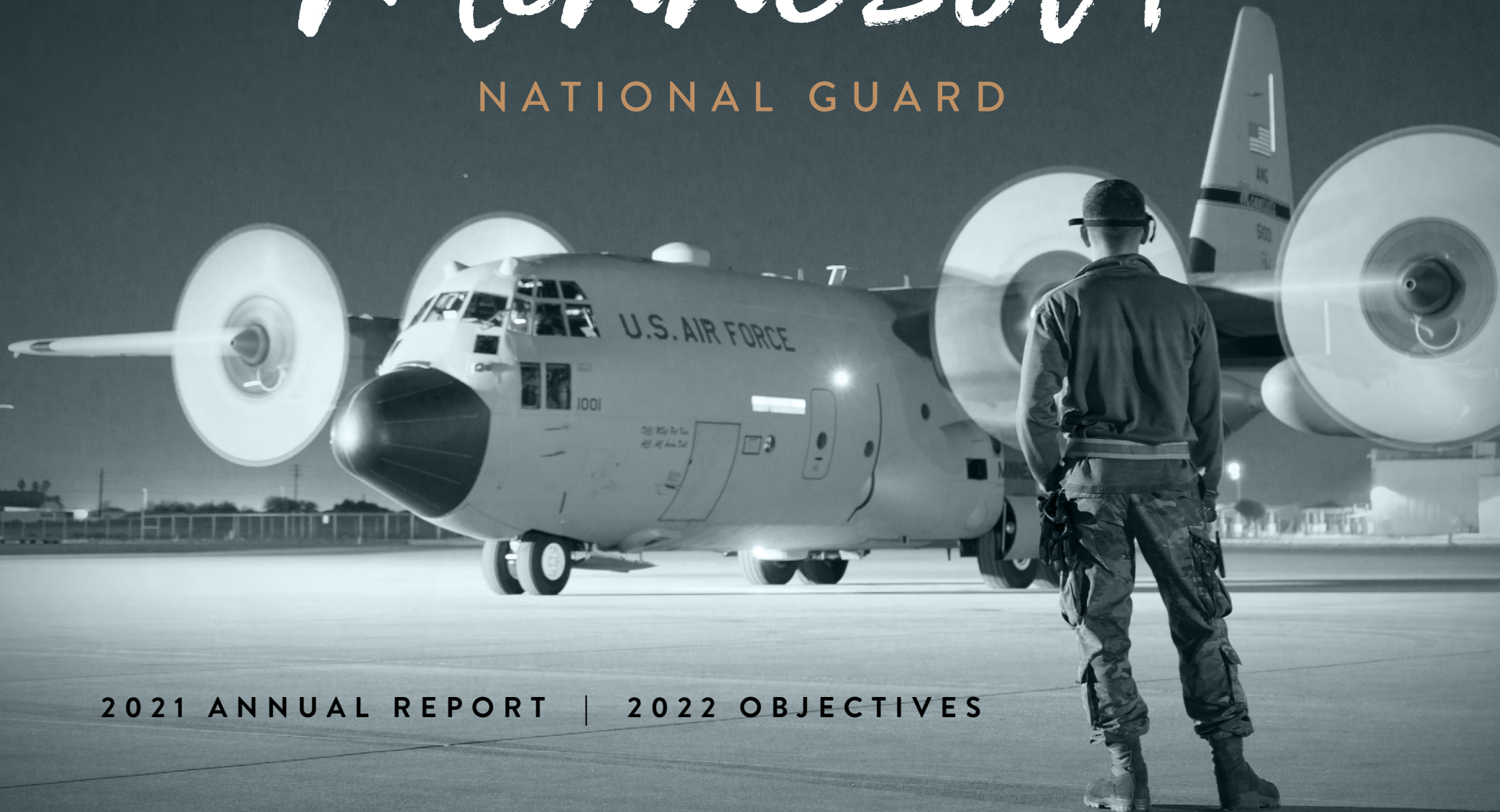


Minnesota

NATIONAL GUARD



2021 ANNUAL REPORT | 2022 OBJECTIVES

FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

To the Citizens of Minnesota,

We submit to you our 2021 annual report to inform you of the tremendous accomplishments of our more than 13,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have achieved this year. You will hear their stories across our three organizational pillars – People, Modernization, and Partnerships, and learn about the 2022 objectives that we have given ourselves to move the organization forward with the ultimate goal of better serving our communities, state and nation.

These service members are your loved ones, friends, employers, employees, students, or neighbors. They represent different races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, genders, and sexual orientations, yet we all have one thing in common- we faithfully serve this great state and nation. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Daniel Hokanson, said all Guard members, past and present, are united by an oath to the Constitution, a love of our country and state, and a willingness to sacrifice for something greater than themselves. One of my goals is to make our Soldiers and Airmen feel valued, with a sense of pride in the unit in which they serve.

The sacrifices over the last two years have been many. Your Minnesota National Guard has conducted more state missions than in the previous ten years combined. All the while, Guard members have continued to deploy worldwide to ensure our national and global security. The 20th anniversary of 9/11 remembrance event, held on Minnesota’s State Capitol grounds this year, reminded us of how we have transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force. Since 9/11, we have modernized in multiple aspects such as doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, education, personnel, and facilities.

Our service members continue to perform at the highest levels in the most high-profile missions. We continue to seek ways to modernize our force and equipment to ensure we are ‘Always Ready, Always There.’

Our partnerships across our state, nation, and the world have successfully impacted our ability to conduct missions here and abroad. These relationships at home were the foundation for planning and performing duties associated with COVID-19 community-based testing and vaccination sites, support to long-term care facilities, support to civil authorities during civil unrest, and combating wildfires. We celebrated our 25-year

partnership with Croatia and nearly 49 years with Norway this year. Together with our NATO partners, we share the commitment to the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

We thank our military families and the employers of our service members. We could not do this without your support and the support of our fellow citizens of Minnesota. Your efforts contribute to our nation’s freedoms and security.

Sincerely,



Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke
The Adjutant General
Minnesota



CONTENTS

4

PEOPLE

42

MOBILIZATIONS

8

MODERNIZATION

62

THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

12

PARTNERSHIPS

64

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

16

MAJOR COMMANDS

66

ECONOMIC IMPACT



People

Airman 1st Class Brandi Fleck, an aerospace propulsion specialist with Minnesota's 148th Fighter Wing, pauses for a photo before beginning her security mission during the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., in the early hours of Jan. 20, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard members are authorized to conduct security, communication, and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up to and through the event. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette)

People are at the center of any successful organization. Investment in our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees will give our organization the means to tackle the challenges our state and nation face and promote the value of choosing to serve as a citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. We will focus this priority on two lines of effort: enabling people and enabling units. The training and resources that enable people and units differ, so our approach to individuals and units must be different.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

By Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč

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

The Minnesota National Guard has eight special emphasis councils and recognizes observance months for each. These 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. These councils work to promote leadership development and inclusion within the organization. Leaders at all levels of the organization support special emphasis council members.

Chaired by the adjutant general and managed by the command senior enlisted leader and command chief master sergeant, the Minnesota National Guard's Junior Officer/ Enlisted Advisory Council comprises junior officers and enlisted members throughout the organization. The council provides members with direct access to senior leaders and an opportunity to give feedback on matters relating to service member issues and retention.

The Minnesota National Guard focuses on mentorship and building personal relationships to increase retention rates across the force. As we move into 2022, our diversity and inclusion efforts will focus on expanding awareness further into the ranks of Soldiers and Airmen, increasing participation, and ensuring all feel welcome in and proud to be part of the force.

RECRUITING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

By Army Capt. Eric Jungles

Embracing the strengths of diverse people in an inclusive environment is a central goal for the future of the Minnesota National Guard.

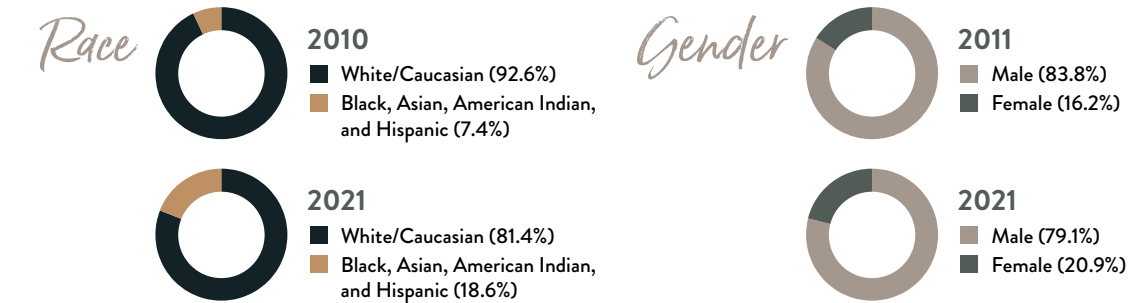
Since 2010, the Minnesota National Guard has more than doubled its percentage of racially and ethnically diverse members. Our Airmen and Soldiers represent different cultures, religions, races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations.

We consider diversity a strategic imperative critical to mission readiness and accomplishment. Diverse backgrounds and experiences contribute to the innovative thought, creative adaptation, and cultural understanding necessary to operate in today's complex, asymmetric environments successfully. While perspectives may be different, our objectives are aligned to defend human rights, dignity, respect, equity, and the freedoms preserved by the Constitution.

The Minnesota National Guard must foster a culture built on trust and accepts the experiences, cultures, characteristics, and backgrounds that each Soldier and Airman brings to the organization.

We invest in and manage talent by valuing individuals and developing culturally astute service members who enhance our communities, prepared for the human dimension of leadership and global engagements.

Growing Race & Gender Diversity in the Minnesota National Guard



Command Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Erikson assumed responsibility as the 14th State Command Chief of the Minnesota Air National Guard, becoming the first female to hold this role during an event in Saint Paul on Oct. 16, 2021. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Lt. Col. Kristen Augé)



FIRST FEMALE STATE COMMAND CHIEF

by Army Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams

Command Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Erikson assumed responsibility as the 14th State Command Chief of the Minnesota Air National Guard on Oct. 16, 2021, becoming the first female to hold this role.

“You must continue to grow the organization and sharpen the spear, so our Airmen are prepared for the next mission,” said Minnesota’s Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke, during the ceremony.

“I challenge you to foster a climate that continually looks for ways to raise the bar and rise to the challenge while taking care of our most precious resource, our airmen,” added Manke. As the State Command Chief, Erikson is the most senior enlisted member of the Minnesota Air National Guard and will play an essential role in the readiness and development of the force. Her role includes responsibility for the leadership and management of approximately 2,300 Airmen located at two separate wings and one headquarters across the state.

“My priorities are to build relationships to improve the resiliency of the force so we may provide this state and nation a ready force,” said Erikson. “I will also provide opportunities for development and growth.”

Erikson, who holds three Community College of the Air Force associate degrees in aircraft maintenance technology, human resources, personnel administration, and health care management, brings a tremendous diversity of experience. She has held six different duty positions throughout her 32-years of service. She began her career as a Jet Engine Mechanic on the C-141 Starlifter aircraft. Erikson succeeded in this traditionally male-dominated career field when females only made up 5 to 6 percent of the U.S. Air Force. Her transition into administrative roles included training manager, personnel systems manager, and recruiting office supervisor of the 148th Fighter Wing. She served as the senior noncommissioned officer in charge of the 148th’s Medical Group for ten years. In this role, she deployed to Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the Wing’s aviation deployment.

“I challenge you to foster a climate that continually looks for ways to raise the bar and rise to the challenge while taking care of our most precious resource.”

Minnesota’s Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke



MODERN FAMILY

by Army Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams

Many understand that when one joins a military unit, they essentially become part of a family. That figurative idea became literal for Spc. Emma Brown discovered that her first duty assignment would be with the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion (DHQB) of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. Spc. Brown, a geospatial engineer, was headed to the same unit as her father, Army Maj. David Brown, a plans officer.

“Initially, I was shocked we would be in the same unit and thought about how rare the chances of it happening would be. It was pretty comforting being able to talk to him about how the Minnesota Guard worked because I had a ton of questions, especially being since I was brand new to the military,” said Spc. Brown. “Also, I had joined the military in big part because of my dad, so it was really awesome to find out we’d be drilling together when I returned home.”

The father and daughter have been serving together in the unit since April of 2020. Spc. Brown is only two and a half years into her military career, while her father has 15 year of service.

“I’d love Emma to continue in the military after her [initial] contract expires, but I know there is a lot happening as she works to move forward with her career,” said the major.

Though at very different places in their military careers,

both went with DHQB to Fort Riley, Kansas for Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 22-1. The exercise spanned three weeks, with extended operating hours in a highly stressful environment.

“I love seeing her while on drill. It makes time away, especially here at WFX 22-1, way easier. Missing your family can be difficult. Having my daughter here makes me happier and helps time pass more enjoyably,” said Maj. Brown. “This helps me stay focused on the fight and all the other items required while serving. I especially love the serendipitous moments where we run into each other and can smile and spend some time catching up.”

It is a rare instance that one can go away on military time and be led to a family reunion, but for the Browns, they feel fortunate to have that opportunity.



