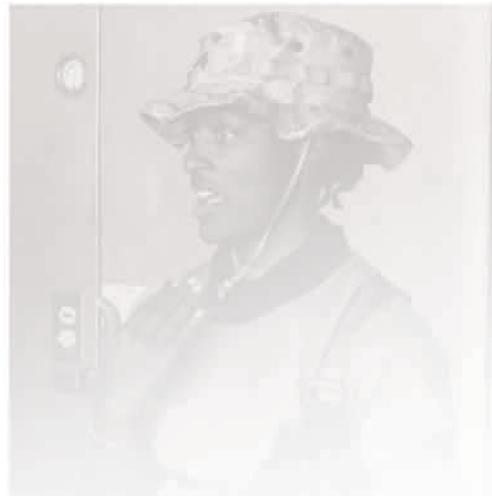
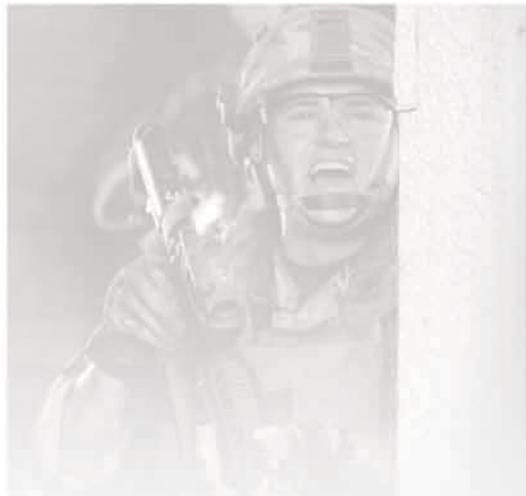


# MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**2021 OBJECTIVES**



# A LETTER FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

## To the Citizens of Minnesota:

On behalf of the more than 13,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard, I am pleased to present our annual report for 2020. This report is designed to share an overview of our organization's missions, activities and accomplishments over the past year, as well as to articulate a direction for the near future.

The last year certainly tested the resolve and resiliency of all Minnesotans. Together, we faced an unprecedented 2020, and amid angst and uncertainty we were reminded that people matter most.

In 2020, we were also reminded of the National Guard's value to our communities, state and nation. I'm extremely proud of and grateful for the Airmen and Soldiers from across Minnesota who continue to step up and serve when called upon. The sacrifices they, their families and employers make are truly remarkable.

Throughout this historic year, members of the Minnesota National Guard successfully demonstrated their courage, commitment and readiness. They performed admirably, and they accomplished everything that was asked of them. As you read further, you will learn about our efforts in Minnesota, including partnering with other agencies to support our state's COVID-19 pandemic response and protecting lives, property and the rights of Minnesotans amid civil unrest.

Inside, you will also find information about our federal missions. Airmen and Soldiers with a wide array of expertise and from all corners of the state took part in federal training missions and deployed to support operations around the world.

As we look to 2021, I am optimistic. Our Soldiers and Airmen will continue to train, fight and win with a constant focus on improvement and modernization. While we know not what the next year will bring, one thing is certain...

Your friends and neighbors of the Minnesota National Guard remain committed to you.



Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke  
The Adjutant General  
Minnesota

## MAJ. GEN. SHAWN MANKE *The Adjutant General*

As Minnesota's 32nd adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke is the senior leader of the Minnesota National Guard. The adjutant general is the administrative head of the state's Department of Military Affairs whose duties and responsibilities are defined in Minnesota State Statute 190.09. The adjutant general is a state employee appointed by the governor of Minnesota for a seven-year term.

Learn more about the adjutant general:  
<https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/TAG>



**"THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD IS A TREMENDOUS ORGANIZATION, AND I AM HUMBLLED AND EAGER TO LEAD THE GREAT MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN IN SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."**

— Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke, Minnesota adjutant general

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# COVID-19 RESPONSE

The novel coronavirus impacted the Minnesota National Guard significantly in 2020. Minnesota Guardsmen supported state response efforts to COVID-19 as the organization adjusted training in order to ensure Soldiers and Airmen remained healthy and ready to respond to state and federal missions.

In March, the Minnesota National Guard was called on to assist the state with the acquisition and distribution of supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). The Minnesota National Guard provided PPE from its medical warehouse at Camp Ripley to first responders across the state.

On March 21, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-13, authorizing the Minnesota National Guard to assist in COVID-19 response.

In addition to assisting with logistics and supply distribution, an early mission for the Minnesota National Guard – in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Army Corps of Engineers – was to assist with the identification and selection of Alternate Care Sites around the state to be used in the event that the capacity of local healthcare facilities were overwhelmed.

The Minnesota National Guard started remote training on drill weekends for most units in March in order to comply with State of Minnesota and Centers for Disease Control guidelines for social distancing. Leaders created virtual training plans that focused on completing mandatory online training requirements and conducted communication and planning via video conferencing capabilities.

In May, the Minnesota National Guard began supporting COVID-19 testing in Minnesota's long-term care facilities. Approximately 100 Soldiers and Airmen assisted with conducting more than 70,000 tests at more than 500 facilities between May 14 and August 25 to assist state health officials.

Maj. Kirk Sutton, a physician with the 133rd Airlift Wing, consults with an individual seeking a COVID-19 test at the National Guard armory in Minneapolis, May 23, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard conducted barrier-free COVID-19 testing at six armories across the state on Memorial Day weekend in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

Also in May, the Minnesota National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing and 133rd Airlift Wing, along with the Air Force Reserve 934th Airlift Wing, conducted flyovers of healthcare facilities as part of Operation American Resolve. The flyovers were part of a national effort to recognize health care workers, emergency responders, food industry and other essential workers who helped to keep the state running during the Governor's stay at home order.

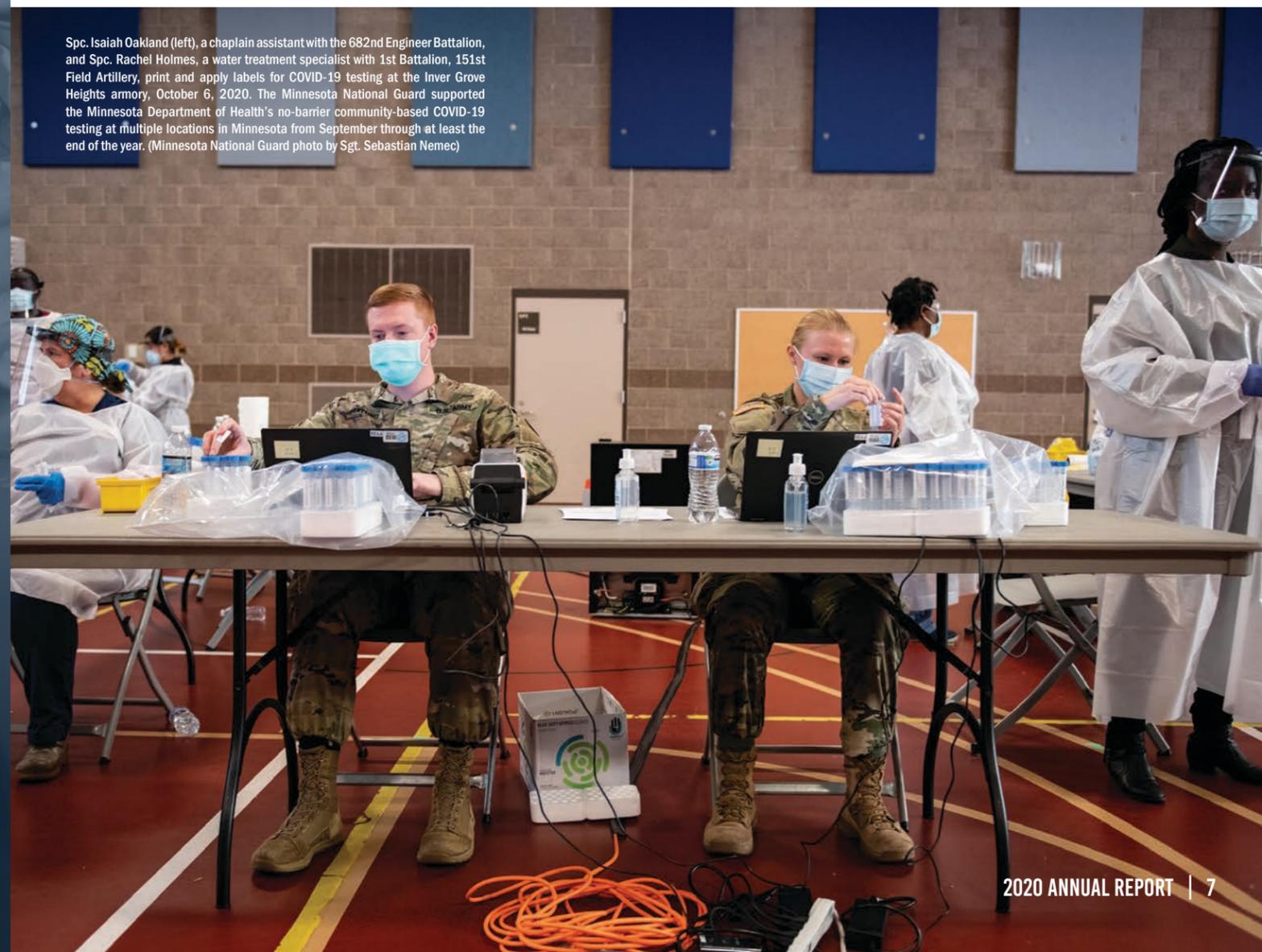
Over Memorial Day weekend, the Minnesota National Guard opened six armories for community-based COVID-19 testing. Soldiers and Airmen conducted free COVID-19 testing for members of the public at armories in East St. Paul, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Duluth, Faribault and St. James.

COVID-19 impacted scheduled training for several units, specifically the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, as they prepared for

their rotation at the National Training Center. The brigade put into place several preventative measures to ensure the training rotation could still continue, while ensuring the safety of the Soldiers and their families.

After supporting COVID response efforts and then being activated for civil disturbance response, the 1ABCT had to quickly switch gears to move to the National Training Center. Prior to leaving for California, all Soldiers received COVID-19 tests at Camp Ripley. COVID-19 prevention measures didn't stop there. Soldiers traveled to California and completed training with the same group of people, limiting their exposure in the field. Upon arrival at Fort Irwin, Soldiers were again screened for COVID-19 symptoms and Soldiers who exhibited symptoms during training were tested and quarantined. These measures allowed the brigade to successfully complete its training rotation with minimal impacts from the virus.

Spc. Isaiah Oakland (left), a chaplain assistant with the 682nd Engineer Battalion, and Spc. Rachel Holmes, a water treatment specialist with 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, print and apply labels for COVID-19 testing at the Inver Grove Heights armory, October 6, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard supported the Minnesota Department of Health's no-barrier community-based COVID-19 testing at multiple locations in Minnesota from September through at least the end of the year. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemecek)



Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard secure a COVID-19 testing swab for processing while conducting COVID-19 testing at a long-term care facility in Minnesota, May 15, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard supported the Minnesota Department of Health with mobile testing teams to assist long-term care facilities in identifying COVID-19 infections. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper)



In September, the Minnesota National Guard was tasked to support barrier-free, community-based COVID-19 testing at multiple locations across the state. Minnesota Guardsmen provided support with logistics, registration, supply management and transportation, in addition to hosting many of the testing sites at local National Guard armories.

