



# MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



# LOCAL UNITS ~ GLOBAL IMPACT

## FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



Gov. Tim Pawlenty



Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito  
(left), with Gen. Craig R.  
McKinley, Chief of  
the National Guard Bureau



### To the Citizens of Minnesota:

Your Minnesota National Guard continued its tradition of excellence for the nation, the state of Minnesota and its communities in 2009.

Since September 11, 2001, the Minnesota National Guard has deployed more than 19,000 Soldiers and Airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of our continuing federal missions. Your Soldiers and Airmen have performed magnificently on all fronts and have been recognized by senior government and military officials for their deeds and actions. On the homefront, we continue to care for our Servicemembers, their families and communities through our innovative *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* program. The success of this program has led it to become a national model.

The Minnesota National Guard has continued unprecedented growth with another outstanding recruiting year. For the first time in history, the Minnesota National Guard had a waiting list to join our ranks.

We have continued to enhance our capabilities to support our federal and state missions by building new facilities at Camp Ripley and St. Cloud, upgrading facilities around the state and fielding new vehicles and equipment. The Minnesota National Guard is among the best equipped in the nation.

In 2009, the Minnesota National Guard performed superbly all three of our missions. For our federal mission, we currently have 2,200 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operational Iraqi Freedom. For our state and community mission, the Minnesota National Guard fought back the flood waters of the Red River, assisted local authorities with search and rescue, civil support, counterdrug and forest fire suppression. As always, we stand ready to assist civil authorities throughout the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota National Guard has continued to foster an operational and training relationship with the countries of Canada, Croatia and Norway. Troop exchanges, mentoring training teams, and specialized aviation training exchanges have improved these relationships and the operational capabilities of our Allies.

Your National Guard has faced the challenges of 2009 head-on and have succeeded in all areas beyond expectation.

2010 promises to be another challenging year for the Minnesota National Guard. We will continue to prepare for deployments in support of federal missions while maintaining our ability to respond to natural disasters and civilian emergencies within Minnesota.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard stand ready to execute every mission asked of them. They know what is at stake should they fail. They have not and will not let their fellow citizens down. You have my word.

Thank you for your continued support of the Minnesota National Guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry W. Shellito".

Larry W. Shellito  
Major General, Minnesota Army National Guard  
The Adjutant General



# PRIORITIES FOR 2010

## 1. The New Normal

Since September 11, 2001, the National Guard has changed from being a strategic-reserve to a part of the nation's operational force. During this era of conflict and constant mobilization, or our "New Normal," we must improve our deployment and redeployment processes to ensure that our military capability can fully support our mission, at home and abroad.

To thrive in this New Normal, we must change our paradigm from a "single use" organization to revitalizing our forces as they recover from and prepare for multiple deployments during this conflict. This is not a one-time adjustment, but will instead require continuous assessment of the strategic and operational environments with adjustments to procedures and processes.

## 2. Minnesota's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen

We will sustain our strength by continuing to recruit and retain qualified Soldiers and Airmen. We know that during this period of constant mobilization, a 100% assigned strength posture is not sufficient and that we must sustain our assigned strength above our authorization.

To accomplish this we must engage and invest in our Soldiers and Airmen by instituting programs that enhance health and well being. This will promote personal lifetime development, and enhance the quality of life of our entire workforce as well as their families, employers and communities.

## 3. Our Three Missions: Federal, State, Community

Our federal mission will require the continued mobilizing of our forces to support and defend the nation through Air Sovereignty and Homeland Defense missions. To optimize our state mission, we will strengthen our relationships with state and local agencies that enable state-wide emergency preparedness. To enhance the effectiveness of our community mission we will engage community leaders and citizen groups to add value to our communities and to involve these critical partners in our success.

As the demands for our Soldiers and Airmen continue, we must balance mission requirements with our ability to provide the right resources—the right forces with the right equipment—to successfully conduct ongoing, multiple operations. We must maintain the readiness of our units and personnel so that we can simultaneously support full-spectrum operations within each of our three mission areas—federal, state and community.

## 4. International Engagement

Our nation is dependent on bi-lateral and multi-national responses to threats. To support these national imperatives, we will continue to strengthen the enduring relationships we have with Norway, Croatia, and Canada. Our affiliation with these countries will go beyond military-to-military operations to the development of greater civilian-to-civilian collaboration.

To further America's interests and increase our international footprint, we will pursue opportunities in accordance with the combatant command guidance. To strengthen the capability of our Soldiers and Airmen to serve successfully in a variety of operations, we must increase our participation in joint, multi-agency and multi-national exercises.

## 5. Enhancing Capabilities

In this era of uncertainty, we will continue to lay the groundwork for our future success. Our future planning must maximize our strengths and opportunities to enhance overall performance in areas that ultimately enhance our effectiveness in combat and domestic operations. As we plan for the future, we must ensure that we maintain a statewide presence and that our infrastructure meets the requirements of our Soldiers and Airmen.

We will retain the most modern of our force structure that has enabled our current success while aggressively pursuing the acquisition of emerging structure and equipment that leverages new technology and future operational warfighting concepts. We will enhance our capabilities and ensure the future success of Camp Ripley, the Arden Hills Army Training Site and the airbases in Duluth and the Twin Cities.



“ HISTORY DOES NOT LONG ENTRUST  
THE CARE OF FREEDOM  
TO THE WEAK OR THE TIMID. ”

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



Spc. George W. Cauley,  
age 24, of Walker.



Spc. Daniel P. Drevnick,  
age 22, of Woodbury.



Spc. James D. Wertish,  
age 20, of Olivia.



Spc. Carlos E. Wilcox IV,  
age 27, of Cottage Grove.

Spc. Cauley was assigned to the 114th Transportation Company. He died on October 10 at Bagram, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained from an Improvised Explosive Device attack on October 7.

