

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

STATE OF MINNESOTA

20 WEST 12TH STREET

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2098

February 1, 2017 *SK*

The Adjutant General's Office

Legislative Reference Library
Attn: Chris Steller
645 State Office Building
St Paul, Minnesota, 55155-1050

**Re: Submission of the Department of Military Affairs' Annual Support Our Troops
Grant Report**

1. This document was submitted to the Legislature pursuant to MN Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3. Two copies are provided to the Legislative Reference Library pursuant to MN Statute 3.302.
2. An electronic version of the document was sent to reports@lrl.leg.mn
Entitled "Signed Annual Report on SOT Grants for CY17.pdf" *SK*
3. Questions may be directed to the undersigned at donald.j.kerr2.nfg@mail.mil or 651 268 8913.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Kerr".

Donald J. Kerr
Executive Director
Minnesota Department of
Military Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

STATE OF MINNESOTA

20 WEST 12TH STREET

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2098

February 1st, 2018

The Adjutant General

Honorable Julie Rosen
Senate Finance Committee
3235 Minnesota Senate Building

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

Honorable Richard Cohen
Senate Finance Committee
2301 Minnesota Senate Building

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

Honorable Bruce Anderson
Senate Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee
3209 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Bob Dettmer
House Veterans Affairs Division
565 State Office Building

Honorable Jerry Newton
Senate Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee
2411 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Paul Rosenthal
House Veterans Affairs Division
209 State Office Building

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

1. This annual report is submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs pursuant to Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3.
2. The statute authorizes the use of SOT funds for four purposes:
 - (a.) Grants directly to eligible individuals.
 - (b.) Grants to one or more eligible foundations for the purpose of making grants to eligible individuals.
 - (c.) Veterans' services.
 - (d.) Grants to family readiness groups chartered by the Adjutant General.
3. No grants were made in 2017 pursuant to purpose 2.(a.) above.
4. The Adjutant General entered into a no-fee grant agreement with the Minnesota Military Family Foundation (MMFF) to administer funds pursuant to purpose 2.(b.) above.
 - (a.) The MMFF provided 77 grants in 2017. Of these, 57 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement.

(b.) The total disbursed for these 57 grants was \$160,928.76 but after applying the statutory cap, \$147,970.19 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. The remainder was paid using funds from private donations to MMFF.

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

(d.) Many of the individual requests covered multiple needs. The grants were used for such emergency purposes such as:

Mortgage/Rent; Vehicle Repair; Emergency Home/Appliance repair; Medical/Dental, Utilities; and Daycare.

(e.) For comparison, 58 grants totaling \$109,863 were made in 2016, 34 grants totaling 62,173.00 were made in 2015. 52 grants totaling \$95,627.000 were made in 2014. In 2013, 65 grants totaling \$119,942.00 were made. 82 grants were made in 2012 totaling \$149,043.00. In 2011, 75 grants were made totaling \$127,577.00. In 2010, 54 grants were made totaling \$90,286.00.

5. Pursuant to purpose 2.(c.) above:

(a.) Funds totaling \$153,315.88 were expended for wages, fringe, and miscellaneous costs for two licensed alcohol and drug counselors to meet a critical need for these services for service members and their families that is otherwise unsupported.

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

(c.) \$40.61 was spent to support light refreshments at a Chaplain's outreach event.

6. Sixteen grants of \$1,000.00 each were made pursuant to purpose 2.(d.) above.

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

Sincerely,



Jon A. Jensen
Major General, Minnesota Army
National Guard
The Adjutant General