



MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

2013 ANNUAL REPORT & 2014 OBJECTIVES

MMXIII





To the Citizens of Minnesota,

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard continued solidifying our role as an important part of state and national defense in this time of fiscal austerity. More than a decade of war has shaped the Minnesota Guard as an effective force, and our soldiers and airmen embrace the role of being “always ready” for our state and nation.

First and foremost, the National Guard is more cost effective when compared to active component forces. While our soldiers and airmen only train 39 days per year, we sustain readiness levels comparable to the active component that enable combatant commanders to call our forces for missions around the world at any time. Since 9/11, Minnesota National Guardsmen have deployed more than 26,000 times on behalf of the nation.

Next, we are an accessible and capable force to Minnesotans. Operating in 63 communities across the state, our citizen-soldiers and -airmen represent our state’s diversity and demographics. As you have no doubt seen firsthand, when one of our hometown units goes to war, Minnesota goes to war with them. This can be seen in more than 250 “Yellow Ribbon Networks” across the state, as well as through the support of our tremendous employers. With so many prominent companies in Minnesota, this employer support is invaluable to the Department of Defense.

Third, when the National Guard is not on federal duty, our service members and equipment remain in Minnesota as valuable assets available to local authorities. The National Guard leverages our federal military resources to assist local authorities during disasters or homeland security events. We provide the governor a unique ability to respond to events in Minnesota through trained manpower and ready equipment.

Finally, future threats to our nation will not subside. Our highly trained Civil Support Team and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package train routinely with local emergency management to ensure there will be a synchronized response in a future homeland security situation. The Minnesota National Guard trains with state and county agencies with our aviation, communication platforms and joint-use facilities to make sure we are prepared. Our combat-proven forces will provide our state the greatest capacity to respond to future threats in the most cost effective manner.

While the fiscal challenges facing the Department of Defense are great, I am convinced that the Minnesota National Guard can provide maximum effects while minimizing costs. The Minnesota National Guard looks forward to continuing to be of service to our state and nation in 2014.

Major General Richard C. Nash
Minnesota National Guard
The Adjutant General

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A UH-60 Black Hawk from Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (Air Ambulance) waits on the helipad at Chaghcharan, Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Roger Merrill

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WOMEN IN COMBAT UNITS

The Department of Defense announced several policy changes in 2013 regarding women who serve in the military, including rescinding the Ground Combat Exclusion Rule which prevented women from being assigned to combat units below the brigade level. The Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team volunteered to be one of the test brigades to incorporate women into positions within units at the headquarters level of combat arms battalions that were previously unavailable to them.

This process does not involve opening prohibited specialties up to women, but rather enabling women to serve in jobs that are already available to both genders in units that once did not allow females. This effort is part of a larger, phased implementation plan to remove gender-based barriers to service in all of the armed forces.

At the direction of the National Guard Bureau, mid-grade females in the officer and enlisted ranks were considered first to begin the transition. Prior to implementation, the Minnesota National Guard asked for volunteers to consider either moving into positions that were already vacant or exchanging positions where the move benefited soldiers of each gender. Future vacancies will be filled through the Enlisted Promotion System, allowing the best-qualified individual – male or female – to be considered for the position.

The units involved in this process received specific training prior to personnel assignments taking place. The training addressed equal opportunity, sexual harassment and sexual assault response and prevention to prepare for the transition.

Nationally, formerly male-only specialties in combat engineering will be available for women in summer 2014; and field artillery, armor and infantry jobs are expected to be open to females in summer 2015. Full gender-neutral availability is anticipated by 2016.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Minnesota Department of Health released its most recent suicide data in August, highlighting an increase in adult suicides. The statewide suicide statistics follow a national trend and the Minnesota National Guard is not exempt from this societal issue. Reported suicides in the Minnesota Army National Guard are the highest in the nation. As a result, we have developed robust suicide prevention efforts. Our soldiers and airmen are our most valuable resource and the well-being of our members is the top concern of Minnesota National Guard leaders.

The causes of suicide are difficult to define and different in each tragic case. The top issues relating to suicide in the Minnesota National Guard are consistent with those seen throughout society: employment, relationships, mental health, substance abuse and finances.

The Minnesota National Guard is working to address this problem. This past year, we documented 37 successful suicide interventions. We trained 247 members of our force as Suicide Intervention Officers using the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training model which

prepares fellow service members to recognize individuals who are at risk. We also introduced a smartphone application as a tool for service members in distress.

This past year we conducted suicide stand-downs to address prevention efforts for each person in our organization and provided unit commanders with the tools to track at-risk service members. Additionally, four directors of psychological health are on call to provide expert assistance to soldiers and airmen.

Resilience training is a key component of our overall psychological health focus. By teaching coping skills to our service members, we will better prepare them to deal with the challenges and adversity they may face both in the military and in civilian life. In 2013, we trained 118 Master Resilience Trainers and 168 Resilience Training Assistants.

The Minnesota National Guard strives to increase community awareness about the societal issues of suicide in order to connect our service members and their families with local resources.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & RESPONSE

Members of the Minnesota National Guard are not immune to sexual harassment or assault. Sexual assault is a crime and a problem that violates everything we in the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard stand for.

The fight against sexual assault and sexual harassment is one of our priorities and we are working not only to combat this problem in our force, but also to bring perpetrators to justice.

Since January 2011, the adjutant general has authorized five separations from military service; permanently withdrawn the federal recognition of three commissioned officers; approved multiple administrative rank reductions and generated numerous permanent letters of reprimand and non-judicial punishment in cases of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Changes to the Minnesota Code of Military Justice in 2013 allow the adjutant general to convene a court martial to prosecute offenders when their actions are not under local civilian jurisdiction.

The message is clear for both victims and perpetrators of sexual crimes: The Minnesota National Guard takes all reports of sexual assault and

sexual harassment seriously and we will investigate, prosecute and punish those who commit these crimes.

Through rigorous bystander intervention training, victim advocates in every unit and soldier and airman stand-downs, the Minnesota National Guard is working to bolster a supportive culture throughout our organization. We demand that our soldiers and airmen live up to the core values of military service. We hold each soldier and airman accountable for their actions and insist that our members intervene when they encounter a situation that could lead to sexual violence.

For those who have survived sexual assault, the Minnesota National Guard coordinates numerous community resources such as mental health counseling, financial assistance and advocacy throughout the healing process.

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard installed a full-time judge advocate to serve as a Special Victims Counsel to provide victims a resource where communications are protected by attorney-client privilege. The Special Victims Counsel has the right to accompany victims during questioning from law enforcement, military investigators and the chain of command.

Female soldiers and airmen serve in vital roles throughout the Minnesota National Guard.

PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



SEQUESTRATION

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard was affected by the \$46 billion budget cuts to the Department of Defense due to sequestration. Furloughs impacted every branch and component of the Department of Defense. More than 1,100 uniformed Minnesota National Guard technicians faced six days of administrative furlough between July 15 and August 19. These same technicians, along with some other members of our force, were furloughed again October 1, when Congress failed to avert a government shutdown.

The 1,118 full-time technicians make up more than half of the 2,100 full-time personnel who carry out day-to-day operations for the Minnesota National Guard. Minnesota National Guard technicians perform critical functions to ensure the readiness of a force of more than 13,000 Minnesota National Guardsmen accomplishing duties such as maintenance, intelligence, logistics, contracting and health care.

The first round of sequester furloughs came at a great cost to Minnesota National Guard technicians, who lost 20 percent of their pay during the first furlough period and the remaining full-time employees who picked up the extra workload while they were away.

Continued budget cuts and furloughs could put Minnesota National Guard readiness at risk. Each day that equipment and facilities go without maintenance and soldiers and airmen go untrained has a negative impact on the Minnesota National Guard's ability to fully support the broad range of federal and state missions.

“By using a community-based part-time National Guard force, taxpayers pay significantly less when compared to the active duty military. The National Guard is a tremendous value for our state and nation.”

-Maj. Gen. Richard Nash
The Adjutant General

SENIOR ADVISORY TASK FORCE

In 2011, Maj. Gen. Nash commissioned a 14-person committee of community leaders from across the state to provide feedback, guidance and insight on Minnesota National Guard long-range strategic issues. Over the last two years, the group has provided invaluable counsel on employment strategy, enhancing diversity, strategic communication and cyber security and response.

Through a series of meetings, the Senior Advisory Task Force became familiar with, and offered unique input on, Minnesota National Guard priorities.

The 2013 Senior Advisory Task Force consisted of: the Honorable Al Quie, former Minnesota Governor; Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Richie; Commissioner Carolyn Parnell, Minnesota Department of Information Technology; Mr. Peter Bell, former Chair of the Metropolitan Council; Judge Charles Porter, Hennepin County Veterans Court; Ms. Nancy Anderson, U.S. Trust; Mr. Greg Coleman, Harris Communication and Minnesota Vikings; Mr. Jim Kosmo, Paddelford Riverboats; Dr. Earl Potter, President of St. Cloud State University; Don Shelby, former WCCO-TV anchor; Steve Tourek, Marvin Windows; Coach J. Robinson, University of Minnesota Head Wrestling Coach; Father Kevin McDonough, St. Peter Claver's Church in St. Paul and Sheriff Michel Wetzel, Morrison County Sheriff.