Minnesota National Guard Soldiers stand guard, reinforcing local law enforcement efforts in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, on Apr. 13, 2021, the night after initial unrest broke out in the area. More than 2,000 Airmen and Soldiers are actively supporting Operation Safety Net, a coordinated effort to protect the rights of peaceful protestors and ensure the public's safety during the trial of Derek Chauvin. The organizations participating in Operation Safety Net are protecting people, property, and freedom of speech. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper)

Modernization ensures we have the right forces, infrastructure, training spaces, and systems for our current and future missions. As our challenges and adversaries change, we require forces, equipment, and training to ensure our national security. Modernization consists of two lines of action: optimizing capabilities and securing the force.

Modernization

CATCH 22-1

by Army Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams

“How can I get any experience until I get a job that gives me experience?” This is the question written by Joseph Heller that exemplifies a catch-22 situation, a concept derived from the namesake novel.

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division is wrapping up their participation in Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 22-1. For the division, the question would likely sound something like, “How can we be proficient in warfighting until we fight a war that builds our proficiency?” Fortunately, the lessons learned over the years of engagements in which the U.S. Army has participated have guided the organization towards designing methods for training that build the same skills needed in a real operational environment.

“The training value of a Warfighter exercise is the ability to test military doctrine, knowledge, and proficiency of warfighting functions in a high-stress environment,” said Army Lt. Col. John Hobot, who participated in this WFX as the commander of the Tactical Command Post (TAC).

When a division headquarters element deploys in a combat operation, the three separate command posts are the TAC, Main Command Post (MCP), and Rear Command Post (RCP). In the MCP, the warfighting functions represented include movement and maneuver, intelligence, fires, sustainment, protection, and mission command. There are also representatives of staff sections such as the judge advocate general, public affairs, liaison officers from logistics, personnel, and other sections.

Logistical and administrative personnel make up the RCP, the unit's heart, pumping the lifeblood of food, fuel, and water to forward-mobilized Soldiers.

Designed to be small and mobile, the TAC element is sent forward from the MCP for 24 to 72 hours to provide a command-and-control element over an event. The TAC will pack up on the event's culmination, and those who staffed it will return to the MCP.

In the era of modern warfare, network systems and technological capabilities have been force multipliers to an exponential degree.

“We can't do our job without being connected to a [simulator],” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Petersen. Petersen is a chief in the Air Missile Defense section, a part of the division's protection group. “Our assets gather intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and we can give this information to people in other sections that need it.”

Modern advancements in operations enabled this WFX to create a simulated operation with units participating at Fort Riley, Kansas; Grafenwöhr, Germany; and Fort Stewart, Georgia.

“This allows us to refine and modify our standard operating procedures and tactics to become a truly synchronized staff that can conduct quick, honest, and accurate assessments,” said Hobot. “Thus, we create a clear picture for the commander to make decisions.”

RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

by Bob Brown & Army Sgt. Mahsima Alkamooneh

According to an old Scottish proverb, the best-laid plans often go awry. Fortunately, that saying does not apply to the Minnesota National Guard's 30-year plan for sustainability.

The initiative was developed in March 2015 in response to President Barack Obama's Executive Order 13693, “Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade.” The Minnesota National Guard sustainability program focuses on compatible land use, energy reduction, waste diversion, and water conservation.

The Minnesota National Guard created a Sustainability Working Group to keep leadership informed and guide their decision-making on sustainable initiatives. This effort ensures the organization is constantly progressing towards increased efficiency goals.

The group has received National Guard Bureau recognition for its energy, water, and waste reduction accomplishments, yet they continue to strive towards more efficient and effective facility management. That is why they have partnered with outside entities and state agencies to aid their sustainability objectives. Camp Ripley's Environmental Supervisor, Jay Brezinka, believes these partnerships and the state's Buildings, Benchmarks and Beyond (B3) program are invaluable.

“One of the tools at the Minnesota National Guard's disposal is Minnesota's B3 program, which helps track

Minnesota's Camp Ripley, located along the Mississippi River in Central Minnesota, is dedicated to increasing its renewable energy resources on base through a 62-acre solar field and advanced recycling programs. Efforts at Camp Ripley and across the State of Minnesota directly support the Guard's Environmental Management System's (eMS) objectives in pursuit of energy, water, and waste reduction goals. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Anthony Housey)



The 62-acre solar field on Camp Ripley generates nearly 100 percent of the post's annual electricity demand and is the largest on any Guard installation, generating 17,000 megawatt-hours annually.

energy and water at over 90 percent of the Guard's facilities," said Brezinka. "This data, in turn, has helped to optimize schedules for building systems and identify buildings that should be prioritized for retrofitting with the integration of sustainable building code guidance."

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency partnership provides the Minnesota Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program members to conduct energy, water, and waste audits at armories throughout the state. The recommendations of these audit teams are presented to Minnesota National Guard leadership and evaluated. The goal is to forecast a five to 10-year plan that addresses older and inefficient buildings.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, standard is a requirement for new construction projects funded by the federal government. This was the case for the newly-constructed General John W. Vessey Readiness Center in Arden Hills, which includes geothermal systems, solar arrays, and energy-efficient equipment, promoting energy conservation.

The Minnesota National Guard works with planners, facility managers, and engineers to ensure that the construction and design of new buildings consider LEED Silver criteria and Minnesota's B3 Sustainable Building 2030 (SB2030) Energy Standard. These initiatives target monitoring facilities' energy conservation, identifying renewable and sustainable energy sources such as solar and geothermal.

In partnership with the utility provider, Minnesota Power, the Minnesota National Guard houses a 10-megawatt solar array at Camp Ripley, the largest on any National Guard installation.

The 62-acre solar field on the Camp Ripley generates 100 percent of the post's annual electricity demand and is an ongoing partnership with utility provider Minnesota Power. This solar power system is the largest on any National Guard installation, and the 10-megawatt solar power plant generates 17,000 megawatt-hours annually.

The previous Construction and Facilities Management Officer, Army Col. Sol Sukut, pointed out the key benefit of the partnership with Minnesota Power.

"[The solar array] feeds into Minnesota Power lines, but is designed to integrate with our microgrid, so in an emergency, it could provide the majority of our power during daylight hours," said Sukut.

Campaign Plan Arrowhead targets a three percent reduction in energy use per year to reach the goal of 30 percent total by 2030. By 2021, Minnesota National Guard is on target to meet that goal at a 14 percent reduction in energy use.

The Minnesota National Guard's renewable and resilient energy systems include solar, geothermal ice bank, and ground source heat pump technologies. With these

added efforts, for 2021, Minnesota National Guard's cumulative renewable energy use was five percent compared to electric and natural gas.

The Minnesota National Guard's water use reduction goal is 15 percent by 2027. Camp Ripley's leading initiatives such as installing more efficient water fixtures, increasing metering and monitoring while conducting annual inspections to identify subsurface leaks.

Additionally, this focus has enabled Camp Ripley to use recycled water at the wash racks. In 2021, 42 percent of the water used at the Area 22 wash rack to wash tracked vehicles was recycled water.

The Minnesota National Guard's goal is a 1.5 percent reduction in water use each year. In 2021, they are on target to meet that goal with a 22 percent reduction.

The Minnesota National Guard continues to reduce its carbon footprint while maintaining operational readiness. By 2025, there will be a 25 percent increase in sustainable procurement purchases, a 30 percent reduction in fleet petroleum use, an energy reduction of 30 percent by 2027, and a 60 percent diversion rate of solid waste by 2030.

Meeting these goals demonstrates the Minnesota National Guard's commitment to improving our stewardship of resources by modernizing our facilities and other infrastructure.



Partnerships

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Kai Pederson (left), a cyber-defense manager with the Minnesota National Guard's 177th Cyber Protection Team, works alongside Croatian Armed Forces' 2nd Lt. Marko Bilić during the U.S., Croatia, and Kosovo multinational cyber training exercise, Adriatic Thunder, at Dr. Franjo Tuđman Croatian Military Academy in Zagreb, Croatia, on Jun. 14, 2021. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč)

Partnerships are about more than relationships. Our partners include those we serve, agencies we serve alongside to accomplish missions, and organizations that influence our resourcing. Partnerships foster relationships to better serve our communities, state, and nation by understanding their needs better. We are a transparent organization, proud of our people and what we do. We want to tell our story and answer the questions about our organization, even the tough ones. Partnerships consist of two lines of action: relationships that support and communicate the Minnesota National Guard story.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč

The Minnesota National Guard celebrates 25 years of partnership with Croatia in 2021 under the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"It's a resonating part of the Minnesota National Guard and Croatia Armed Forces partnership that it is built on the bedrock of professionalism, knowledge, and knowing that you're there to share experiences," said the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division's Commanding General, Army Maj. Gen. Michael Wickman.

The partnership started in 1996, with familiarization events that have developed into hands-on training and military exchanges, and recently has grown to include civilian exchanges between government officials and experts in critical fields like cyber security. Minnesota universities and Minnesota-based companies have sent cyber experts to Croatia for symposiums and workshops on improving cyber security.

This partnership proved crucial in building relationships that have benefitted both countries. Soldiers from Minnesota and Croatia partnered to send five Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams to Afghanistan starting in 2008. The teams provided support to the Afghan National Army to increase the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces.

"That was such a significant measure of operational success for this partnership program," said Wickman. "It shows interoperability in a combat situation."

In 2009, Croatia became a full member of NATO, recognizing the transformation they made in modernizing their military. In 2013, Croatia also joined the EU. Over the years, the Minnesota National Guard has provided support with commonly shared issues such as homeland defense, civil response, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, border security, and cyber security.

In honor of the partnership's 25th anniversary, a delegation of senior Croatian military officials visited Minnesota and met with Gov. Tim Walz, toured Camp Ripley, visited with cyber security leaders at Minnesota's Metropolitan State University, and familiarized themselves with the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

"It's been a journey for us, in which the Croatian Armed Forces has gone through a significant transformation," said Croatian Chief of Defense Admiral Robert Hranj. "We came out of the war-torn country. We joined NATO. We joined the EU. We've participated in many international operations, many times with Minnesota National Guard units, making on some occasions joint units. And for all of these changes in the Croatian military, cooperation with the Minnesota National Guard has played a huge role."

The partnership is truly one in which both sides benefit by sharing information, best practices and building relationships amongst allies.

"There's always something you can take from another nation, another Soldier, that you can grow with and bring back to your unit," said Army Maj. Lukas Wright, who deployed as a member of the first Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team.

Through the State Partnership Program, the National Guard maintains long-term relationships that strengthen alliances, enhance interoperability, reassure allies, deter adversaries, and build partner capacity to meet emerging challenges across the spectrum of military operations.

"The environment is complex, it crosses borders, and we need partners," said Wickman. "You can't do things unilaterally. You really have to have great relationships and partners to deal with these complex issues that span the globe."

The Guard's relationship with Croatia remains a vital part of the U.S.'s commitment to the security and stability in Europe and deterrence of regional aggression.

“This was a perfect example of opportunity training. It gave our Soldiers a better understanding of what our partners will be doing and what kind of support they may ask us to provide.”

Army 1st Sgt. Keith Klein, 257th Military Police Company

NORWEGIAN NEIGHBORS

by Army Capt. Eric Jungels

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

While the annual reciprocal troop exchange paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic began, the exchange program endures. The Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard plan to conduct the 49th Norwegian Exchange in the spring of 2022. During the exchange, Airmen and Soldiers will trade places with Norwegian counterparts and 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 many Minnesotans’ strong lineage with the Scandinavian culture.



LOCAL PARTNERS

by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette

Training alongside Minnesota State Patrol troopers, Department of Natural Resources conservation officers, and numerous local police, fire, and emergency medical service teams builds on the Minnesota National Guard’s service member’s foundational knowledge as a protection force and strengthens the existing relationships between organizations. This training was critical during the state active duty missions prevalent in 2021.

Partnerships enabled the Minnesota National Guard to serve the state in responses to wildfires in Northern Minnesota and the State of Washington, the ongoing response to COVID-19, and provide support to civil authorities in response to civil unrest. One such mission was Operation Safety Net. This mission was the public safety response to protect lives and property and ensure people’s ability to protest during the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin peacefully.

“National Guard Soldiers stand ready to support the State Patrol and local law enforcement should the need arise,” said Minnesota’s Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke. “Our goal is to keep the peace, ensure public safety, and allow for peaceful demonstration.”

At the end of March, Gov. Tim Walz activated nearly 3,900 Minnesota National Guard members in anticipation of civil unrest, focusing on assisting local authorities. Through

the established relationships built and maintained with the Governor’s staff, state agencies, and civil authorities throughout the state, the Minnesota National Guard ensured a coordinated response to emergencies.

As Operation Safety Net began, the State Patrol conducted internal training, inviting the 257th Military Police Company.

“It was great to see how our partner agency trained,” said Army 1st Sgt. Keith Klein of the 257th Military Police Company. “Together, we saw an opportunity to get our Soldiers training alongside the local law enforcement; it was a highlight of our year.”

The outcome of that training brought with it a solid understanding of what their task and purpose would be as National Guard Soldiers.

“This was a perfect example of opportunity training, and it gave the Soldiers a better understanding of what our partners’ would be doing and what kind of support they may ask us to provide, if and when needed,” said Klein.

Based on requests from community and law enforcement partners, the Governor of Minnesota activated the Minnesota National Guard five times during 2021. These requests for support to civil authorities provided public safety services and security assistance throughout Minnesota. With each activation, the planning, sharing of information, and unity of effort between the interagency partners improved readiness and kept Minnesota safe.



Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard’s Monticello-based 257th Military Police Company support local law enforcement at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds. Gov. Tim Walz activated the Minnesota National Guard to help keep the peace, ensure public safety and allow for peaceful demonstration. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč)



Major COMMANDS

Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's B Troop, 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry Regiment begin boarding a 133rd Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules aircraft at Camp Ripley's Ray S. Miller Airfield on Jan. 16, 2021. These troops will join Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from across the nation activated to provide security, communications, medical evacuation, and other support to civilian authorities in Washington D.C. for the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette)

The women and men who serve in the Minnesota National Guard do so under 11 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.



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/jfhq



34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34id



34TH DIVISION ARTILLERY

(Website coming in 2022)



34TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34cab



1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/1abct



347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/347rsg



84TH TROOP COMMAND

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/84trc



175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/175rti



CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/crtc



133RD AIRLIFT WING

133aw.af.mil



148TH FIGHTER WING

148fw.af.mil



Joint Force Headquarters



Located in Saint Paul, the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air 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.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the organization's leader, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke directed Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) staff to develop a campaign plan to move the organization forward with the goal of better serving our communities, state, and nation. In October 2021, JFHQ published Operation North Star, the Minnesota National Guard's campaign plan, designed to guide the organization over the next three years. The plan includes three pillars — People First, Modernization, and Partnerships — and each pillar has a designated General Officer championing the effort.

The Partnership Pillar is about more than relationships. Our partners include those we serve, employers, state and federal agencies, and countries that share the U.S.'s goal of global security. Partnerships allow us to improve our service to our communities, state, and nation through direct and indirect support. JFHQ's daily activities regularly entwine with partners and this year's activities were no exception.

The Minnesota National Guard worked with organizations like the Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and American Red Cross to support civil authorities during civil unrest and combat COVID-19. Drought conditions across the nation in 2021 resulted in requests for support to the Washington National Guard and Minnesota agencies as wildfires raged and stretched firefighting resources thin for Washington and Minnesota.

In 2021, the Minnesota National Guard celebrated the

25th anniversary of the organization's partnership with Croatia. The partnership has contributed to the security cooperation objectives of the U.S. by building partner capacity, improving interoperability, and enhancing U.S. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges.

2022 OBJECTIVES

Looking forward to 2022, the Minnesota National Guard seeks to add to their country partners through the State Partnership Program. As the U.S. State Department, Combatant Commands, and National Guard Bureau review potential countries, the JFHQ is weighing potential partners that align with the Minnesota National Guard and the state of Minnesota's strategic vision. JFHQ will continue to expand on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and cyber programs with Croatia.

The unit is expanding international participation in the 2022 Best Warrior Competition by inviting our partner countries of Canada, Croatia, and Norway. Additionally, Minnesota will host the Region IV Best Warrior Competition, bringing six neighboring states' best noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted Soldiers to compete for this coveted title.

As the Army continues to modernize its communication structure with the implementation of the Army 365 environment, JFHQ provides the oversight and direction ensuring organizational information flow continues to be organized, disciplined, and collaborative.



HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Soper

STRENGTH
480 Airmen & Soldiers



Croatian senior leaders visited several sites in Minnesota on Jul. 21, 2021, including Saint Paul's Army Aviation Facility #1, Metropolitan State University, and Arden Hills' 34th Red Bull Infantry Division headquarters. Croatian senior leaders learn more about cyber security training, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot training and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the state partnership. The State Partnership Program supports the security cooperation objectives of the U.S. and geographic combatant commands. It develops enduring relationships with partner countries and carries out activities to build partner capacity, improve interoperability, and enhance U.S. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemeč)



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 11 other States. In Minnesota, the 34th includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (1/34 ABCT), 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB), 84th Troop Command, and the 347th Regional Support Group.



HEADQUARTERS
Arden Hills, Minnesota

COMMANDING GENERAL
Maj. Gen. Michael D. Wickman

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Whitehead

STRENGTH
620 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2021, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division participated in five major training exercises, culminating in a three-week Warfighter Exercise from September to October.

With only 30 days' notice, the 34th shifted all training and planning for the Warfighter Exercise from Camp Atterbury, Indiana, to Fort Riley, Kansas. This change allowed the Red Bulls the unique opportunity to train in a large-scale validation exercise alongside the newly reactivated active-duty Victory Corps (V Corp), forward command, based in Grafenwöhr, Germany, as they prepared to become a European Command headquarters. During this exercise, the division was able to test military doctrine, knowledge, and proficiencies of their warfighting functions within a high-stress environment. This exercise allowed the Red Bulls to refine and modify their standard operating procedures and tactics to become a truly synchronized division that can conduct quick and accurate assessments for their commander to make decisions.

This Warfighter exercise was one of the top accomplishments for the division in 2021, closely followed by their support during Operation Safety Net (OSN). During this operation, members of the 34th maintained public safety and security, primarily in Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis. Soldiers with the 34th ID activated early for OSN after the police shooting of Daunte Wright to mitigate potential escalation of civil disturbances while the metro prepared for the verdict in the Derrick Chauvin trial.

The division had multiple subordinate units deployed during 2021, such as 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment to the Horn of Africa, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Regiment to Afghanistan, and 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment to Kuwait and Afghanistan. In addition to this, many Red Bulls were activated for COVID-19 missions to support community-based testing sites, vaccination sites, and long-term care facilities due to the healthcare worker shortage.

2022 OBJECTIVES

Looking ahead into 2022, the Red Bulls plan to implement the new K Series modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE). This projected modernization will allow the unit to restructure and re-organize staffing within the organization to focus on their new designation as a "penetration division." Additionally, the division is continuing its partnership with V Corps as they officially align under the newly reactivated Army corps headquartered at Fort Knox, Kentucky, with a forward command post in Germany. The MTOE change will allow the 34th to function effectively in the multi-domain operation and modernize for the future. This change happens as the Department of Defense shifts focus from the counter-insurgency fight of the last 20 years to potential near-peer adversaries. The multi-domain fight involves simultaneously navigating combat across several domains, including land, air, sea, cyber, and space.

In addition to implementing the new MTOE, the division will prepare for Warfighter Exercise in 2023 and prepare to mobilize and deploy in 2024.

National Guard Soldiers from the Minnesota-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division pack a U.S. Air Force-operated C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in August following their mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. Deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield, about 400 Soldiers from 34th ID were temporarily relocated to Kabul, Afghanistan, and have since arrived safely in Kuwait, where they are assigned. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Capt. Charles Anderson)





34th Division Artillery

Announced in April, the division will become home to a new Division Artillery (DIVARTY) headquarters. A 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. The DIVARTY will continue to grow over the next few years, with formal reporting in 2025.



HEADQUARTERS
Arden Hills, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Eric Wieland

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Erickson

STRENGTH
50 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2006, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division's Division Artillery (DIVARTY) Command held a deactivation ceremony as the battlefield changed and the Army moved to modular brigades. However, the 2017 National Security Strategy recognized the type of wars fought in Afghanistan and Iraq created an erosion of leader and professional development within the Fires Warfighting Function. Field artillery skills had atrophied, degrading the ability to mass and synchronize fires. The Army brought back this force structure to combat these deficiencies, and the National Guard Bureau selected the 34th to establish a DIVARTY in October of 2021. Although all National Guard divisions will eventually receive a DIVARTY, the Minnesota National Guard was the first selected to return this divisional artillery command.

The DIVARTY is a brigade-level command that plans, prepares, executes, and assesses fires and acts as the primary advisor to the division commander for the fires warfighting function. Long-Range Precision Fires (LRPF) remains the Department of Defense's number one priority for modernization. In addition to gaining the new DIVARTY force structure, the 1st Battalion, 125 Field Artillery Regiment (1-125 FA) is scheduled for modernization from the M109A6 to the M109A7 Paladin howitzer during the summer of 2022, adding further capability to enable LRPF across all fires capabilities under the division. The 1-125 FA is only the second National Guard unit to receive this system and the seventh in the Army.

2022 OBJECTIVES

The DIVARTY will continue to grow over the next few years, with formal reporting beginning in 2025. Future force structure decisions may emerge as the Army determines the best structure for the future.

As a newly established Major Subordinate Command (MSC), the DIVARTY's implementation runs along four Lines of Effort: Man the DIVARTY, Equip the DIVARTY, Develop the DIVARTY, and Integrate the DIVARTY. DIVARTY expects to expand from its initial operating capacity of 12 to roughly 100 Soldiers by year's end. Eventually, the DIVARTY's overall strength will be approximately 200 Soldiers.

With minimal equipment currently assigned, the DIVARTY's focus will be the development of standard operating procedures and integrating lessons learned from currently functioning Active Duty DIVARTY's.

The DIVARTY will uncense its organizational colors in a ceremony in the fall of 2022.

Soldiers from the newly established 34th Division Artillery (DIVARTY) pause for a photo during Warfighter exercise 22-1 on Oct. 3, 2021, at Fort Riley, Kansas. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)





34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

The Saint Paul-based 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) is a National Guard unit that supports the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division and the State of Minnesota. They provide UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopter aviation capabilities for federal and state missions.



HEADQUARTERS
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Kevin O'Brien

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Hellkamp

STRENGTH
1,285 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After returning home in late 2020 from their deployment to the Middle East, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield, 2021 was a quieter year for the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB). Although the brigade had planned on a slower year operationally, it still supported multiple missions on the state and federal levels. It supported Operation Safety Net, the Washington state fire suppression mission, and the Northern Minnesota wildfires near Warroad and Lake Superior's northern shore.

The unit provided four aircraft and 15 personnel to help suppress the Northern Minnesota wildfires. Altogether, they dropped 377 helicopter buckets of water, totaling almost 200,000 gallons of water.

While many Red Devils were adjusting back to life in Minnesota, the Saint Cloud-based Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion deployed to the Middle East, supporting Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. The unit flies CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters and sent approximately 60 Soldiers on the deployment.

On top of reintegrating after deployment and the state and federal missions, the ECAB had an incredibly successful Aviation Resource Management Survey (ARMS) inspection. The brigade used the new Army Aviation 1 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as part of the Army's modernization of aviation units. This SOP

was developed for all aviation brigades to use to create symmetry. A collaborative approach led the ECAB to one of its most successful ARMS inspections ever.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program with the Croatian Armed Forces, the ECAB had the opportunity to host pilots from our Croatian partners and conduct a familiarization course with them on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Engaging in this training supports the security cooperation objectives of the U.S. and the Geographic Combatant Commands. It continues to develop enduring relationships with partner countries, carrying out activities to build partner capacity, improve interoperability, and enhance U.S. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges.

The ECAB welcomed Col. Kevin O'Brien as the new brigade commander and thanked Col. Gregory Fix for his service as the outgoing commander during the change of command ceremony at Camp Ripley in June of this year. Col. O'Brien is still flanked by Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Hellkamp.

2022 OBJECTIVES

The unit will prepare for the return home of Bravo Company, 1-171st from its deployment, and ready a platoon from Charlie Company of the 2nd Battalion, 211th General Aviation Support Battalion, a medical evacuation unit, for a rotation at the National Training Center in the summer of 2022.



As wildfires raged in Northern Minnesota, 16 Soldiers from the Saint Paul-based 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion deployed with two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters carrying water buckets, providing aerial fire suppression to the firefighting efforts. (Minnesota National Guard courtesy photo)



1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division

The Rosemount-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Red Bull 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. They constitute more than half of the Minnesota Army National Guard's total force.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Following a complex year that included multiple training events and preparation for a brigade-wide deployment to the Middle East, Soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division (1/34 ABCT), rolled into 2021, demonstrating professionalism and adaptability.

A late 2020 shift in operational and force structure needs in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations meant a reduction in the number of 1/34 ABCT Soldiers activated for Operation Spartan Shield in March 2021.

Task Force 1-194, led by the Brainerd-based 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment (1-194 AR), and commanded by Army Lt. Col. Jacob Helgestad and Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Manzke, mobilized 1,100 Minnesota Soldiers for the ten-month deployment, including a stop at Fort Bliss, Texas, for additional training before heading overseas. The task force comprised of four companies from 1-194 AR, two companies from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, and two companies from the 134th Brigade Support Battalion is flexible in its capabilities and adept at providing armor and mechanized infantry ground combat power, as well as logistical and health care sustainment support.

In August 2021, Task Force 1-194, serving as the CENTCOM Regional Response Force based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, helped secure Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul during the evacuation of U.S. citizens and allies, following the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The task force trained and prepared for rapid deployment within the CENTCOM area to support strategic and operational requirements. They worked alongside units from the 82nd Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, Marine Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force, and Marine Expeditionary Unit to support Operation Allies Refuge. Task Force 1-194 secured vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport and provided humanitarian assistance to U.S. citizens, special immigrant visa holders, in addition to their families.

In Minnesota, 1/34 ABCT Soldiers had a busy year supporting the state's COVID-19 response efforts, including staffing community-based testing sites, assisting with vaccination efforts, and augmenting personnel shortages at long-term care facilities. The New Ulm-based 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment (1-125 FA), Stillwater-based 334th Brigade Engineer Battalion, Duluth-based 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry Regiment (1-94 CAV) and Camp Ripley-based 134th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) supported pandemic response efforts across the state.

In January 2021, following a short-notice request for support of the 59th Presidential Inauguration, 130 Soldiers from the 1-94 CAV packed, trained, and flew to Washington, D.C., in a matter of days.