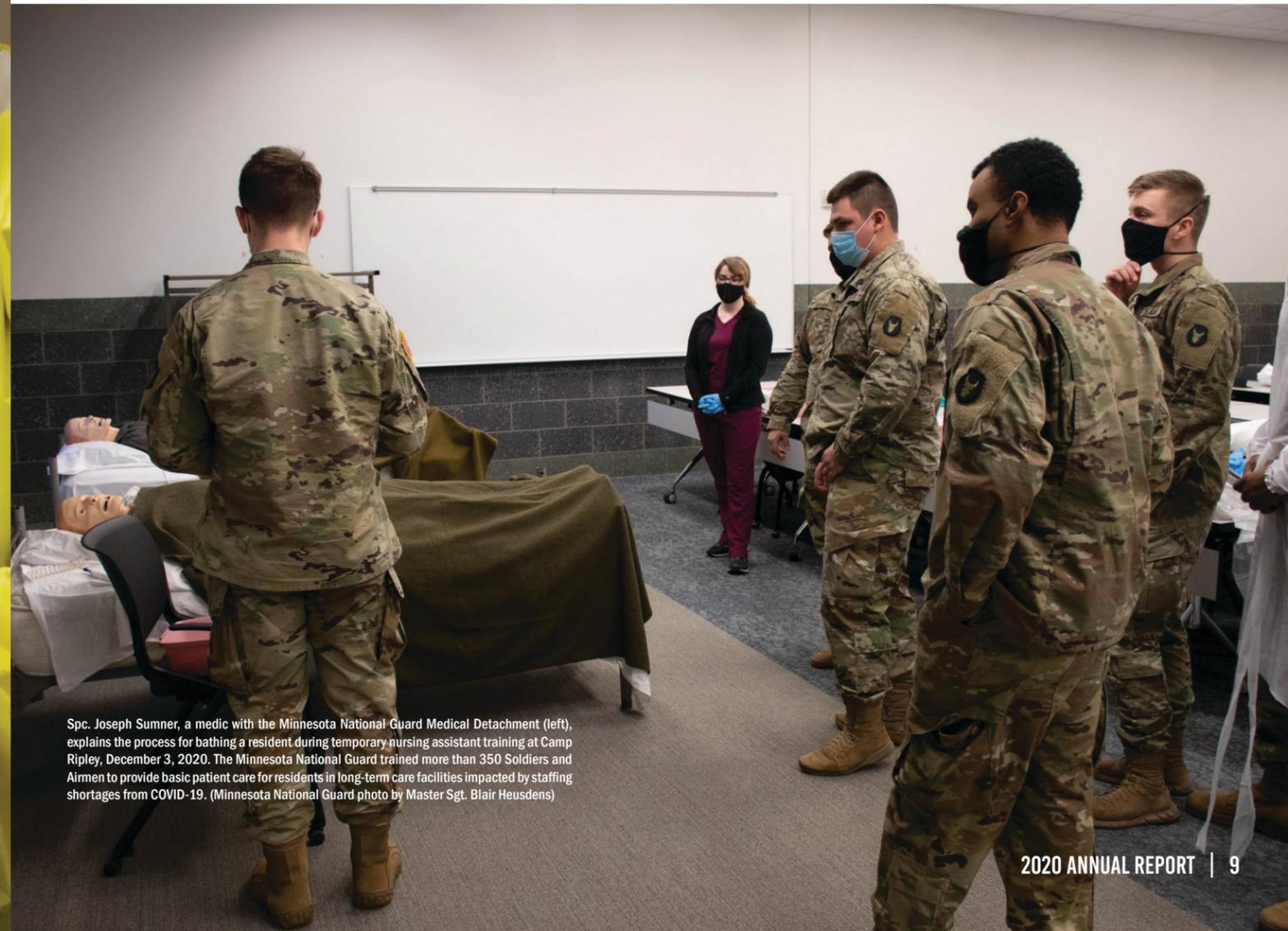
Testing sites offered free tests available to anyone who felt they needed to be tested regardless of whether they were symptomatic or not. The Soldiers and Airmen supported both nasal swab and saliva testing sites in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health. The mission was initially scheduled for four weeks and was extended through at least the end of the year.

Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard experienced first-hand the impacts that COVID-19 has on residents in long-term care and the staff who care for them as they found themselves stepping in to fill a staffing void for facilities in need across the state.

The Minnesota National Guard activated some of its nurses and medics, along with several hundred non-medical personnel to provide support for long-term care facilities in need of additional staff. The non-medically trained personnel received three days of instruction in basic patient care tasks before being placed into teams alongside the nurses and medics.

The Soldiers and Airmen on duty at both the testing and long-term care locations were all tested prior to coming on duty and as needed while they were on duty. Each Guardsman was screened daily and provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment for the missions they were assigned.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Minnesota National Guard stands ready to assist the state of Minnesota as directed by Governor Walz. Our top priority remains ensuring the health and safety of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard and our neighbors.



Spc. Joseph Sumner, a medic with the Minnesota National Guard Medical Detachment (left), explains the process for bathing a resident during temporary nursing assistant training at Camp Ripley, December 3, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard trained more than 350 Soldiers and Airmen to provide basic patient care for residents in long-term care facilities impacted by staffing shortages from COVID-19. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)

# CIVIL UNREST RESPONSE

The Minnesota National Guard was called on several occasions in 2020 to provide support to local law enforcement in response to civil unrest. The triggering event was the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis on May 27.

As the month of May came to a close, looting was rampant, fires raged in small businesses and a Minneapolis police precinct was burned to the ground. This unlawful activity threatened the safety of lawful and peaceful demonstrators and residents of the city. The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, after exhausting the resources at their disposal, requested the assistance of the Minnesota National Guard.

On May 28, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-64, declaring a peacetime emergency and activating the Minnesota National Guard to protect life, preserve property and ensure the right of people to peacefully demonstrate in Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding communities.

The Minnesota National Guard's 34th Military Police Company, 257th Military Police Company and National Guard Reaction Force units of the 1-151st Field Artillery Battalion and 682nd Engineer Battalion were among the first units activated. The Minnesota National Guard was tasked to provide support to law enforcement operations, security for fire departments and hospitals, escort for emergency medical services, support to the Minnesota State Patrol and security for the Minnesota Capitol Complex.

Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and vehicles stage in downtown Minneapolis as the Minnesota National Guard provides support to civil unrest in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, May 31, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard was activated to support local law enforcement in protecting lives, preserving property and ensuring the right of people to peacefully protest. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

See video of Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, protecting a corner store and community staple in Minneapolis: <https://youtu.be/Vje3La7jwfa>

## TIMELINE

### 2020 Civil Unrest Response

The first full activation of the Minnesota National Guard since WWII occurred in 2020. It was the largest domestic deployment in the organization's 164-year history. Soldiers and Airmen were mobilized to protect life, preserve property and ensure the right of people to peacefully demonstrate in Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding communities.

#### May 27, 2020

George Floyd dies while in police custody in Minneapolis.

#### May 28, 2020

Governor Tim Walz signs Executive Order 20-64, declaring a peacetime emergency and activating the Minnesota National Guard.

#### May 31, 2020

More than 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen are on duty. The Minnesota National Guard was fully integrated with local and state agencies, executing a coordinated response.

#### June 9, 2020

A deliberate drawdown comes to an end when the last remaining Minnesota Guardsmen are released from state active duty.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Santikko



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams

See more photos and video of Minnesota National Guard Airmen and Soldiers completing missions in support of civil unrest response in 2020: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/MNNG>



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper



Photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemecek



Photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemecek

Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard support civil authorities throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul in May, June and August at the direction of Governor Tim Walz. Guardsmen mustered on short notice to provide support to law enforcement operations, security for fire departments and hospitals, escort for emergency medical services, support to the Minnesota State Patrol and security for the Minnesota Capitol Complex.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams

**WITHIN MERE HOURS OF RECEIVING THE CALL, YOU WERE IN PLACE AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MINNEAPOLIS AND ITS RESIDENTS AMIDST DESTRUCTION AND UNDER FURTHER THREAT OF VIOLENCE EMERGING FROM PEACEFUL PROTESTS.**

**IN EVERY ACTION YOU TOOK, YOU OPERATED WITH GREAT DISCIPLINE WHILE UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE. YOUR ARRIVAL AND PRESENCE BROUGHT A CHANGE IN THE TONE THROUGHOUT THE METRO. THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY YOU CONVEYED AS MINNESOTANS, ALONG WITH YOUR DEMEANOR AND TACT, PROVIDED A CALMING INFLUENCE AND NOT JUST AN OVERWHELMING FORCE.**

*— Col. Timothy Kemp, commander of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division*

By May 31, more than 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen were on duty. It was the first full activation of the Minnesota National Guard for state active duty and the largest domestic deployment in the organization's 164-year history. The Minnesota National Guard was fully integrated with local and state agencies, executing a coordinated response.

The Minnesota National Guard was called to duty four additional times in the following months in response to additional instances of civil unrest.

On August 26, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-87 authorizing the Minnesota National Guard to assist local law enforcement in Minneapolis in response to civil unrest due to rumors that a man who had died by suicide was shot by police officers. Overnight, Soldiers from the 257th Military Police Company and the rear detachment of the 34th Military Police Company assisted the Minneapolis Police

Department in setting up 15 traffic control points, freeing up law enforcement officers for other critical missions. Additional Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery came on duty August 27 to assist with additional traffic control points. The Soldiers were released from duty on August 30.

On September 24, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-90 activating the Minnesota National Guard to stand ready to assist with potential civil unrest after a grand jury in Kentucky failed to charge officers in the death of Breonna Taylor. More than 100 Soldiers from the 257th Military Police Company and the rear detachment of the 34th Military Police Company reported for duty and were prepared to respond, if needed. The Soldiers were released from duty on September 25.

On October 7, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-91 activating the Minnesota National Guard to

stand ready to assist with potential civil unrest after one of the officers involved in George Floyd's death was released on bail. More than 100 Soldiers from the 257th Military Police Company and the rear detachment of the 34th Military Police Company mustered for duty and provided minimal support at the Hennepin County Jail and Minneapolis Police Precincts. The Soldiers were released from duty on October 9.

On October 22, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-93 activating the Minnesota National Guard to stand ready to assist with potential civil unrest after a judge dismissed a third degree murder charge against one of the officers involved in the death of George Floyd. Nearly 100 Soldiers from the 257th Military Police Company and the rear detachment of the 34th Military Police Company mustered, and were prepared to respond, if needed. The Soldiers were released from duty on October 23.

The Minnesota National Guard continues to work with our interagency partners to plan and prepare for any future requests from local authorities for assistance.

**See Minnesota National Guard video from protests at the Capitol:**  
[https://youtu.be/2\\_\\_m1g3bxMs](https://youtu.be/2__m1g3bxMs)

(Left) A Minnesota National Guard Soldier stands guard alongside local law enforcement officers outside the Minnesota State Capitol, May 30, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard was tasked by Governor Tim Walz with supporting local authorities in protecting life, protecting property and restoring order. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper)

(Right) Master Sgt. Acie Matthews interacts with members of the public during a peaceful protest outside the Minnesota State Capitol, May 30, 2020. Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard assisted local authorities in restoring order and ensuring the rights of individuals to peacefully protest. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

# PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening relationships with partners is an intentional effort and strategic pillar for the Minnesota National Guard, which works closely with national, state, local and tribal organizations to best serve the people of Minnesota.

The Minnesota National Guard values partnerships with other agencies and organizations across the state, the nation and the world.

In 2020, the organization conducted more than 700 missions in support of civil authorities and organizations like the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, city and county law enforcement agencies and the Minnesota Department of Health. Missions took place in 87 counties throughout Minnesota: approximately 60 missions were in support of civil unrest response operations, more than 640 missions were in support of COVID-19 response, and three missions were

for weather-related response. Additional missions included explosive ordnance disposal response and fire department support from the 55th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) and 148th Fighter Wing. In contrast, the Guard conducted approximately 80 total missions from 2016-2019, including WMD-CST response operations, winter storm, flood, hurricane and wildfire response.

The Minnesota National Guard navigated and supported COVID-19 pandemic response efforts while maintaining and enhancing partnerships in 2020, with Airmen and Soldiers continuing to support the

Minnesota Department of Health in providing "no-barrier" COVID-19 testing and support for long-term care facility employee backfills where needed.

Communities and employers continued to work through the process of earning recognition as members of the Yellow Ribbon Network. In 2020, Minnesota welcomed its 73rd company and 80th community into the Yellow Ribbon Network.

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to enhancing diversity and promoting community trust. The organization's Diversity and Inclusion team celebrated and educated members about minority groups in Minnesota; hosting dozens of virtual events internally and with corporate partners.

The organization maintained relationships with schools, community leaders, sports and entertainment organizations, finding new ways to collaborate, honor and recognize Minnesota veterans at events throughout the year.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



...AND MANY MORE.

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

### STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1996, leaders and members of the Minnesota National Guard and the nation of Croatia have been collaborating and building relationships within the framework of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP).

The SPP, which links a state's National Guard with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship, has been successfully building ties for more than 25 years and now includes 78 partnerships with 84 nations around the globe. The program as a whole encourages the development of economic, political and military connections between the states and partner nations.

In 2021, the Minnesota National Guard will celebrate its 25th year, partnering with the nation of Croatia.

### U.S. – NORWAY RECIPROCAL TROOP EXCHANGE

The Minnesota National Guard continues to execute the country's longest-running troop exchange with the Norwegian Home Guard, a partnership initiative that started in 1974.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, scheduled events were postponed or cancelled in 2020 and into 2021, however the reciprocal troop exchange program endures. As in prior years, subsequent years will see Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard and a like number of Norwegian Home Guard Soldiers trade places to experience each other's training, military lifestyle and culture.

The exchange, a tradition spanning nearly five decades, reinforces the positive working relationships between allied services and highlights the strong lineage many Minnesotans share with the Scandinavian culture. The origin of the exchange began with a handshake between two veterans of WWII – Norwegian Maj. Gen. Herluf Nygaard and U.S. Maj. Gen. Francis S. Greenlief, agreeing that a troop exchange would strengthen the bond between their two allied countries.

Members of the Minnesota State Patrol stand in formation alongside members of the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, during a training exercise in the Twin Cities, August 17, 2020. The training involved the Minnesota State Patrol and conservation officers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and was designed to build on existing relationships formed by the teams during the civil unrest response earlier in the year. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The goal of the Minnesota National Guard's diversity and inclusion program is to sustain an organization that values inclusion, broadens perspectives, incorporates strengths and provides opportunities for service members to engage in Minnesota's diverse communities.

The Minnesota National Guard has eight special emphasis councils and recognizes observance months for each. The councils are the African American Heritage council, American Indian/Native American Heritage council, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage council, Disability Employment Awareness council, Hispanic and Latino American Heritage council, Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance council, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) council and Women's council.

Through these councils, the Minnesota National Guard works to promote leader development and inclusion within the organization. Special emphasis council members are supported by leaders at all levels of the organization and are authorized to perform a portion of their duties during normal duty hours.