INTRODUCTION TO PRIORITIES

The Minnesota National Guard's enduring goal is to provide agile and resilient citizen-soldiers and -airmen to fulfill any federal, state or community demand. To reach this goal the Minnesota National Guard must be successful in two key areas: providing ready military units whenever and wherever needed and integrating the mutual needs and requirements of our many important stakeholders with our own capabilities.

Providing ready units achieves our greatest obligation to the state of Minnesota and the United States. We must effectively prepare our units throughout all phases of the readiness cycle to ensure we are ready when called upon to support our nation overseas or at home. In order to provide this force, we must have the right mix of personnel and force structure for current and anticipated missions.

Developing and maintaining external relationships that add value to the Minnesota National Guard benefits our soldiers and airmen by providing the resources needed to sustain quality of life during periods of deployment and redeployment.

To accomplish these objectives, we focus on six priorities. The priorities complement each other and work together to strengthen our organization. Each of these priorities are integrated into everything we do throughout the force.

Soldiers and airmen work together as a team to strengthen the Minnesota National Guard.

PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko

- Competent Ready Force
- Optimal Force Structure
- Cyber Security & Response
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- Diversity



COMPETENT READY FORCE

We will achieve and maintain the required personnel, equipment, training and resourcing levels that ensure our success. Additionally, we will value, maintain and enhance our international partnerships.

Personnel readiness is the cornerstone of organizational readiness. For a large portion of the Minnesota National Guard, 2013 was a year to focus on the training, logistics, administration and reintegration issues that come with returning from deployment. Even with this focus on non-deployment items, the Minnesota National Guard was able to exceed the Army-established personnel readiness goals for 2013.

Since 9/11, Minnesota National Guardsmen have deployed more than 26,000 times on behalf of the nation. The Minnesota National Guard continues its role as a full partner in federal missions by maintaining our focus on wartime readiness, thereby furthering our relevance as an operational force.

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard saw a decrease in the number of soldiers and airmen who deployed overseas due to the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Four Minnesota National Guard units deployed overseas in 2013: the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company, the 849th Mobility Augmentation Company and the 114th Transportation Company to Afghanistan; and Detachment 39, Operational Support Airlift Command to Kuwait. Seven of our units returned in 2013: the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion; Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment; 257th Military Police Company; 147th Human Resources Company; 147th Financial Management Detachment; the 47th Chaplain Support Team; and the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company.

The Minnesota National Guard conducted several training exercises and inspections this year to increase our ability to respond. Working together with partners from local, state and federal entities, the Minnesota National Guard is conducting a series of domestic operations exercises leading up to a large-scale *Vigilant Guard* training event in Minnesota in 2015.

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard celebrated the 40th anniversary of its bilateral partnership with Norway. It is the longest-running military exchange between any two nations. The Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange provides a valuable and sustainable link between the two countries that fosters cooperation, promotes goodwill and provides opportunities for cultural understanding among participants. The Minnesota National Guard also maintains a partnership with Croatia through the National Guard State Partnership Program, and was of assistance as Croatia entered as a full member of the North American Treaty Organization and the European Union. This 17-year partnership encourages mutual interests and establishes long-term relationships across both military and civilian agencies.

The Minnesota National Guard achieved its goals for personnel, equipment, training and resourcing levels for 2013 and will continue to sustain and improve upon these objectives during 2014. All National Guard units throughout Minnesota are trained and ready to respond to any mission that is assigned by either the federal government or the state on short notice. We work closely with the Department of Defense, the Departments of the Army and Air Force and the National Guard Bureau to ensure we have the resources we need to be ready when called.

“Today’s fiscally austere environment begs for bold solutions that save money while sustaining defense capacity and capability — the Minnesota National Guard provides opportunities to do both.”

Brig. Gen. Robert Cayton
Chief of Staff, Minnesota
Air National Guard



OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE

We will continuously assess and evaluate the right mix of people and equipment to leverage our capabilities, while balancing the ideal composition for current and anticipated missions.

For a decade the Minnesota National Guard has maintained personnel strength levels above target and consistently demonstrated its ability to sustain a competent, ready force for federal and state missions. Because of this history of success in readiness, the Minnesota National Guard is postured to support additional force structure.

The Minnesota National Guard is actively working to obtain new and additional force structure in the form of additional units and personnel to better support our state and federal mission. Acquiring cyber capabilities is a focal point of these efforts because of the increasing importance of cyber security today and into the future.

Future force structure considerations will ensure that we can rapidly and effectively support an all-hazards response in support of local authorities.

With the goal of optimal force structure in mind, the Minnesota National Guard will maintain the capabilities of two Air National Guard wings by striving to build upon the significant investment in readiness made through years of conflict.

The Minnesota National Guard will conduct necessary restructuring actions that enhance readiness and best support our domestic and overseas missions. We will work to maintain our essential functions of aviation, civil support teams, command and control, communications, engineering, logistics, maintenance, medical, security and transportation.

A flight medic from Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment gets his gear ready in a UH-60 Black Hawk for medical evacuation missions in Shindand, Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Roger Merrill



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Minnesota National Guard has facilities located in 63 communities across the state. Our facilities enable us to best meet our mission requirements, while enhancing partnerships throughout the communities in which we serve.

Paramount to accomplishing our mission and fostering established partnerships is the need for a sustainable infrastructure. Two major components of our efforts in sustainability center on ensuring Camp Ripley remains a premier training center for service members and state partners through the Army Compatible Use Buffer, or ACUB, program and our efforts to conserve our resources in the areas of energy, water and waste generation.

The ACUB is the foundation for sustainability at Camp Ripley Training Center. The Minnesota National Guard has a 20-year plan to create a permanent land use buffer around Camp Ripley which will enable the post's ongoing training mission. Minnesota's goal is to enroll 78,000 adjoining acres of the 110,000 acres of land that comprise the three-mile area surrounding Camp Ripley. To date, 24,522 acres are permanently protected around Camp Ripley.

In our efforts to meet the Army's Net-Zero sustainability goals, we are taking deliberate actions to reduce our water, energy and solid waste consumption. We currently exceed the goals established in the reduction of water consumption and solid waste diversion. Emphasis is placed on constructing and renovating our facilities with energy efficient components in order to further reduce energy use.

As part of meeting our goals, new construction projects are being built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, standards for federal construction projects; and Sustainable Building 2030 standards for state construction projects. These guidelines not only ensure sustainable design by evaluating everything from site selection to construction materials; but also take into account occupant comfort. The STARBASE building at the 133rd Airlift Wing is the Minnesota National Guard's newest "LEED Silver" certified building. Furthermore, the Arden Hills Facility Maintenance Shop is pending "LEED Gold" certification, while the Unmanned Aerial Systems Operations Facility at Camp Ripley is pending "LEED Silver" certification.

As part of these building standards, we are also incorporating the installation of renewable energy technology into the design process for new and renovated facilities. The newly-constructed Arden Hills Training Site Field Maintenance Shop installed solar panels which provide 6.5 percent of the building's energy requirements. Additionally, the 68,000 square-foot addition to the Education Center at Camp Ripley also has renewable components such as solar technology and geothermal heating and cooling, which has led to a 45 percent reduction of energy where previously applied.

