevin Gerdes. "My hardest challenge with reintegration was finding meaning again in the daily work."*

*Col. Gerdes and many others in the organization have been working with communities all over the state to create an awareness of the challenges Soldiers and Airmen face as they re-enter society after deployment.*

“The road home from war is longer, steeper, and often more challenging than the road to war for most soldiers and their families. After the joyful, long anticipated reunions there is a difficult period of transition, readjustment, and hard work ahead for every soldier and his or her family.”

--Chaplain Maj. John Morris  
Deputy State Chaplain  
Minnesota Army National Guard

## Beyond The Yellow Ribbon

In 2006, more than 2,900 volunteer Citizen Soldiers and Airmen served overseas and the Minnesota National Guard has taken significant steps to train and resource every Minnesota Soldier and his/her family for a safe, healthy and successful reintegration into family, community, school and job following return from active duty.

Eleven Family Assistance Centers are located around the state to effectively respond to the needs of families during deployment and upon the return from active duty. A full-time Chaplain and support teams are available to focus specifically on the challenges of deployment, such as combat stress and marriage enrichment.

To ensure that Minnesota is a combat-veteran-friendly state, the Governor created a Military and Veterans Support Cabinet to focus on assisting returning Minnesota veterans. On September 21, the Governor held a summit to bring together veterans' service providers, state agencies, families and veterans groups to support our returning Soldiers.

### Minnesota: An Innovative Approach to Reintegration

The Minnesota National Guard has pioneered a program called "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" to change how Soldiers and Airmen reintegrate back to their communities.

On Sept. 27, 2006 Sen. Mark Dayton secured \$3 million for the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program. With the \$3 million that will support the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, a Reintegration Academy brings together all the professional services available for Soldiers returning from the deployment to Iraq with the First Brigade Combat Team. A concentrated effort for the First Brigade Combat Team was required because of the large number of Soldiers and families involved – 2,600 from Minnesota alone.

The reintegration training starts the day Soldiers return with a welcome back by their unit, chain of command, families and community.

Reintegration training continues the first two days after their arrival with a series of training seminars about returning to civilian life and readjusting with family and continues at the 30<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> day after the unit's return.

This program is not only for Minnesota National Guardsmen but for all service members and their families from the various states supporting the 1st Brigade Combat Team.





Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team bow their heads and say a prayer of thanks, during their Thanksgiving meal Nov. 23, 2006 in Iraq.

## Minnesota National Guard Facilities

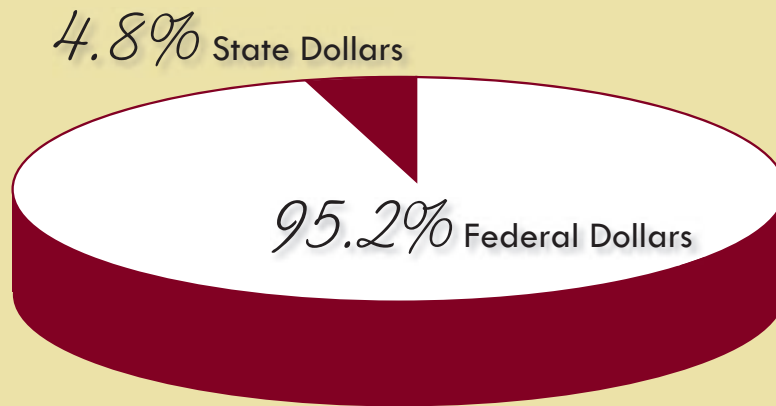


**63 training areas** add value to each community by providing armories, airbases, and training areas to train nearly 13,000 Soldiers and Airmen from around the state. Armories host a variety of community events — from ceremonies to wedding receptions — the doors are open to serve the community 365 days a year.





# Fiscal Year 2006 Budget



## Federal Expenditures

Army National Guard	\$165,246,086
Air National Guard	149,006,460
*Other Army Expenditures	2,753,975
<hr/>	
Total Federal Expenditures	\$317,006,521

## State Expenditures

Headquarters Operations	\$1,718,000
Enlistment Incentives	7,892,000
Army National Guard	4,367,000
Air National Guard	856,550
State Active Duty	528,000
<hr/>	
Total State Expenditures	\$15,361,550

**Total Expenditures**      \$332,368,071

\* Dollars disbursed at Army Guard Training and Community Centers across the state