Spc. Drevnick, Spc. Wertish, and Spc. Wilcox were assigned to the 34th Military Police Company of Stillwater. They died as a result of an indirect fire attack on July 16 at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq.

# LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

MINNESOTA'S STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKED TIRELESSLY IN SUPPORT OF MINNESOTA'S SERVICEMEMBERS, EMPLOYERS AND FAMILIES IN 2009.

## Federal Accomplishments:

- \$2 million in additional funding for the *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* program to provide support for Servicemembers and their families.
- \$1.6 million in funds to maintain counterdrug and drug demand reduction programs in Minnesota.
- \$1.9 million for STARBASE facility expansion that will enable the existing facility at the 133rd Airlift Wing to provide an exceptional classroom experience for this high-demand program for inner city at-risk youth.
- \$800,000 for upgraded observation pods for Minnesota National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. These pods provide the National Guard with infrared capabilities for responding to emergencies in all weather, day or night.
- \$1.88 million in funding for Joint Communications Platforms to provide increased awareness and facilitate more active and efficient communication between military and civilian agencies during responses to floods or other domestic emergencies.



Sen. Amy Klobuchar is interviewed by the Minnesota National Guard Historian at the State Capitol during a ceremony honoring Minnesota's Vietnam veterans.



Upon taking office, one of Sen. Al Franken's first actions was to join the Senate National Guard Caucus, a group dedicated to supporting the National Guard.

## State Accomplishments:

- All military pay, except Active Guard and Reserve, is exempt from state taxes beginning on January 1, 2009.
- Veterans eligible for military retirement pay receive up to \$750 tax credit if their Adjusted Gross Income is \$30,000 or less. The credit phases out at \$37,500.
- Established a program of Post-Deployment Health Assessments to review the health and wellness of National Guard Soldiers returning from deployment between 6 to 12 months following their return.
- Minnesota National Guard authorized to accept and compensate for travel expenses incurred during volunteer service.
- Legislation was adopted to extend arbitration rules for Veterans to public teaching positions.
- Previously enacted state hiring preference for Veterans was extended to include the top five qualified candidates for positions with the state.
- State Tuition Reimbursement program was increased from its previous level by an additional \$3 million in funding to assist National Guard members in paying for higher education.



Rep. Tim Walz (1st District) speaks to 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery for the awarding of the Meritorious Unit Commendation.



Rep. John Kline (2nd District) speaks at the State Capitol at a ceremony honoring Minnesota's Vietnam veterans.



Rep. Erik Paulsen (3rd District) visits with Minnesota Servicemembers, including Soldiers of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, while in Iraq.



Rep. Betty McCollum (4th District) with members of the Serving Our Troops volunteer support initiative in Washington, D.C.



Rep. Keith Ellison (5th District) speaks to 8,000 Minnesota National Guard families in St. Paul during a Serving Our Troops event.



Rep. Michele Bachmann (6th District) sends a video message to Minnesota Soldiers overseas and their families in St. Paul during the Serving Our Troops event.



Rep. Collin Peterson (7th District) attends a deployment ceremony for 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery in Marshall.



Rep. Jim Oberstar (8th District) entrusts a Minnesota state flag to Lt. Col. Scott Chambers, 148th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron Commander, in Duluth.

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

## LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

The 63 training facilities located across the state shorten response time in the event of a state emergency and keep the force of nearly 14,000 trained and ready to serve.

The facilities add value to their communities by hosting events such as conventions, exhibitions, art shows, wedding receptions, sporting competitions, job fairs, and toy drops. The doors are open to the community 365 days a year.



	Districts		Pay and Expenditures	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Albert Lea	1	27A	\$671,236	\$70,019
Alexandria	7	11A	\$862,295	\$63,790
Anoka	6	48B	\$1,922,138	\$69,922
Appleton	7	20A	\$1,609,932	\$43,622
Austin	1	27B	\$734,248	\$58,309
Bemidji	7	04A	\$596,745	\$49,260
Bloomington	3	40B	\$6,159,871	\$162,167
Brainerd	8	12A	\$1,644,773	\$68,090
Brooklyn Park	3	47B	\$1,277,110	\$105,629
Cambridge	8	17A	\$1,445,867	\$6,014
Chisholm	8	05B	\$113,090	\$60,968
Cloquet	8	08A	\$999,651	\$60,339
Cottage Grove	2	57A	\$2,584,577	\$146,358
Crookston	7	01B	\$427,512	\$128,483
Detroit Lakes	7	09B	\$1,296,951	\$34,656