The Minnesota National Guard Junior Officer Enlisted Advisory Council is chaired by the adjutant general and managed by the command senior enlisted leader and command chief master sergeant. It is comprised of junior officers and enlisted members throughout the organization and provides members with direct access to senior leaders and an opportunity to provide feedback on matters relating to service member issues and retention.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Minnesota National Guard's community outreach efforts in 2020, causing many community events to be canceled or conducted virtually. To continue to reach out to diverse communities, the Minnesota National Guard diversity office participated in virtual engagement events designed to bring awareness to and build relationships



Spc. Marina Her, a financial management technician with the 147th Finance Detachment of the 347th Regional Support Group, introduces herself to other members of the 2020 Junior Officer and Enlisted TAG Advisory Council during a January 2020 meeting. The council is comprised of junior Soldiers and Airmen throughout the organization and allows members an opportunity to provide feedback on matters relating to service and retention. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Luther Talks)

with underrepresented communities. The Minnesota National Guard's special emphasis councils also continued to partner with corporate employee resource groups in established Yellow Ribbon companies.

Nearly 7,000 Minnesota Guardsmen responded to civil unrest in the Twin Cities metro area in 2020 during a time where racial tensions were running high. These tensions hit close to home for many in the Minnesota National Guard – with a force comprised of 19.5 percent who identify as racial/ethnic minorities. The experience helped the Minnesota National Guard to open up a dialogue with Soldiers and Airmen to better understand how to make the organization a place where all members feel welcome and valued.

The Minnesota National Guard continues to focus on mentorship and building personal relationships to increase retention rates across the force.

As the Minnesota National Guard moves into 2021, diversity and inclusion efforts will focus on expanding awareness of diversity and inclusion efforts further into the ranks of Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to increase participation and ensure all feel welcome in the force and proud to be part of the organization.

## RECRUITING & RETENTION

The Minnesota National Guard has approximately 11,000 Soldiers and 2,000 Airmen. In 2020, the Minnesota Army National Guard swore in 1,582 new enlistments, 108 officers and 22 warrant officers. The Minnesota Air National Guard gained 205 enlistments and 24 officers.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kurt Steinmetz, commander of the 133rd Force Support Squadron, gives the oath of enlistment to Staff Sgt. Charles Cummings Jr., 133rd Medical Group, over a video call in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 22, 2020. Virtual enlistments were held throughout 2020 as a result of social distance guidelines encouraged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to maintain at least six feet from other people. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Amy M. Lovgren)

Despite the constraints placed on the organization because of the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiters enhanced their creativity to ensure they are building awareness about the Minnesota National Guard and its numerous opportunities. Much of the recruiting success in 2020 can be attributed to the ability to dynamically shift recruiting techniques from large scale, in-person recruiting events to virtual and small group recruiting events with schools and community organizations.

The continued support of educators in Minnesota is crucial to our ability to interact with students during the uncertain times resulting from the pandemic and the restart of in-person schooling. As the state continues to move forward and the effects of the pandemic continue to evolve it will be more critical than ever to ensure we work closely with educators and school administrators to provide career opportunities and education benefits while maintaining focus on strength maintenance requirements set by National Guard Bureau. Throughout all of these changes, recruiters continue to safeguard our Soldiers and students from any unnecessary health risks.

The Minnesota Army National Guard Officer Strength Force also saw tremendous success this year by

exceeding their Specialty Branch and Warrant Officer missions by almost 20%. Recruiters also doubled the number of applicants enlisting into the officer candidate school program, which will yield a larger pool of qualified officers in future years. Additionally, the battalion enlisted almost 200 percent over the previous year from the active component into our formations.

To improve success in getting Soldiers from enlistment through their initial training and into their units, the Minnesota National Guard added company commanders to our Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) units this year. The additional layer of leadership led to a renewed focus on the program and a revitalization within the force to create new and challenging training to keep RSP warriors engaged, motivated and successful from the day of enlistment through the day they report to their unit as a qualified Soldier.

In 2021 the Minnesota Air and Army National Guard will continue to share the opportunity to serve with Minnesotans ages 17-35 throughout the state, enlist new Soldiers and Airmen, and continue to retain members in our ranks.

As the Minnesota National Guard increases its membership, Minnesota's Recruiting and Retention Battalion continues to assist the National Guard in achieving its recruiting goals.

# MAJOR COMMANDS

The women and men who serve in the Minnesota National Guard do so under 10 major commands, covering all corners of the state with a physical presence in 58 communities. More than 13,000 Airmen and Soldiers from across the state stand ready to support both state and federal missions. When directed by the president, the Minnesota National Guard deploys mission-trained Airmen, Soldiers and equipment to support overseas missions. The resources of the Minnesota National Guard are available to the governor to support domestic response missions in communities throughout the state.

Soldiers of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Regiment wait to start an overnight mission to gain control of the occupied city of Razish during a decisive-action training exercise in the desert environment of the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, on July 24, 2020. The 1/34th ABCT was the first U.S. Army brigade to execute a major training event following a training pause due to COVID-19. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemecek)



## MAJOR COMMANDS



### JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/jfhq](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/jfhq)



### 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34id](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34id)



### 34TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34cab](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34cab)



### 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/1abct](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/1abct)



### 347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/347rsg](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/347rsg)



### 84TH TROOP COMMAND

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/84trc](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/84trc)



### 175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/175rti](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/175rti)



### CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

[MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/crtc](https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/crtc)



### 133RD AIRLIFT WING

[133aw.ang.af.mil](https://133aw.ang.af.mil)



### 148TH FIGHTER WING

[148fw.ang.af.mil](https://148fw.ang.af.mil)



(Above left) Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard support Minnesota's COVID-19 testing efforts at the Hibbing National Guard Armory, November 23, 2020. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Audra Flanagan) (Above right) Tactical Aircraft Maintenance personnel, also called crew chiefs, from the 148th Fighter Wing generate Block 50 F-16CM Fighting Falcons prior to take off. F-16s from the Minnesota National Guard's fighter wing flew to and from Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wisconsin, daily for two weeks in support of Northern Lightning, a flying training exercise emphasizing joint integration of 4th and 5th generation assets from Air National Guard, Air Force and Navy flying units. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Audra Flanagan) (Left) Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team prepare for the field during a rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California July 15, 2020. The exercise, directed by U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), serves as the final, major training event ahead of the brigade's 2021 deployment to the Middle East. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper) (Below) A U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules assigned to the 133rd Airlift Wing participates in a two-phased movement of supplies with A Company, 134th Brigade Support Battalion. The supplies were destined for Minnesota State Patrol taking part in civil unrest response in St. Paul, Minn., May 31, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard provided patrols, manned control points, and assisted firefighters in accomplishing their lifesaving mission by providing security throughout Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and its surrounding communities. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amy M. Lovgren)



(Top) Spc. Adam Bartkowitz, an M1 Abrams tank system maintainer for D Company, 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry Regiment, tightens the track of an M88 Recovery Vehicle during the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division's rotation at Fort Irwin, California's National Training Center. The checking and tightening of track is part of the unit's daily preventative maintenance checks and services completed on all vehicles to ensure they are fully mission capable before entering "the box." While at NTC, Soldiers undergo tough, realistic Unified Land Operations with other participants to prepare brigade combat teams and other units for combat. The 996-square-mile facility provides armored brigades the ability to fully deploy all assets in a training exercise against an opposition force. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker) (Above) Soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, work together to load vehicles and equipment onto railcars at Camp Ripley Training Center, near Little Falls, Minnesota, as they prepare for an exercise rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. (Left) Aerospace Medical Technicians with the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard prepare to transport a patient during medical evacuation training with the 2-211 General Aviation Support Battalion, Minnesota Air National Guard, at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota on Saturday, September 20, 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Audra Flanagan)



Follow the Minnesota National Guard on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all of our Airmen and Soldiers' missions, activities and events:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaNationalGuard>

# JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Located in Saint Paul, the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air National Guard unit tasked to oversee operations for all state National Guard forces. The Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) coordinates military support at the request of the governor in the event of a disaster or state emergency.

## HEADQUARTERS

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

## COMMANDER

*Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke*

## SENIOR ENLISTED

*Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Soper*

## STRENGTH

*480 Airmen & Soldiers*



On request, the Minnesota National Guard can provide limited support to community events in the form of aerial flyovers, static display of military equipment, color guard and speakers for events. Requests are evaluated and approved by a working group based on a number of factors including legality, cost and propriety. Regulations are subject to change due to funding restrictions and guidance from the National Guard Bureau and Department of Defense. Learn more and request support here: <https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/request-our-support/>

A Minnesota National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter lands on the helipad of a hospital in the Twin Cities metro area as part of a training exercise, June 5, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard's ongoing response to civil unrest opened up an opportunity to partner with local hospitals to ensure a quick and coordinated response, if needed, in the future. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Ewer)

Lt. Col. Buddy Winn, the Minnesota National Guard state chaplain, holds a microphone to his phone while conducting video chat with the deployed chaplaincy team of the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, February 10, 2020. Each year, the Minnesota National Guard chaplaincy team commemorates Four Chaplains Day in honor of four chaplains who died in 1943 aboard the torpedoed U.S. Army Transport ship *Dorchester* while ministering to fellow service members. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

(Below) Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters work out of the Joint Operations Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 17, 2020. Units activated for COVID-19 response activities relied on the JOC to disseminate and share critical communication among leaders at all echelons. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Ewer)



Located in Saint Paul, the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) is a joint Army and Air National Guard unit tasked to oversee 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 or state emergency.

JFHQ is home to the Joint Operations Center, the Minnesota National Guard's hub for state activations, of which there were many in 2020. Governor Walz called upon the National Guard in eight executive orders in 2020, resulting in the completion of over 100 missions spread throughout the state of Minnesota in multiple locations within the 87 counties. Approximately 60 missions were in support of civil unrest operations, around 30 missions were in support of COVID 19 response, and one mission was for flood response in the community of Oslo, Minnesota.

Soldiers and Airmen of JFHQ served in key positions on each state active-duty mission. The headquarters also hosted several units at the St. Paul Armory throughout the civil unrest response in late May and early June.

In August, Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke was selected to be the 32nd adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, succeeding Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen who is now serving as the director of the Army National Guard.

In 2021 the Minnesota National Guard stands ready to respond to support the state's needs with COVID 19, and natural disasters and when needed to support local authorities. Year-long events are scheduled to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard State Partnership Program with Croatia.



# 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

The Arden Hills-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provides training and readiness oversight for nine National Guard brigades with more than 23,000 Soldiers across Minnesota and eleven other States. In Minnesota, the 34ID includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB), 84th Troop Command, and the 347th Regional Support Group.

In 2020, the 34th Infantry Division supported five deployments with the 34th ECAB (Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield), 2nd Battalion 135th Infantry (Horn of Africa), 34th Military Police Company (Operation Enduring Freedom), C/1-194th Field Artillery (Operation Freedom's Sentinel), and 177th Cyber Protection Team (U.S. Cyber Command and Cyber National Mission Force).

Beginning in March, the 34th Infantry Division provided assistance to state agencies for support of civil authorities. Soldiers from all major subordinate

commands provided support to manage personal protective equipment (PPE) warehouses, medical support for community-based testing and long-term care facilities and transporting PPE equipment to local and state agencies.

In April, it was announced that the division would become home to a new Division Artillery (DIVARTY) headquarters. An Army National Guard DIVARTY increases capabilities at the division headquarters by providing long-range precision fires, command and control of division level artillery assets, fire support, and synchronization of joint fires.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Arden Hills, Minnesota

**COMMANDER**  
Maj. Gen. Michael D. Wickman

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Whitehead

**STRENGTH**  
740 Soldiers



## NEW DIVISION HEADQUARTERS Arden Hills, Minnesota

Soldiers from the Division Headquarters of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division conducted their first weekend of training at the newly-constructed General John W. Vessey Readiness Center in Arden Hills, Minnesota, November 21-22, 2020.

The 149,000 square-foot facility was designed to incorporate all elements of the headquarters battalion into one location, accommodating growth in personnel, equipment and technology over the last decade. Previously, the unit was distributed between armories in Rosemount, Faribault and Inver Grove Heights. The armories in Rosemount and Inver Grove Heights will soon be home to units from the division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team and 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, respectively.

The readiness center is located on the site of the Arden Hills Army Training Site, a 1,500-acre training area that serves military, civilian and law enforcement agencies. The facility was constructed at a cost of \$39 million and is designed with sustainability and energy conservation in mind to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Silver Certification standards. The site includes geothermal systems, photovoltaic arrays, and energy efficient equipment.

The facility is named after General John W. Vessey Jr., the 10th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who served with the 34th Infantry Division during World War II. Vessey went on to serve for a total of 46 years, retiring in 1985 at the highest military position and having served the longest of anyone then in the service.

Reactivation for the 34th DIVARTY is scheduled for the fall of 2022.

During the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd, the 34th Infantry Division deployed over 5,300 Soldiers from May-June to protect lives, property, and restore order throughout Minneapolis, St. Paul, and surrounding areas.

In August, the 34th Infantry Division provided 53 Soldiers to establish the senior trainer support cell in support of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation, which included over 3,700 U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers from 14 states.

The Red Bulls also participated in the largest Warfighter exercise on record at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, in October. Four divisions, 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Infantry Division, and 34th Infantry Division, fought virtually against a live, freethinking adversary.