In April 2021, the brigade activated Soldiers to support Operation Safety Net. The 1-125 FA provided 24/7 property protection in more than 60 Minneapolis locations. The 1-94 CAV, along with a few dozen Soldiers from 1-194 AR and

the Moorhead-based 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, supported law enforcement agencies during civil support operations. More than 200 Soldiers from the 134th Brigade Support Battalion provided sustainment support, including supply, maintenance, and security for Task Force Minneapolis, which operated out of the DoubleTree hotel complex in Bloomington.

In April, 700 Soldiers of the Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment returned home from a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Horn of Africa, which began in the summer of 2020. The battalion served as part of a task force, improving the 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 a crisis. The group, which saw three Soldiers obtain their U.S. citizenship during the deployment, successfully coordinated the installation and implementation of a variety of Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems and multiple Base Expeditionary Targeting and Surveillance Systems-Combined across the region.

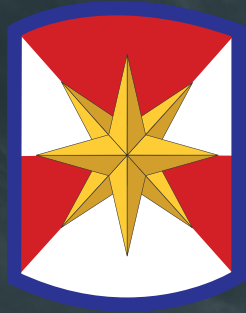
On Dec. 4, 2021, Army Lt. Col. Charles Rankin assumed command of 1/34 ABCT from Army Col. Timothy Kemp and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Erickson conducted a change of responsibility with Command Sgt. Maj. Rian Hofstad.

2022 OBJECTIVES

In 2022, Soldiers from the brigade will participate in ongoing Army-wide modernization efforts, led by the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Regiment, fielding new platforms and systems, providing lethal indirect fires. The collective focus of the brigade will be the reintegration and resetting of Task Force 1-194. Individual training and military education will remain a key focus for the brigade as it seeks to maintain a legacy of excellence in future exercises and mobilizations.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Dufrene with Minnesota's 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, fuels his M1A2 Abrams tank after completing platoon live fire during Bright Star 21 (BS21) at Mohamed Naguib Military Base, Egypt, Sept. 5, 2021. The U.S., Egypt, and other nations are contributing to this exercise with the common goal of strengthening partnerships for the future. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Cpl. Bridget Haugh)





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.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 347th Regional Support Group's (RSG) culminating training exercise for 2021 was the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The purpose of the exercise was to test how well the brigade would handle combat environments and prepare them for mobilization in a combat environment. Units that participated included the 347th Regional Support Group Headquarters, 147th Human Resources Company, 1903rd Acquisition Team, and the 147th Financial Management Support Detachment. The exercise assisted the RSG in improving its collective training proficiency and built more effective strategies for the future.

In early 2021, The 347th RSG provided Soldier Readiness Process, Periodic Health Assessment, and Maintenance Support to Task Force 1-194 (Armor) Combined Arms Battalion in support of their mobilization in preparation of their mobilization in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

In May 2021, The 107th Support Maintenance Company Detachment deployed six personnel in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, where they provided maintenance support to U.S. service members and allied forces in the theater. The 347th RSG also provided roughly 80 personnel and conducted Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration support and provided mayor cell support at lodging facilities during Operation Safety Net. Additionally, the brigade supported community-based COVID-19 testing sites and long-term care facility missions with over 160 personnel.

The 347th RSG's overall force structure continued to grow in 2021, with an overall strength of 1,175 service members at the end of the year. This is an increase of nearly 200 personnel since 2019. Several units were activated in 2021, including the 1347th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 912th and 917th Quartermaster Companies in Bloomington.

Many units within the brigade were reassigned to new locations. The 147th Human Resources Company, 147th Financial Management Support Detachment, and 247th Financial Management Support Detachment relocated to Bloomington. The 114th Transportation Company consolidated to Camp Ripley, the 224th Transportation Company consolidated in Faribault, and the 324th Transportation Company activated in Redwood Falls and Olivia, Minnesota.

2022 OBJECTIVES

In 2022, the 347th RSG will have several units mobilizing for various operations. The Headquarters will mobilize in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve in early 2022. The 147th Human Resources Company will mobilize in mid-2022 and will support two missions, including the theater gateway mission in Kuwait and a Casualty Liaison mission in Iraq. The 147th Financial Management Support Detachment is also preparing to deploy to Poland in 2022 to conduct financial support activities.



HEADQUARTERS
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Stephen Burggraff

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Christian Hudson

STRENGTH
1,005 Soldiers

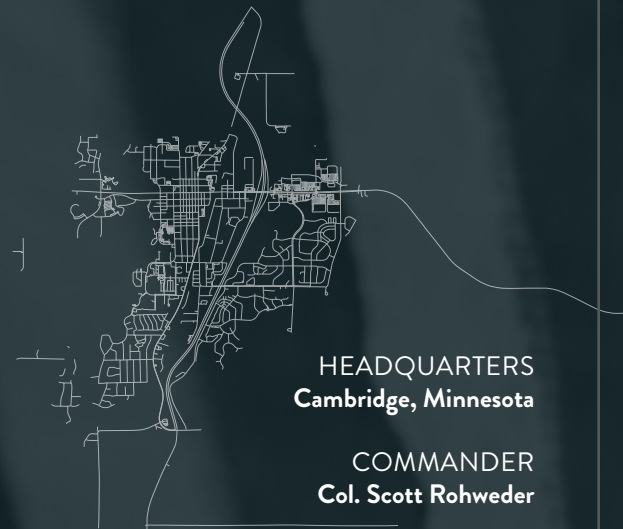


Sgt. Emily Zeise, a squad leader with the 147th Human Resources Company, was honored, receiving an award on Aug. 2021 during a Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Capt. Eric Jungels)



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.



HEADQUARTERS
Cambridge, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Scott Rohweder

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Geroge Jensen

STRENGTH
1,815 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2021 proved to be a busy year for the 84th Troop Command. The year began with nearly 390 Soldiers activated to support a national mission to protect the Capitol Building during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The year continued with the mobilization and deployment of three units supporting federal missions outside the continental U.S. In March, the 84th Troop Command activated 1,200 Soldiers to support the Minnesota National Guard's state activation for Operation Safety Net (OSN). Throughout 2021, the unit's 55th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) supported ten high-profile sporting events along with their mission at Professional Golf Association 3M Open and OSN.

The 682nd Engineer Battalion conducted several domestic operations along with a mobilization. The 434th Chemical Company deployed 148 Soldiers to Kuwait in July 2021 to support Operations Spartan Shield. Stateside, the battalion was activated for OSN in addition to the activation to support the Presidential Inauguration. These two operations employed almost 700 Soldiers from the battalion to maintain and restore order due to civil unrest.

The 257th Military Police Company, operating as the National Guard Reaction Force for Minnesota, deployed four times to support civil unrest operations during 2021. The company worked in cooperation with local law enforcement and the State Patrol to maintain

a safe and secure environment for citizens within the metro area and was recognized by the Governor of Minnesota for its service. The unit also continues a standing partnership with local law enforcement to conduct valuable detention operations training in the vacant Wright County Jail, preparing for the upcoming deployment to Cuba in 2022.

Like other units in 2021, the 1-151 Field Artillery (FA) Battalion activated 347 Soldiers for OSN. A subordinate unit, Charlie Battery, 1-194 FA, was deployed to the Middle East from August 2020 to July 2021. Charlie Battery, 1-194 was tasked with operating the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) systems primarily within Afghanistan. The 1-151 FA welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Brian Douty in December 2020 as the new commander and looks forward to building on the previous success that has been a hallmark of the organization.

The 34th Military Police Company comprises 230 Soldiers, and in 2021, the unit received notification that they again won the Major General Harry Hill Bandoltz award for 2020, the first unit ever to win the award two years in a row. This award is selected by the Office of the Provost Marshall General and given to the top military police unit across the U.S. Army, encompassing all components – Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard. The unit is also the first National Guard unit to win the award. In August 2021, just over 140 Soldiers mobilized to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

The remaining Soldiers of the 34th MP Company were called upon by the state as part of Minnesota National Guard Reaction Force - Metro and activated six times, totaling 30 days in support of civil authorities and joint security operations.

2022 OBJECTIVES

The 84th Troop Command's future vision includes a wide spectrum of capable units ready to deploy at home or abroad. In 2022, the 1-151 FA looks to capitalize on its recent relief from the National Guard Reaction Force – Reserve mission to refocus on its federal mission as a FA battalion. Further, the 55th WMD-CST will validate the team's response capabilities against mandated requirements to continue to protect Minnesota and the nation against weapons of mass destruction in 2021.

A Soldier with the Minnesota National Guard's 851st Vertical Engineer Company takes part in training with his unit on Jan. 19, 2021, as part of security efforts in the lead up to the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication, and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration (Minnesota National Guard photo by Pfc. Jorden Newbanks).





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 LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Hybben

STRENGTH
93 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year, hundreds of Soldiers from both reserve and active components travel to Camp Ripley to attend courses offered by the 175th Regional Training Institute (175th RTI). The institute ensures the courses provided meet all components' requirements, 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 ten functional courses. The institute contributes to the commissioned ranks by offering Phase I and II of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS).

In 2021, the 175th RTI provided instruction to more than 700 Soldiers from across the country. During the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation evaluation, 1st Battalion (OCS/ WOCS) received a score of 100 percent and, 2nd Battalion (MOD TRNG) acquired a score of 99.5 percent. The battalion headquarters and the Regional Training Site - Maintenance (RTS-M) have not received their scores, but it is anticipated their scores will rival the other battalions. These cumulative scores are the highest in the 175th RTI's history.

The 175th RTI's OCS Class 65 graduated 16 candidates with 14 commissioning as 2nd lieutenants and two candidates receiving eligibility certificates. Phase I OCS comprised of 78 Soldiers from six states, and this phase culminated with 68 personnel advancing to Phase II. WOCS graduated 11 candidates with ten commissioning and one receiving a certificate of eligibility.

As of March 31, 2021, the 175th RTI was privileged to have three women leading each subordinate command – a first in the organization's history. Now, Lt. Col. Amber Manke of RTI's 1st Battalion, Lt. Col. Brandi DeGier of RTI's 2nd Battalion, and Maj. Jolene Carlson, commanding the RTS-M on Camp Ripley, lead the way and enforce Army standards through the young women and men they lead. Col. Jason Benson, the 175 RTI Commander, places emphasis on having capable women in senior positions, especially command positions, as essential to providing an example for junior Soldiers and officers.

2022 OBJECTIVES

In 2022, 175th RTI will continue to improve on its One Army School System support. RTS-M will work with partner nations on their equipment fielding and recovery operations.

Lastly, the 175th RTI will sustain its efforts to provide the most experienced and professional cadre to provide top-tier training for tomorrow's agile and adaptive leaders.



1st Battalion, 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute held a graduation and appointment ceremony for the Minnesota Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) Class 21-001, "Lead Through Expertise" in the Education Center's Auditorium at Camp Ripley, Oct. 17, 2021. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Mahsima Alkamoonneh)



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 services, 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.

LOCATION
Little Falls, Minnesota

SENIOR COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse

COMMANDER
Col. Joshua Simer

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Erickson

STRENGTH
820 Soldiers

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Camp Ripley continued to engage with its local communities, hosting the 90th anniversary of its opening. Camp Ripley also hosted its biennial Open House and Community Appreciation Day for local community members. Additionally, Camp Ripley hosted the Croatian Army several times, providing vehicle maintenance training and a cultural experience. Camp Ripley is continually improving and seeks to forecast the needs of the Guard and its service members. This year, the installation broke ground on a new battalion headquarters in Area 5 and began renovating the historic Nelson Hall, where Camp Ripley's command team will operate in 2022.

Camp Ripley and its Facility Management Office continue to adapt to the changing needs of the Minnesota National Guard. They continue to implement energy-efficient and green processes into constructing and designing new and existing facilities. Camp Ripley's Environmental team and the DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program are also working on assessing and identifying climate resiliency and vulnerabilities on the installation with a recently awarded grant that will enable us to integrate that data into the Sentinel Landscape strategic plan.

The Environmental Team has used 2021 as an opportunity to continue its conservation efforts. They are working with Morrison Soil Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to collaborate with local landowners and communities to minimize wildfire threats and teach about prescribed fires and wildfire mitigation.

2022 OBJECTIVES

In 2022, Camp Ripley will focus its efforts on improving its multi-use ranges and resources to ready Camp Ripley as a destination site for winter training and pre-mobilization.

Improvements will include finishing the renovation of the historic Nelson Hall, providing fiber optic cable down range to support modern training objectives, and completing new construction in Area 5 to support year-round use. To support future logistical needs for the Minnesota National Guard, Camp Ripley will build rail spurs, improving workspace and processing. These improvements will benefit Minnesota's force, out-of-state partners and enable larger and more extensive training operations at Camp Ripley.

Camp Ripley is scheduled to host the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy Dive Schools and other out-of-state units such as Kentucky's 123 Contingency Response Group. The Minnesota State Patrol, several other law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Natural Resources will continue to utilize Camp Ripley's resources to meet their objectives while maintaining DoD's and Minnesota's COVID-19 guidelines.

Camp Ripley's long-term goals are always in our sights. For more than 90 years, we have collaborated with service members and their families, our local communities, and our state, national, and international partners. We appreciate their support and will continue to modernize our base to accommodate their needs.

Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard and the Croatian Armed Forces compete in the state's Best Warrior competition April 8-11, 2021, at Minnesota's Camp Ripley. This was the first year Minnesota's State Partnership Program partner country participated. The Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the year from this competition will move on to compete against Soldiers from across the region. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper)





133RD Airlift Wing

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota National Guard flying wing headquartered at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Utilizing the C-130 H3 Hercules aircraft, the Wing provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift capabilities 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.



HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. James Cleet

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Chief Master Sgt. Mark Legvold

STRENGTH
1,234 Airmen

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This was a significant year for the 133rd Airlift Wing. They celebrated their 100th anniversary of federal recognition, the first in the Air National Guard, on Jan. 17, 2021. In addition, the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron received the General Edwin W. Rawlings Team Award for providing significant improvement in communications and information support to the Air Force and DoD missions and operations, a fitting award for the year of their 50th anniversary.

The 133rd participated in three major training exercises in 2021. In March, they took part in the Amalgam Dart Exercise, where they provided NORAD the opportunity to hone homeland defense skills as Canadian, U.S., and NATO forces operated together in the Arctic. In May, they assisted in Swift Response, providing a tactical airlift capability to enable partners and allies to conduct Joint Forcible Entry operations in Estonia, Bulgaria, and Romania to achieve. The exercise built interoperability with allies and partners and demonstrated NATO's ability to project combat power to contested regions, achieving DEFENDER 21 and USEUCOM strategic training objectives. Finally, in August, the 133rd Contingency Response Flight responded to a simulated hurricane within 36 hours of notification, conducting airbase operations in support of a larger natural disaster response mission in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

During Operation Capitol Response, the 133rd was #1 in the Air National Guard for their contributions to the mission, providing 10 percent of the total airlift capabilities for the operation. Seventy-six sorties between Minneapolis, Duluth, and Washington, D.C. transported 119 tons of cargo and 1,465 troops to guard Washington D.C during the

Inauguration of President Biden. Throughout the year, more than 600 Airmen were also deployed to support operations in seven different countries.

At home, the Wing participated in two major state active duty missions: COVID-19 response and Operation Safety Net (OSN). Airmen participating in the COVID-19 response mission supported vaccination activities for over 59,000 citizens across 15 sites. In March, OSN activated to provide Minnesotans the opportunity to peacefully protest while protecting lives and property in the Twin Cities during the Derek Chauvin Trial. The unified effort of multiple Minnesota law enforcement organizations and the Minnesota Army National Guard included over 100 Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing.

2022 OBJECTIVES

The 133rd will continue modernization efforts in 2021 through training, engagement, and aircraft upgrades. Airmen will participate in a seven-day Large Readiness Exercise at Volk Field, WI, employing the Agile Combat Employment or "ACE" methodology for the first time. The training priority will shift from centralized deployment operations (i.e. Middle East) to decentralized deployment operations, empowering leaders of multi-capable Airmen at the lowest level to execute their commander's intent in a degraded environment. While the current fleet is on schedule to receive propulsion modifications in 2022, fielding of the C-130J also remains a focal point. The Wing's leadership will continue to concentrate engagement efforts on garnering support for the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft upgrade to modernize 133rd's tactical airlift capabilities and enhance the support it provides the state and nation.



Tech. Sgt. Baylee Munce of the 133rd Contingency Response Flight, Minnesota National Guard, looks out a window on a C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 133rd Airlift Wing, over the skies of Puerto Rico, Aug. 18, 2021. Munce is taking part in a Contingency Response training exercise that focuses on the capabilities of responding to natural disasters and setting up airbase operations. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amy M. Lovgren)

A U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft assigned to the Minnesota National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing taxis onto the ramp in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on March 6, 2020. The Airmen are returning from a six-month deployment from the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amy Lovgren)

100 Years of Flying

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Lovgren

Jan. 17, 2021, the Minnesota National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing celebrated their 100th anniversary. A century ago, they became the first federally recognized Air National Guard unit in the nation. The origins of the 133rd Airlift Wing are traced back to the founding unit, the 109th Observation Squadron, known today as the 109th Airlift Squadron.

In the summer of 1920, U.S. Army leaders Lt. Col. William C. Garis, Lt. Ray S. Miller, and T. Glenn Harrison gathered at a restaurant in downtown Saint Paul to discuss the formation of aviation units in the National Guard. Through these discussions, the future of the Minnesota Air National Guard was conceived.

On Sept. 26, 1920, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Walter Rhinow, Lt. Col. Garis, and Capt. Miller departed from Curtiss Field in Falcon Heights, Minn., in a rented Oriole biplane for Washington D.C., to lobby for the formation of a flying squadron. The trip took seven days through bad weather and with little to no air support. This impressive display of aircraft capability convinced the Militia Bureau to format the Air National Guard. On Jan. 17, 1921, the 109th Observation Squadron became the nation's first federally recognized Air National Guard unit. The Minnesota Air National Guard was born.

"To be part of a unit like [the 109th Airlift Squadron], with the

history and legacy like that, it is something to be proud of and an honor to carry [the unit] into the next century," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Dana Novinskie, commander of the 109th Airlift Squadron. "I consider it a privilege to serve, both at the state and federal levels. Our Wing has an important mission. I am honored to command the 109th Airlift Squadron."

Throughout its 100 years, the 133rd Airlift Wing has served in every major conflict. They range from World War II, Korea, Desert Storm, and 9/11 to the current state active duty missions of civil unrest, COVID-19 testing, and providing support to long-term care facilities. From World War II to civil unrest and pandemic response in its hometown, the 109th Airlift Squadron and the 133rd Airlift Wing have seen it all.

On the weekend of their 100th anniversary, the 109th Airlift Squadron returned to Washington D.C., transporting more than 100 Airmen to support to protect the Capitol Building during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. These flights, historic in their way, memorialize the Wing's takeoff into its next 100 years.

"I continue to be impressed by the caliber of men and women I serve with at the 133rd Airlift Wing," said the unit's Commander, Col. James Cleet. "Last year was a difficult one, and our hard work is not yet over. Trying times define people and organizations, I have no doubt the 133d Airlift Wing will continue to meet our state and nation's needs."



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 the only two Air National Guard wings trained to provide Suppression and Destruction of Enemy Air Defense for our nation. The 148 FW is also a NORAD-trained Aerospace Control Alert flying wing capable of defending the air sovereignty of North America when called.



HEADQUARTERS
Duluth, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Chris Blomquist

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Chief Master Sgt. Jozef Miketin

STRENGTH
1,062 Airmen

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 148th Fighter Wing (148 FW) stayed busy in 2021, with two major training exercises, one overseas deployment, four state active duty missions, and 25 patriotic flyovers. They began the year by providing 111 Airmen for security detail in Washington D.C., for the 59th Presidential Inauguration, and an additional eight Service Specialist Airmen who assisted in providing up to 15,000 meals per day to National Guard members during Operation Capitol Response.

In March, they partnered with other service members from the Navy, Air Force, Army, and other Air National Guard states in the NORAD exercise, Amalgam Dart 21-2, at bases in British Columbia and Greenland. The objective was to develop small teams with multifaceted capabilities, project power with a small footprint through a hub and spoke concept to predetermined bases, and practice adaptability in an arctic environment.

April brought the state active duty mission of Operation Safety Net, in which 100 personnel were mobilized to provide security. Also, during this time, many Airmen continued to support COVID-19 testing sites throughout the state. August saw both the massive training exercise, Northern Lightning, and the real-world mission of wildfire suppression. Two fuel specialists and a fuel truck were mobilized for the Northern Minnesota wildfires and partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to keep our woods safe. During Northern Lightning, the 148 FW was amongst 60

aircraft and nearly 1,000 personnel from the National Guard, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy during the annual counter land training exercise. Northern Lightning is a tactical-level joint training exercise replicating today's air battlespace with current and future weapons platforms.

In 2021, the wing was focused on the consolidation, modernization, and resiliency of its infrastructure via three main projects. The first was the Repair Wing Electrical Distribution project updated the electrical distribution system to make it safer and more effective (\$1.4 million project).

The Munitions Storage Area (MSA) repair project replaced a nearly 60-year-old utility system with reliable, adequately sized, and properly constructed utility systems are required to conduct the 148th's Home station Air Defense Alert and General Purpose employment training missions (\$1.97 million project).

Finally, they upgraded the fire suppression capabilities on base by repairing the life safety systems, updating the lighting, and HVAC systems in the existing Corrosion Control Building 220, as well as improving the redundancy of the 148FW domestic and fire service water mains by looping the systems (\$3.25 million project).

The 148th's top accomplishment was its performance during an Air Combat Command Inspector General

CAPSTONE unit effectiveness inspection in August 2021. Forty inspectors reviewed major programs through task evaluations, audits, observations, inspections, and exercises during a one-week event. During the CAPSTONE, a "readiness assessment" was also conducted to determine the 148th's ability to generate aircraft, employ and sustain combat objectives.

2022 OBJECTIVES

Looking ahead, the 148FW will deploy approximately 50 percent of their Airmen in 2022 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Allies Welcome. Additionally, they have some big construction projects to include a \$6.3 million small arms range for weapons qualification training.



The sun rises at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wisconsin, on Aug. 10, 2021. Volk Field is hosting Northern Lightning, a tactical-level joint training exercise featuring the integration of 4th and 5th generation assets from the National Guard, U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marines. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Audra Flanagan)

Minnesota National Guard Soldiers stand watch at the Brooklyn Center Police Department, Apr. 16, 2021, as part of Operation Safety Net, the public safety effort to protect lives and property and ensure the right for people to peacefully protest during the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. More than 3,000 Minnesota Guard members are on duty to ensure the safety and security of the local community. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette)



Mobilizations



Operation Freedom Sentinel | Operation Capitol Response | Operation Inherent Resolve
Operation Enduring Freedom | Operation Spartan Shield | Operation Atlantic Resolve
Operation Allies Welcome | Operation Safety Net | Operation Allies Refuge
Task Force COVID



2021 Activations TIMELINE

FEDERAL DEPLOYMENTS

2021

STATE ACTIVE DUTY

2020



34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade
Oct 2019 - Feb 2021
Iraq & Kuwait
37 Soldiers



2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment
June 2020 - May 2021
Djibouti, Africa
611 Soldiers



Task Force COVID
Spring 2020 - Aug 2021
State of Minnesota
320 Soldiers & Airmen



34th Military Police Company
Aug 2020 - Sept 2021
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
142 Soldiers



C Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery
Aug 2020 - Sept 2021
Afghanistan
65 Soldiers



177th Cyber Protection Team
Dec 2020 - Jan 2022
Fort Meade, Maryland
35 Soldiers

1st Battalion, 171th General Support Aviation Battalion
March - Present
Kuwait
54 Soldiers



1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment
April - Present
Kuwait
1,010 Soldiers



Det. 2, 107th Maintenance Company
July - Present
Poland
6 Soldiers



434th Chemical Company
July - Present
Kuwait
148 Soldiers



Operation Allies Welcome
Various locations
Sept - Present
20 Service members



148th Fighter Wing
Various locations
Oct - Present
47 Airmen



133rd Airlift Wing
Kuwait
July - Dec
13 Airmen

JAN



59th Presidential Inauguration
Jan 17 - May 1
Washington D.C.
734 Soldiers and 111 Airmen

FEB



Operation Safety Net
Feb 2 - May 1
Twin Cities Metro
3,368 Soldiers & 100 Airmen

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

Washington Wildfires
State of Washington
Aug 6 - Sept 5
10 Soldiers



Minnesota Wildfires
Northern Minnesota
Aug 27 - Sept 4
15 Soldiers and 2 Airmen

AUG

SEP



Community Based Testing Sites
Minnesota
Oct 18 - Present
82 Soldiers

NOV



Temporary & Certified Nursing Assistants
Minnesota
Nov 19 - Present
400 Soldiers & Airmen

DEC



Civil Authority Support during Potter Trial
Minnesota
Dec 13 - Present
100+ Soldiers

State Activations FACT

Between 2020 and 2021, there were a total of 18 state active duty missions with Governor's Executive Orders, with a total of 24,699 Soldiers and Airmen activated across 18 missions.

Between 2010 and 2019, there were 21 state active duty missions with Governor's Executive Orders, with an approximate number of 231 Soldiers and Airmen activated across 21 missions.

Soldiers of the Minnesota-based detachment of the 107th Maintenance Company were honored May 15, 2021 during a deployment ceremony at Camp Ripley as they begin a mobilization to Eastern Europe. The unit will provide maintenance support to U.S. service members and allied forces operating in the U.S. European Command area of operations. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)

Deployments

Approximately 2,344 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed or returned home from deployments in 2021.

FIGHT AND WIN

by Army Capt. Andrea Drost

In February 2021, approximately 60 Soldiers from B Company, 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for a nine-month mission in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. The unit flies CH-47 helicopters and provides aerial movement of troops, supplies, and equipment for support of maneuver, combat support, and combat service support operations.

In March 2021, approximately 1,100 Soldiers from Task Force 1-194 deployed to the Middle East for a nine-month mission supporting Operation Spartan Shield. T.F. 1-194 assumed responsibilities within the CENTCOM Area of Operations, including the Operation Spartan Shield response force mission.

In April 2021, more than 700 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment returned to Minnesota after an 11-month deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. Task Force Bayonet's mission in the Horn of Africa was to provide force protection through security forces in the region of Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya, to support the Africa Command Theater Security Cooperation Strategy, and to ensure the success of the East Africa Response Force.