	Districts		Pay and Expenditures			Districts		Pay and Expenditures	
	Federal	State	Federal	State		Federal	State	Federal	State
Duluth	8	06B	\$6,113,166	\$118,073	New Brighton	4	50B	\$3,308,939	\$0
Duluth (Air Base)	8	06B	\$75,892,502	\$437,401	New Ulm	1	21B	\$1,910,482	\$146,161
East St. Paul	4	67A	\$1,658,165	\$1,027,584	Northfield	2	25B	\$535,824	\$298,548
Fairmont	1	24A	\$383,168	\$910,462	Olivia	7	20B	\$231,936	\$145,644
Faribault	2	26B	\$141,160	\$29,573	Ortonville	7	20A	\$108,242	\$82,184
Fergus Falls	7	10A	\$573,389	\$27,194	Owatonna	1	26A	\$160,933	\$60,915
Grand Rapids	8	03B	\$493,680	\$52,444	Pine City	8	08B	\$648,180	\$56,199
Hastings	2	57B	\$268,964	\$39,354	Pipestone	1	22A	\$427,656	\$55,925
Hibbing	8	05B	\$1,245,170	\$57,681	Red Wing	2	28A	\$307,303	\$42,712
Hutchinson	7	18A	\$703,266	\$55,807	Redwood Falls	7	21A	\$548,428	\$584,050
Inver Grove Heights	2	39B	\$3,759,820	\$129,536	Rochester	1	30A	\$1,623,270	\$89,256
Jackson	1	22B	\$375,705	\$43,474	Rosemount	2	37B	\$15,387,714	\$186,372
Litchfield	7	18B	\$964,856	\$39,524	Roseville	4	54A	\$6,516,823	\$163,137
Little Falls (Camp Ripley)	8	12B	\$37,251,533	\$201,133	Sauk Centre	7	13A	\$817,224	\$134,325
Long Prairie	7	11B	\$352,731	\$33,447	St. Cloud	6	15B	\$2,896,200	\$375,097
Luverne	1	22A	\$411,845	\$55,308	St. James	1	24A	\$329,055	\$707,756
Madison	7	20A	\$590,457	\$56,138	St. Paul (Cedar St.)	4	65B	\$109,619,643	\$293,234
Mankato	1	23B	\$1,839,642	\$123,756	St. Peter	1	23A	\$490,503	\$62,195
Marshall	7	21A	\$995,288	\$82,153	Stillwater	6	56A	\$1,334,682	\$76,351
Minneapolis	5	59A	\$1,105,501	\$120,125	Thief River Falls	7	01A	\$565,013	\$45,512
Mpls/St. Paul (Air Base)	5	63B	\$59,472,536	\$494,623	Wadena	7/8	10B	\$636,043	\$64,703
Montevideo	7	20B	\$1,452,901	\$295,125	West St. Paul	4	39A	\$1,443,203	\$26,270
Monticello	6	19A	\$1,694,116	2,070	Willmar	7	13B	\$2,444,919	\$80,441
Moorhead	7	09A	\$1,921,994	\$170,422	Winona	1	31A	\$628,456	\$37,719
Morris	7	11A	\$536,237	\$225,297					

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD CONTINUES  
TO RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

## THE RAYTHEON TROPHY 179TH FIGHTER SQUADRON



▲ Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, poses at the Raytheon Trophy Dec. 11 with Senior Master Sgt. Tony Beatrez and Staff Sgt. Kirk Suonvieri.

For its Air Superiority accomplishments in 2008, the 179th Fighter Squadron, 148th Fighter Wing was awarded the Air Force Raytheon Trophy in April 2009. The Trophy is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit.

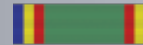
The 179th was chosen based on its performance in air defense or air superiority missions, exercise participation, inspection results as well as squadron and individual accomplishments. This is only the fourth time an Air National Guard unit has received the award and only the second time an F-16 unit took the honor since inception of the award in 1953.

## VALOROUS UNIT AWARD 257TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY



In May, the 257th Military Police Company was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for their actions against a hostile enemy during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2004. The 257th was then deployed as D Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery.

## NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION 2ND COMBINED ARMS BATTALION, 136TH INFANTRY



For the first time, the Secretary of the Navy awarded a Minnesota National Guard unit the Navy Unit Commendation. The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry received the award for its exceptional service as a member of I Marine Expeditionary Force in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, during the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division deployment in 2005-2007.

## MERITORIOUS UNITS:

834TH AVIATION SUPPORT BATTALION  
1-125 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
2ND COMBINED ARMS BATTALION, 136TH INFANTRY



The 834th Aviation Support Battalion for its flexibility in supporting two task forces simultaneously during its deployment to Iraq with the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, 2008-2009.

The 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery and the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry for their superior performance during the 22-month deployment as part of the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, 2005-2007.





## CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Camp Ripley was awarded, for the third time, the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award. Camp Ripley was chosen for its dedication to management that preserves the post's diversity for future generations and supports the Army's goal of sustaining the mission, the environment, and the community.

◀ Vice President Joe Biden congratulates Col. Richard Weaver and Brig. Gen. Joe Kelly in Washington on June 3 during the Guard's acceptance of the Secretary of Defense Award.



## THE GUARD'S TOP CADET

◀ 2nd Lt. Laura Grun of the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade was ranked second out of 4,000 cadets by the U.S. Army's Cadet Command in 2009. Grun was commissioned in May and plans to fly UH-60 Black Hawks once she completes flight school.

## FUNERAL HONORS AWARD



The Minnesota Honor Guard team was the winner in the annual Army National Guard's Honor Guard competition. The team was chosen from 35 entries and judged by members of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

## ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

In 2009 the Minnesota National Guard finished as a finalist in the Army's Communities of Excellence Program competition. Organizations are chosen in accordance with the Malcolm Baldrige Award criteria for performance excellence.



## HOCKEY DAY MINNESOTA AIR GUARD 4, ARMY GUARD 2

The Minnesota National Guard connects Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen to a statewide passion, brings home another Emmy



The Minnesota Army and Air National Guard gathered at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Jan. 17, 2009 for a friendly hockey competition. The match was featured on Fox Sports North during a special "Hockey Day Minnesota" broadcast of a Minnesota Wild ice hockey game. Families were able to connect via video satellite to their deployed Soldier or Airman, and the public texted more than 2,600 messages of support throughout the broadcast.

More than 200 Minnesota Guardsmen gathered for a special "Hockey Day Minnesota" event during their deployment. The effort resulted in a regional Emmy Award for the Minnesota National Guard, Fox Sports North and the Minnesota Wild. This is the second Emmy awarded to the Minnesota National Guard in the last three years.



# STATE MISSION

## FLOOD FIGHT 2009

**O**n March 21, 2009, under the direction of Governor Tim Pawlenty, the Minnesota National Guard was deployed to the Red River Valley to assist residents and local authorities with flood fighting efforts.



◀ Near Lake LaMoure, N.D., a Minnesota National Guard CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter emplaces 2,600-lb concrete mats into the shoreline of an emergency spillway to alleviate erosion.

▲ A Minnesota National Guard CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter drops a 4,000-lb yellow cement block onto the ice to break up ice jams on the Red River, north of Grand Forks.