# Economic Impact

Community Unit name * Units with troops activated in 2006	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
<b>Albert Lea</b> Company D, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry	<b>27A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>\$611,691</b>	<b>\$ 66,456</b>
<b>Alexandria</b> Company A, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>11A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>\$145,263</b>	<b>\$800,752</b>
<b>Anoka</b> Battery E, 151st Field Artillery (Target Acquisition) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	<b>48B</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$983,672</b>	<b>\$46,016</b>
<b>Appleton</b> Organizational Maintenance Shop #7 175th Forward Support Company	<b>20A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$803,207</b>	<b>\$1,033,264</b>
<b>Austin</b> Company F, 334th Brigade Support Battalion	<b>27B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$337,399</b>	<b>\$25,079</b>
<b>Bemidji</b> Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Bemidji Family Assistance Center	<b>04A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>\$173,722</b>	<b>\$31,593</b>
<b>Bloomington</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division Company A, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division	<b>40B</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>\$2,794,443</b>	<b>\$87,796</b>
<b>Brainerd</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>12A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>\$959,337</b>	<b>\$164,244</b>
<b>Brooklyn Park</b> Company A, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Brooklyn Park Family Assistance Center	<b>47B</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>\$549,766</b>	<b>\$206,270</b>
<b>Cambridge</b> 850th Horizontal Engineer Company	<b>17A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>\$1,139,914</b>	<b>\$9,482</b>
<b>Chisholm</b> Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance	<b>05B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$120,929</b>	<b>\$16,574</b>
<b>Cloquet</b> Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division Organizational Maintenance Shop 13 Annex	<b>08A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>\$890,656</b>	<b>\$44,963</b>
<b>Cottage Grove</b> Company C, 134th Brigade Support Battalion 204th Area Support Medical Company	<b>57A</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>\$960,813</b>	<b>\$48,883</b>
<b>Crookston</b> Company B, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry	<b>01B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$166,322</b>	<b>\$56,257</b>





# Economic Impact

Community Unit name * Units with troops activated in 2006	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
<b>Detroit Lakes</b> Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Organizational Maintenance Shop #5	<b>09B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$366,129</b>	<b>\$39,567</b>
<b>Duluth</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance Company D, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Duluth Family Assistance Center	<b>06B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>\$2,952,730</b>	<b>\$61,800</b>
<b>Duluth (Air National Guard Base)</b> 148th Fighter Wing	<b>06B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>\$80,890,020</b>	<b>\$412,850</b>
<b>East St. Paul</b> Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>67A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$422,132</b>	<b>\$40,961</b>
<b>Fairmont</b> Battery B, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	<b>24A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$192,985</b>	<b>\$36,727</b>
<b>Faribault</b> Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division	<b>26B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$135,742</b>	<b>\$34,319</b>
<b>Fergus Falls</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry	<b>10A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$316,835</b>	<b>\$27,188</b>
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry	<b>03B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$276,538</b>	<b>\$30,502</b>
<b>Hastings</b> Company A, 834th Aviation Support Battalion Company C, 834th Aviation Support Battalion	<b>36B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$488,227</b>	<b>\$49,477</b>
<b>Hibbing</b> Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance Organizational Maintenance Shop #13	<b>05B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$798,556</b>	<b>\$32,879</b>
<b>Hutchinson</b> Company E, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>18A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>\$295,085</b>	<b>\$52,765</b>
<b>Inver Grove Heights</b> 34th Infantry Division Tactical Command Post Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division	<b>39B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>\$1,725,836</b>	<b>\$81,575</b>

Community Unit name * Units with troops activated in 2006	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
<b>Jackson</b> Battery B, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	<b>22B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>\$103,565</b>	<b>\$29,929</b>
<b>Litchfield</b> 849th Mobility Augmentation Company	<b>18B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>\$140,583</b>	<b>\$23,742</b>
<b>Little Falls (Camp Ripley)</b> Joint Force Headquarters Training Center Support Unit Headquarters, 175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) 1st Battalion, 175th Training Regiment (Officer Candidate School) 2nd Battalion, 175th Training Regiment (General Studies) Regional Training Site Maintenance Chaplain Support Team, 47th Chaplain Detachment 851st Vertical Engineer Company Company G, 147th Air Traffic Service Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Company B, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Company E, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Company F, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Organizational Maintenance Shop #14 Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES)	<b>12B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>\$41,384,018</b>	<b>\$521,174</b>
<b>Long Prairie</b> Company E, 134th Brigade Support Battalion	<b>11B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$242,490</b>	<b>\$25,362</b>
<b>Luverne</b> Battery A, 1st Battalion, 125th Artillery	<b>22A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$263,333</b>	<b>\$22,844</b>
<b>Madison</b> Battery B, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	<b>20A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$469,915</b>	<b>\$49,942</b>
<b>Mankato</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Mankato Family Assistance Center	<b>23B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>\$1,646,954</b>	<b>\$83,327</b>
<b>Marshall</b> Battery A, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Marshall Family Assistance Center	<b>21A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>\$741,646</b>	<b>\$47,989</b>
<b>Minneapolis</b> 84th Troop Command 434th Chemical Company	<b>59A</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>\$363,341</b>	<b>\$88,079</b>
<b>Minneapolis/St. Paul (Air National Guard)</b> 133rd Airlift Wing 55th Civil Support Team	<b>63B</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>\$68,116,440</b>	<b>\$443,700</b>