In 2021, the 34th Infantry Division Headquarters will test themselves at the Warfighter 22-1 exercise, but this time as a training audience division. Mobilization support will continue in 2021 with the division overseeing and supporting deployments of the 1/34th ABCT and 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion.



Soldiers of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, climb a hill in the early morning hours of July 25, 2020, on a mission to gain control of the occupied city of Razish during a decisive-action training exercise in the desert environment of the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. The 1/194th, which provides heavy armor and mechanized infantry ground combat power to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, took part in the month-long training rotation in preparation for a potential 2021 deployment. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč)

# 34TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

The St. Paul-based 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) 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.

## HEADQUARTERS

St. Paul, Minnesota

## COMMANDER

Col. Gregory Fix

## SENIOR ENLISTED

Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Hellkamp

## STRENGTH

1,285 Soldiers

See more photos and video from the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade's 2020 mission and activities in the Middle East: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/34CAB>

Spc. Tiara Thompson, a petroleum supply specialist with the 834th Aviation Support Battalion, refuels an aircraft while deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. The 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade commanded an aviation task force of over 1,400 Soldiers from the active component, Army Reserves, Army National Guard from ten different states and coalition partners from Spain and Italy. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Sydney Marlette)

The 34th ECAB kicked off 2020 by taking over as the unit in charge of aviation support for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East. Within a week of the transfer of authority, the 34th ECAB reinforced the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and assisted with the evacuation of non-essential personnel; established aviation operations in five different countries; and successfully executed their response plan to Shia Militia Groups and Iranian missile strikes.

The brigade supported the closure of six different bases throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

They executed over 14,000 hours of flight operations for attack and lift rotary wing aircraft; over 1,500 hours of fixed wing flight operations; over 200 medical evacuation missions; and over 14,000 hours of unmanned aerial attack and surveillance operations. The brigade also transported over 22,000 personnel, more than 600 distinguished visitors, and over 4.5 million pounds of cargo.

In 2021, Soldiers of the ECAB will attend post-deployment events in order to reset and reintegrate after deployment.

## 34TH ECAB DEPLOYMENT

*Operation Inherent Resolve  
and Operation Spartan Shield*

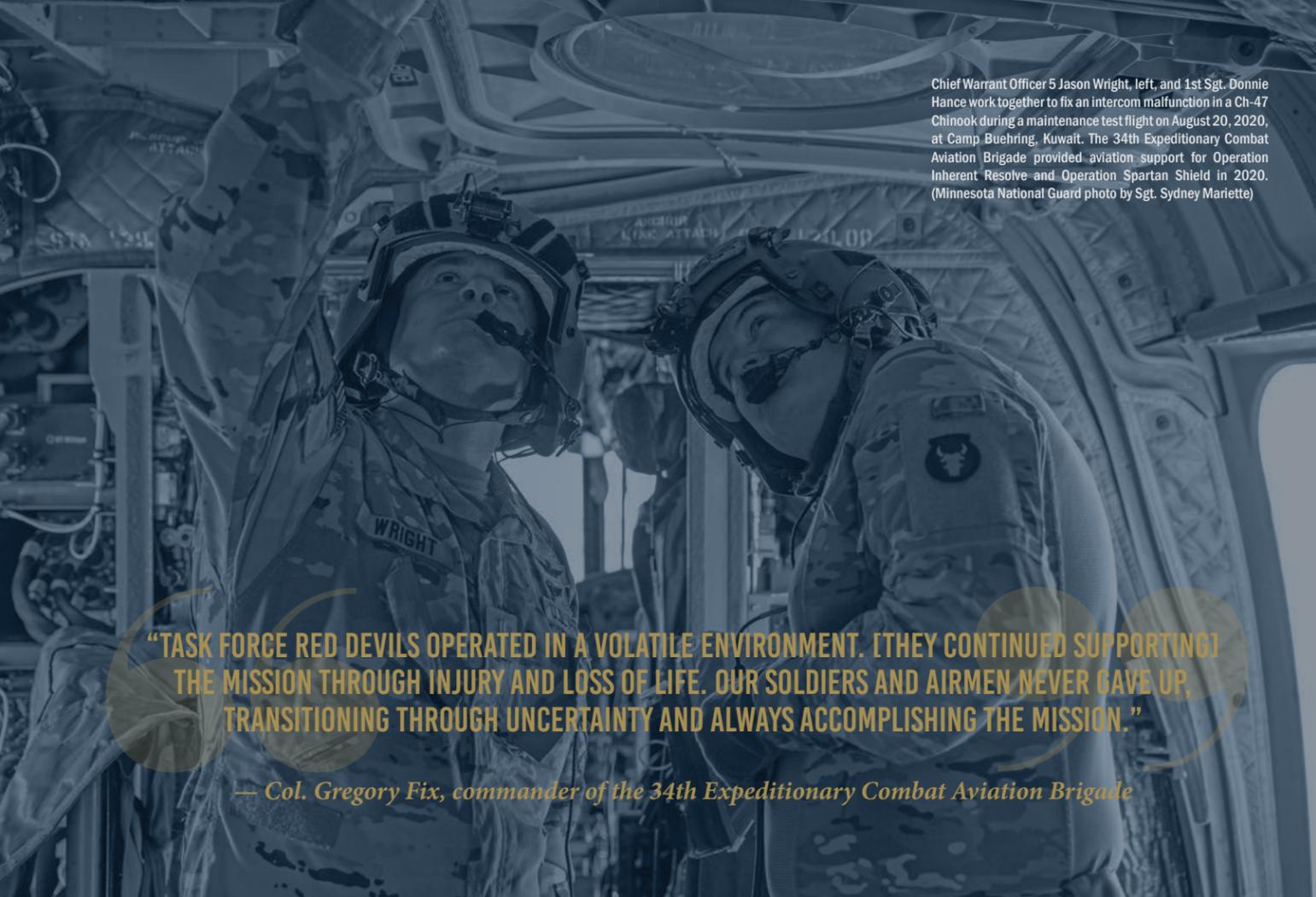
After completing mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, in late 2019, the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) deployed to the Middle East, where the unit assumed authority of the aviation support mission for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield on Jan. 2, 2020.

The aviation support mission, coined Task Force Red Devils and led by the 34th ECAB, consisted of nearly 2,000 members from active-duty components, multiple National Guard units across 10 states and additional coalition service members from Italy and Spain. The task force provided the majority of aviation assets and support to 15 locations within five different countries in the Middle East.

Having assumed Operation Inherent Resolve's mission to ensure the lasting defeat of Daesh, the ECAB found itself at the forefront of the events following the U.S. airstrike that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Soleimani on Jan. 3, 2020.

In the days following the transfer of authority ceremony, the aviation unit was notified that Iran had launched several theater ballistic missiles targeting Coalition bases housing U.S. personnel in Iraq. Using aircraft to assist in the rapid reduction of personnel at the Joint Operations Command – Iraq and the Baghdad

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Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jason Wright, left, and 1st Sgt. Donnie Hance work together to fix an intercom malfunction in a Ch-47 Chinook during a maintenance test flight on August 20, 2020, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade provided aviation support for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield in 2020. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Sydney Mariette)

**“TASK FORCE RED DEVILS OPERATED IN A VOLATILE ENVIRONMENT. [THEY CONTINUED SUPPORTING] THE MISSION THROUGH INJURY AND LOSS OF LIFE. OUR SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN NEVER GAVE UP, TRANSITIONING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY AND ALWAYS ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION.”**

*— Col. Gregory Fix, commander of the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade*

(Top) Sgt. Samantha Fenton embraces her children upon return from a deployment to the Middle East, October 9, 2020. Fenton was part of the first group of 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers to return to Minnesota following a 10-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)

(Right) Sgt. Colin Borsheim is greeted with a hug from his wife, McKayla, as Soldiers from the 34th ECAB reunited with their families during an early snowfall, October 19, 2020. The unit returned to Minnesota after a 10-month deployment providing aviation support to 15 locations within five countries in the Middle East. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)



Diplomatic Support Center, the Soldiers of the 34th ECAB acted swiftly and efficiently to preserve life and property, while continuing to support their new mission.

The aftermath of the theater ballistic missile strikes only heightened the state of readiness at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The ECAB's Grey Eagle unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) detachment, led by the Delta Company, 82nd Aviation Regiment, took the brunt of the explosions with equipment, military supplies and most personal items destroyed in the strike. However, with early warnings from the ECAB's intelligence section, all service members took cover during the strike and there was no loss of life. After the dust settled, the 82nd Aviation Regiment Soldiers immediately took steps to resume the mission with little delay.

The attack served as the first and largest of many aggressions the 34th ECAB Soldiers would face in the months to come.

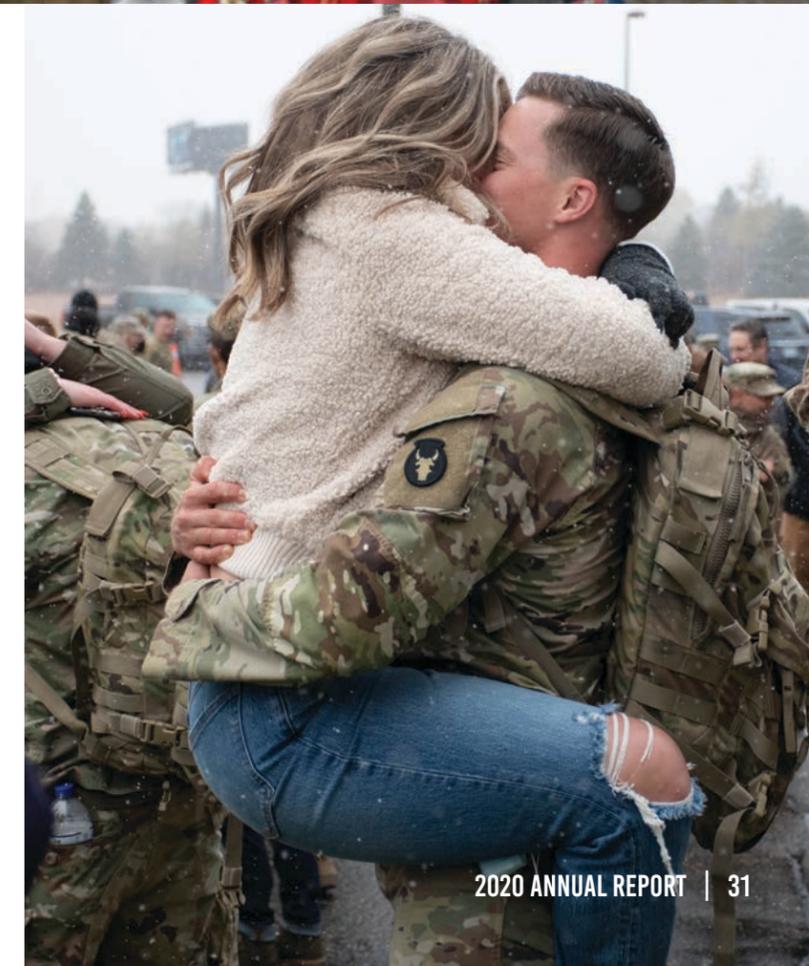
As COVID-19 was making an appearance in theater, the ECAB faced significant rocket attacks at Camp Taji, Iraq. On March 11 and 14, 2020, dozens of rockets impacted Camp Taji leaving two U.S. and one Coalition service member killed in action. Spc. Juan Mendez Covarrubias, a signal support systems specialist assigned to the active-duty Army's 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, serving under the 34th ECAB, was among them.

After the rocket attacks, accountability and force protection became a key focus for the brigade and the base. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic forced changes to protocols and began leading to deployment extensions for task force service members.

Due to the success of the Iraqi Security Forces against Daesh, many bases, including Camp Taji, were returned to the Government of Iraq as the need for

Coalition support lessened. Closing Camp Taji was a significant feat for the ECAB. The unit needed to move its own equipment out of the base, but also ensure that facilities used by the Coalition were in top condition before being returned back to the Government of Iraq. This required a drastic increase in fixed wing traffic to move over three million tons of cargo via air transport. It also called for the airfield runway to be repaired in 142 individual spots from routine wear and tear, all on a condensed timeline of two months, a third of the originally projected timeline.

The successful base transfer ceremony of Camp Taji from Coalition control to the Government of Iraq took place Aug. 23, 2020. With its conclusion, the remaining Task Force Red Devils Soldiers flew to their new headquarters at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, where they would continue to establish an aviation foot print until their replacements from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade arrived in September 2020.



# 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The Rosemount-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division consists of eight major subordinate commands. More than 5,200 Soldiers make up the brigade's combined arms, armor, cavalry, infantry, artillery, engineer and brigade support battalions, constituting more than half of the Minnesota Army National Guard's total force structure.

The Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, executed operations during a highly complex training year.

Most notably, the brigade executed a training rotation at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, California, becoming the first U.S. Army brigade to execute a major training event following the Army's March 2020 pause on exercises for large formations amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The brigade also conducted multiple live-fire exercises up to the company level and multiple command post exercises up to brigade level; took part in a Leadership Training Program in preparation for NTC; mobilized 700 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, for a deployment in support of operations in the Horn of Africa; supported state missions in support of COVID-19 testing; conducted significant rail operations; and executed state active duty missions in support of Minnesota's response to civil unrest in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

In 2021, Soldiers from the brigade will mobilize to support Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East. Also in 2021, Soldiers of the 2-135th Infantry will return home from their deployment in support of operations in Africa.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
*Bloomington, Minnesota*

**COMMANDER**  
*Col. Timothy Kemp*

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
*Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Erickson*

**STRENGTH**  
*5,250 Soldiers*

**NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**  
*Rotation 20-08.5*

In the summer of 2020, Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, participated in a large-scale combat exercise at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The training, which required eight battalions to conduct decisive-action operations as one collective task force, was the first of its kind since the U.S. Army finalized plans to methodically resume exercises for large formations, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Soldiers attending the NTC rotation underwent a deliberate process to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, including screening and testing in their home state prior to departure. Dozens of additional mitigation measures, like the use of masks,

— *continued on next page*

See more photos from the  
1st Armored Brigade Combat Team's  
2020 National Training Center rotation:  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/1-34BCT>

Master Sgt. Dan Lanoux, master gunner for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, mans a .50-caliber M2 machine gun, while Maj. Jon Jaqua, the 1/34th ABCT brigade surgeon, scans for enemy combatants with binoculars and Sgt. Ryan Rosdahl, a 1/34th ABCT supply noncommissioned officer, assists with ammunition at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The 1/34th ABCT executed the culminating training rotation at NTC as the first U.S. Army unit to conduct a large-scale exercise after training was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Minnesota National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels)



Staff Sgt. Adam Schwichtenberg, an infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, clears his sector of fire during training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, July 25, 2020. The 1/34th ABCT conducted their rotation at the National Training Center amid the COVID-19 pandemic and after responding to civil unrest in the Twin Cities metro area. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker)

From a variety of remote locations in Fort Irwin’s desert training area (known as “the box” and nearly the size of Rhode Island), Minnesota’s brigade combat team had the ability to fully deploy all of its armor assets against an opposition force made up of active-duty Soldiers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The large-scale, force-on-force training provided a unique test for Red Bull warfighters and allowed teams — from infantry squads at the company level to staff at the brigade headquarters — to test their capabilities and preparedness.

After offensive and defensive operations, the Red Bull Soldiers conducted live-fire training. Leaders evaluated the unit’s performance, identified room for improvement and began developing future training plans.

The 1/34th ABCT’s rotation at NTC, directed by U.S. Army Forces Command, served as the final, major training event ahead of the 2021 deployment to the Middle East.



Lt. Col. Michael Klaphake, battalion commander of the 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry Regiment, observes his Soldiers and monitors the battle from his Bradley Fighting Vehicle, at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, July 23, 2020. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division implemented several mitigation protocols prior to and during the training rotation to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker)

*NTC, continued from page 33*

isolating the training unit from the general population and monitoring for symptoms, took place upon arriving and throughout the training at Fort Irwin.

Leading up to and during NTC, the Red Bulls led a task force that included units from more than 20 states — a true test of planning, communications, logistics and overall mission command.

NTC’s range, located about an hour outside of Barstow, California, is the only U.S. Army training facility that allows a full brigade combat team to conduct force-on-force maneuver, live-fire attack and live-fire defense — integrating all mission command systems and warfighting functions to include coordination with the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Immediately upon arrival at NTC, Minnesota Guardsmen began working to transition personnel and equipment into operationally viable forces. This process is referred to as reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) and conducting the process safely and efficiently is critical.

Moving straight into “the fight” required Soldiers to rapidly offload equipment and vehicles shipped to Fort Irwin by train. It took approximately 430 rail cars, across four trains, to move more than 2,000 pieces of unit equipment, including dozens of M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks, trucks and more.

Notorious for providing tough, realistic training, exercises at NTC simulate combat in the harsh environment of California’s rugged, high-mountain Mojave Desert.

**2ND BATTALION, 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DEPLOYMENT**  
*Operation Enduring Freedom*

Nearly 700 Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard’s Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Horn of Africa in the summer of 2020. The battalion is serving as part of a task force to improve security posture at U.S. installations and forward operating bases in the U.S. Africa Command region, while maintaining a rapidly deployable force prepared to respond to crisis. The unit reported to Camp Ripley in June, where they trained before departing for Fort Bliss, Texas.

There are six major units in the 2-135th Infantry: Headquarters Company in Mankato and Owatonna, A Company in West St. Paul, B Company in Rochester, C Company in Winona, D Company in Albert Lea and 1135th Combat Support Company in Faribault. The battalion is joined by C Company, 113th Cavalry Regiment, out of LeMars, Iowa, and C Company, 106th Cavalry Regiment, from Aurora, Illinois.

**Follow deployed Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/2nd-Battalion-135th-Infantry-Regiment-1775255482694190>

# 347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

The mission of the 347th Regional Support Group is to deploy to provide life support and command and control of military base operations. The unit's responsibilities include leading the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI) of supporting forces, managing facilities, and providing administrative, medical and logistical support for troop services on a base camp. The brigade's companies provide support for units during homeland security, homeland defense and other civil support missions.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
*Brooklyn Park, Minnesota*

**COMMANDER**  
*Col. Stephen Burggraff*

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
*Command Sgt. Maj. Shannon Froiland*

**STRENGTH**  
*1,005 Soldiers*

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Sigerson, right, and other Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's 204th Medical Company Area Support, 347th Regional Support Group, screen incoming Soldiers with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division and other National Guard units for COVID-19 symptoms as they arrive for their rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, July 10, 2020. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper)

In 2020, the 347th RSG welcomed home three units that deployed overseas in 2019: Soldiers of the 147th Human Resources Company deployed as Casualty Liaison Team 3 to Bagram and Kandahar Airfields in Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel returned home in February; Soldiers of the 247th Financial Management Detachment deployed to Kuwait and Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield returned home in April; and Soldiers of the 1904th Acquisition Team deployed to Kuwait in

support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel returned over the summer, after experiencing return delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In support of coronavirus response efforts, 22 Soldiers from the 347th RSG were activated for several months during the summer. They trained for testing and support activities and assisted the Minnesota National Guard's contributions to the state's coordinated COVID-19 response.

Pfc. Melissa Espinoza is a human resources specialist with the 147th Human Resources Company, 347th Regional Support Group. Espinoza assisted the 347th Regional Support Group with inprocessing troops coming onto duty during civil unrest response in late May and early June. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Luther Talks)

**TODAY, WE RECOGNIZE THESE SOLDIERS — CITIZEN-SOLDIERS — OF THE 347TH RSG, WHO DEMONSTRATED TRULY EXEMPLARY EFFORT OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF. THEY DID WHAT OUR RSG TEAM DOES BEST: THEY DEPLOYED TO PROVIDE THE CRITICAL LIFE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT OUR FORCES NEED TO SUSTAIN THE FIGHT AND ACCOMPLISH OUR NATION'S WORK.**

*— Col. Stephan Burggraff, commander of the 347th Regional Support Group*

In late May-June 2020, the 347th RSG took part in the Minnesota National Guard's state activation stemming from civil unrest in the Twin Cities. The RSG provided RSOI and reverse RSOI support to units as they were activated and deactivated during the state mobilization. In addition, the RSG's 434th Support Maintenance Company assisted the state by providing technical inspections on equipment activated in support of the state active-duty mission, ensuring a continued, high state of organizational readiness for the Minnesota National Guard as its units transitioned off of state active duty.

In July 2020, 500 Soldiers from the 347th RSG provided life support for the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division at Fort Irwin, California. There, the 347th RSG assisted with the implementation of a deliberate COVID-19 screening, mitigation, isolation and quarantine plan. Additionally, the RSG assisted with RSOI activities, and managed life support services and contracting for the collective effort.

In September 2020, the 347th RSG officially stood up the 324th Transportation Company, with three truck squads/operations & maintenance sections/consisting

of two platoons and a headquarters section in both Olivia and Redwood Falls, Minnesota. The unit is set up to provide light to medium ground transportation support of containerized materials, non-containerized materials, personnel and equipment.

In 2021, seven assigned members of the 107th Support Maintenance Company (Detachment 2) will deploy with their company headquarters, based out of Viroqua, Wisconsin. The team will deploy to Poland as an Army test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment (TMDE) laboratory in June 2021. The Army's TMDE calibration and repair program tests and ensures the accuracy, readiness and safety of weapons systems.

The 347th RSG will take part in a large-scale combat support training exercise (CSTX) scheduled in August 2021 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Ahead of a likely April 2022 mobilization, the CSTX will test and validate the unit's ability to accomplish their mission.

The 347th RSG will also focus on organizing a new combat sustainment support battalion headquarters element, which is scheduled to be activated in September 2021 in Bloomington, Minnesota.

# 84TH TROOP COMMAND

The 84th Troop Command, headquartered in Cambridge, maintains control of field artillery, military police, engineer, and civil support forces, providing a force capable of performing a wide variety of missions. A specialized command with a unique mission, the 84th Troop Command maintains training standards to remain ready to support federal missions in addition to conducting domestic operations throughout the state.

In 2020, the 84th Troop Command supported the Minnesota National Guard's state activation in response to civil unrest. In addition, the unit's 55th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) supported more than a dozen high-profile sporting events and two presidential visits across the year.

The 850th Horizontal Engineer Company (HEC) and 851st Vertical Engineer Company (VEC) completed a restructuring of their capabilities. The 850th HEC, now called an Engineer Construction Company, gained carpenters, plumbers, and electricians. The 851st VEC, now called an Engineer Vertical Construction Company, gained heavy equipment operators.

The 257th Military Police Company provided testing site support, security operations, and transportation of ventilators multiple times throughout 2020. The 257th MP Co., which operates as the National Guard Reaction Force, deployed five times in support of civil unrest operations. The unit also conducted valuable training in the vacant Wright County Jail.

In 2021, the 151st Field Artillery plans to cross train on the M119 105mm Howitzer and conduct a battalion-level exercise incorporating the M777 and M119 Howitzers. They look forward to supporting the new

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Cambridge, Minnesota

**COMMANDER**  
Col. Scott Rohweder

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
Command Sgt. Maj. George Jensen

**STRENGTH**  
1,830 Soldiers

34th Division Artillery. The 257 MPs expect to conduct ranges, field training exercises, and scenario-based exercises. The 55th WMD-CST intends to continue its support of multiple sporting and high profile events. The 434th Chemical Company will deploy in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The 84th Troop Command's vision of the future includes a wide spectrum of capable units ready to deploy at home or abroad. Further, the 55th WMD-CST will validate the team's response capabilities against congressionally mandated requirements.

## FACT

**THE 84TH TROOP COMMAND'S  
34TH MILITARY COMPANY, NATIONAL  
WINNERS OF THE BANDHOLTZ AWARD  
FOR MILITARY POLICE EXCELLENCE,  
DEPLOYED TO GUANTANAMO BAY  
CUBA FOR A YEARLONG DEPLOYMENT  
IN AUG. 2020.**

Learn more about the 84th Troop Command:  
<https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/84trc>

A Minnesota National Guard Soldier with the 34th Military Police Company, 84th Troop Command, embraces his daughter after a deployment ceremony at the Stillwater National Guard armory in Stillwater, Minnesota, Aug. 9, 2020. Blakemore deployed with approximately 150 Soldiers of the MP Co. to provide security at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Luther Talks)



# 175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Camp Ripley-based 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute provides combat arms, Military Occupational Specialty and leadership training to the U.S. Army to prepare Soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

**COMMANDER**  
Col. Jason Benson

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Hybben

**STRENGTH**  
84 Soldiers

Officers have the duty and responsibility of leading troops. Learn more about numerous ways to earn a commission in the Minnesota National Guard: <https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/officer-careers/>

## FACT

THE 175TH RTI WAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH ARMY READINESS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AS BEING AMONG THE TOP 25% OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARMY TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SAFETY PRACTICES.

Each year hundreds of Soldiers from both the reserve and active components travel to Camp Ripley to attend a course offered by the 175th Regional Training Institute (RTI). The institute ensures the courses offered meet requirements for all components, drawing students from across the country and supporting the One Army School System.

The courses offered at the 175th RTI qualify Soldiers for the wheeled and tracked vehicle recovery Additional Skills Identifier. The 175th RTI also offers Advanced Leader Courses for Infantry, Maneuver Senior Leader Course, and more than 10 functional courses. The institute also contributes to the commissioned ranks by offering Phases I and II

of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS).

In 2020, the RTI provided instruction to 716 Soldiers, some attending from Europe and Korea.

The RTI's operations were only marginally impacted by COVID-19. Only three planned Wheeled Recovery Courses were not conducted as the RTI made modifications to safely resume training.

Regional Training Site-Maintenance received a 95.8% evaluation rating from Combined Arms Support Command in the areas of mission, purpose, and function.

The RTI's OCS Class 64 commissioned 19 officers. Phase 1 OCS Class 65 had 92 individuals from six states (24 from Minnesota) with a 98.9% completion rate. Training included a multi-phased mass casualty exercise. The WOCS class graduated 15 warrant officers.

In 2021, the RTI will undergo the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation evaluation.

Beyond 2021, the RTI will take the TRADOC assessment in an effort to continue to improve the organization's ability to provide the highest degree of instruction to the force.