*The river crested March 28 at Fargo at almost 41 feet, and again at 34 feet April 16.*

**P**rior to the initial crest, 450 Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers from the Moorhead-based 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry were activated. As flood waters continued to rise, additional Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were sent to the region.

### UNITS MOBILIZED DURING FLOOD FIGHT 2009:

- Moorhead-based 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry
- Litchfield-based 849th Mobility Augmentation Company
- St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade
- Willmar-based 682nd Engineer Battalion
- Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry
- Cambridge-based 850th Horizontal Engineer Company
- Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing
- Minneapolis-based 133rd Airlift Wing





At the height of the effort, more than 750 Minnesota Soldiers and Airmen were conducting flood fight operations in the Red River Valley.



▲ Sgt. Todd Drake of E Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, helps unload sandbags in Moorhead.

▼ Staff Sgt. Robin Mattson of A Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, speaks with a Fargo-Moorhead resident.



▲ Spc. Scott Nielson (left) and Spc. Dan Francis, both of A Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, adjust a pump to battle a breach in a sandbag wall.

## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD EQUIPMENT USED DURING FLOOD FIGHT 2009:

- 6 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters
- 4 CH-47 Chinook helicopters
- 2 Joint Communications Platforms trailers
- 2 Forklifts
- 28 Generators
- 175 Military Vehicles



▲ Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Bonebrake of the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company loads a 5-ton dump truck with sandbags for a mission in North Dakota.



▲ As part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, Spc. Nicole Gilson is activated in April with her company, the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company, for operations in North Dakota.

On April 13, about 300 additional Minnesota National Guard personnel were activated and sent to North Dakota. This time, the Guard Soldiers were requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). An EMAC request is arranged through each state's emergency management agency.

EMAC is designed to allow disaster-impacted states the ability to request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently. The flood was the first time that the Minnesota National Guard deployed to North Dakota under the compact.

*Flood Fight 2009 tested the communities of the Red River Valley. As the river rose to the foot of doorsteps, the Minnesota National Guard did what we do best — we stood alongside our neighbors and fought back the flood.*



# STATE MISSION

IN ADDITION TO NATURAL DISASTERS, THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD HAS THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO ASSIST WITH NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER STATE MISSIONS.

## ON-SITE SUPPORT FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

**P**resident Barack Obama greets members of the 133rd Airlift Wing and other visitors to the base during a stop in the Twin Cities on Sept. 12. The 133rd Airlift Wing provided logistical support for Air Force One during the visit.



## QRF SUPPORT FOR INAUGURATION



**M**ore than 350 Soldiers from the 1-194 CAB were mobilized and deployed to Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in support of the 44th Presidential Inauguration in January. The 1-194 CAB trained at Fort A.P. Hill as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on standby for the Capitol Region.

◀ Soldiers from the 1-194 CAB conduct rehearsals aboard UH-60 Blackhawks at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

**I**n August, Soldiers from the Brainerd-based 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor (1-194 CAB) assisted the Cass County Sheriff's Department with the search of a missing Staples man.

A Cass County ▶ deputy briefs Sgt. 1st Class Martin Weber (center) and other Soldiers of the 1-194 CAB prior to a search. Above, pilots from the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion provide aerial reconnaissance.



## SECURITY SWEEP



▲ Sgt. Timothy Nordstrom of the 55th Civil Support Team checks for harmful gases during the book signing of Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska, at the Mall of America Dec. 7.

# STATE PARTNERSHIPS

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL  
GUARD STRENGTHENED  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS IN 2009.

## NORWAY

The Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard in February participated in the 36th Annual Troop Reciprocal Exchange. About 220 Soldiers from each nation participated in the 2009 exchange. The training operations in Norway were held at the Vaernes Training Facility and Camp Ripley in Minnesota.



The exchange began in 1974 and is the longest-running military exchange partnership between any two nations. The exchange promotes good will and sharpens military readiness between the nations, along with providing opportunities for cultural understanding among its participants.

## CANADA

In August, about 100 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers joined Canadian forces in Alberta for an exercise called Maple Defender.



This annual exercise is used by Canadians to replicate conditions in Afghanistan.

In November, 14 pilots from the Canadian Armed Forces trained for two weeks with Minnesota National Guard pilots from B Co., 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion. The pilots received advanced collective training on the CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters at the St. Cloud Army Aviation Support Facility with our combat-experienced Minnesota flight crews.



▲ The Operational Mentoring Liaison Team, made up of Croatian forces and members of the Minnesota National Guard, travels through a valley in the vicinity of Masir-e-Sharif in Afghanistan.

## CROATIA

The Minnesota Army National Guard has supported the Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) as an extension of the State Partnership Program on the development and fielding of the joint Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT). The team serves in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force providing support, training and mentorship to the

Afghan National Army (ANA) to increase the overall capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces in combat operations.

The Minnesota National Guard has a long-standing partnership with the Croatian Armed Forces allowing for a smooth transition into Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams. After successful completion of the first OMLT rotation, members of the second OMLT, consist-

ing of 13 Croatian and 12 Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers, are currently deployed to northern Afghanistan.

The OMLT task force trains and mentors an Afghan National Army Battalion or "Kandak" in all functional areas. The overall objective is to train the ANA so they are self-sustainable and have the ability to run independent operations without foreign military assistance.



# FEDERAL MISSION

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYED MORE THAN 3,500 SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN OVERSEAS IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL MISSIONS IN 2009.

## 133RD AIRLIFT WING



North of the Arctic Circle, loadmasters with the 133rd Airlift Wing load NASA's Mars Moon-1 rover onto a C-130 "Hercules" for transport in May.

## 34TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

While in support of 18th Airborne Corps, the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade flew more than 40,000 combat flight hours, commanded aviation units that spanned the Iraqi countryside from Mosul to Tallil, controlled assets worth \$1.1 billion dollars in military equipment, and returned the aviation brigade comprised of units from 11 different states to the U.S. in May 2009.