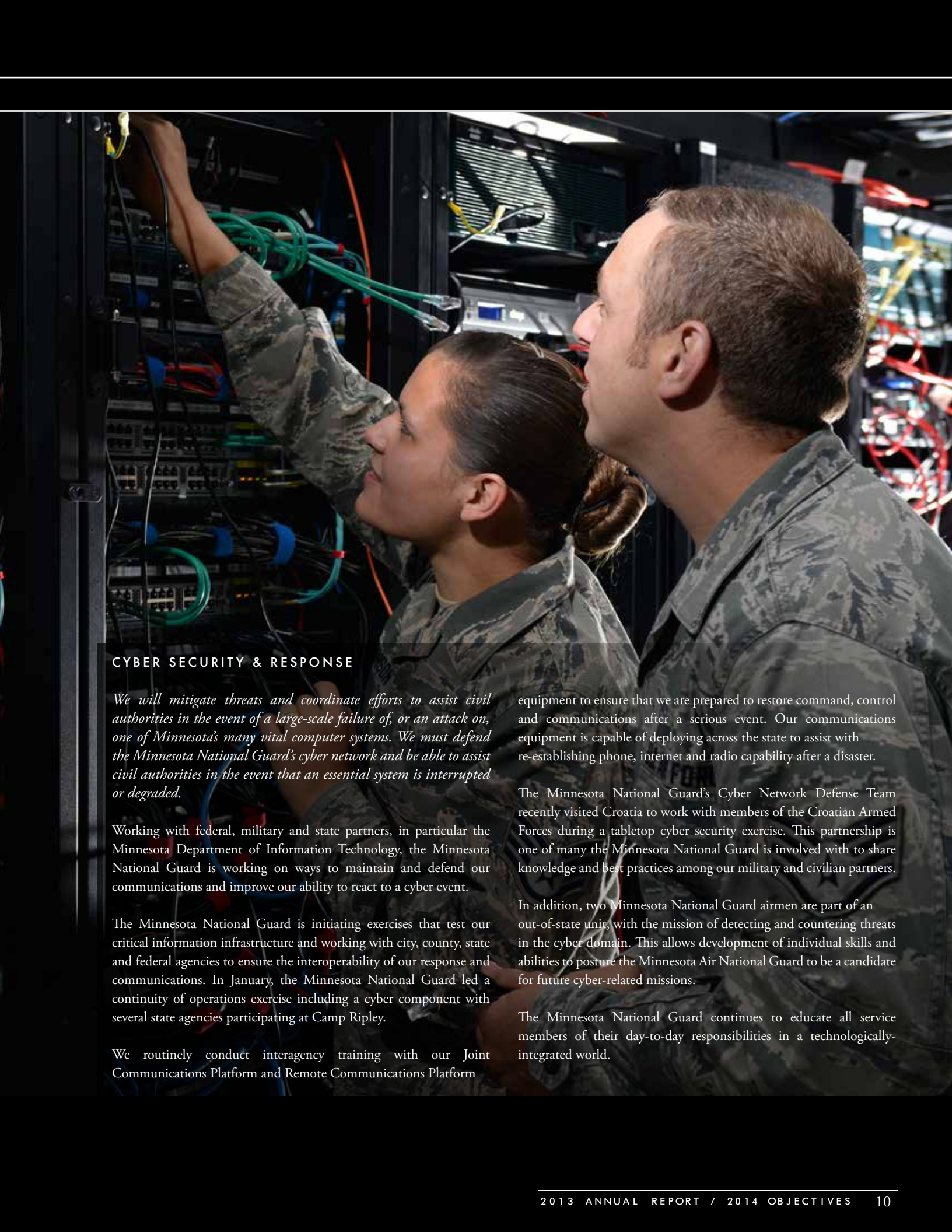


"Enhanced focus on environmentally sound building standards showcases the Minnesota National Guard's commitment to the future."

Col. Bruce Jensen
Construction and Facilities
Management Officer

Airmen keep their eye on cyber security and response at the Minnesota National Guard Headquarters in St. Paul.

PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



CYBER SECURITY & RESPONSE

We will mitigate threats and coordinate efforts to assist civil authorities in the event of a large-scale failure of, or an attack on, one of Minnesota's many vital computer systems. We must defend the Minnesota National Guard's cyber network and be able to assist civil authorities in the event that an essential system is interrupted or degraded.

Working with federal, military and state partners, in particular the Minnesota Department of Information Technology, the Minnesota National Guard is working on ways to maintain and defend our communications and improve our ability to react to a cyber event.

The Minnesota National Guard is initiating exercises that test our critical information infrastructure and working with city, county, state and federal agencies to ensure the interoperability of our response and communications. In January, the Minnesota National Guard led a continuity of operations exercise including a cyber component with several state agencies participating at Camp Ripley.

We routinely conduct interagency training with our Joint Communications Platform and Remote Communications Platform

equipment to ensure that we are prepared to restore command, control and communications after a serious event. Our communications equipment is capable of deploying across the state to assist with re-establishing phone, internet and radio capability after a disaster.

The Minnesota National Guard's Cyber Network Defense Team recently visited Croatia to work with members of the Croatian Armed Forces during a tabletop cyber security exercise. This partnership is one of many the Minnesota National Guard is involved with to share knowledge and best practices among our military and civilian partners.

In addition, two Minnesota National Guard airmen are part of an out-of-state unit, with the mission of detecting and countering threats in the cyber domain. This allows development of individual skills and abilities to posture the Minnesota Air National Guard to be a candidate for future cyber-related missions.

The Minnesota National Guard continues to educate all service members of their day-to-day responsibilities in a technologically-integrated world.



BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

The objective of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program is to improve the wellness and resilience of service members, their employers and military family members.

Families are the backbone of the Minnesota National Guard.

PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko

In 2013, we focused on sustaining the partnerships we have created with civilian and government agencies. By leveraging those established relationships, we can provide the best service, training and support to our service members and their families.

Minnesota now has 259 total Yellow Ribbon organizations – 23 counties, 202 cities and 34 companies. These organizations commit to supporting service members, veterans and their families within their communities.

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program incorporates Family Programs; Youth Programs; Family Assistance Centers; Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Training; Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention; Military Family Life Consultants; the Director of Psychological Health; the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Transition Assistance Advisors.

An important accomplishment of 2013 was getting all of the school districts in Minnesota access to the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon K-12 Military Kids Toolkit through our partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education. This toolkit provides a curriculum for schools with resources to support military-connected kids in classrooms.

The Minnesota National Guard's eight full-time Family Assistance Centers served more than 62,000 military family members in 2013 and submitted 152 grants totaling more than \$324,000 to support those in financial crisis. This was accomplished with two fewer family assistance centers in the state than in previous years.

We raised awareness of federal, state and local resources available to service members and their families during periods of deployment and reintegration. The Yellow Ribbon Readiness Services team developed and executed 18 reintegration events, positively impacting nearly 2,300 service members and their families.

Employment of service members and veterans remains an important priority. Business and community partners from across Minnesota ensure service members and families have access to the most up-to-date information on topics such as small business assistance, tax rules and benefits, veterans benefits and employment development.

Key partners include the Small Business Administration, local and regional chambers of commerce, the Minnesota Departments of Employment and Economic Development, Veterans Affairs, and Labor.

The Minnesota National Guard was recognized for our success with a 2013 Silver Anvil award from the Public Relations Society of America for an interagency communication program titled "Hire Minnesota's Veterans."

Lastly, the Minnesota National Guard is postured to meet the current and future needs of our service members and their families. We have a vested interest in the well-being of our men and women in uniform and are committed to providing the services needed to ensure they are ready and resilient to meet the challenges ahead.

“The Minnesota National Guard is committed to mentoring our soldiers and airmen so that our future leadership reflects the diversity of our force.”

-Command Sgt. Maj. Cindy Kallberg
Senior Enlisted Advisor

DIVERSITY

We are committed to fostering an environment that truly represents the demographics of the communities in which we serve. We must reflect those who we lead, serve and protect.

The Minnesota National Guard is taking strides resulting in improvements in the diversity of our force. We benefit from diverse talent and recruit to retain and maintain a ready force. Increasing diversity among our members in terms of race, ethnicity and gender maximizes our potential as an organization and gives us the ability to better address complex issues. Drawing from the data from both the 2010 census and future projections extending to 2045, we benchmark our success against the diversity of the population of Minnesota as a whole and regionally for our wings and brigades throughout the state.

In 2013, the Minnesota National Guard has modestly increased in racial, ethnic and gender diversity. More than 20 percent of new recruits that entered the Army National Guard were diverse. Over time, our commitment to mentoring and training will result in these soldiers increasing diversity in our mid- and senior-level leadership ranks.

Mentorship is an important part of encouraging diverse individuals to stay in the Minnesota National Guard. Minorities and females in mid- and senior-grades, along with majority members, benefit from direct mentorship as they earn promotions through the ranks. To improve upon the quality of mentorship in our organization, we've established the Minnesota National Guard Mentorship Program as a formal effort starting at the non-commissioned officer level building a climate of trust throughout the Minnesota National Guard.

Partnership with tribal governments was an important aspect of increasing diversity throughout the force in 2013. Activities like involvement in the Minnesota Native American Council; partnership with the Minnesota Swarm and the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa for a lacrosse camp; and participation in the tribal government relations seminar contributed to a better understanding of Minnesota's American Indian community.

In addition to Native American recruiting and retention efforts, the Minnesota National Guard sponsors special emphasis programs advocating for underrepresented groups including: African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, individuals with disabilities and women. Volunteers from across our force manage these programs because they are passionate about providing tools and resources to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity for a successful career.

Ultimately, maintaining the represented mix of qualified personnel adds value to the Minnesota National Guard and helps the Minnesota National Guard accomplish its mission and reflect the communities we serve.



On Dec. 1, Minneapolis was proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon City. In celebration, landmarks throughout the city were illuminated yellow. As of Dec. 31, there are 259 Yellow Ribbon Networks throughout Minnesota.

