

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

STATE OF MINNESOTA

20 WEST 12TH STREET

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2098

January 30, 2013

The Adjutant General

Honorable Richard Cohen
Senate Finance Committee
121 Capitol Building

Honorable Michelle L. Fischbach
Senate Finance Committee
15 State Office Building

Honorable Tom Saxhaug
Senate State Departments and Veterans Division
328 Capitol Building

Honorable Roger C. Chamberlain
Senate State Departments and Veterans Division
129 State Office Building

Honorable Mary Murphy
House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs Committee
443 State Office Building

Honorable Bob Dettmer
House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs Committee
279 State Office Building

Re: Annual Report on Support Our Troops (SOT) Account Grants

1. This annual report is submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs pursuant to MN Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3.
2. The statute authorizes the use of SOT funds for four purposes:
 - (a.) Grants directly to eligible individuals.
 - (b.) Grants to one or more eligible foundations for the purpose of making grants to eligible individuals.
 - (c.) Veterans' services.
 - (d.) Grants to family readiness groups chartered by the Adjutant General.
3. No grants were made in 2012 pursuant to purpose 2.(a.) above.
4. The Adjutant General entered into a no-fee grant agreement with the Minnesota Military Family Foundation (MMFF) to administer funds pursuant to purpose 2.(b.) above. \$150,00.00 was disbursed to MMFF, who further disbursed grants totaling \$149,043.00 to 82 eligible individuals during 2012. The remaining amount will be

available to MMFF to disburse in 2013.

(a.) The MMFF received a total 151 grant requests for financial assistance to individuals during calendar year 2012. Of the 151 requests, 82 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement.

(b.) The total requested for these 82 eligible grants was \$191,260.00 but after applying the \$2000 cap, \$149,043.00 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. \$42,117.00 was paid using funds from private donations to MMFF.

(c.) Each request for assistance was validated by the MN National Guard Family Assistance Centers and was approved by board action at the MN Military Family Foundation. Requests generally are directed to the foundation once the local assistance mechanisms have been exhausted.

(d.) Many of the requests cover multiple needs. The requests are categorized by the most serious need. For example, mortgage payments also often include utility payments requests. Those are categorized as mortgage requests. The grants were used for such emergency purposes as:

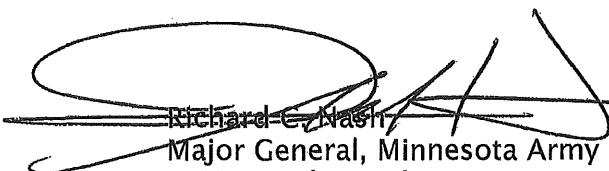
Mortgage/Rent	33
Vehicle Repair	5
Vehicle Loan Payments	7
Utilities/Fuel Oil Assistance	2
Counseling/Medical/Dental	5
Emergency Home/Appliance	8
General Bill Paying/Special Needs	19
Child/Home Care	1
Insurance	1
Taxes	1
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Total Grants	82

(e.) For comparison, 75 grants were made in 2011 totaling \$127,577.00, and 54 were made totaling \$90,286.00 in 2010.

5. One grant in the amount of \$65,000.00 was provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to purpose 2.(c.) above to fund the annual "Gold Star Retreat" weekend.

6. 26 grants of \$1000.00 were made pursuant to purpose 2.(d.) above.

Sincerely,


Richard E. Nash
Major General, Minnesota Army
National Guard
The Adjutant General