# Economic Impact

Community Unit name * Units with troops activated in 2006	Legislative District	Congressional District	Assigned Personnel	Federal Pay and Expenditures	State Pay and Expenditures
<b>Montevideo</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	<b>20B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>\$3,474,816</b>	<b>\$102,584</b>
<b>Monticello</b> 257th Military Police Company	<b>19A</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>\$890,186</b>	<b>\$ 815</b>
<b>Moorhead</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Company B, Brigade Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division Moorhead Family Assistance Center	<b>09A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>\$760,721</b>	<b>\$90,764</b>
<b>Morris</b> Battery C, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	<b>11A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$361,886</b>	<b>\$50,757</b>
<b>New Brighton</b> Organizational Maintenance Shop #3 Organizational Maintenance Shop #8	<b>50B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$1,273,939</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>New Ulm</b> Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Organizational Maintenance Shop #6 New Ulm Family Assistance Center	<b>21B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$680,357</b>	<b>\$46,512</b>
<b>Northfield</b> 434th Chemical Company	<b>25B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$448,529</b>	<b>\$72,561</b>
<b>Olivia</b> Battery B, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	<b>20B</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$87,357</b>	<b>\$19,007</b>
<b>Ortonville</b> Battery C, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery	<b>20A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$116,187</b>	<b>\$806,064</b>
<b>Owatonna</b> Company C, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry	<b>26A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$201,141</b>	<b>\$33,412</b>
<b>Pine City</b> Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance	<b>08B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$452,391</b>	<b>\$36,218</b>
<b>Pipestone</b> Battery A, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery	<b>22A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$301,367</b>	<b>\$17,093</b>
<b>Red Wing</b> 434th Chemical Company	<b>28A</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$128,773</b>	<b>\$33,409</b>

<b>Community</b> Unit name <small>* Units with troops activated in 2006</small>	<b>Legislative District</b>	<b>Congressional District</b>	<b>Assigned Personnel</b>	<b>Federal Pay and Expenditures</b>	<b>State Pay and Expenditures</b>
<b>Redwood Falls</b> Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry	<b>21A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$427,221</b>	<b>\$24,113</b>
<b>Rochester</b> Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Organizational Maintenance Shop #2	<b>30A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>\$1,117,247</b>	<b>\$115,102</b>
<b>Rosemount</b> Main Command Post, 34th Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division 34th Infantry Division Band Organizational Maintenance Shop #1 Rosemount Family Assistance Center	<b>37B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>\$10,367,301</b>	<b>\$351,632</b>
<b>Roseville</b> 347th Regional Support Group 147th Finance Battalion 147th Personnel Service Battalion 247th Finance Detachment 347th Personnel Services Detachment Recruiting and Retention Battalion	<b>54A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>\$6,974,204</b>	<b>\$296,356</b>
<b>Sauk Centre</b> Company C, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>13A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>\$132,658</b>	<b>\$24,035</b>
<b>St. Cloud</b> Company F, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Company D, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor	<b>15B</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>\$1,066,227</b>	<b>\$51,702</b>
<b>St. James</b> Company G, 134th Brigade Support Battalion	<b>24A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>\$163,418</b>	<b>\$28,767</b>
<b>St. Paul</b> Veterans Service Building Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Cedar Street Armory Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Medical Detachment 34th Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarters Service Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion Company A, 834th Aviation Support Battalion Company B, 834th Aviation Support Battalion Homeland Security Office Watch Office	<b>65B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>\$66,080,188</b>	<b>\$533,149</b>





# Economic Impact

## Community

Unit name

\* Units with troops activated in 2006

Legislative  
District

Congressional  
District

Assigned  
Personnel

Federal Pay and  
Expenditures

State Pay and  
Expenditures

### St. Paul (cont.)

#### Army Aviation Support Facility

Detachment 39, Operational Support Airlift Command  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation  
Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation  
Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation  
Company D, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation  
Company E, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 147th Aviation  
Company A, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 147th Aviation  
Company D, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 147th Aviation  
Company E, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 147th Aviation