PHOTO BY: Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko

PROCLAIMED COUNTIES

Big Stone County
Blue Earth County
Brown County
Crow Wing County
Dakota County
Douglas County
Isanti County
Jackson County
Lac qui Parle County
Le Sueur County
Martin County
Meeker County
Morrison County
Nicollet County
Olmstead County
Pipestone County
Renville County
Rock County
Scott County
Suburban Ramsey County
Washington County
Watonwan County
Winona County

PROCLAIMED COMPANIES

Allianz Life Insurance
Best Buy
Capella University
Cliffs Natural Resources
Cub Foods
Dakota County Technical College
Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border
Protection, Minneapolis Hiring Center
Disabled Veterans Rest Camp of Washington County
Faelon Partners LTD/ Today's Business Radio LLC
General Mills
Globe University/ Minnesota School of Business
Hennepin Technical College
Hiway Federal Credit Union
Inver Hills Community College
Mall of America
Marvin Windows and Doors
Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan State University
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minnesota Vikings LLC
Normandale Community College
Prudential Financial Inc.
Rasmussen College
Rochester Community and Technical College
South Central College
St. Cloud State University
Target Corporation
Thomson Reuters
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
U.S. Bancorp
Wells Fargo
3M

PROCLAIMED CITIES

Afton	Blaine	Courtland	Fairfax	Hibbing	Lastrup
Albert Lea	Bloomington	Crookston	Fairmont	Hopkins	Lauderdale
Alexandria	Bowlus	Danube	Falcon Heights	Hugo	Le Center
Alpha	Brainerd	Darfur	Faribault	Inver Grove Heights	Le Sueur
Amboy	Brooklyn Park	Dassel	Farmington	Jackson	Lewiston
Anoka	Buckman	Dawson	Fergus Falls	Jordan	Lewisville
Apple Valley	Buffalo	Detroit Lakes	Forest Lake	Kasota	Litchfield
Appleton	Buffalo Lake	Duluth	Franklin	Kilkenny	Little Canada
Arden Hills	Burnsville	Dunnell	Gem Lake	Kingston	Little Falls
Austin	Butterfield	Eagan	Good Thunder	La Salle	Long Prairie
Baxter	Cambridge	Eagle Lake	Goodview	Lafayette	Louisburg
Bayport	Ceylon	East St. Paul	Granada	Lake Crystal	Luverne
Bayport Township	Chanhassen	Eden Prairie	Grand Rapids	Lake Elmo	
Baytown	Chaska	Eden Valley	Harding	Lake St. Croix Beach	
Becker	Chisholm	Edina	Hastings	Lakefield	
Belle Plain	Cleveland	Elk River	Hector	Lakeland	
Bemidji	Cold Spring	Elmdale	Heidelberg	Lakeland Shores	
Bird Island	Cottage Grove	Elysian	Heron Lake	Lakeville	

Madelia	Morton	Olivia	Rosemount	St. Charles	Waite Park
Madison	Motley	Ormsby	Roseville	St. Clair	Waterville
Madison Lake	Moundsview	Ortonville	Royalton	St. Cloud	Watkins
Mahtomedi	Nassau	Owatonna	Sacred Heart	St. James	Welcome
Mankato	New Brighton	Pemberton	Sartell	St. Joseph	West Lakeland Township
Maple Grove	New Prague	Pierz	Sauk Centre	St. Mary's Point	West St. Paul
Mapleton	New Ulm	Pine City	Sauk Rapids	St. Paul	White Bear Lake
Maplewood	Nicollet	Pipestone	Savage	St. Peter	White Bear Township
Marshall	North Mankato	Plymouth	Shakopee	Stillwater	Wilder
Minneapolis	North Oaks	Prior Lake	Sherburn	Swanville	Willmar
Minnesota City	North St. Paul	Randall	Shoreview	Thief River Falls	Winona
Minnesota Lake	Northrop	Red Wing	Sioux Valley	Trimont	Woodbury
Minnetonka	Norwood Young	Renville	Skyline	Truman	
Montevideo	America	Richfield	Sobieski	Upsala	
Montgomery	Oak Park Heights	Richmond	South St. Paul	Utica	
Monticello	Oakdale	Rochester	Spring Lake Park	Vadnais Heights	
Moorhead	Odin	Rockville	St. Louis Park	Vernon Center	
Morris	Okabena	Rollingstone	St. Augusta	Wadena	



In December, Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt formally took command of the 34th Infantry Division, replacing Maj. Gen. David Elicerio after his three years in command.

PHOTO BY: Sgt. Johnny Angelo

UNIT INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota National Guard supports both state and federal missions with more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen from across the state. When directed by the President, the Minnesota National Guard deploys mission-trained soldiers, airmen and units to support overseas missions. The resources of the Minnesota National Guard are also available to the governor to support domestic response missions in communities throughout the state.

The Minnesota National Guard operates in 63 communities in facilities that serve as community centers. Each of our units maintain a vital relationship with the local citizens they serve. As the Minnesota National Guard looks toward the future, our units will continue to train to ensure they are ready to respond to our nation's call, while also maintaining and strengthening their ties to the community.

In the next few pages, you will read the accomplishments of the major units of the Minnesota National Guard from 2013 and what those units hope to achieve over the coming year.

"Our overall expertise as a fighting force has never been better. We have junior leaders with multiple combat deployments who know how to lead in battle."

-Maj. Gen. David Elicerio
Assistant Adjutant General



During the Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange, the Norwegian Home Guard guides and trains squads of Minnesota service members on winter field survival skills.

PHOTO BY: Airman 1st Class Kari Giles



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

St. Paul

UNIT STRENGTH

544 soldiers and airmen

COMMANDER

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. Cindy Kallberg

Located in St. Paul, the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air National Guard unit that oversees operations for all state National Guard forces. Joint Force Headquarters coordinates military support at the request of the governor in the event of a disaster and is capable of providing a joint command staff for federal military forces operating within the state of Minnesota.

In 2013, the Joint Force Headquarters participated in a domestic response exercise called *Vigilant Sheen* which focused on a simulated train derailment and chemical release scenario in the Little Falls area. Local and state disaster response agencies participated in the exercise which is one of many domestic response exercises the Minnesota National Guard is using to prepare for a large-scale *Vigilant Guard* exercise hosted in the state in 2015. The purpose of *Vigilant Guard* is to enhance the ability of the Minnesota National Guard to function effectively in the domestic environment by strengthening relationships with interagency partners.

The Minnesota National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion met its recruiting goal of 100 percent or more each year for the past ten years. In Fiscal Year 2013, nearly 1,600 soldiers enlisted into the Minnesota Army National Guard, 26 percent over the projected goal.

The Minnesota National Guard Joint Operations Center provides situational awareness of events around the state and country and ensures continuous secure communication between the Minnesota National Guard, National Guard Bureau and U.S. Northern Command.

The Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters will continue to prepare for the upcoming *Vigilant Guard* domestic response exercise in 2015 by conducting a tabletop exercise and a full-scale exercise in the next year. In addition, the Minnesota National Guard will maintain its readiness to respond to domestic emergencies. The Joint Force Headquarters will also host the Minnesota National Guard 2014 Pride Month observance.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"The Minnesota National Guard is ready to respond in the event of a state or a federal emergency."

*-Maj. Gen. Richard Nash
The Adjutant General*

2014 OBJECTIVES

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

2nd / 4th / 8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

9B / 41A / 42A / 54A / 65B / 66A

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/jfhq



34th INFANTRY DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Rosemount, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

811 soldiers

COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold



A soldier from the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion trains on a simulator during annual training at Camp Ripley in July.

PHOTO BY: Sgt. Stacy Hayes

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"Being a professional soldier is the most noble and selfless thing that our young men and women can do."

*-Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt
34th Infantry Division Commander*

The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division oversees the training and operations of ten National Guard brigades in six different states. In Minnesota, the division includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, 84th Troop Command and the 347th Regional Support Group. The 34th Infantry Division is capable of deploying its Main Command Post, Tactical Command Post and Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion to provide command and control for Army brigades.

At Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the division conducted a week-long Mission Command Training Seminar. The seminar focused on current doctrine, decision-making activities and building relationships with participating units for the upcoming 2014 full-spectrum *Warfighter Exercise*.

Personnel from the 34th Infantry Division also participated in *Talisman Saber* to collectively train within the U.S. Pacific Command Theater of Operations. Division Headquarters personnel focused on offensive and defensive operations while fostering relationships with I Corps, U.S. Army Pacific and the Australian Defense Forces.

Camp Ripley was the location for the division's Mission Command Systems Integration event which included improving the division's processes and procedures and increasing proficiency to employ the command post as a mission command system. The 34th Infantry Division incorporated key cyber security tasks into major training exercises.

2014 OBJECTIVES

The 34th Infantry Division is in a period of transition from more than a decade of combat operations to a period of decreased deployments and resources. Sustaining personnel readiness continues to be a top priority. The culminating training event for 2014 will be the division full-spectrum *Warfighter Exercise*. This event is a 17-day, full-scale exercise conducting unified land operations while providing mission command for ten brigades. The division will also begin preparation events for *Vigilant Guard 2015* and *Talisman Saber 2015*.



Armor crewmen of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment move out into the snow for winter drivers training and tank operations along the armor trail at Camp Ripley.

PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Anthony Housey



1st ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Bloomington, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

5,370 soldiers

COMMANDER

Col. Jon Jensen

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. John Lepowsky

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division is capable of providing the U.S. Army with a trained and ready combat force, in addition to supporting local civil authorities throughout Minnesota in a disaster.

In 2013, the Bloomington-based brigade continued its reset operations after returning from deployment in 2012. The unit focused heavily on personnel readiness while simultaneously improving individual and collective skill proficiency.

The brigade is one of seven Army National Guard Armored Brigade Combat Teams. In 2013, soldiers began new equipment fielding of the M2A2 and M3A2 ODS SA (Operation Desert Storm-Situational Awareness) Bradley Fighting Vehicle as well as the M3A3 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicles, M1117 Armored Security Vehicles and Assault Breacher Vehicles.

The brigade celebrated its heritage this year by honoring the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and is preparing to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the construction of the New Ulm Armory in 2014.

The brigade will shift their training focus in 2014 from individual soldier training to collective training at the squad and section levels. The year will be one of changing force structure as several units of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team prepare for reorganizations that will increase the size and capabilities of those units.

The 134th Brigade Support Battalion will add one additional company and the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery will add an additional battery. The Brigade Special Troops Battalion will transform into a Brigade Engineer Battalion with more versatile and robust capabilities to support both domestic and overseas operations. The brigade will also host the Minnesota National Guard's observances of Women's History Month, Holocaust Remembrance Day and National American Indian Heritage Month.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"We understand training and readiness — we can fight."