Maj. Scott Hawks (left) and MSG Brad Williams (right) provide direction to a candidate during Phase 1 of Officer Candidate School at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, July 11, 2020. More than 90 candidates from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa completed rigorous physical activities and classroom instructions as part of the first stage of their journey to becoming commissioned officers. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Luther Talks)

# CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

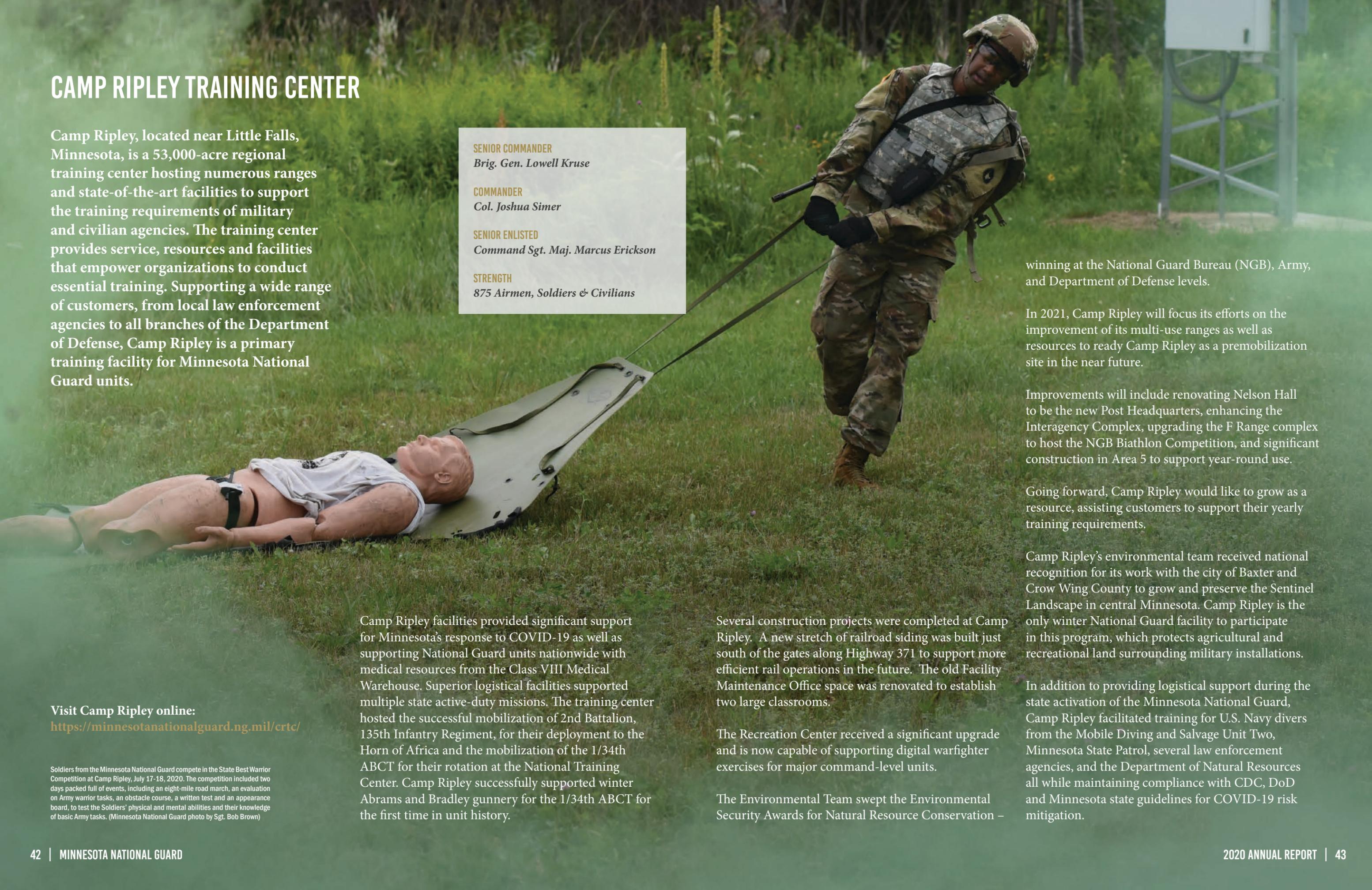
Camp Ripley, located near Little Falls, Minnesota, is a 53,000-acre regional training center hosting numerous ranges and state-of-the-art facilities to support the training requirements of military and civilian agencies. The training center provides service, resources and facilities that empower organizations to conduct essential training. Supporting a wide range of customers, from local law enforcement agencies to all branches of the Department of Defense, Camp Ripley is a primary training facility for Minnesota National Guard units.

**SENIOR COMMANDER**  
*Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse*

**COMMANDER**  
*Col. Joshua Simer*

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
*Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Erickson*

**STRENGTH**  
*875 Airmen, Soldiers & Civilians*



Camp Ripley facilities provided significant support for Minnesota's response to COVID-19 as well as supporting National Guard units nationwide with medical resources from the Class VIII Medical Warehouse. Superior logistical facilities supported multiple state active-duty missions. The training center hosted the successful mobilization of 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, for their deployment to the Horn of Africa and the mobilization of the 1/34th ABCT for their rotation at the National Training Center. Camp Ripley successfully supported winter Abrams and Bradley gunnery for the 1/34th ABCT for the first time in unit history.

Several construction projects were completed at Camp Ripley. A new stretch of railroad siding was built just south of the gates along Highway 371 to support more efficient rail operations in the future. The old Facility Maintenance Office space was renovated to establish two large classrooms.

The Recreation Center received a significant upgrade and is now capable of supporting digital warfighter exercises for major command-level units.

The Environmental Team swept the Environmental Security Awards for Natural Resource Conservation –

winning at the National Guard Bureau (NGB), Army, and Department of Defense levels.

In 2021, Camp Ripley will focus its efforts on the improvement of its multi-use ranges as well as resources to ready Camp Ripley as a premobilization site in the near future.

Improvements will include renovating Nelson Hall to be the new Post Headquarters, enhancing the Interagency Complex, upgrading the F Range complex to host the NGB Biathlon Competition, and significant construction in Area 5 to support year-round use.

Going forward, Camp Ripley would like to grow as a resource, assisting customers to support their yearly training requirements.

Camp Ripley's environmental team received national recognition for its work with the city of Baxter and Crow Wing County to grow and preserve the Sentinel Landscape in central Minnesota. Camp Ripley is the only winter National Guard facility to participate in this program, which protects agricultural and recreational land surrounding military installations.

In addition to providing logistical support during the state activation of the Minnesota National Guard, Camp Ripley facilitated training for U.S. Navy divers from the Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two, Minnesota State Patrol, several law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Natural Resources all while maintaining compliance with CDC, DoD and Minnesota state guidelines for COVID-19 risk mitigation.

Visit Camp Ripley online:  
<https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/crtc/>

Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard compete in the State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Ripley, July 17-18, 2020. The competition included two days packed full of events, including an eight-mile road march, an evaluation on Army warrior tasks, an obstacle course, a written test and an appearance board, to test the Soldiers' physical and mental abilities and their knowledge of basic Army tasks. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Bob Brown)

# 133RD AIRLIFT WING

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard flying wing headquartered at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Utilizing the C-130 H3 Hercules, the wing 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.

In 2020, Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing conducted riot control training taught by the 133rd Security Forces Squadron in support of civil unrest operations and to protect life, property and restore order. The squadron connected with local law enforcement to conduct civil disturbance control training and assist in their policing efforts in St. Paul. The wing also provided security support to the

adjutant general, first responders, and the state capitol. In addition, members of the 133rd Communication Flight provided communication support in Minneapolis and the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron provided support in Arden Hills.

In May, a C-130 Hercules assigned to the 133rd Airlift Wing worked with A Company, 134th Brigade Support

## HEADQUARTERS

St. Paul, Minnesota

## COMMANDER

Col. James Cleet

## SENIOR ENLISTED

Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Legvold

## STRENGTH

1,200 Airmen

Tech. Sgt. Heather Boutin and Senior Airman Megan Lenling, Air Transportation Specialists with the 133rd Airlift Wing, direct and onload palletized cargo onto a C-17 Globemaster III, June 13, 2020, as part of the Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program. The medical supplies were donated by a St. Paul-based non-profit organization for delivery to Danli, Honduras to assist people with disabilities. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Bristol Evasco)



See more photos and video of the 133rd Airlift Wing's missions, activities and events: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/133AWPA>

Battalion, to transport supplies to St. Paul for the Minnesota State Patrol during civil unrest response.

On June 17, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited the wing for the second time in 12 months with a unique purpose: to give a personal "thank you" to Airmen following the Minnesota National Guard's first-ever full activation in response to civil unrest in the Twin Cities.

Also in June, Airmen and state employees were called to state active-duty status due to COVID-19 and civil unrest response assignments. Airmen from the 133rd Medical Group oversaw COVID-19 testing in St. Paul, while the 133rd Operation Support Squadron's aircrew flight equipment shop made protective face masks for base personnel.

The 133rd Air Transportation Function supported a

Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program movement to Danli, Honduras. This Department of Defense program transfers humanitarian supplies donated by U.S.-based non-government organizations to developing nations to ease human suffering.

The wing kicked off its year-long centennial celebration with an anniversary ceremony commemorating the historic 109th Observation Squadron's flight in 1921, establishing it as the first federally recognized unit in the Air National Guard.

In 2021, the wing will celebrate its 100th anniversary, continue to deploy worldwide, perform a Unit Effectiveness Inspection, and participate in Operation Snowbird in Yuma, Arizona. The wing's vision for the future is to provide unparalleled mobility capabilities with resilient, multi-capable Airmen who anticipate, operate and innovate across dynamic domains.



Brig. Gen. Daniel Gabrielli, chief of staff for the Minnesota Air National Guard, speaks to Airmen, retirees, and friends in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, Sept. 26, 2020. The 133rd Airlift Wing hosted an anniversary ceremony to commemorate the historical flight that resulted in the 109th Observation Squadron being the first federally recognized unit in the Air National Guard in 1921. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amy M. Lovgren)

# 148TH FIGHTER WING

The 148th Fighter Wing, headquartered out of Duluth, flies the Block 50 F-16CM, the newest and most capable F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. The wing is comprised of Airmen prepared to respond to federal and state missions and is one of only two Air National Guard wings trained to provide Suppression and Destruction of Enemy Air Defense for our nation. The 148th is also a NORAD-trained Aerospace Control Alert flying wing capable of defending the air sovereignty of North America when called upon.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
*Duluth, Minnesota*

**COMMANDER**  
*Col. Chris Blomquist*

**SENIOR ENLISTED**  
*Command Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Erikson*

**STRENGTH**  
*1,044 Airmen*

Learn more about  
the 148th Fighter Wing:  
<https://www.148fw.ang.af.mil/>

Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing, fly over the Minneapolis Veterans Health Care System in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 6, 2020. The flyover was part of a nationwide effort to recognize healthcare workers, emergency responders and other essential workers throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Amy M. Lovgren)

In February and March, the 148th supported a 60-day NORAD-tasks Operation Noble Eagle deployment in the southeast United States.

In May, the unit supported Operation American Resolve, a fly-over program to recognize front line workers battling COVID-19.

While working in a COVID environment, the wing supported COVID operations by making masks, providing a FORTS shelter to St. Louis County, 3D printing mask extenders, and conducting COVID-19 testing for nursing homes all over Minnesota.

The educational program STARBASE Minnesota Duluth, which teaches an immersive, hands-on and technology-rich STEM program for area 5th graders, moved into their new, enlarged space in the 148th headquarters building.

Approximately 50 personnel, including security forces, administrative staff, and communications personnel with their remote communications platform, supported the civil unrest response mission in Minneapolis/St. Paul at the end of May.

In 2021, the 148th will prepare for an air combat command readiness capstone, which will assess their mission readiness. The next major wave of Air National Guard deployments is expected to include missions for the 148th.

Beyond 2021, the 148th will continue to prepare for a new manned fighter aircraft, such as the F-35, Joint Strike Fighter. The wing expects to support missions for Aerospace Expeditionary and Combat Support as well as NORAD. Lastly, the wing will enhance the 26,000 square miles of military operating airspace over northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in coordination with the National Guard Bureau and the Federal Aviation Administration.

# CYBERSECURITY

## The Minnesota National Guard made great strides in increasing, enhancing and testing its cybersecurity capacity in 2020.

In 2020, the 177th Cyber Protection Team nearly doubled in size to 41 Soldiers, successfully filling available vacancies over the last year. Minnesota is one of only a small handful of states with a fully-staffed cyber protection team. The team plays a growing and integral part of full-spectrum cyber operations and is trained to conduct threat-focused, intelligence-driven defensive cyber operations in response to ongoing or imminent threats.

In June 2020, the 177th CPT supported Minnesota during the state active duty response to civil unrest. The team supplemented the Minnesota National Guard's tactical communications and cybersecurity efforts with trained operators to bolster communications and cyber capabilities.

The 177th CPT mobilized in late 2020 in support of Task Force Echo and U.S. Cyber Command. The command focuses on defending Department of Defense networks, providing support to combatant commanders for execution of their missions around the world, and strengthening our nation's ability to withstand and respond to cyber attacks.

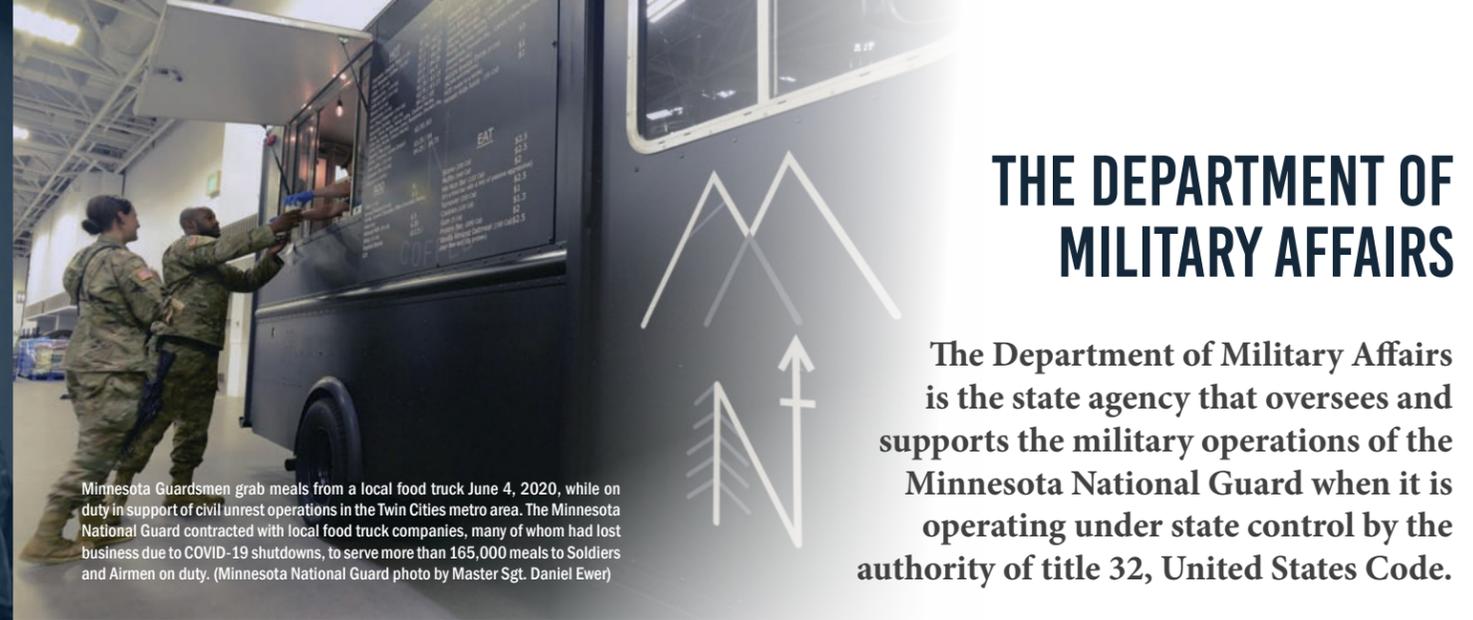
Beyond trained and ready Guardsmen who round out the 177th CPT, the Minnesota National Guard maintains a full-time Defensive Cyber Operations Element (DCO-E) within the Joint Force Headquarters information management section. The DCO-E actively

Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's 177th Cyber Protection Team participate in a socially-distanced send-off ceremony, October 25, 2020, in Rosemount, Minnesota. The unit deployed to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, to conduct cyberspace operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command and the Cyber National Mission Force. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)

maintains and defends critical networks and seeks to collaborate with government and industry leaders to improve information security and protect critical infrastructure at all levels.

In 2020, the DCO-E supported state active duty efforts by providing network maintenance and defense and enhanced communications capabilities during the Minnesota National Guard's response to civil unrest. Additionally, reacting to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DCO-E developed comprehensive plans and took action to facilitate expanded connectivity for the force, enabling Soldiers and Airmen to plan and execute their missions from anywhere.

Cyber initiatives for 2021 and beyond include enhancing and bolstering network defense and developing, approving and refining a framework and process for quickly deploying a defensive cyber operation element to respond to crises or urgent situations. Further, the Minnesota National Guard will continue to increase cyber protection capacity of both Minnesota and Croatia through training events sponsored by the State Partnership Program; develop emergency, interagency and unified response practices; and continue to work with local, national and international partners in the development and implementation of good cyber security practices and security initiatives.



Minnesota Guardsmen grab meals from a local food truck June 4, 2020, while on duty in support of civil unrest operations in the Twin Cities metro area. The Minnesota National Guard contracted with local food truck companies, many of whom had lost business due to COVID-19 shutdowns, to serve more than 165,000 meals to Soldiers and Airmen on duty. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Ewer)

# THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Department of Military Affairs is the state agency that oversees and supports the military operations of the Minnesota National Guard when it is operating under state control by the authority of title 32, United States Code.

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) supports the following statewide outcome: ensuring the people in Minnesota are safe.

The department is comprised of and includes the military forces of the state, the office of the adjutant general, all military reservations, military installations, armories, air bases, facilities owned or controlled by the state for military purposes, and civilians employed by the state for the administration of the military department.

DMA integrates federal and state resources to pursue strategies in two lines of effort. The first is provide ready units, sustain optimal force structure and provide support response to any cyber events. The second is relationship integration to maintain infrastructure and facilities, sustain "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" activities and diversify the force.

Four programs support these efforts:

- The Maintenance of Military Training Facilities Program maintains the state's facilities used to train and house the members of the Minnesota National Guard and to protect the state's investment in facilities.
- The Enlistment Incentives Program supports and manages the enlistment and retention incentives and tuition reimbursement programs which provide incentives for membership in National Guard.

- Emergency Services funds emergency response activities at the order of the Governor when the National Guard is activated in response to state emergencies.
- General Support provides the general administrative, financial, accounting, budgeting, project management, strategic planning, and human resource support necessary for the operation of the department.

Multiple state active duty missions in 2020 brought unique challenges to DMA. The rapid activation of 7,000 Guardsmen during the civil unrest response in late May and early June left DMA struggling to identify food vendors who could provide meals to service members working the civil disturbance operations.

The problem was solved by connecting with food truck vendors. The vendors were very flexible, and it led to a new way for the state to approach state active duty missions. The vendors served over 165,000 meals, earning \$2 million – a win for the community as many of these vendors were on the verge of bankruptcy due to COVID-19.

Additionally, the department was able to direct the goodwill of Minnesotans and Yellow Ribbon communities, counties and companies to provide much appreciated care packages for Soldiers and Airmen during rapid state activations.

# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & OBJECTIVES

## 2020 Legislative accomplishments

As a second year member of the Council of Governors for the 2019-2021 term, Governor Walz took the lead in championing two of the Council's six priorities: increased full-time support for the National Guard and duty status reform. Increased funding authorization for full-time staff will enable units to get closer to identified requirement levels and is essential to the readiness of our force. Duty status reform is a multi-year effort that will reduce over 30 legal authorities to mobilize reserve component members to eight mobilization categories. The Minnesota National Guard's ultimate goal includes a 9th category for remote assignments and benefits parity when the reserve component is tasked to support federal missions.

Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) language provides reserve component service members with maternity leave compensation, service credit and entitlement to retired pay.

The NDAA identifies minimum end strengths for permanent military technicians (dual status). The end strength limits for temporary military technicians (dual status) could impact National Guard readiness.

The NDAA also contains language that reduces the Air Force C130 total aircraft inventory from 300 to 287. This reduction in C130 aircraft capacity could negatively impact operations. The 2018 Mobility Capabilities Requirements Study recognized the continued demand on the

C130 fleet and recommended retaining 300 total aircraft inventory through 2023.

Total state appropriation to military affairs in October was \$24,545,000. Nearly \$12 million of that will go directly into necessary improvements into readiness centers in Rosemount, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Marshall and \$13 million for the construction of a new Minnesota Military Museum. This will be constructed outside the boundaries of Camp Ripley in Morrison County.

## 2021 Legislative Objectives

Ensure we are focused on people first through:

- Restoring the ability of our Soldiers to utilize their earned GI Bill and federal tuition assistance benefits concurrently.
- Providing federal tuition assistance to our Airmen.
- Providing access to Tricare Reserve Select for our federal technician workforce.
- Achieving aviation pay parity for our aircrews.

Support efficient and effective fiscal and property responsibility through:

- Sustaining C130 total aircraft inventory & recapitalization to the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.
- Re-leveling unspecified minor military construction local thresholds and approval levels to maximize local facilities maintenance opportunities.
- Continued modernization efforts in support of our fixed-wing aircraft and Humvee fleets.