In June 2021, approximately 140 Soldiers from the 34th Military Police Company returned to Minnesota after a nine-month deployment to Cuba. In Cuba, the 34th Military Police Company provided base security supporting Joint Task Force Guantanamo by conducting safe, humane, and legal detention operations.

Also, in June 2021, approximately 65 Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery Regiment returned to Minnesota after a nine-month deployment with personnel stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve. C Battery provided security in support of critical military infrastructure and personnel through the use of the Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS), which intercepted enemy indirect fire attacks.

July saw many deployments across the force, with 13 Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron deployed to Kuwait and assisted with base security in Kuwait, assisting with base closure operations following the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Also in July 2021, approximately 150 Soldiers from 434th Chemical Company deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield to provide Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) defense in the area of operations and be prepared to respond to multiple hazards in the event of a CBRN or weapons of mass destruction attack or threat.

Finally, in July 2021, less than ten members of the 107th Maintenance Detachment deployed to Eastern Europe to provide maintenance support to U.S. service members and allied forces operating in the U.S. European Command area of operations.

At the start of the new fiscal year, beginning in October, the 148th Fighter Wing deployed 62 Airmen throughout the globe. They have 32 service members supporting CENTCOM, 14 supporting AFRICOM, one person supporting EUCOM, and 15 supporting Operation Allies Welcome in the U.S.

In December 2021, the Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron returned to Minnesota after successfully accomplishing their mission, where they assisted with base security in Kuwait and base closure operations following the withdrawal from Afghanistan. They also conducted joint training on Air Base Defense operations during their tour and assisted with evacuating Afghan civilians.

Also, in December 2021, more than 30 Soldiers from the 177th Cyber Protection Team returned to Minnesota after more than a year mobilized at Fort Meade, Maryland, in October 2020, as part of a task force that helps protect the Department of Defense networks from cyber-attacks. The 177th CPT conducted threat-focused, intelligence-driven defensive cyber operations responding to ongoing or imminent threats as directed.



Inauguration

Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing salute President Joe Biden as he passes their location in a motorcade as part of the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the inauguration. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette)

“My biggest take-away from this historic event is that one day I’m going to be able to sit down and tell my kids how I was able to answer my nation’s call with the Minnesota National Guard.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Peloski, 133rd Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron

GUARDING DEMOCRACY *by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette*

Nearly 750 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen answered the call to support local and federal law enforcement agencies in the security of the 59th Presidential Inauguration in the early weeks of January 2021. “Last week, I saw all the Guardsmen coming out here [Washington, D.C.] from different states and I said to myself, ‘this is something I really wish I could do,’” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Peloski, a member of the 133rd Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron. “So when I got that phone call, I was super excited.”

More than 200 Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing and more than 500 Soldiers from the 682nd Engineer Battalion and B Troop, 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry Regiment responded to a short-notice request for support, packing up their gear and conducting training to get to the nation’s capital within just a few days’ notice.

“National security events, like the inauguration, require rotational support from across the country to be successful,” said Army Col. Scott Rohweder, Minnesota National Guard director of operations. “In the recent past, we have sent as few as zero and as many as 350 Guardsmen to support the inauguration. We are proud and ready to serve the nation at this historic event.”

For this inauguration, the number of service members on the

ground reached more than 26,700 National Guard men and women from 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia (D.C.), an unprecedented number for presidential inaugurations. These National Guard men and women were authorized to conduct security, communication, and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through this historic event.

“Our ability to move 26,000 Soldiers and Airmen to D.C. from every state and territory in less than two weeks would not have been possible without the support of our governors and their adjutants general,” said Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard. “It speaks volumes about America’s investment in the National Guard; and, most importantly, the support our service members get from their family and their employers.”

Minnesota National Guard service members took part in Task Force Metro – Team Crowd and were responsible for staging their troops at strategic points surrounding the Capitol, ready to respond to any situation the local and federal agencies called on them to do.

“What I enjoyed most about this mission was being able to come out here and really intermingle with the local and federal agencies, my Army counterparts, other career fields within the Air Force, and come together as a team to accomplish this really big mission of ours,” said Peloski.

Missions began in the early hours of 2 a.m. for most

Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen as they donned their body armor, strapped their gas masks to their hips, and rode buses to their designated guard stations ready for any situation the day brought. Thankfully, Jan. 20, 2021, remained a quiet and peaceful day, with most service members able to pause and take in the personal part they played in this historic event.

“I’m proud of the dedication and professionalism of our Airmen and Soldiers who, on short notice, answered the call to help ensure the peaceful transfer of power at our nation’s capital,” said Minnesota’s Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke. “Much has been asked of our Minnesota Guard members this past year, and I want to thank not only the Soldiers and Airmen, but the families and employers who sacrifice so our Soldiers and Airmen can serve.”

With the inauguration ceremony for President Joe Biden, the 46th commander-in-chief, successfully completed, Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen continued to stand guard to ensure a prevailing peace within the city for days after the ceremony. National Guard service members returned to their home states gradually, based on the needs of the lead agencies and the conditions on the ground.

“My biggest take-away from this historic event is that one day I’m going to be able to sit down and tell my kids about how unique of an experience this was and how I was able to answer my nation’s call with the Minnesota National Guard,” said Peloski.

Sgt. Anthony Pitts, a combat medic with the 204th Medical Company Area Support, 347th Regional Support Group, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a Minnesota educator, Jan. 29, 2021, at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul, Minnesota. Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard are supporting the state of Minnesota through Task Force COVID by providing medical and administrative support at community vaccination sites in addition to supporting COVID-19 testing sites and long-term care facilities. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemecek)



Task Force COVID

“In the state of Minnesota, being a citizen-soldier is quite an amazing thing.”

Air Force Master Sgt. Jacob Young, COVID-19 vaccine administration manager, 133rd Airlift Wing

VACCINATIONS

by Army Capt. Andrea Drost

The Minnesota National Guard supported the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health by assisting at ten community vaccination sites across Minnesota during the last two weeks of January 2021. More than 100 Soldiers and Airmen participated in the vaccination process by providing administrative and logistical support, and several qualified medical professionals administered vaccines at some locations.

“In the state of Minnesota, being a citizen-soldier is quite an amazing thing,” said Master Sgt. Jacob Young, a COVID-19 vaccine administration manager from the 133rd Airlift Wing. “When we get notice to come on to these kinds of missions, this puts into fruition what we do, and we’re very glad to be here.”

The Minnesota National Guard was identified as a supporting component in the state’s vaccination plan to augment the Minnesota Department of Health’s staffing and logistics efforts. At the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul, Minnesota, Airmen and Soldiers participated in administering approximately 15,000 vaccines to Minnesota educators as they prepared to return to their classrooms to resume in-person teaching.

TESTING

In October, Gov. Walz announced that the state was launching new COVID-19 community-based testing sites in Stillwater, Crookston, Hutchinson, Inver Grove Heights,

Wadena, Hibbing, and Albert Lea, which Minnesota National Guard men and women supported. The service members who participated in these missions assisted civil authorities by conducting testing facility management, performing administrative tests, and administering COVID-19 tests.

By mid-December, the COVID-19 rapid testing teams had tested over 50,000 Minnesotans.

NURSING ASSISTANCE FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

As coronavirus cases in Minnesota continued to overwhelm hospitals struggling with staffing, Gov. Tim Walz announced on Nov. 2 that the state would open its first alternate care site. Benedictine St. Gertrude’s in Shakopee, a senior care facility, was prepared to accept up to 30 patients from area hospitals, providing transitional care to allow hospitals to free up beds to treat patients sick with COVID-19 and those requiring emergency support. The Minnesota National Guard responded with support of temporary nursing assistants.

On Nov. 10, Gov. Walz announced that a second skilled-nursing facility would act as an alternative care site to relieve Minnesota hospitals treating a surge of COVID-19 patients. The Minnesota National Guard provided 14 members to serve as temporary nursing assistants.

On Nov. 22, Gov. Walz announced he was activating the Minnesota National Guard to form skilled-nursing

response teams to provide support to long-term facilities experiencing staffing shortages. Within days, nearly 300 National Guard members started training as certified nursing assistants at 16 schools within the Minnesota State system. Nearly 100 additional Soldiers were activated to train as temporary nursing assistants during training at Camp Ripley.

By mid-December, the Minnesota National Guard’s response teams were fully trained and certified by the Minnesota Department of Health as certified nursing assistants and were providing care to patients in 11 long-term care facilities across Minnesota. These National Guard teams provided critical temporary relief to long-term care facilities experiencing healthcare staffing shortages due to COVID-19.

“Together, the Minnesota Department of Health, other professional partners, and the Minnesota National Guard medical staff have trained selected service members as certified nursing assistants and temporary nursing aides to support this activation,” said Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke. “Our citizen Soldiers and Airmen are part of your community, we live here, we work here, and more than ever over the last year and a half, we continue to serve here. To the members of the Minnesota National Guard, thank you for continuing to serve professionally, with dignity and respect.”

At the end of 2021, more than 700 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen were on orders to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Airmen and Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard support security missions during Operation Safety Net in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 20, 2021. Guard members assisted law enforcement officers in protecting lives and property while ensuring the ability to peacefully protest during the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Bristol L. Evasco)



Civil Authority Support

“Conducting this security mission to ensure Army forces were focused on supporting law enforcement was a perfect assignment for this team.”

Air Force Maj. Casey Brown, Officer-In-Charge of Team Bravo, 133rd Airlift Wing

TIMELINE OF SUPPORT

March 7 - Approximately 100 Minnesota Guard members set up outside the Hennepin County Government Center to help provide security in the vicinity of the ongoing trial.

March 28 - Approximately 100 Minnesota Guard members are activated to support the St. Paul Police Department in providing security to critical infrastructure.

March 29 - The Minnesota National Guard provides a small element to assist with security at the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office.

April 11 - Overnight, the Minnesota National Guard was called to support the community of Brooklyn Center.

April 12 - Minnesota National Guard increases support to Operation Safety Net.

April 13 - The Minnesota National Guard supported security missions in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis and St. Paul last night. Just over 2,000 Guard members are on duty to assist local authorities in maintaining peace, with more service members coming on duty over the next few days.

April 14 - The Minnesota National Guard continues to support Operation Safety Net with approximately 3,000 Guard members on duty to maintain peace in the Twin Cities metro area.

April 16 - The 34th Infantry Division's Red Bulls take command of Minnesota National Guard Operation Safety Net efforts.

April 18 - Minnesota National Guard neighborhood security team fired upon in Minneapolis.

April 20 - Jury delivers guilty verdict in Chauvin trial.

April 21 - Operation Safety Net and the Minnesota National Guard begin the process of demobilization.

November - Notified more than 100 Soldiers to stand by to support civil authorities during the Potter Trial, if requested.

AIRMEN FIRST

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Lovgren

As the verdict in the former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin trial was announced, U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing were staged and ready to secure the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The Airmen activated to support Operation Safety Net, a unified effort between multiple Minnesota law enforcement organizations and the Minnesota National Guard. Guard members staged throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul to protect lives, property, and the right to peacefully protest.

“The Army is better suited to assist law enforcement due to their training and equipment capabilities,” said Air Force Maj.

Casey Brown, officer in charge of team Bravo, 133rd Airlift Wing. “Conducting this security mission to ensure their forces were focused on supporting law enforcement was a perfect assignment for this team.”

The 133rd Airlift Wing focuses on an “Airman first” mentality. This mission was no different as members from multiple career fields, from weather specialists to medical professionals, were assigned to perform the security mission.

“I’m a crew chief,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Emily Berg, 133rd Airlift Wing. “Normally, I conduct inspections on our C-130 Hercules and make sure they are operational and ready to fly. I have never done something like this before, but the people that I have met I will not forget.”

The 133rd plays an ongoing role in domestic operations for the State of Minnesota and Nation, most recently providing 10 percent of airlift supporting the Presidential Inauguration mission in January 2021. The entire Wing of 1,200 members was activated last May in response to civil disturbance after the death of George Floyd. Additionally, Airmen have been assisting the Department of Health with their COVID-19 response at long-term care facilities, testing sites, and most recently, at vaccine clinics administering the COVID-19 vaccination.

“I am extremely proud of this team,” said Brown. “Everyone maintained a positive attitude while facing uncertainty coming out here and the continuous changes that come with an operation like this.”

National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Minnesota-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provide security in late August in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the withdrawal of personnel. Deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield, about 400 Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment were temporarily relocated to Kabul, Afghanistan, and have since arrived safely in Kuwait, where they are assigned. (Minnesota National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Edwin Anderson)

Afghanistan Evacuation

“The Soldiers of Task Force 1-194 were called upon to execute a challenging mission, and they have shown strength, compassion, and resolve despite danger and difficulty.”

Army Lt. Col. Jake Helgestad, Commander of the 1st Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment

ON THE FRONT LINES OF HISTORY

by Army Capt. Charles Anderson

Minnesota National Guard’s 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor (Task Force 1-194) mobilized in March 2021 to serve as the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Regional Response Force based in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Regional Response Force, part of Task Force Spartan under Operation Spartan Shield, is postured for rapid deployment within the CENTCOM area to support strategic and operational requirements.