*-Col. Jon Jensen
1st Armored Brigade Combat Team
Commander*

2014 OBJECTIVES

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th / 5th / 6th / 7th / 8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

1A / 1B / 3B / 4A / 4B / 5A / 5B / 6A / 8A / 8B / 9A / 9B / 10A / 11A / 11B / 12B / 14B / 16B / 18B / 19A / 19B / 22A / 23A / 23B / 24A / 26A / 27A / 27B / 28A / 36B / 50B / 52A / 60A / 67A

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/1abct



34th COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

St. Paul, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

1,175 soldiers

COMMANDER

Col. Greg Thingvold

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. James Kampsen



A UH-60 Black Hawk from Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (Air Ambulance) is loaded with mail and supplies for a remote outpost after dropping a patient off at a medical facility in Shindand, Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Roger Merrell

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*"We value leaders and soldiers
— individuals are the strength
of the Minnesota Army
National Guard."*

*-Col. Greg Thingvold
34th Combat Aviation Brigade Commander*

The St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade is an Army National Guard unit that supports the 34th Infantry Division and the state of Minnesota by providing aviation capabilities – both UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters – for federal and state missions.

The Minnesota-based subordinate units of the brigade are the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion; the 834th Aviation Support Battalion; Company C, 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment; Company B and Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment and Company F, 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment.

In May, the brigade provided CH-47 and UH-60 helicopters and personnel to local government agencies to fight and contain three wildfires in northwest Minnesota. In 2013, the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade welcomed home the St. Cloud-based Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment from a deployment in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom* where they conducted more than 650 medical evacuation missions and flew 1,700 accident-free flight hours. The company also received six new CH-47F Chinook helicopters and trained more than 30 personnel in their operation.

In June, the brigade participated in a full-spectrum *Warfighter Exercise* with the 40th Infantry Division at Fort Leavenworth. During this exercise, the brigade staff was able to successfully integrate with different levels of command and adjacent units.

2014 OBJECTIVES

The brigade is preparing to mobilize its headquarters and 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion to Kuwait in 2014. In addition to preparing for deployment, the brigade will also continue equipment enhancements and soldier readiness training. The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade continues preparation to assist civil authorities during state missions that include fire suppression, flood response and search and rescue. The brigade will host the Minnesota National Guard's 2014 observance of African American History month.



More than 140 soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard's 114th Transportation Company mark the beginning of their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during a departure ceremony in Chisholm in October.

PHOTO BY: Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper



347th REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Roseville, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

749 soldiers

COMMANDER

Col. Johanna P. Clyborne

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. Erik Arne

The mission of the 347th Regional Support Group is to deploy and provide contingency and expeditionary base operations, with responsibilities for managing facilities, providing administrative and logistical support for troop services and ensuring the security of personnel and facilities on a base camp. The unit provides command and control of assigned units during homeland security, homeland defense and other civil support missions within the U.S. including managing the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of supporting forces.

The Roseville-based 147th Finance Detachment returned in July from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. The unit executed 170 Financial Management Support Team missions to 26 austere locations in Regional Command East. The 147th Human Resources Company, also based in Roseville, continued to reset from its deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 where they managed personnel accountability operations throughout Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan while conducting postal operations at 19 locations throughout Afghanistan. In October, the Chisholm-based 114th Transportation Company departed for a deployment to Afghanistan to assist in the drawdown of forces.

The Regional Support Group continued to train and demonstrate its capacity as the logistical support leader in the Minnesota National Guard in 2013. The unit achieved a milestone in the history of the Minnesota National Guard as Col. Johanna Clyborne became the first female commander of a Minnesota Army National Guard major subordinate command.

The 347th Regional Support Group will continue to support global operations through unit deployments and stateside readiness activities. The 114th Transportation Company will carry out critical mission operations in Afghanistan in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom*. In order to ensure the brigade and subordinate companies are prepared to respond to the needs of the nation and the state, the entire brigade will participate in externally validated exercises. The strengthening and focus on family readiness group efforts and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon continues to be a priority for the Regional Support Group in the upcoming year. The 347th will host the Minnesota National Guard's 2014 observance of Women's Equality Day.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"The 347th stands ready to provide robust sustainment to our forces, whether at home or abroad."

*-Col. Johanna Clyborne
347th Regional Support Group Commander*

2014 OBJECTIVES

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

1st / 2nd / 4th / 6th / 7th / 8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

3B / 6A / 17A / 27B / 29B / 39B / 42A / 54A / 66A

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/347rsg



84th TROOP COMMAND

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Minneapolis, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

1,839 soldiers

COMMANDER

Col. Dirk Kloss

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. Rollyn Wold



Two bulldozers operated by soldiers from the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company assault small mounds of dirt to level them out for the security forces of Bagram Air Field, giving them a better line of sight to spot anyone attempting to come close to the perimeter fence.

PHOTO BY: Spc. John Rader

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 84th Troop Command is a unique and diverse organization that maintains a large footprint across Minnesota, with units spanning from Appleton to Stillwater. The 84th Troop Command includes a headquarters element; 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery; 682nd Engineer Battalion; 34th and 257th Military Police Companies and the 55th Civil Support Team.

Because of its unique organization, the 84th Troop Command often finds its units supporting domestic response missions. The very specific Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, or CBRN, response capabilities within the 55th Civil Support Team and the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, are an asset to the state.

The 55th Civil Support Team and the CERFP participated in the 2013 *Patriot Exercise* at Volk Field, Wis., in July. The *Patriot Exercise* is an annual joint-service exercise that tests units' abilities to assist local and state first responders contending with multiple emergencies.

In 2013, the 84th Troop Command welcomed home one unit and sent two units to Afghanistan. The Monticello-based 257th Military Police Company returned in April from Afghanistan where they coached and mentored soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

The Cambridge-based 850th Horizontal Engineer Company deployed in March to Afghanistan to provide heavy equipment, hauling and maintenance support for several forward operating bases throughout the country. The Litchfield-based 849th Mobility Augmentation Company deployed to Afghanistan in July to conduct route clearance missions.

"Our civilian partners increase our strength in all that we do."

-Col. Dirk Kloss
84th Troop Command Commander

2014 OBJECTIVES

In 2014, the 84th Troop Command will continue to improve personnel readiness with a focus on improving efficiency. The Civil Support Team and CERFP will prepare for upcoming external evaluations to test their capabilities to respond. The battalion headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery and 682nd Engineer Battalion will participate in staff-level exercises in 2014. The 849th Mobility Augmentation Company will return home from Afghanistan in 2014 and the Stillwater-based 34th Military Police Company will send a platoon to Kuwait.

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/84tc

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

2nd / 4th / 5th / 6th / 7th / 8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

9B / 12A / 16A / 17A / 17B / 18A / 20B / 21A / 32A / 35A / 60A / 66A



Soldiers attending the Advanced Leaders Course at the 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute conduct a road march in the field at Camp Ripley despite an unseasonably late snow storm.

PHOTO BY: Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas G. Gauwitz



175th REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Camp Ripley, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

94 soldiers

COMMANDER

Col. Michael Funk

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood

The Camp Ripley-based 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute provides combat arms, military occupational specialty and leadership training to the Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Army to prepare soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels.

In 2013, the 175th Regiment conducted 31 courses at the Regional Training Institute and 43 courses at the Regional Training Site - Maintenance, graduating a total of 922 students with graduation rates of 98 percent and 99.7 percent, respectively.

The Minnesota National Guard's 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute received the "Institution of Excellence" award from the Army's Training and Doctrine Command for achieving a score of 97.5 percent in their accreditation process.

The Regional Training Institute not only provides high-quality training to soldiers, but also produces professional instructors who become valuable assets to provide training at their units across the state.

The 175th Regiment will continue to maintain the standards of an Institution of Excellence and its reputation of providing high-quality training to service members. The 175th will strive to utilize state-of-the-art equipment to provide cutting-edge training that is productive and relevant.

The Regional Training Institute will continue to train professional officers and non-commissioned officers while focusing on fiscal responsibility during this period of economic uncertainty.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*"Soldiers come to us from around
the nation for excellence
in training."*

*-Col. Michael Funk
175th Regiment Regional Training Institute
Commander*

2014 OBJECTIVES

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT:

9B

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/175rti



133rd AIRLIFT WING

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

St. Paul, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

1,178 airmen

COMMANDER

Col. James T. Johnson

ENLISTED LEADER

Chief Master Sgt. Paul D. Kessler



An airman from the 133rd Airlift Wing marshals a C-130 into the proper parking spot during a training exercise in Yuma, Ariz., in February. The airman holds a high level of attentiveness as the C-130 Hercules maneuvers.

PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Amy M. Lovgren

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"We will maintain a constant state of readiness for worldwide deployments."

*-Col. James Johnson
133rd Airlift Wing Commander*

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard flying wing headquartered at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Utilizing the C-130 Hercules, the 133rd provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift capability to transport troops, cargo and medical patients across the globe in addition to providing the citizens of Minnesota with domestic operations and disaster response support. The 133rd is known as the first federally recognized National Guard flying unit in the country. In 2013, the 133rd was presented with its ninth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, a coveted designation earned by only the top 10 percent of all Air Force units annually.