▲ The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Blackhawk begins a flight out of Baghdad International Airport.

## C CO, 2-211TH AIR AMBULANCE

*"We mobilized and did everything in about 38 hours."*

- Capt. Nathan Foster, pilot for C Co, 2-211, on his MEDEVAC team's April 1 order to report from Iraq to Afghanistan by April 2.



The Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment Air Ambulance (C Co, 2-211) served in Iraq and Afghanistan performing aero-medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and medical resupply missions. This was the first time a Minnesota Army National Guard unit received a change of mission to Afghanistan while already serving in Iraq. In Afghanistan, C Co, 2-211 personnel provided MEDEVAC in the Regional Command-South and -West from the Kandahar Airfield.



▲ Sgt. Jennifer Dittel of C Co, 2-211 treats an Afghan Soldier on a MEDEVAC helicopter.

C Co, 2-211 performed more than 300 MEDEVAC missions, providing lifesaving evacuation services to more than 500 patients while flying more than 1,700 flight hours with 12 medical evacuation helicopters.



## 114TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



The 114th Transportation Company (114th TC) provides convoy security and force protection for logistical supply convoys throughout Afghanistan. As the first Army transportation company headquartered at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck, the 114th TC directly supports U.S. Marine Corps operations. Most of the 114th TC convoys are cross country through rough terrain.

## 204TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL COMPANY



Stationed at Camp Bucca, Iraq, the 204th Area Support Medical Company is responsible for patient care to coalition forces and handles medical management, logistics and administration for southern Iraq.

## 1ST BATTALION, 151ST FIELD ARTILLERY



▲ The 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, based in Kuwait and using the MRAP vehicle, performs convoy security operations throughout Iraq.

The Convoy Escort Teams of the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery are the first Minnesota National Guard units to use Mine-Resistant, Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles to escort convoys. The MRAP provides increased security and protection.

Headquartered in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the unit provides Convoy Security and Force Protection for logistical supply convoys from Kuwait to Forward Operating Bases throughout Iraq. The unit departed in April for a one-year deployment.

## E BATTERY, 151ST FIELD ARTILLERY

In April, 82 Soldiers from the Anoka-based E Battery, 151st Field Artillery deployed to the Baghdad area to provide radar support to Multi-National Corps-Iraq. The unit is responsible for sensor management, logistical and maintenance support of 15 Corps radar teams providing counter fire support and sensory capabilities to bases in Iraq.



E Battery Soldiers maintain radar equipment in Iraq. ►

## 148TH FIGHTER WING

The 148th Fighter Wing deployed 12 aircraft and 244 personnel to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, well as Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System coverage. Additionally, the wing deployed to Nellis Air Force Base to provide adversarial support for the F-22 and F-15 Fighter Weapons School.



# FEDERAL MISSION

## THE 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

*From May 2009 to present, the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provided command and control of military forces in the southern third of Iraq.*

Headquartered at Contingency Operating Base Basra, the Red Bulls completed their mission during a critical period of Iraq's history by accomplishing three major objectives: First, ensuring that Iraqi Security Forces could protect their population and borders in southern Iraq; next, the Red Bulls assisted the Government of Iraq in developing civil capacity and economic well-being; and finally, the 34th Division set the conditions for a successful drawdown of U.S. forces in their area of responsibility.



▲ 34th Infantry Division Soldiers apply their civilian-acquired skills to improve Iraqi civil capacity.

Soldiers of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division recognized that they were on the edge of a great success during a historic period for Iraq.

More than 1,200 Citizen Soldiers representing 273 Minnesota Communities and 14 states deployed with the Red Bulls. Four hometown Minnesota National Guard units deployed: The 34th Infantry Division Command Post from Rosemount, the 34th Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion from Inver Grove Heights and Faribault, the 34th Infantry Division Band from Rosemount, and the 34th Military Police Company from Stillwater.

The 34th Infantry Division made a lasting impression on agribusiness in southern Iraq, assisting in acquiring 20 tractors, 20 water pumps, and greenhouse material for the Az Zubayr Farmers Association.

◀ Gen. David Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command, meets with Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, commander of US Division - South, and Staff Major General Abdul Aziz Aswadi, commander of the 14th Iraqi Army Division, on Oct. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Basra.







▲ Brig. Gen. Jerry Lang, deputy commanding general for the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, meets with the director of the Central Euphrates Farmer's Market and deputy governor of Babil Province to discuss economic development in southern Iraq.



▲ Spc. Kerri Xiong and Sgt. LaFena Washington of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division help distribute wheelchairs to children at al-Moosawi Private Hospital in Basra, Iraq.



▲ A member of the 34th Military Police Company prays before moving out on a mission.

Through partnerships with Iraqi leaders and the nine Provincial Reconstruction Teams throughout US Division - South, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division was able to improve civil capacity and economic well-being in the country.

- US Division - South facilitated 123 microgrants during fiscal year 2009, resulting in more than \$380,000 being invested into local sustainable businesses.
- The Red Bulls secured \$10 million to fund improvements for the Jassan-Dubuni Water Pump Station Rehabilitation Project.
- More than \$25 million was invested through 18 Commanders Emergency Response Program projects that resulted in long-term improvements in electrical systems, water distribution and treatment, and airfield operations.

The Red Bulls embraced their mission and set the conditions for a successful drawdown of U.S. military forces in Iraq by:

- Closing or transferring 16 patrol bases and beginning the massive logistics flow of military equipment out of the country.
- Transferring roughly \$10.5 million in excess property to the Government of Iraq.

**Red Bull units participated in joint operations with the Iraqi Security Forces that resulted in the seizure of weapons caches that included:**

- 3,773 mortars
- 2,655 projectiles
- 561 rockets
- 540 artillery pieces
- 133 improvised explosive devices



▲ The US military stopped operating in Iraqi cities on June 30 with confidence that the Iraqi Security Forces could provide security for their own population.



▲ News reporter Don Shelby (right) visits Basra in October and November and talks to Red Bull Soldiers about their mission.

*The Red Bulls will leave southern Iraq knowing that the Iraqi Security Forces can address challenges head-on. Soldiers and leaders at all levels embraced the mission of partnering to achieve a stable, sovereign and self-sufficient Iraq Security Force.*



◀ During the tour, seven US Army brigades under the command of the Red Bulls had a solid partnership with more than 40,000 Iraqi Security Force members — which include the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Police, and the Department of Border Enforcement.



# UNITS

## 148TH FIGHTER WING



Winner of the Air Force's Raytheon Trophy for 2009, 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. In 2009, more than 300 Airmen deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and the unit flew 2,394 sorties totaling 5,300 flight hours.

At home in 2009, the 148th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit responded to 17 off-base calls from local law enforcement in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. The 148th Airfield Fire Department responded to 233 calls for support from the Duluth International Airport and three mutual aid calls from local fire departments.

The 148th Fighter Wing stands ready, in 2010, to support missions both home and abroad.



## 133RD AIRLIFT WING

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. The 133rd Airlift Wing's C-130 flew 3,017 hours, hauling 1,076 passengers and 95 tons of cargo around the world in 2009 as well as deployed more than 300 Airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan.

At home, in 2009, the 133rd Airlift Wing supported a short-notice request by NASA's Haughton-Mars Project to transport its Moon-1 Rover to Resolute Bay, Canada for field testing. In 2010, the 133rd Airlift Wing will continue to provide tactical airlift of troops, cargo and medical patients supporting military operations worldwide.



## 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION



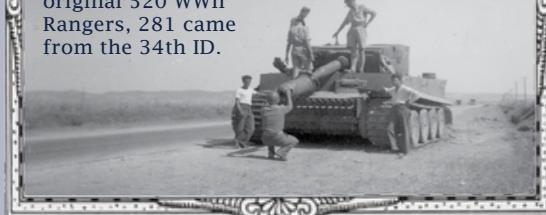
The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division oversees the training and operations of eight National Guard brigades in six different states. Known as the “Red Bulls,” the 34th Infantry Division is capable of deploying its Main Command Post, Tactical Command Post and Special Troops Battalion in order to provide command and control for Army Brigades. The 34th Infantry Division fought in World War II and continued the legacy when the division assumed control of U.S. Division – South, Iraq, in May 2009.

The Red Bulls provided command and con-

### The 34th Infantry Division in World War II

The Division was part of six major Army campaigns in North Africa and Italy, amassing 517 days of front line combat, more than any other U.S. Army division.

The United States Army Rangers also trace their lineage back to the 34th ID, developed from 34th ID volunteers in Ireland under the command of Major William O. Darby. Of the original 520 WWII Rangers, 281 came from the 34th ID.



trol of military forces in the southern third of Iraq. The area, known as US Division-South, is geographically about the size of Minnesota and is the largest sector in Iraq. Headquartered at Contingency



▲ The Red Bulls arrive in Kuwait in April.

Operating Base Basra, more than 1,200 Minnesota Citizen-Soldiers led a force of approximately 14,000 U.S. service members throughout nine of Iraq’s 18 provinces.

## 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

The 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division (1/34 BCT) is an Army National Guard Brigade Headquartered in Bloomington. The brigade is capable of supporting the nation in a federal capacity with trained and ready combat forces. Additionally, the brigade is prepared to support the state with both Soldiers and equipment to assist civil authorities during a crisis. The 1/34 BCT conducted both state and federal missions in 2009 to include flood fight support in the Red River Valley, search and rescue operations, and security operations during the 44th Presidential Inauguration.



◀ Lt. Col. Andrew Engelhardt, commander of 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, briefs Gov. Tim Pawlenty during flood operations in March.

## 34TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE



▲ A 34th Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flies over Baghdad.

The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade (34th CAB) of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division is an aviation brigade headquartered in St. Paul. In May, more than 700 brigade Soldiers returned from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 34th CAB supports the state of Minnesota with aerial fire suppression, reconnaissance, flood assistance, search and rescue and other emergency requests. In 2009, the brigade also supported our Canadian allies by cross-training 14 of their CH-47 “Chinook” pilots and aircrews for their deployment to Afghanistan. This training took place at the new Army Aviation Support Facility in St. Cloud.



## 347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

The 347th Regional Support Group (347th RSG), headquartered in Roseville, provides specialized capabilities such as military police, personnel, medical, finance, and human resource services.

In 2009, the 347th RSG deployed the 34th Military Police Company to Basra, with the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, and also deployed the 114th Transportation Company to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



▲ The Soldiers of the 114th Transportation Company at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.



## 84TH TROOP COMMAND

The Minneapolis-based 84th Troop Command provides field artillery, chemical, and engineering capabilities for both federal and state missions. Units within the 84th Troop Command deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Falling under the 84th Troop Command is the CERF-P: the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package. During the 2009 flood fight, the 84th Troop Command's 850th Engineer Company providing quick reaction forces and evacuation assets in 6 cities located in Cass and Barnes counties North Dakota during its temporary assignment to the North Dakota National Guard.

◀ Soldiers from the 849th Mobility Augmentation Company train in Alberta, Canada in August.



## 1-151 FIELD ARTILLERY RE-ENLISTMENTS

On the ramp of an Army Logistical Supply Vessel docked in Kuwait, Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauver (left) swears in 30 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery (1-151 FA) during a re-enlistment ceremony Dec 30. Earlier in June, another 30 Soldiers re-enlisted together at Ft. Hood in a ceremony at the close of mobilization training (right).







▲ The Minnesota chapter of the Patriot Guard assembled for a record flag line during the 2009 Camp Ripley Open House. More than 1,500 U.S. flags of various shapes and sizes lined both sides of Infantry Road.

## CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

The state-owned, 53,000-acre Camp Ripley Training Center 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 with such facilities as a UH-60 Black Hawk simulator, Improvised Explosive Device training lanes, an Unmanned Aerial System landing strip and a Collective Training Facility range.

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.



▲ In 2009, Camp Ripley received the virtual Rules of Engagement (ROE) trainer from the Norwegian Home Guard. This fully integrated training system helps Soldiers determine how force should be applied.

## CAMP RIPLEY IN THE COMMUNITY

Camp Ripley served as a vehicle recovery station during Flood Fight 2009 and welcomed more than 4,200 members of the community during this year’s 13th Biennial Open House.

During the Open House, Camp Ripley attractions included military equipment displays, a rock climbing wall, face painting and games for kids. The hospitality was a way to thank the community for their continued support.

## 175TH REGIMENT



▲ 175th Regiment Soldiers board a CH-47 Chinook during a training exercise at Camp Ripley.

The 175th Regional Training Institute provides combat arms, leadership, military occupational specialty and general studies training for the Army National Guard, Army Reserve and active component Army Soldiers at Camp Ripley.

In 2009, the 175th Regional Training Institute successfully trained 47 commissioned officers and 18 warrant officers, and trained Soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels.



# OUTREACH

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD CONTINUED ITS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN 2009.

## DISABLED VETERANS REST CAMP



Helping veterans who have come before them, the 851st Vertical Engineer Company performed their annual training at the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp in Washington

County. The camp has been in operation since 1926, serving as a summer home and place for reflection for veterans since World War I.

The 851st put up several new cabins and performed many other improvements at the camp. All this following a year-long deployment to Sadr City in Baghdad in 2008.



◀ Rest Camp Manager Tom Ferris at a finished cabin.

## STARBASE

The Minnesota Air National Guard STARBASE program is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to increase the knowledge, skills and interest of inner city youth in science, mathematics and technology for greater academic and lifelong success.

STARBASE was established in 1993 and operates out of the 133rd Airlift Wing near Ft. Snelling. STARBASE has earned a reputation for providing high-quality programs that have benefited over 29,000 youth.



▲ A STARBASE instructor with kids at the 133rd Airlift Wing.





▲ Candidates Justin Smude, Todd Busswitz and Brian Nuth from the 175th Regional Training Institute position a fence post while reinforcing the hole with pea rock.

Candidates Scott Scanlon and ► Brian Nuth connect the fence to a building.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Warrant Officer candidates at Camp Ripley create an operations order, and then execute that order to build a fence for a family in Little Falls. The fence will provide a secure play area for a child with autism.

Working with Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County, the candidates provided the labor while local businesses provided the materials.



## 148TH SUPPORTS THANKSGIVING BUFFET

The 148th Fighter Wing again supported the 20th Annual Thanksgiving Buffet at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. This is the fifth year the Wing has volunteered at the event. The event will continue “until there is nobody left in the community who has to spend their Thanksgiving feeling sad or hungry,” said Jack Teske, event co-founder.



▲ Senior Master Sgt. Jon Livingston of the 148th Fighter Wing packs Thanksgiving Day bag lunches, Nov. 26.

## SALVATION ARMY TOY SHOP

The Minnesota Army National Guard joined forces with the Salvation Army the week before Christmas to unpack, sort and distribute donated toys and clothing at the Cedar Street Armory in St. Paul. The Guard helps with the event annually.

1st Lt. Amber Manke ► of the 834th Aviation Support Battalion helps Twin Cities residents select gifts in St. Paul Dec. 17.



▲ General Colin L. Powell USA (Ret), former Secretary of State, meets with 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Nash and other Guard leaders Jan. 19. Powell spoke at the 19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast in downtown Minneapolis.

*Through past, present and future leaders, the Minnesota National Guard continues its constant commitment to excellence.*



▲ 1st Lt. Christopher Brossart poses for a photo with area high school students after presenting each of them with the Department of Defense - U.S. Army Award for Scientific Engineering Excellence at a hotel in downtown St. Paul March 31.

# FORT MINNESOTA

THE “FORT MINNESOTA” CONCEPT CONNECTS THE GOODWILL OF MINNESOTANS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS — WE NOW UTILIZE AGENCIES WITHIN COMMUNITIES TO REACH OUT TO SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

One of the most important Minnesota National Guard programs under the Fort Minnesota concept is the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program. Now a national model, this program is a network of federal, state, local and nonprofit agencies that provides services and resources for Minnesota Servicemembers under one umbrella, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

In 2009, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon launched the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. The Yellow Ribbon Campaign is a grassroots effort that challenges Minnesota communities to synchronize efforts within their area to develop an enduring network of support for Servicemembers and their families.

*When our men and women deploy, Fort Minnesota provides the services and resources that assist everyone in preparing, coping with, and overcoming the challenges of deployment.*

The Yellow Ribbon Campaign extended further with the proclamation of three Yellow Ribbon Companies, Target Corporation, Marvin Windows and Doors and 3M. In 2010, dozens of counties, cities, companies, churches and colleges will receive Yellow Ribbon Proclamations.

*Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Programs: A Year of Growth*

- 16 Yellow Ribbon City/County/Corporation Events
- Nearly 24,000 community outreach contacts by Family Assistance Centers
- 21 reintegration events across the state, serving more than 32,000 Servicemembers and families, including 30, 60, 90-day, one year and wounded warrior events



◀ Reintegration events, such as this one in Bloomington in August (above, left), provide opportunities for Servicemembers to connect with families and loved ones during the reintegration process.



▲ Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly J. Wilkinson, the Minnesota National Guard's sexual assault response coordinator, assists a Minnesota Marine Reservist during a reintegration event in Minneapolis in September.

## YELLOW RIBBON YOUTH



The *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* Youth Program works in partnership with Operation Military Kids, Child Care Resource and Referral, and the Parents as Teachers program. The Youth Program helps military youth of all ages through camps and retreats throughout the year, tackling the tough issues youth face during the deployment cycle.

*“This is how it works. Neighbors helping neighbors.”*

- Lisa Ginn,  
Yellow Ribbon volunteer





## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD CONTACT INFORMATION

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A  
YELLOW RIBBON COMMUNITY  
OR ORGANIZATION...

[www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org](http://www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org)

Public Relations  
(651) 281-3825

Operations & Events  
(651) 282-4209

Family & Youth Programs  
(651) 268-8200

Yellow Ribbon Outreach  
(651) 282-4284

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
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TRAINING AND COMMUNITY CENTERS ON REVERSE SIDE



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Public Relations  
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Operations & Events  
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TRAINING AND COMMUNITY CENTERS ON REVERSE SIDE



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ALEXANDRIA 320.762.7817	HIBBING 218.262.6756	PIPESTONE 507.825.6898
ANOKA 763.576.5785	HUTCHINSON 320.587.2351	RED WING 651.267.3769
APPLETON 320.289.1343	INVER GROVE HTS 651.282.4974	REDWOOD FALLS 507.637.4085
ARDEN HILLS 651.634.5229	JACKSON 507.847.2984	ROCHESTER 507.285.7346
AUSTIN 507.434.2757	LITCHFIELD 320.693.6066	ROSEMOUNT 651.282.4972
BEMIDJI 218.755.2971	LITTLE FALLS (CAMP RIPLEY) 320.616.2699	ROSEVILLE 651.268.8084
BLOOMINGTON 952.832.6983	LONG PRAIRIE 320.732.3028	SAUK CENTRE 320.352.2156
BRAINERD 218.828.2572	LUVERNE 507.283.4403	ST CLOUD 651.268.8680
BROOKLYN PARK 320.616.3105	MADISON 320.598.3466	ST CLOUD (ARMY AVIATION FACILITY) 651.282.4521
CAMBRIDGE 651.268.8152	MANKATO 507.389.6219	ST JAMES 507.375.3821
CHISHOLM 218.254.7988	MARSHALL 507.537.6104	ST PAUL 651.282.4044
CLOQUET 218.879.0875	MINNEAPOLIS 651.281.3846	ST PAUL (ARMY AVIATION FACILITY) 651.281.3400
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DETROIT LAKES 218.847.1517	MOORHEAD 218.236.2175	STILLWATER 651.282.4711
DULUTH 218.828.2392	MORRIS 320.589.7293	THIEF RIVER FALLS 218.681.0924
DULUTH (AIRBASE) 218.788.7274	NEW ULM 507.233.7802	WADENA 218.631.1701
EAST SAINT PAUL 651.772.6187	NORTHFIELD 507.645.4746	WEST ST PAUL 651.552.7528
FAIRMONT 507.235.3917	OLIVIA 320.523.2545	WILLMAR 320.231.6080
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# CONNECTING THE DEPLOYED, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Connecting families and communities with the deployed, Serving Our Troops is a group of St. Paul-based civic leaders who come together to support those who put themselves at risk. Since 2004, Serving Our Troops has served more than 40,000 St. Paul-style steak dinners to Minnesota National Guard members around the world. Each occasion features volunteers serving dinners to deployed Minnesota National Guard members and to their families.



▲ A 34th Infantry Division Soldier talks with his family during a Serving Our Troops event Dec. 12.

## St. Paul to Kosovo 2004

Serving Our Troops served a hometown steak dinner to more than 800 Minnesota Guardsmen of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry (2-135 IN) and 700 other troops supporting NATO's Kosovo mission. At the same time, 1,500 family members dined on a St. Paul meal at the Xcel Energy Center – all linked via live video.

## St. Paul to Camp Shelby 2006

Serving Our Troops traveled to Camp Shelby, Mississippi and served nearly 8,000 steak dinners to Soldiers and Families of the 1st Brigade Combat Team (1/34 BCT), 34th Infantry Division before they deployed to Iraq.

## St. Paul to Iraq 2007

Serving Our Troops took 12,000 home grown steaks and fed 2,600 Soldiers of the 1st BCT and other U.S. Forces stationed in Iraq. In St. Paul, 4,000 family members of the 1st BCT were treated to a steak dinner, entertainment, special guests and a live video link to their loved ones in Iraq.

## Rochester to Kosovo 2008

Serving Our Troops traveled to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo and served 400 steak dinners to 2-135 IN Soldiers supporting NATO's Kosovo mission. More than 900 family members enjoyed local music and dined on steaks at Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN.

## St. Paul to Ft. Sill 2008

In the summer of 2008, more than 700 Soldiers of the St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade trained at Fort Sill, Okla. Before departing to Iraq, Serving Our Troops headed to Oklahoma and gave the Soldiers and Families another great send-off.



## St. Paul to Iraq II 2009

The Official Deployment Ceremony was held in St. Paul for more than 1,000 members of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division (34th ID) as they deployed to Iraq. Serving Our Troops provided a first class deployment ceremony and steak dinner for more than 8,000 Soldiers and families of the 34th ID.

## St. Paul to Iraq & Kuwait 2009

On Dec. 12th, Serving Our Troops sent a unique message of thanks and support to Minnesota National Guard Members serving and their families. Serving Our Troops fed more than 1,500 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait. In addition to feeding the Soldiers of the 34th ID and 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, the group served a total of 8,000 steak dinners to include family members back home in Minnesota and other U.S. Forces serving alongside our Soldiers.



▲ On Nov. 20, the business and community leaders who make up Serving Our Troops traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the Chief of the National Guard Award for Civilian Excellence. The adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito, speaks on the success of the Serving Our Troops initiative.





FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG](http://WWW.MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.ORG)

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING  
20 W. 12TH STREET  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-2098