#### St. Peter

23A

1

198

\$307,245

\$30,978

Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery  
Company G, 134th Brigade Support Battalion

#### Stillwater

56A

6

452

\$1,815,626

\$65,658

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division  
Organizational Maintenance Shop 4

#### Thief River Falls

01A

7

34

\$211,018

\$23,259

Company B, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry

#### Wadena

10B

8

53

\$134,810

\$22,792

Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry

#### West St. Paul

39A

4

324

\$900,838

\$23,358

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry

#### Willmar

13B

7

180

\$2,138,610

\$37,702

Headquarters Service Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion  
Forward Support Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion  
Organizational Maintenance Shop #4

#### Winona

31A

1

149

\$270,053

\$41,850

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry

Maj. Gen. Shellito led a group walking down the Ziggurat of Ur near LSA Adder, Iraq. The Ziggurat is one of the oldest structures in existence.

## **The Way Ahead – The Minnesota National Guard's Next 150 Years of Excellence**

### **Our Priorities for Progress**

#### **1. The Return of our Soldiers and Airmen from Combat**

This year your Guard will welcome home more than three thousand Soldiers and Airmen from Iraq and Afghanistan. In conjunction with other State agencies, we will execute Minnesota's newly-established Reintegration Program for more than 2,600 Soldiers from the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team returning from Iraq in March and April 2007. This program has been partially funded by Congress to establish a model for use by other states and within the DoD. During the same time period, both of our Air National Guard Wings will deploy and return, demonstrating the depth of our commitment to the Global War on Terror, and bringing additional demands on the time, support, and patience of our warriors, their families and employers, and our citizens.

#### **2. Growing the Guard**

This year we will continue our ten-year trend of growth by recruiting and retaining Soldiers and Airmen, reflecting the spirit of service resident in the hearts of our citizens and the perceived value of our organization. This growth will result in enhancing our ability to meet the requirements of our Communities, State and Nation.

#### **3. Construction of Critical Infrastructure and Facilities**

As a result of our past successes and many years of work in the Military Construction process, 2007 will bring the ground-breaking of a new Army Aviation Support Facility in Saint Cloud, completion of an Aircraft Maintenance Complex at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, and completion of the Fire Station at the Duluth International Airport. These projects will serve as economic engines for those communities and will support continued National Guard Operations at those sites for generations.

#### **4. Continued Support of the Global War on Terrorism**

Support to our Federal mission executing the Global War on Terrorism will continue throughout the coming years. We expect to continue to deploy units of the Minnesota National Guard in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as other missions world-wide. We will continue to support the defense of the Continental United States in execution of Air Defense Alert taskings under Operation Noble Eagle by the 148th Fighter Wing. In addition to the ongoing requirements to mobilize and deploy, your Guard will begin the organization of its newly approved Chemical-Biological-Nuclear High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Readiness Force Package. This newly organized unit will provide search, extraction, medical triage, treatment and decontamination support to augment the capabilities of local authorities in crisis scenarios including terrorist attack and natural disaster.

#### **5. The Guard's International Outreach**

In 2007 we will continue to work with our Partner Nations (Norway, Croatia and Canada) to enhance our relationships and work toward common objectives, particularly in support of Croatia's aspirations toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Our State Partnership program with Croatia will begin to shift focus from military-to-military events to more emphasis on civilian-to-civilian events.





# Honoring Our Fallen Troops



**Staff Sgt. Joshua R. Hanson**

Age 27

Hometown: Dent, Minnesota

A Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion,  
136th Infantry

Killed August 30, 2006 while serving in  
Khalidiyah, Iraq



**Sgt. Brent W. Koch**

Age 22

Hometown: Morgan, Minnesota

E Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion,  
136th Infantry

Killed June 16, 2006 while serving in  
Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq



**Sgt. Bryan T. McDonough**

Age 22

Hometown: Maplewood, Minnesota

B Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion,  
136th Infantry

Killed Dec. 2nd, 2006 while serving  
in Fallujah, Iraq



**Sgt. Kyle R. Miller**

Age 19

Hometown: Willmar, Minnesota

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,  
1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery

Killed July 29, 2006 while serving in  
Balad, Iraq



**Sgt. Corey J. Rystad**

Age 20

Hometown: Red Lake Falls, Minnesota

B Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion,  
136th Infantry

Killed Dec. 2nd, 2006 while serving in  
Fallujah, Iraq



**Sgt. Nicholas D. Turcotte**

Age 23

Hometown: Maple Grove, Minnesota

A Co., 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry

Killed Dec. 4th, 2006 while serving  
near Al Nasiriya, Iraq