With its strategic assignment at Camp Buehring, Task Force 1-194 was well-positioned to respond to the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation announced by the Department of State and supported by the Department of Defense. Alongside units from the 82nd Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, Marine Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force, and Marine Expeditionary Unit, Task Force 1-194 was trained and ready when called for rapid deployment in support of Operation Allies Refuge in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Within six hours, the task force deployed more than 400 Soldiers to secure vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport. In addition, Task Force 1-194 Soldiers provided humanitarian assistance to U.S. citizens, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and their families. Charlie Company, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, provided advanced medical support, and within 12 hours’ notice,

established a medical screening area for approximately 5,000 Afghan evacuees at the unit’s location at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Each evacuee was tested for COVID-19 and given a brief medical survey.

“It was truly amazing and highly impressive to see the passion and level of knowledge our medics and providers displayed,” said 2nd Lt. Hunter Hiemstra, Charlie Company’s executive officer. “As an emergency room nurse on the civilian-side, I personally know how quickly patients can deteriorate in situations as such. To personally witness the quick initiative each medic and provider took gave me a great sense of pride for the Charlie Company, 134th team.”

Many of the families arriving from Afghanistan had few-to-no personal possessions with them, and in some cases, they did not have required personal medication, clothing, diapers, or baby formula. The vast majority of incoming personnel suffered from severe dehydration from a lack of food and water for several days as they focused on departing Afghanistan.

“Our Medical Company is designed for treating Soldiers wounded in combat,” said Army Lt. Col. Jake Helgestad, commander of Task Force 1-194. “However, their training for combat medicine and fast-paced medical treatment allowed for successful execution of this rapidly developed, unique mission. We could not be more proud of our medical team.”

Shortly after the first flight from Afghanistan landed, Charlie Company established a medical facility near the in-processing center. This medical facility had trauma capability, a laboratory, dental capability, and x-ray services available to promptly and definitively diagnose and treat their new patients’ medical issues. Twenty-four-hour medical operations were established to offer walk-in care, with a primary focus of supporting nearly 50 expecting mothers, many children and newborns, and patients with chronic medical issues. Within the first eight days of operations, the unit treated more than 1,000 patients.

“The Soldiers of Task Force 1-194 were called upon to execute a challenging mission, and they have done so with professionalism,” said Helgestad. “They have shown strength, compassion, and resolve despite danger and difficulty.”

This initiative follows through on America’s commitment to Afghan citizens who helped the U.S. This mission demonstrates the importance, and viability, of the Army’s Total Force Policy, an ongoing effort to transition reserve components into an operational force. The intent to create ‘total force’ governed by the same interchangeable policies and procedures was put into practice in the summer of 2021 when a National Guard combat unit showed up ready — and able — to deploy with such short notice and perform so effectively in such hostile circumstances. Task Force 1-194 stood shoulder-to-shoulder with top-tier conventional and special operations forces and held their own.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Daniel Gabrielli, Task Force Holloman commander, bids the departing Afghan personnel farewell on Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, Sept. 29, 2021. The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command, and in support of the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security, is providing transportation, temporary housing, medical screening, and general support for more than 50,000 Afghan evacuees at suitable facilities, in permanent or temporary structures, as quickly as possible. This initiative provides Afghan evacuees essential support at secure locations outside Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Anthony Sanchez)



Operation Allies Welcome

“Each day I watch the children play in the streets of our village and I think about all the exciting things that are ahead of them. Will one of them be wearing the same uniform I wear someday?”

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Teachworth, Village One Senior Enlisted Leader, 148th Fighter Wing

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

by Air Force Capt. Andrea Kostiuk & Audra Flanagan

Earlier this year, the Secretary of Defense approved the Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command, to provide temporary housing, sustainment, and support inside the U.S. for Afghan personnel. The mission known as Operation Allies Welcome is an extension of Operation Allies Refuge, the evacuation from Afghanistan of more than 180,000 U.S. citizens and Afghan allies, many by National Guard airlift crews.

Over a dozen service members from the 148th Fighter Wing and four from the 133rd Airlift Wing have deployed to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, to assist in these efforts as part of the task forces located at each installation.

Minnesota Guard members have contributed to the mission in several ways. From initial processing, transportation, and medical care to security and general logistical support, our members have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Afghan personnel in their care have what they need as they work through their transition to the U.S.

The same is being done at other installations across the nation, including Camp Atterbury, Indiana; the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center in Virginia; Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; and Fort Bliss, Texas.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Daniel Gabrielli, Director of Staff-Air at Minnesota National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters, who was selected to lead Task Force Holloman in New Mexico, says the team has been unstoppable.

“We can attribute our success to every single member, whether Airman or Soldier,” said Gabrielli. “They are fully committed to ensuring that our Afghan guests have all the support they need as they transition to their new life in the U.S.”

Among those activated is Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Teachworth, who is currently serving as the Village 1 Senior Enlisted Leader at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, where she's responsible for ensuring 200 Airmen supporting Operation Allies Welcome, have the tools they need to be successful. Teachworth is also a member of the Female Engagement Team, where she participates in weekly meetings designed to teach Afghan females about American women's culture.

When asked what her favorite part of this mission was, Teachworth said, “The children - each day I watch the children play in the streets of our village, and I think about all the exciting things that are ahead of them. Will one of them be wearing the same uniform I wear someday? Or will one of them cure cancer? There are so many more options than if they had stayed in their own country.”

The Airmen will be on the ground until the last guest has been settled into their new home. The Minnesota National Guard is committed to supporting global operations, safeguarding our homeland, and serving our communities.



Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Teachworth, Village One senior enlisted leader, poses for a photo in Liberty Village on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Dec. 16, 2021. The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command, and in support of the Department of Homeland Security, is providing transportation, temporary housing, medical screening, and general support for at least 11,000 Afghan evacuees at Liberty Village, in permanent or temporary structures, as quickly as possible. This initiative provides Afghan personnel essential support at secure locations outside Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mikaley Kline)



The Saint Cloud-based C Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion sent 10 Soldiers and a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter with a hoist to Washington to provide medical evacuation support and aerial fire suppression to the firefighting efforts. They were initially requested to support this fire suppression mission for two weeks, but the request for support could be extended depending on how fire containment continues. (Minnesota National Guard courtesy photo)

“Our Washington crews never dropped coverage and were ready to support within 24 hours of arrival.”

Army Maj. Brandon Ortmann, aviation duty officer for the wildfire missions, 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION ACROSS THE NATION

by Army Sgt. Sebastian Nemece

As wildfires raged in Washington and Northern Minnesota in August, two units from the Minnesota National were called into action.

The Saint Cloud-based Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion sent 10 Soldiers and a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter with a hoist to Washington to provide medical evacuation support and aerial fire suppression to the firefighting efforts.

Later that month, sixteen Soldiers from the Saint Paul-based 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion (2-147th AHB) deployed two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters carrying water buckets and two Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs) with fueling capability. The Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing (148th FW) sent two Airmen and one fuel truck. Their mission was to support the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildfire activities by providing aerial fire suppression capabilities in Northern Minnesota.

Army Maj. Brandon Ortmann, the aviation duty officer for the missions, provided coordination between the Minnesota National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC) and the DNR as well as the aircrews, units, and facilities.

Ortmann worked to ensure crews were identified to support

each request and then worked with the battalions and Minnesota National Guard JOC to deploy personnel. He also coordinated with the aviation liaison officers at each site to facilitate any personnel or equipment swaps to prevent a break-in capabilities provided to the DNR.

Less than two weeks after deploying C Company, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion to Washington, fires began ravaging Northern Minnesota.

“As the crew responded out west, the Minnesota DNR requested our support in response to the Norris fire near Warroad with two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and support personnel, to include refueling capabilities,” said Ortmann. “Once the Norris fire was under control, the crew was sent to the Greenwood fire and based out of Two Harbors. These two crews and support personnel returned to Saint Paul after two weeks of support.”

Battling fires on two fronts is not easy, said Ortmann.

“One significant challenge we faced out in Washington was our ability to provide water bucket support in a high-altitude, high-temperature environment while using a fulling outfitted MedEvac aircraft,” he said. “Due to this limitation, the MedEvac crews focused on providing daily MedEvac coverage.

“In Minnesota, a challenge we faced was reacting to significant weather events. While in Warroad, the crews and DNR noticed a significant storm approaching and redeployed the aircraft to

Saint Paul to hanger the aircraft overnight. After the storms came through, the crews were sent to Two Harbors and coordinated with the 148th Fighter Wing to hanger aircraft in the event of significant weather events,” he said.

Despite the challenges, Ortmann was pleased with how the units responded.

“Each team provided outstanding support to the customer,” he said. “Our Washington crews never dropped coverage and were ready to support within 24 hours of arrival. While prepared to launch at any moment, they provided training to local agencies and the Washington National Guard’s State Partnership Program, Thailand.”

He was not alone in that assessment. “Wildfires continue to put our fellow Americans’ lives at risk, and when disaster hits, Minnesotans have always stepped up to help out their neighbors. We continue to battle our own wildfires here in Minnesota, but we have the resources needed to manage those, and we are in a strong position to step up and help our fellow states,” said Gov. Tim Walz. “I am proud that the Minnesota National Guard has answered this call to serve. These soldiers’ support will be critical to ensuring the safety of Washington residents during this harrowing time.”

In Northern Minnesota alone, the 2-147th AHB dropped more than 375 water buckets on three separate fires throughout the area while relocating on two separate bases and maintaining nearly instantaneous support as needed, said Ortmann.



Recruiting and Retention Battalion

The Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) is at the forefront of the National Guard strength management, providing a ready force in over 63 communities with strength and honor.



HEADQUARTERS
North East Minneapolis, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Lt. Col. Ryan Rossman

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn Kor

STRENGTH
164 Recruiters | 1,408 Recruits

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2021, the Minnesota Army National Guard produced 1,333 enlistments, 132 officers, and 22 warrant officers. As the Minnesota National Guard maintains its end strength, Minnesota's RRB continues to assist the National Guard in achieving its recruiting goals.

Despite the constraints placed on the organization due to the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic and repeated calls for domestic response, the RRB built relations to tap into new markets to help maintain a healthy pipeline of new recruits.

This year, the Officer Strength Force also saw tremendous success in exceeding their Specialty Branch and Warrant Officer missions by more than 25 percent. 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.

Much of the recruiting success in 2021 can be attributed to the RRB's ability to take lessons learned and techniques developed in 2020 during the height of the pandemic and infuse those with traditional recruiting techniques. This resulted in a hybrid of recruiting methods that ranged from virtual classes utilizing digital media and small group engagements to traditional large school events and festivals.

The RRB continued to build relationships with educators and school administrators throughout the state. These

relationships proved more critical than ever as schools worked through the constant uncertainty of opening and closing as a result of changes in 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 to students while maintaining focus on strength maintenance requirements set by National Guard Bureau. Throughout all these changes, recruiters continue to safeguard our Soldiers and students from unnecessary health risks.

To improve success in getting Soldiers from enlistment through their initial training and into their units, the Minnesota National Guard put additional emphasis and resources toward our Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) units this year. The organization heeded the call to provide additional cadre for a more robust and sustainable training program. Additionally, the RRB stood up its drill sergeant program, sending five NCOs to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. These NCOs will provide valuable input and insight into the training programs at the RSP sites, ensuring that the training warriors receive will lead them to successfully complete basic and advanced individual training — making them fully qualified Soldiers ready to join their assigned units.

2022 OBJECTIVES

For 2022, the RRB is striving for 1,530 enlisted, 125 officers, and 26 warrant officer accessions. The RRB aims to retain more than 50 percent of the market share for all Department of Defense accessions within the state, enabling recruiters to meet the force structure needs of the Minnesota National Guard. The RSP's 2022 objectives include maintaining a better than 95 percent 'ship rate' among recruits shipping to either basic or advanced individual training, as well as a training pipeline success rate higher than 84 percent. The training pipeline success rate tracks enlisted accessions who complete their training requirements and arrive prepared at their parent unit. Achieving these objectives will enable the Minnesota National Guard to remain fully staffed to complete its missions at home and abroad.



At the Minnesota State Fair, Minnesota's Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke presents Army Capt. Andrea Drost with the Specialty Branch Recruiter of the Year award on Aug. 31, 2021. Drost earned the National Guard Bureau-level award through achievements in specialty branch appointments. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Mariette)



**DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Department of Military Affairs

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) 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, U.S. Code.



HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

EMPLOYEES
350 State Employees

COMMISSIONER
Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Don Kerr

COMPOSITION

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 supports the following statewide outcome - ensuring people in Minnesota are safe.

STRATEGIES

DMA integrates federal and state resources to support strategies across the campaign plan's six lines of effort: Enabling People; Enabling Units; Optimize Capabilities; Protection, Relationships that Support; and Communicating the Minnesota National Guard Story. We accomplish this by actively engaging with the predominantly federally focused staff sections of the Minnesota National Guard to collaboratively assist and inform regarding opportunities and constraints that the state agency perspective lends to mission support. When units of the National Guard are called into state service, the agency provides direct logistical and contracting support to ensure the units have the resources necessary to provide the desired support to local authorities as directed by the Governor. Additionally, the DMA is the primary conduit for communication with other State of Minnesota Executive branch agencies and the Minnesota Legislature.