Throughout 2013, the 133rd Airlift Wing continued a high operations tempo, deploying airmen both in the continental U.S. for domestic operations and to ten countries abroad with global contingency missions. The 133rd also accomplished significant global and domestic readiness training. Of particular significance was *Exercise Boreas Reach*, a wing-led domestic terror response scenario which incorporated 11 civilian and eight additional military agencies from across the state.

The wing completed an Air Force Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection, which assessed the maintenance and logistics operations and processes. The 133rd received an overall "outstanding" rating, continuing its long-standing record of stellar inspection performance.

2014 OBJECTIVES

The 133rd Airlift Wing will continue to pursue additional relevant missions, while maintaining world-wide deployments, domestic training and operational support. The 133rd will roll out the Air Force's Commander's Inspection Program, which is focused heavily on self-assessment of its abilities to manage resources, improve operations, effectively lead its people and efficiently execute the mission. The wing will also emphasize and institutionalize the Air Force's Comprehensive Airman Fitness Program, which incorporates physical, mental, spiritual and social fitness when considering total airman and mission readiness.

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/133aw

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

5th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT:

63B



A 148th Fighter Wing F-16 pilot waits to get the go-ahead to taxi while participating in a Readiness Exercise in Duluth in July. The Air Combat Command Inspector General team evaluated the 148th Fighter Wing during a Readiness Inspection. The wing received an overall grade of "excellent."

PHOTO BY: Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapuska



148th FIGHTER WING

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Duluth, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

1,020 airmen

COMMANDER

Col. Frank H. Stokes

ENLISTED LEADER

Chief Master Sgt. Mark S. Rukavina

The 148th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Duluth, flies the Block 50 F-16CM Fighting Falcon, the newest F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. Also known as the Bulldogs, the 148th Fighter Wing is one of only two Air National Guard wings tasked to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense for our nation. The 148th continues to actively support overseas Air Expeditionary Force and Expeditionary Combat Support taskings for operations worldwide. In 2013, the 148th Fighter Wing was awarded its eighth Air Force "Outstanding Unit Award" and was awarded the National Guard Association of the United States "Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque," presented to the highest-rated Air National Guard flying unit for the year.

The 148th Fighter Wing earned an "excellent" rating in an Air Combat Command Inspector General readiness inspection, where the wing's ability to survive and operate in theater was tested. Throughout the inspection, the Bulldogs generated 10 aircraft, flew 58 sorties and overcame numerous scenarios, ranging from chemical and conventional attacks; to navigating and utilizing simulated contaminated equipment; and coping with simulated casualties among their wingmen.

People represent the most vital resource to the successful completion of the 148th mission. Members performed nearly 5,000 hours of community service by participating in parades, blood drives and environmental projects. In addition, the 148th Fighter Wing achieved an end-strength of 103.5 percent, the 13th year in a row of over 100 percent.

The 148th Fighter Wing is prepared to receive active duty personnel as part of the active associate designation. Active association allows active duty airmen to work side-by-side with National Guard airmen to learn from their experience and expertise. The wing will continue to partner with the local Military Affairs Committee to support the proposed extension of a runway at the Duluth International Airport. The 148th will also continue to support the North American Aerospace Defense Command, providing airspace defense for the continental U.S.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT:

3B

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/148fw

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"Our fellow service members count on the 148th Fighter Wing to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense."

*-Col. Frank Stokes
148th Fighter Wing Commander*

2014 OBJECTIVES



CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Camp Ripley, Minn.

UNIT STRENGTH

417 soldiers and airmen

COMMANDER

Col. Scott St. Sauver

ENLISTED LEADER

Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Worden



Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, prepare the Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for flight at the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operation Facility at Camp Ripley in July.

PHOTO BY: Staff Sgt. Patrick Loch

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"We host federal, state and civilian agencies year-round for events on our 53,000-acre post."

*-Col. Scott St. Sauver
Camp Ripley Post Commander*

Camp Ripley Training Center, located near Little Falls, Minn., strives to provide the best support, facilities and resources enabling customers to train in a realistic environment while maintaining positive community relations. Integral to this mission is maintaining partnerships with local, state, military and civilian agencies. Camp Ripley regularly hosts military and civilian agencies from across the state and from other countries that conduct training at the 53,000-acre facility.

The Norwegian Chief of Defense delegation visited Camp Ripley in February to unveil a monument donated by the Norwegian Home Guard commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange Program. This 40-year partnership is the longest-running military exchange between any two nations. Norwegian soldiers annually visit Camp Ripley to conduct training while soldiers and airmen from the Minnesota National Guard simultaneously train with their counterparts in Norway.

Camp Ripley serves as a training center for all military services. A \$3.9 million Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility was unveiled in 2013. In April, the Marine Corps Recruiting Station based in the Twin Cities held their annual "mini boot camp" at Camp Ripley to provide Marine recruits an idea of what Marine Corps initial training is like.

Civilian agencies also train at Camp Ripley. In addition to partnerships with the Minnesota Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Corrections, Education, Health and Natural Resources, many local law enforcement agencies also train at Camp Ripley. New partnerships are added each year. This year, the fire marshal for the state of Iowa visited Camp Ripley to gain a better understanding of the services offered.

Camp Ripley is well known for its excellent hunting and fishing. Several outdoor sporting events this past year honored service members and wounded veterans, including the "Trolling for the Troops" fishing event in June and the "Deployed Soldiers' Turkey Hunt" in May. Members of the community can also take advantage of the deer hunting opportunities at Camp Ripley.

www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/crtc

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

4th / 8th

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

9B / 41A / 42A

ACCOMPLISHMENTS continued

The post hosted two winter sporting events in 2013. In February, the North Star Dog Sled Club hosted the “Spirit of the Winter Warrior” sled dog races. Mushers and teams came from across the state to take part in 10, 25 and 40-mile races around the post’s training area. Also in February, Camp Ripley hosted the National Guard Biathlon Championship with more than 90 biathletes competing from around the country.

Camp Ripley partners with the local community and strives to make the facility and its operations open to its local partners. More than 50 employers from the surrounding area visited Camp Ripley in June to observe training that soldiers and airmen perform while they are away from their civilian full-time jobs. The group toured the facilities, received a fire power demonstration and had the opportunity to become acquainted with military equipment.

More than 2,500 people passed through the gates of Camp Ripley in September for the “15th Biennial Open House.” The open house showcased the training, facilities and mission to the local community.

Camp Ripley is connected to the Little Falls community. In May, post employees participated in the third annual “Day of Caring.” The event, sponsored by the Little Falls High School and the Healthy Communities Collaborative, encourages the betterment of the local area through the efforts of supportive residents and volunteers.

2014 OBJECTIVES

The training center will continue to sustain and enhance its three pillars of support: federal, state and community. Using existing facilities, Camp Ripley will seek opportunities to continue long-term state interagency partnerships with the Minnesota Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Corrections, Education, Health and Natural Resources. Camp Ripley will develop its domestic operations training opportunities in support of federal and state disaster response scenarios.

Camp Ripley will continue to highlight the Arden Hills Army Training Site as a regional center, capable of military and interagency training. Working with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and other vendors, Camp Ripley will work to provide more options to customers.

Camp Ripley will continue to diversify its force through recruiting, retention, mentoring and community outreach. Camp Ripley will sustain its partnerships with the local Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Networks.

Camp Ripley is host to multiple organizations and events throughout the year to include: biathlons, community service activities, police training and Minnesota Department of Transportation snowplow training.

PHOTOS BY: Staff Sgt. Anthony Housey





STATE ECONOMIC IMPACT

FEDERAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

STATE DISTRICT

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ASSIGNED PERSONNEL

UNIT LOCATION

ALBERT LEA	91	1	27A	\$1,913,000	\$4,000
ALEXANDRIA	112	7	08B	\$2,726,000	\$26,000
ANOKA	202	6	35A	\$4,239,000	\$29,000
APPLETON	68	7	20A	\$1,436,000	\$26,000
ARDEN HILLS / NEW BRIGHTON	264	4	42A	\$5,578,000	\$43,000
AUSTIN	108	1	27B	\$2,269,000	\$34,000
BEMIDJI	94	7	05A	\$1,972,000	\$27,000
BLOOMINGTON	483	3	50B	\$10,133,000	\$77,000
BRAINERD	149	8	10A	\$3,127,000	\$41,000
BROOKLYN PARK	176	3	36B	\$3,686,000	\$37,000
CAMBRIDGE	196	8	32A	\$4,107,000	\$90,000
CHISHOLM	32	8	06A	\$677,000	\$26,000
CLOQUET	122	8	11A	\$2,562,000	\$37,000
COTTAGE GROVE	184	2	54A	\$3,875,000	\$85,000
CROOKSTON	111	7	01B	\$2,326,000	\$43,000
DETROIT LAKES	74	7	04B	\$1,557,000	\$28,000
DULUTH	487	8	03B	\$10,199,000	\$46,000
DULUTH (AIR BASE)	1,026	8	03B	\$70,474,000	\$236,000
EAST ST. PAUL	230	4	67A	\$4,817,000	\$23,000
FAIRMONT	67	1	23A	\$1,408,000	\$35,000
FARIBAULT	140	1	24B	\$2,951,000	\$130,000
FERGUS FALLS	88	7	08A	\$1,847,000	\$32,000
GRAND RAPIDS	84	8	05B	\$1,761,000	\$24,000
HASTINGS	69	2	21A	\$1,454,000	\$29,000
HIBBING	109	8	06A	\$2,290,000	\$32,000
HUTCHINSON	136	7	18B	\$2,853,000	\$31,000
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS	132	2	52B	\$2,858,000	\$79,000
JACKSON	72	1	23A	\$1,512,000	\$18,000
LITCHFIELD	145	7	18A	\$3,040,000	\$18,000
LITTLE FALLS	1,018	8	09B	\$64,931,000	\$3,323,000
LONG PRAIRIE	75	7	09B	\$1,575,000	\$24,000
LUVERNE	70	1	22A	\$1,470,000	\$20,000

*NOTE: Financial figures are based on state fiscal year ending June 30 and federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30

*NOTE: Financial figures are rounded to nearest 1,000

STATE ECONOMIC IMPACT

FEDERAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

STATE DISTRICT

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ASSIGNED PERSONNEL

UNIT LOCATION

MADISON	83	7	16A	\$49,000	\$25,000
MANKATO	190	1	19B	\$3,993,000	\$85,000
MARSHALL	86	7	16A	\$1,806,000	\$34,000
MINNEAPOLIS	59	5	60A	\$1,241,000	\$360,000
MPLS / ST. PAUL (AIR BASE)	1,206	5	63B	\$77,730,000	\$404,000
MONTEVIDEO	104	7	17A	\$2,186,000	\$69,000
MONTICELLO	167	6	29B	\$3,498,000	\$1,000
MOORHEAD	195	7	04A	\$4,220,000	\$93,000
MORRIS	66	7	12A	\$1,393,000	\$28,000
NEW ULM	90	1	16B	\$1,896,000	\$38,000
NORTHFIELD	84	2	20B	\$1,764,000	\$39,000
OLIVIA	89	7	17A	\$1,872,000	\$25,000
ORTONVILLE	89	7	12A	\$1,874,000	\$38,000
OWATONNA	75	1	24A	\$1,580,000	\$47,000
PINE CITY	123	8	11B	\$2,598,000	\$24,000
PIPESTONE	65	7	22A	\$1,368,000	\$29,000
RED WING	63	2	21A	\$1,326,000	\$24,000
REDWOOD FALLS	66	7	16B	\$1,387,000	\$41,000
ROCHESTER	153	1	26A	\$3,216,000	\$39,000
ROSEMOUNT	532	2	57B	\$11,152,000	\$134,000
ROSEVILLE	304	4	66A	\$6,437,000	\$77,000
SAUK CENTRE	74	6	14B	\$1,621,000	\$47,000
ST. CLOUD	494	7	15B	\$10,355,000	\$30,000
ST. JAMES	66	1	23B	\$1,388,000	\$23,000
ST. PAUL	1,284	4	65B	\$33,125,000	\$8,567,000
ST. PETER	66	1	19A	\$1,387,000	\$28,000
STILLWATER	202	6	39B	\$4,246,000	\$37,000
THIEF RIVER FALLS	68	7	01A	\$1,499,000	\$26,000
WADENA	85	8	09A	\$1,786,000	\$28,000
WEST ST. PAUL	211	2	52A	\$4,420,000	\$16,000
WILLMAR	179	7	17B	\$3,755,000	\$24,000
WINONA	105	1	28A	\$2,205,000	\$51,000

13,137 TOTAL SERVICE MEMBERS

96.5%

FEDERAL FUNDING

\$425,996,000

3.5%

STATE FUNDING

\$15,284,000



2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State funding supported the hire of an essential Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor providing chemical health assessments, substance abuse awareness training, treatment resources, referrals and outreach.

The Legislature updated and approved the Minnesota Code of Military Justice. The statutory change reflects the best practices to promote justice and enforce good order and discipline within the Minnesota National Guard.

Three renovations of Minnesota National Guard armories were completed in 2013: Duluth Armory (\$2.4 million), St. Paul Armory (\$9.87 million) and Jackson Armory (\$2.1 million).

The Minnesota National Guard began construction on the addition to the Camp Ripley Education Center this year (\$17.1 million, 68,291 square feet).

The Camp Ripley Training Center's Army Compatible Use Buffer program, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources received \$1.45 million through the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, allowing conservation easements for 868 acres of land and additional acquisition of 122 acres of land.

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash joins state leadership during Governor Mark Dayton's 2013 State of the State address at the Capitol.

PHOTO BY: Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houfkooper

"The Minnesota National Guard effectively informs local, state and federal officials of the best ways to partner and help our citizen-soldiers, airmen, families and employers."

-Col. Sandy Best
Government Relations Officer



2013 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence enacted into public law by the President to restore benefits to National Guard soldiers returning from deployment, championed by Minnesota's congressional delegation, resulted in 1,066 of 1,154 eligible personnel — including 132 of 154 people no longer in our ranks — submitting packets to the National Guard Bureau.

Three military construction projects were completed in 2013: Arden Hills Field Maintenance Shop (\$25.4 million, 98,000 square feet); Camp Ripley Infantry Squad Battle Course (\$2.2 million); and the Minneapolis Civil Support Team training and storage facility (\$1.8 million).

Camp Ripley Training Center received Army Compatible Use Buffer funding (\$1 million). As funding is made available, having 250 willing land owners representing 32,000 acres available to participate in the program has resulted in a high execution rate. This end of year funding was in addition to programmed environmental funding (\$1.83 million) and will allow for acquiring conservation easements for about 2,500 acres in fiscal year 2014.

Two construction projects were started in 2013: Camp Ripley Scout Reconnaissance/Digital Multi-purpose Range (\$16.4 million) and Arden Hills Readiness Center (\$16.4 million).

The Minnesota Air National Guard completed fiscal year 2013-14 sustainment, restoration and modernization projects at both wings.

At the 133rd Airlift Wing, funding was secured for future hangar fire, electrical and mechanical system renovations (\$4.9 million) and the repair of aging water distribution systems (\$3.2 million).

At the 148th Fighter Wing, the operations building was renovated to accommodate new requirements due to aircraft conversion (\$2.3 million). Future approved projects include the continued design of the fiscal year 2014 Master Construction Cooperative Agreement with the city of Duluth to reconstruct a roadway that will include an alternate entry (\$2.7 million), as well as the design of a fiscal year 2015 project to renovate and add to an existing facility to accommodate the Jet Inspection and Maintenance Shop (\$2.5 million).



Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Frank J. Grass and his wife, Mrs. Patricia Grass, (left) met with Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard Nash at the governor's office in St. Paul, to discuss National Guard challenges, priorities and objectives.

PHOTO BY: Master Sgt. Daniel Ewer

2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The Minnesota National Guard will pursue, through the state bonding process, asset preservation funding (\$10.3 million) to upgrade facilities, improve energy efficiency, and extend facility life throughout the state. Locations targeted for funding include major renovations in Litchfield, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Brooklyn Park, Rochester and Willmar. This funding would also include roof replacements in Rosemount, Long Prairie, Bloomington and Crookston, as well as window replacements in Olivia, Northfield and Madison.

Strengthen partnerships with elected officials, state, federal, local and corporate agencies for emphasis on soldier and airmen care initiatives, including: Substance Abuse Assessment and Referral, Sexual Assault Response and Prevention, Suicide Prevention and Women in Combat to improve the wellness and resiliency of service members and their families. Additionally, pursue state funding to support the hire of a second Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

The Department of Military Affairs supports efforts to pass the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act. This legislation would align Minnesota with the rest of the country and create a level playing field for deployed parents and military families.

On behalf of Camp Ripley Training Center and in support of the Army Compatible Use Buffer program, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has requested \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2015 state funds through the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to acquire conservation easements for 2,065 acres.

The Department of Military Affairs submitted a \$1.97 million funding request to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to construct a district heating facility at Camp Ripley that is fueled by renewable biomass using wood chips from the post. The project will replace the use of natural gas and will service seven buildings (275,000 square feet) within the Combined Maintenance Area heated by a biomass combustion unit.

"Elected officials throughout Minnesota have consistently stepped forward to assist the Minnesota National Guard."

-Mr. Don Kerr
Minnesota National Guard Executive Director

Partner with the Minnesota Department of Education to propose legislation modification requiring schools to include a block on their student enrollment forms for parents or guardians to voluntarily self-identify their child as a military-connected youth in order to provide support services if requested or needed.

The Minnesota National Guard supports Duluth Airport Authority's long-range plan to extend the Duluth International Airport Crosswind Runway. The runway would be mutually beneficial, assuring a viable long-term mission for the 148th Fighter Wing.

2014 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The Minnesota National Guard will work to retain funding in the 2014-17 Future Year Defense Plan. Military construction projects for the Minnesota Army National Guard are projected to include a Readiness Center (\$17 million) in Stillwater and a Qualification Training Range (\$9 million) at Camp Ripley.

The Minnesota Air National Guard's number one priority for 2017 Future Year Defense Plan military construction appropriations is the Load Crew Training and Weapons Release Shop (\$8 million) at the 148th Fighter Wing. This would fill a mission-critical requirement and is currently 6,000 square feet under authorization.

Work to restore funding for the Readiness Center Division Headquarters (\$39 million) in Arden Hills. The project was placed on the Future Years Defense Plan at an estimated cost of \$39 million and was zeroed out for programmed dollars on the latest version of the plan. This project is critical to facilitate the redistribution of space (currently 47 percent below authorized) in the metropolitan area, thereby enhancing the facility posture for units assigned.

Move forward on fiscal year 2013-14 sustainment, restoration and modernization projects at the 133rd Airlift Wing to renovate fire, electrical and mechanical systems for the hangar (\$4.9 million) and repair the aging water distribution system (\$4.1 million).

Pursue next-generation simulator equipment for upgrades to the C-130H3 simulator at the 133rd Airlift Wing for fiscal year 2015.

At the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, the objectives in 2014 include completing construction of the fiscal year 2012 munitions storage igloos project (\$1.7 million); renovation of the operations building to accommodate new requirements due to aircraft conversion (\$2.3 million); complete design, award and construction of the fiscal year 2014 Master Construction Cooperative Agreement project with the City of Duluth to reconstruct a roadway to include an alternate entry (\$2.7 million); complete design of a fiscal year 2015 project to renovate and add to an existing facility to accommodate Jet Engine Intermediate Maintenance facility (\$2.5 million); award design and construction to complete a project to renovate and add to an existing facility to provide a corrosion control clean room (\$600,000); and award design of a project to renovate and add to an existing facility to provide a consolidated Logistics Readiness and Supply facility (\$4.7 million).

Cyber objectives are to increase cyber force structure to enhance our capability in responding to state and federal requirements; continue to improve our ability to rapidly and effectively support an all-hazards response; and build enduring partnerships with state agencies, federal agencies, businesses and academic institutions to increase cyber security and identify best practices.

The Minnesota National Guard intends to grow or maintain force structure. Current force structure equips and organizes the Minnesota National Guard to respond to natural disasters, provide assistance to local law enforcement or respond to an attack on the homeland. The Minnesota National Guard's major commands – including our two air wings – are positioned to meet the governor's state requirements through ten essential capabilities, plus cyber response, for homeland readiness.

The Minnesota National Guard supports efforts to pursue the C-130J model aircraft as a future versatile airframe for the 133rd Airlift Wing.

Continued emphasis is necessary to improve the efficiency of Medical Evaluation Board packet submissions to Military Treatment Facilities. The Minnesota National Guard supports improving the processing and adjudication to ensure that soldiers receive timely resolution of their cases and the benefits to which they may be subsequently entitled.

“Leveraging the people, equipment and facilities of the National Guard is a cost effective solution that will preserve security for our state and nation.”

-Maj. Gen. Richard Nash
The Adjutant General

The 148th Fighter Wing was designated as an 18 Primary Aircraft Authorization Active Associate wing in 2012, with a portion of manning to be supplied by the active component. Delays in assigning active duty airmen have left the 148th Fighter Wing short of its manpower requirements for the Suppression of Enemy Air Defense mission. The Minnesota National Guard will encourage National Guard Bureau to assign adequate National Guard positions to the 148th Fighter Wing's manning document in order to establish an Active Associate model. Active duty airmen would then be assigned to the wing as additional manpower that arrive, gain experience and depart based upon the needs of the active duty force. The wing would be able to train and deploy as a complete 18 Primary Aircraft Authorization unit based upon National Guard manpower alone.



GOVERNOR
MARK DAYTON



SENATOR
AMY KLOBUCHAR



SENATOR
AL FRANKEN



DISTRICT 1
REP. TIM WALZ



DISTRICT 2
REP. JOHN KLINE



DISTRICT 3
REP. ERIK PAULSEN



DISTRICT 4
REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM



DISTRICT 5
REP. KEITH ELLISON



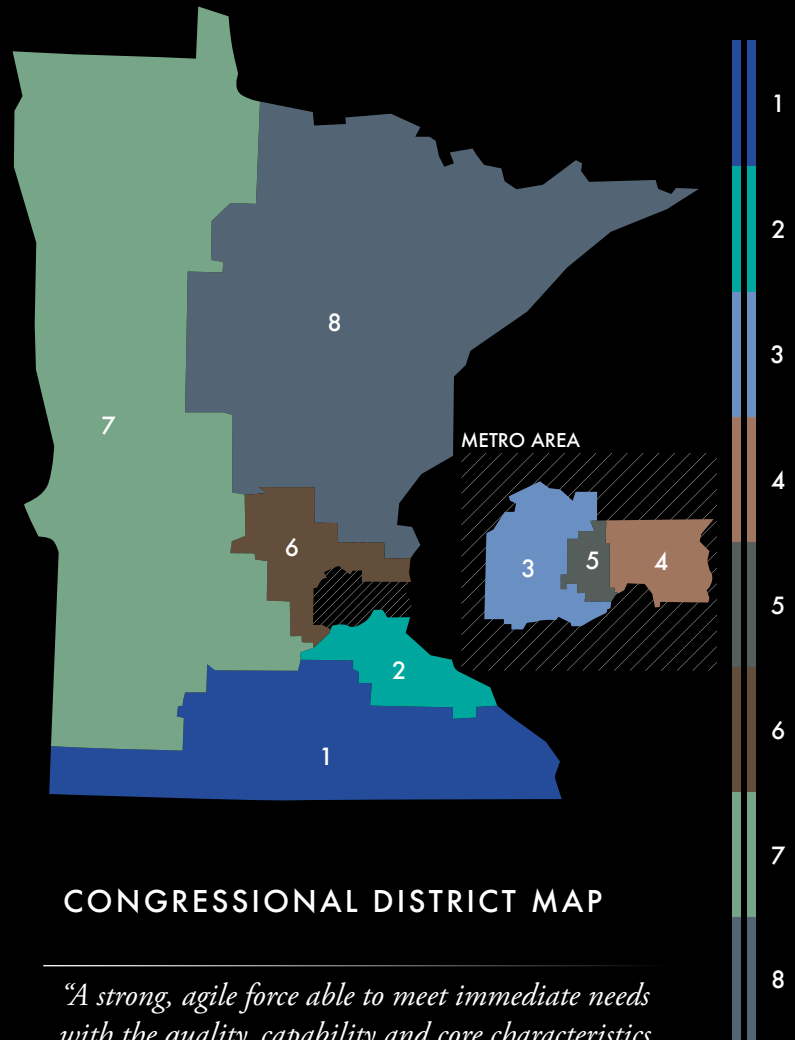
DISTRICT 6
REP. MICHELE BACHMANN



DISTRICT 7
REP. COLLIN PETERSON



DISTRICT 8
REP. RICK NOLAN



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP

"A strong, agile force able to meet immediate needs with the quality, capability and core characteristics unique to the National Guard is necessary to support civilian authorities in any unforeseen situation."

-Brig. Gen. Worthe Holt
Assistant Adjutant General — Air

THE FIRST MINNESOTA AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

The Minnesota National Guard revisited an important part of its history this past year on the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, along with several of the state's civic leaders, visited the Gettysburg battlefield, where Minnesota's First Volunteer Infantry Regiment led a charge against the Confederates that played an important part in the outcome of the American Civil War.

The event featured the historic meeting of Maj. Gen. Nash and Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard, at Plum Run, the site of the battle between the First Minnesota and two confederate brigades from Alabama and Mississippi. Now, 150 years later, the two sides that fought so long ago fight together as equals in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1861, when President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to support the Union Army in battle, Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey was the first to commit Union volunteers. In less than two weeks, 1,009 volunteers answered the call. These men made up the "First Minnesota."

The First Minnesota was outnumbered nearly four-to-one when General Winfield S. Hancock ordered them to charge, July 2, 1863. Col. William J. Colvill, commander of the First Minnesota, led 289 men on the charge. 233 died or were wounded. Against overwhelming odds, the First Minnesota's charge gave the Union line the time necessary to reform and go on to turn the battle in their favor.

The next day, those same men of the First Minnesota stood on the battlefield to defend against Pickett's charge, playing a pivotal role in the final day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Soldiers from the Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment held a ceremony at Cannon Falls Cemetery in Cannon Falls, Minn., July 2, 2013, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg at the scene of Colvill's final resting place. The battalion traces its lineage back to the First Minnesota.

In the past 150 years, Minnesota's volunteer force has slowly transformed into the Minnesota National Guard we know today. From those first Minnesota pioneers who laid down their plowshares to answer the nation's call to today's citizen-soldiers and -airmen who serve at home and abroad, the Minnesota National Guard has a long and proud history of service.

MINNESOTA MILITARY RADIO

The history of the Minnesota National Guard is now told on Minnesota Military Radio. Minnesota Military Radio is a weekly look at issues concerning service members, veterans, families and employers. The show is aired on 19 stations across Minnesota and can be heard in the Twin Cities, Little Falls, Grand Rapids, Ramsey, Litchfield, Alexandria, Bemidji, New Prague, Hastings, Montevideo, Owatonna, Redwood Falls, Willmar, Austin, Albert Lea and Jackson. Minnesota Military Radio is produced by the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Visit www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadio.com to listen on-line or find a station near you.



Reenactors in Gettysburg commemorate the 150th anniversary of the historic battle as depicted in "The First Minnesota" original painting by Don Troiani.

PHOTOS BY: Master Sgt. Daniel Ewer

