

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 28th, 2015

The Adjutant General

Honorable Richard Cohen
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 301

Honorable Sarah Anderson
House State Government Finance
Committee
583 State Office Building

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

Honorable Sheldon Johnson
House State Government Finance
Committee
259 State Office Building

Honorable Tom Saxhaug
Senate State Departments
and Veterans Division
State Capitol, Room 328

Honorable Bob Dettmer
House Veterans Affairs Division
565 State Office Building

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

Honorable John Persell
House Veterans Affairs Division
359 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. \$100,000.00 was disbursed to MMFF, who further disbursed grants totaling \$95,627.00 to 52 eligible individuals during 2013. The remaining amount remains available to MMFF to disburse in 2015.
 - (a.) The MMFF received a total 128 grant requests for financial assistance to individuals during calendar year 2014. Of the 128 requests, 52 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement.

(b.) The total requested for these 52 eligible grants was \$114,496.00 but after applying the \$2000 cap, \$95,627.00 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. \$18,895.00 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 | 27 |
| Vehicle Repair | 2 |
| Vehicle Loan Payments | 3 |
| Emergency Home/Appliance | 2 |
| General Bill Paying/Special Needs | 10 |
| Insurance | 18 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Grants | 52 |

(e.) For comparison, in 2013, 65 grants totaling \$119,942.00 were made. 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:

(a.) Funds totaling \$115,038.15 were expended for wages, fringe, and miscellaneous costs for two licensed alcohol and drug counselors to meet a critical need for these services for service members and their families that is otherwise unsupported.

(b.) A grant in the amount of \$52,500.00 was disbursed to the Armed Services center at Minneapolis/St Paul International Airport to replace unserviceable furniture and provide other services to military members.

(c.) A grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 was disbursed to the Minnesota Military Museum to partially support salary costs for an archivist, curators and to fund display costs to commemorate the service of veterans of the Civil War and World War I.

(d.) A grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 was disbursed to Minnesota Military Radio Hour to support outreach and expanded coverage in Minnesota to further reach veterans and citizens of Minnesota with service member and veteran-oriented programming.

(e.) A grant in the amount of \$34,612.50 was disbursed to the St Paul Serves Foundation to fund meals exclusively for Minnesota service members and their families during events in conjunction with deployments and military exchange programs.

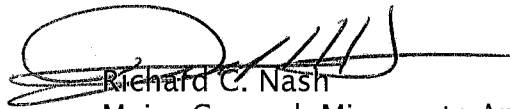
(f.) A grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 was disbursed to Twin Cities Public Television to support production costs for a documentary archiving a visit to Italian battlefields by current 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division Soldiers honoring the wartime actions of Red Bull veterans during World War II.

(g.) A grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 was disbursed to Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp to support camp participation by Minnesota National Guard family members.

6. 19 grants of \$1000.00 were made pursuant to purpose 2.(d.) above.

7. The point of contact for this report is the Executive Director of the Department of Military Affairs, Don Kerr at donald.j.kerr2.nfg@mail.mil or (651) 268-8913/

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Nash", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and several vertical strokes.

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