Four programs support these efforts:

- The Maintenance of Military Training Facilities Program maintains the state's facilities used to train and house the Minnesota National Guard members 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 the 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 department's operation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Using the experience and lessons learned from the unprecedented requirements for state military service in 2020, DMA worked with federal officials and staff in the National Guard to improve the administration of state active duty for units. Additionally, the department worked to change policies and practices to manage benefits to service members in state service to align as closely as possible with federal benefits. DMA also developed procedures to better manage situations that

might require transitioning missions from federal service to state service, and possibly back again, as had been necessary during COVID-19 response missions.

2021 brought another year of historically heavy use of the Minnesota National Guard in support of local authorities. Multiple state active duty missions in 2021 led to unique challenges for DMA. In April, the activation of 3,500 Guardsmen during Operation Safety Net left DMA struggling to identify lodging vendors who could provide billeting to service members.

The challenge was overcome by connecting with multiple local hotel vendors. They were very flexible and willing to work with DMA as their hotels had been largely vacant due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soldiers and Airmen were activated to provide security at the State Capitol, to aid in COVID-19 testing and vaccine administration, and to provide fire suppression capabilities to the States of Minnesota and Washington.



Camp Ripley Environmental Team members set fire to natural vegetation during a prescribed burn near the Amphitheater and prairie restoration area on Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Prescribed fire recycles nutrients in the soil and promotes the regrowth of native plants while minimizing the spread of pest insects. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Mahsima Alkamooneh)



Legislative Accomplishments & Objectives

Executive Branch

GOVERNOR
Tim Walz

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Peggy Flanagan

SECRETARY OF STATE
Steve Simon

STATE AUDITOR
Julie Blaha

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Keith Ellison

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a member of the Council of Governors from 2019-2020 and co-chair on the Council of Governors for the 2021-2022 term, Gov. Tim Walz is assisting with the Council's eight military priorities: increased full-time support for the National Guard, duty status reform, military child care, state and federal consultative process for programming and budgetary proposals, restoration of funding for federal deployments and missions, state reimbursement for the use of the Department of Defense property, title 32 authorizations process, and the Air Force basing process. We are grateful to Gov. Walz for his efforts on these vital issues to the National Guard.

The Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains language that implements a study and report on the role and organization of space assets in the reserve components, which could lead to the establishment of a Space National Guard. The NDAA also addresses some of the Minnesota National Guard's legislative priorities. It funds propulsion and propeller upgrades needed to modernize the C-130H Hercules aircraft. The NDAA also contains language which focuses on ensuring a C-130 total Aircraft Inventory is no less than 279. Additionally, the NDAA requires the Air Force to provide a report on any plans reducing the number of C-130 tactical aircraft. Furthermore, NDAA requires the Air Force to provide a report to the Arms Service Committee. This report describes how a reduction would impact the Guard state and determines if the Air Force consulted Governors as part of the decision process. This legislation is important to the nation's defense, humanitarian and domestic operations.

One of the Minnesota Guard's legislative priorities is parity of benefits between the reserve and active components. The 2022 NDAA authorizes Reserve and National Guard members incentive and special duty pay at the same rate as their active-duty counterparts. This authorization helps the National Guard recruit and

retain personnel in critical career fields such as pilots.

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature funded the agency at the highest level the Governor requested and recommended. It passed one of two agency initiatives, which clarifies the Adjutant General Selection process. The second bill, which updates and clarifies aspects of the Minnesota Code of Military Justice, cleared the House and is expected to pass the Senate in the upcoming session. One additional measure that the agency supported passed. A bill that authorizes the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to investigate allegations of sexual harassment and assault between members of the Minnesota National Guard. This legislation is an important measure to improve the speed with which allegations of this nature can be investigated and resolved.

2022 OBJECTIVES

Ensure that we are focused on People by:

- Providing federal tuition assistance to our Soldiers and Airmen
- Providing access to Tricare for our federal technician workforce
- Achieving aviation pay parity for our aircrews

Supporting efficient Fiscal & Property Responsibility through:

- Sustaining 271 C-130 total aircraft inventory throughout the C-130 enterprise and recapitalization to the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft
- Re-leveling unspecified minor military construction (UMMC) local thresholds and approval levels to maximize local facilities maintenance opportunities
- Continued modernization efforts in support of our fixed-wing aircraft and HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) fleets

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



Minnesotans, including service members, veterans, and Gold Star families, gather to remember and commemorate the sacrifices made since the attacks of 9/11 at the Minnesota Capitol in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Sept. 11, 2021. One hundred and four Minnesotans lost their lives during the attack on the nation or in the Global War on Terrorism that followed. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Luther C. Talks)

ECONOMIC Impact

*Number of assigned personnel by city is current as of Nov. 30, 2021.

Federal Tuition Assistance numbers are not reportable for 2021 due to the transition between GoArmyEd and ArmyIgnitEd.

	Assigned Personnel*	Congressional District	State District	Federal Master Cooperative Agreement	State Impact	Federal Impact	State Tuition Reimbursement (people)	State Tuition Reimbursement
Albert Lea	79	1	27A	\$34,120	\$48,430	\$2,485,994	5	\$20,857
Alexandria	120	7	08B	\$20,571	\$26,819	\$3,578,739	1	\$3,135
Anoka	121	6	35A	\$19,520	\$25,440	\$3,660,694	8	\$27,714
Appleton	76	7	20A	\$42,892	\$86,045	\$2,158,171	5	\$48,223
Arden Hills	1138	4	42A	\$6,109,905	\$346,475	\$2,841,136	38	\$256,090
Austin	68	1	27B	\$29,928	\$83,608	\$3,278,234	18	\$85,541
Bemidji	107	7	05A	\$131,827	\$23,732	\$3,087,004		
Bloomington	327	3	50B	\$40,739	\$232,222	\$12,675,837	53	\$355,611
Brainerd	215	8	10A	\$2,708,979	\$2,707,434	\$6,337,919	14	\$69,784
Brooklyn Park	105	3	36B	\$30,777	\$26,302	\$9,561,515	16	\$111,180
Cambridge	245	8	32A	\$63,242	\$88,393	\$6,775,017	16	\$86,802
Chisholm	138	8	06A	\$103,693	\$43,964	\$4,070,474	13	\$63,725
Cloquet	103	8	11A	\$19,586	\$32,246	\$3,032,366	8	\$76,919
Cottage Grove	217	2	54A	\$68,225	\$68,954	\$5,736,909	18	\$194,370
Crookston	107	7	01B	\$314,567	\$41,959	\$3,032,366	5	\$57,296
Detroit Lakes	65	7	04B	\$35,076	\$26,544	\$1,721,073	3	\$8,837
Duluth	137	8	03B	\$45,427	\$72,976	\$11,528,456	45	\$251,814
Duluth (Air Base)	1059	8	03B	\$7,292,119	\$674,783	\$75,452,895	145	\$1,160,935
Fairmont	97	1	23A	\$36,000	\$215,567	\$2,841,136	5	\$35,800
Faribault	177	1	24B	\$76,698	\$232,813	\$6,255,963	4	\$40,767
Fergus Falls	86	7	08A	\$18,992	\$28,646	\$2,404,038	24	\$197,266
Grand Rapids	58	8	05B	\$99,421	\$24,540	\$1,557,161	2	\$6,747
Hastings	64	2	21A	\$26,440	\$67,532	\$1,884,984	2	\$7,436
Hibbing	102	8	06A	\$258,885	\$34,005	\$2,431,357	1	\$2,985
Hutchinson	137	7	18B	\$228,906	\$28,235	\$1,857,666	2	\$17,477
Inver Grove Heights	131	2	52B	\$248,327	\$189,674	\$5,627,635	6	\$20,721
Jackson	95	1	23A	\$30,634	\$41,201	\$2,622,587	29	\$217,970
Litchfield	121	7	18A	\$16,381	\$25,412	\$3,442,146	7	\$87,549
Little Falls (Camp Ripley)	1630	8	09B	\$40,934,320	\$5,531,375	\$34,585,367	6	\$16,850
Luverne	49	1	22A	\$14,965	\$19,973	\$1,393,249	90	\$440,643
Madison	87	7	16A	\$21,315	\$23,451	\$2,431,357	3	\$17,164
Mankato	217	1	19B	\$60,630	\$98,589	\$7,048,203	5	\$35,558
Marshall	92	7	16A	\$20,826	\$27,537	\$2,404,038	22	\$102,470
Minneapolis	181	5	60A	\$70,183	\$160,299	\$5,053,944	7	\$62,522
Mpls/St. Paul (Air Base)	1236	5	63B	\$3,072,107	\$606,344	\$75,467,800	11	\$43,770
Montevideo	108	7	17A	\$98,357	\$129,026	\$3,114,322	145	\$1,160,935
Monticello	153	6	29B	\$2,679	\$17,574	\$4,125,111	16	\$107,623
Moorhead	199	7	04A	\$38,191	\$50,269	\$5,436,404	10	\$41,916
Morris	52	7	12A	\$24,479	\$29,763	\$1,857,666	16	\$81,907
New Ulm	116	1	16B	\$3,316,324	\$58,619	\$2,786,499	8	\$54,675
Olivia	20	7	17A	\$26,749	\$92,977	\$2,076,215	9	\$46,559
Ortonville	84	7	12A	\$36,231	\$36,314	\$2,404,038	1	\$532
Owatonna	25	1	24A	\$26,051	\$28,005	\$27,319	7	\$43,595
Pine City	102	8	11B	\$24,198	\$26,409	\$3,278,234	5	\$29,606
Pipestone	49	7	22A	\$22,679	\$26,849	\$1,502,524	2	\$10,621
Red Wing	114	2	21A	\$32,847	\$45,880	\$3,278,234	7	\$36,944
Redwood Falls	58	7	16B	\$27,343	\$72,245	\$1,584,480	2	\$3,327
Rochester	140	1	26A	\$217,080	\$37,839	\$3,988,518	10	\$48,446
Rosemount	370	2	57B	\$161,084	\$151,765	\$12,375,333	56	\$352,120
Sauk Centre	71	6	14B	\$19,003	\$21,084	\$2,103,533	5	\$20,564
Saint Cloud	365	7	15B	\$3,278,571	\$909,631	\$12,129,465	91	\$635,493
Saint James	69	1	23B	\$235,293	\$23,808	\$2,048,896	3	\$11,139
Saint Paul (& East St. Paul)	784	4	65B	\$7,206,507	\$48,025,785	\$35,077,102	15	\$74,613
Saint Peter	97	1	19A	\$272,156	\$279,605	\$2,786,499	3	\$9,675
Stillwater	470	6	39B	\$80,702	\$132,937	\$8,741,957	9	\$43,284
Thief River Falls	51	7	01A	\$26,903	\$51,910	\$1,584,480	31	\$205,410
Wadena	68	8	09A	\$19,490	\$25,260	\$1,884,984	1	\$7,172
West St. Paul	148	2	52A	\$58,503	\$28,025	\$4,343,660	6	\$24,769
Willmar	77	7	17B	\$44,056	\$27,372	\$5,736,909	18	\$149,194
Winona	143	1	28A	\$24,218	\$46,260	\$4,125,111	8	\$37,971

Impact TOTALS

12,947
Assigned Personnel

SEE NOTES
Federal Tuition Assistance (People)

\$596,244,184
Total Impact

\$77,665,916
Federal Master Cooperative Agreement

SEE NOTES
Federal Tuition Assistance

\$46,053
Impact Per Troop

\$62,386,728
State Impact

1121
State Tuition Reimbursement (People)

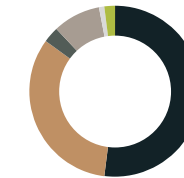
88.3%
Federal Funding

\$448,720,919
Federal Impact

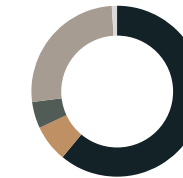
\$7,470,621
State Tuition Reimbursement

11.7%
State Funding

State Tuition Reimbursement DEMOGRAPHICS



- RANK**
- Junior Enlisted (52%)
 - Mid-Grade Noncommissioned Officer (33%)
 - Senior-Grade Noncommissioned Officer (3%)
 - Officer (9%)
 - Warrant Officer (1%)
 - Civilian (2%)



- RACE**
- White/Caucasian (61%)
 - Black or African American (7%)
 - Asian (5%)
 - Unspecified (26%)
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%)



- GENDER**
- Male (65%)
 - Female (35%)

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. The total is inclusive of federal funding sub-categories.

Federal Tuition Assistance: This is a federal benefit. Federal Tuition Assistance numbers are not reportable for 2021 due to the transition between GoArmyEd and ArmyIgnitEd.

State Tuition Reimbursement: This is a state incentive provided to service members and their families to reimburse costs for tuition. It becomes available after all federal tuition benefits are expended. The figures reflect the location of the service member's unit.

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

In Memoriam



Walter Straka

October 23, 1919 - July 4th, 2021

In September 1941, Walter Straka's unit, the 194th Tank Battalion, was ordered to the Philippines, just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Stationed near Clark Field on the island of Luzon, they represented the first tank unit in the Far East before World War II. Isolated and without supplies, they fought until ordered to surrender with the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

Of the 64 men from the tank company that left Brainerd, Minnesota, with the 194th to the Philippines, three were killed in action, and 29 died as POWs. The remaining 32 survived captivity.

Straka was Minnesota's last living survivor of the Bataan Death March, where he and thousands of others were forced to march 65 miles in just six days. The 1st Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment proudly draws their lineage from the original 194th Tank Battalion.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD