

**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 29, 2014

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 2013 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 \$119,942.00 to 65 eligible individuals during 2013. The remaining amount remains

available to MMFF to disburse in 2014.

(a.) The MMFF received a total 143 grant requests for financial assistance to individuals during calendar year 2013. Of the 143 requests, 65 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement.

(b.) The total requested for these 65 eligible grants was \$151,496.00 but after applying the \$2000 cap, \$119,942.00 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. \$31,554.00 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	44
Vehicle Repair	6
Vehicle Loan Payments	2
Emergency Home/Appliance	2
General Bill Paying/Special Needs	10
Insurance	1
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Total Grants	65

(e.) For comparison, 82 grants were made in 2012 totaling \$149,043.00. In 2011, 75 grants were made totaling \$127,577.00. In 2010, 54 grants were made totaling \$90,286.00.

5. Pursuant to purpose 2.(c.) above, one grant in the amount of \$60,000.00 was disbursed to the Department of Veterans Affairs to support the Gold Star Families Retreat; \$1,765.42 was disbursed to support a "Strong Bonds" relationship development event for Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families; and \$45,529.38 was used to fund a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Coordinator as an employee to provide services to members of the National Guard and their families.

6. 7 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