# MINNESOTA ELECTED OFFICIALS

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

**GOVERNOR**  
*Tim Walz*

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
*Peggy Flanagan*

**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
*Steve Simon*

**STATE AUDITOR**  
*Julie Blaha*

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
*Keith Ellison*

## U.S. SENATORS

**SENATOR**  
*Amy Klobuchar*

**SENATOR**  
*Tina Smith*

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

**DISTRICT 1**  
*Jim Hagedorn*

**DISTRICT 2**  
*Angie Craig*

**DISTRICT 3**  
*Dean Phillips*

**DISTRICT 4**  
*Betty McCollum*

**DISTRICT 5**  
*Ilhan Omar*

**DISTRICT 6**  
*Tom Emmer*

**DISTRICT 7**  
*Michelle Fischbach*

**DISTRICT 8**  
*Pete Stauber*

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

	Assigned Personnel	Congressional District	State District	Federal Master Cooperative Agreement	State Impact	Federal Impact	Federal Tuition Assistance (people)	Federal Tuition Assistance	State Tuition Reimbursement (people)	State Tuition Reimbursement
Albert Lea	91	1	27A	\$34,695.49	\$51,795.25	\$3,062,347.24	12	28769	8	\$39,269.96
Alexandria	131	7	08B	\$23,978.36	\$74,705.14	\$4,408,433.95	7	16624	4	\$24,359.50
Anoka	134	6	35A	\$17,026.82	\$42,428.69	\$4,509,390.45	10	31581	16	\$76,990.52
Appleton	79	7	20A	\$37,401.34	\$49,371.65	\$2,658,521.23	7	16179	3	\$18,760.13
Arden Hills	104	4	42A	\$23,366,511.22	\$159,224.70	\$3,499,825.42	20	60064	22	\$101,614.36
Austin	120	1	27B	\$27,453.05	\$41,440.49	\$4,038,260.10	16	37709	8	\$42,186.58
Bemidji	113	7	05A	\$176,818.54	\$55,980.68	\$3,802,694.93	4	13899	5	\$29,314.02
Bloomington	464	3	50B	\$53,687.89	\$90,808.96	\$15,614,605.73	62	166840	48	\$298,110.70
Brainerd	232	8	10A	\$89,651.08	\$99,610.45	\$7,807,302.86	23	58881	16	\$101,788.40
Brooklyn Park	350	3	36B	\$85,351.75	\$33,376.24	\$11,778,258.63	46	125336	37	\$270,675.66
Cambridge	248	8	32A	\$59,744.92	\$94,879.49	\$8,345,737.54	27	65362	12	\$53,962.15
Chisholm	149	8	06A	\$276,937.06	\$367,271.27	\$5,014,172.96	0	0	2	\$16,695.43
Cloquet	111	8	11A	\$18,862.19	\$53,337.64	\$3,735,390.59	14	31654	5	\$14,005.53
Cottage Grove	210	2	54A	\$82,195.16	\$147,423.37	\$7,066,955.18	30	88432	24	\$216,478.09
Crookston	111	7	01B	\$32,559.95	\$167,973.20	\$3,735,390.59	7	22984	5	\$25,332.85
Detroit Lakes	63	7	04B	\$28,610.77	\$29,351.45	\$2,120,086.55	5	12951	3	\$15,102.33
Duluth	422	8	03B	\$52,608.37	\$42,549.65	\$14,201,214.69	64	185498	32	\$190,107.22
Duluth (Air Base)	1,044	8	03B	\$6,521,733.74	\$2,205,117.16	\$75,452,895.00	0	0	146	\$1,097,729.06
Fairmont	104	1	23A	\$31,008.81	\$53,036.85	\$3,499,825.42	4	10553	3	\$12,587.15
Faribault	229	1	24B	\$66,836.17	\$156,849.04	\$7,706,346.36	32	72276	14	\$57,121.69
Fergus Falls	88	7	08A	\$15,621.56	\$17,828.56	\$2,961,390.74	9	15121	10	\$23,713.51
Grand Rapids	57	8	05B	\$12,753.27	\$12,753.23	\$1,918,173.55	3	7877	1	\$5,564.30
Hastings	69	2	21A	\$22,383.81	\$32,100.11	\$2,321,999.56	6	19947	6	\$28,620.44
Hibbing	89	8	06A	\$80,096.58	\$262,498.00	\$2,995,042.91	4	9718	2	\$10,605.05
Hutchinson	68	7	18B	\$23,553.50	\$218,722.95	\$2,288,347.39	2	2155	1	\$2,945.28
Inver Grove Heights	206	2	52B	\$122,727.19	\$116,831.01	\$6,932,346.51	31	72184	14	\$95,691.76
Jackson	96	1	23A	\$25,463.30	\$35,671.34	\$3,230,608.08	7	23106	10	\$65,756.60
Litchfield	126	7	18A	\$16,245.68	\$15,918.75	\$4,240,173.11	13	38914	7	\$26,420.06
Little Falls (Camp Ripley)	1266	8	09B	\$41,001,090.06	\$5,592,207.78	\$42,603,644.08	116	305672	78	\$448,339.70
Luverne	51	1	22A	\$13,877.89	\$19,490.46	\$1,716,260.54	3	6365	3	\$15,519.51
Madison	89	7	16A	\$20,594.33	\$19,962.06	\$2,995,042.91	7	19179	7	\$41,486.06
Mankato	258	1	19B	\$137,787.14	\$208,493.51	\$8,682,259.22	38	89978	36	\$205,405.77
Marshall	88	7	16A	\$28,623.71	\$38,616.40	\$2,961,390.74	6	17795	3	\$16,785.94
Minneapolis	185	5	60A	\$73,704.97	\$126,980.18	\$6,225,650.99	14	24912	14	\$77,733.01
Mpls/St Paul (Air Base)	1,200	5	63B	\$3,200,788.19	\$588,984.34	\$75,467,800.00	0	0	164	\$1,010,508.63
Montevideo	114	7	17A	\$87,332.33	\$93,705.94	\$3,836,347.10	14	43664	13	\$92,988.70
Monticello	151	6	29B	\$8,244.40	\$3,489.91	\$5,081,477.30	21	59339	8	\$31,440.47
Moorhead	199	7	04A	\$62,628.57	\$80,841.16	\$6,696,781.34	19	57646	17	\$111,727.03
Morris	68	7	12A	\$30,739.52	\$32,096.76	\$2,288,347.39	10	26262	6	\$44,124.87
New Ulm	102	1	16B	\$497,429.05	\$45,971.72	\$3,432,521.09	10	34474	9	\$55,605.56
Olivia	76	7	17A	\$30,032.72	\$55,339.17	\$2,557,564.73	7	21600	1	\$750.00
Ortonville	88	7	12A	\$36,007.53	\$51,538.00	\$2,961,390.74	14	27164	10	\$51,217.06
Owatonna	1	1	24A	\$29,913.52	\$30,575.73	\$33,652.17	1	2783	0	\$-
Pine City	120	8	11B	\$29,884.16	\$32,302.45	\$4,038,260.10	9	27300	5	\$26,991.90
Pipetstone	55	7	22A	\$26,887.90	\$28,544.65	\$1,850,869.21	4	12373	1	\$4,639.80
Red Wing	120	2	21A	\$31,734.65	\$53,527.50	\$4,038,260.10	16	43766	13	\$66,074.14
Redwood Falls	58	7	16B	\$314,359.82	\$53,059.45	\$1,951,825.72	9	23028	6	\$41,227.47
Rochester	146	1	26A	\$218,700.66	\$29,063.39	\$4,913,216.46	11	24147	11	\$99,567.64
Rosemount	453	2	57B	\$159,134.29	\$109,658.60	\$15,244,431.89	63	166694	38	\$197,348.98
Sauk Centre	77	6	14B	\$17,574.39	\$22,406.36	\$2,591,216.90	5	11340	7	\$37,064.11
Saint Cloud	444	7	15B	\$3,236,371.19	\$3,946,551.82	\$14,941,562.38	51	124850	27	\$163,813.95
Saint James	75	1	23B	\$24,526.78	\$38,010.51	\$2,523,912.56	5	17334	4	\$25,017.52
Saint Paul (& East St. Paul)	1284	4	65B	\$7,296,940.36	\$22,243,433.70	\$43,209,383.09	120	263898	73	\$398,873.80
Saint Peter	102	1	19A	\$735,082.02	\$663,382.11	\$3,432,521.09	8	24386	8	\$31,976.40
Stillwater	320	6	39B	\$650,638.37	\$230,790.10	\$10,768,693.61	46	106115	25	\$138,550.89
Thief River Falls	58	7	01A	\$33,285.27	\$48,321.75	\$1,951,825.72	3	5500	3	\$14,512.71
Wadena	69	8	09A	\$22,156.42	\$17,775.20	\$2,321,999.56	4	5592	1	\$280.75
West St Paul	159	2	52A	\$141,028.79	\$114,671.85	\$5,350,694.64	11	24824	13	\$79,432.99
Willmar	210	7	17B	\$150,531.70	\$28,174.83	\$7,066,955.18	7	21643	15	\$129,692.52
Winona	151	1	28A	\$24,393.13	\$37,496.56	\$5,081,477.30	18	42153	12	\$67,171.47

## IMPACT TOTALS

**13,362**  
ASSIGNED PERSONNEL

**\$84,642,187**  
FEDERAL MASTER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

**\$29,678,063**  
STATE IMPACT

**\$442,152,696**  
FEDERAL IMPACT

**1,194**  
FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (PEOPLE)

**\$3,197,380**  
FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE

**1,156**  
STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT (PEOPLE)

**\$6,656,959**  
STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

**\$559,670,327**  
Total impact

**\$41,885**  
Impact per troop

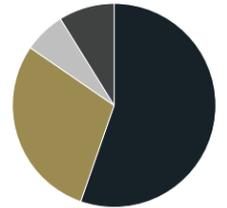
**94.7%**  
Federal funding

**5.3%**  
State Funding

## STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

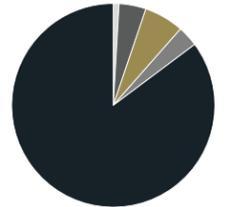
### RANK

- Junior enlisted (55%)
- Mid-grade noncommissioned officer (29%)
- Officer (9%)
- Senior-grade noncommissioned officer (7%)



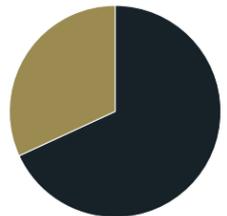
### RACE

- White/Caucasian (85%)
- Black or African American (6%)
- Asian (4%)
- Other/unspecified (3%)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%)



### SEX

- Male (68%)
- Female (32%)



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

Federal Master Cooperative Agreement: Indirect federal funding that reimburses state expenses for services and goods paid for using state general funds in accordance with an agreement between the adjutant general and the chief of the National Guard Bureau. These funds are accounted for separately from the agency's budget.

State Impact: Services and purchases and that are paid for using funds appropriated by the Legislature to the Department of Military Affairs in the State General Fund, including the state share of maintenance costs for facilities jointly supported by the federal and state governments.

Federal Impact: Direct federal funding of operations and maintenance, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, federal technician salaries, active guard and reserve salaries and pay to service members for military training. Total is inclusive of sub-categories of federal funding.

Federal Tuition Assistance: This is a federal benefit. Figures are based on average tuition assistance per student, by unit.

State Tuition Reimbursement: is a state incentive provided to service members and their families to reimburse costs for tuition. It becomes available after all federal tuition benefits have been used. Figures reflect the location of the service member's unit.

Federal Impact | Master Construction Cooperative Agreement: Direct federal construction funding.

## MINNESOTA MILITARY RADIO

For 10 years, Minnesota Military Radio has been telling stories of Minnesota's service and sacrifice.

For more than 10 years, the Minnesota National Guard has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System and Vietnam veteran Mr. Tom Lyons to produce the award winning "Minnesota Military Radio," a weekly public affairs radio and podcast program dedicated to telling the stories of our service members, veterans and their families.

Each week the show reaches an audience of more than 250,000 listeners via a network of 63 affiliate radio stations spread across the state from International Falls to Luverne, as well as a podcast available on every major platform.

In the last decade, the joint production team has traveled overseas to the Middle East, Europe, and across the U.S. to tell the stories of service of the Airmen and Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard and our neighbors in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Reserves and others stationed here in the state.

In honor of the incredible contributions made to the military and veteran community, Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan proclaimed November 7, 2020 "Tom Lyons & Minnesota Military Radio Day."

Listen:  
[MinnesotaMilitaryRadio.com](http://MinnesotaMilitaryRadio.com)



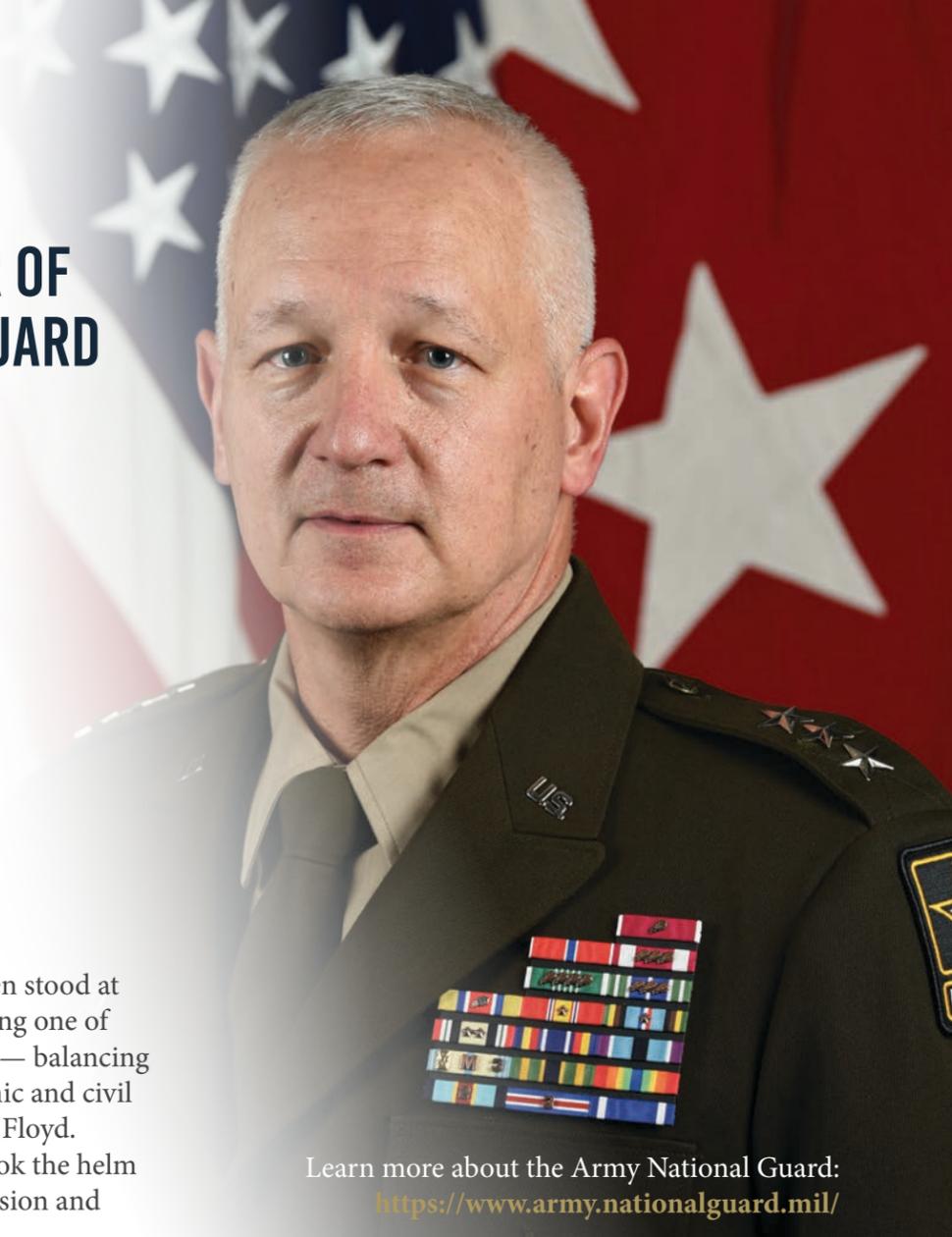
## LT. GEN. JON JENSEN SELECTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

In 2020, President Donald Trump nominated, and the U.S. Senate confirmed, Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen to serve as the director of the Army National Guard at the National Guard Bureau. At the time, Jensen was serving as Minnesota's Adjutant General, a position he had held since 2017.

As the National Guard Bureau put it, Jensen stood at the epicenter of a national tempest — during one of the most tumultuous times in U.S. history — balancing response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil disturbance following the death of George Floyd. Months later, Jensen was promoted and took the helm of the Army National Guard, placing inclusion and diversity at the forefront.

"I am humbled to have been selected to serve in this new role for such a culturally diverse and incredibly talented group of men and women who make up the Army National Guard," Jensen said after being sworn into the position. "We, as leaders, must listen to one another, ask those uncomfortable questions and treat one another with dignity and respect. Our Soldiers are dedicated and committed to our mission as they have been since 1636. It shows each and every time they wear the uniform."

As director of the Army National Guard, Jensen is responsible for more than 335,000 citizen-Soldiers and oversees all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard.



Learn more about the Army National Guard:  
<https://www.army.nationalguard.mil/>

**"I WANT TO CONGRATULATE GENERAL JENSEN ON THIS APPOINTMENT AND THANK HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK AS MINNESOTA'S ADJUTANT GENERAL. THOSE WHO KNOW GENERAL JENSEN ARE NOT SURPRISED HE'S BEEN PICKED FOR THIS TOP POSITION. NOT ONLY HAS HE SERVED OUR STATE WELL, BUT HE'S WORKED WITH HIS COLLEAGUES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPAND THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARD FORCES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT."**

— Governor Tim Walz

[MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.NG.MIL](http://MINNESOTANATIONALGUARD.NG.MIL)

