

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
GUARD 101 SCRIPT
As of **February 2018**

Slide 1 -- Introduction:

Good afternoon. I am _____. It is a pleasure to be here today to discuss the Minnesota National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs.

This is a great opportunity to inform you of the current status of our great organization, and discuss with you a path to the future so that your Minnesota National Guard can continue to be the most cost-effective operational force that leverages the skills of our most talented and our most-committed citizens for the vital missions that we serve both at home in Minnesota and abroad.

Throughout my tenure, I have witnessed the immense pride displayed by our Soldiers and Airmen, and the immense gratification that they take from lending their skills to the common defense of their communities and nation.

Minnesotans have much to be proud of in their National Guard.

For the remainder of my briefing, I call your attention to the document entitled “2017 Annual Report and 2018 Objectives,” as it provides more examples of the Minnesota National Guard’s commitment to a better Minnesota.

Next slide, please.

Slide 2 -- Agenda:

Today I will provide an overview of the Minnesota National Guard; where we fit in for both global and domestic operations; some of the unique capabilities we bring the state; how we take care of our service members and their families; and a little about our unique role as a state agency.

Next slide, please.

Slide 3 -- Missions:

I’d like to start with a broad overview of the military in Minnesota.

The National Guard is the same as other reserve components in that we are part of the federal reserve of the Army and Air Force.

The Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard also have federal reserves but do not have a National Guard.

The Minnesota National Guard has three missions: federal, state and community.

In our federal role, we have the common mission to fight and win America’s wars and to be part of a response in federal Title 10 status for homeland security and defense roles when ordered by the President of the United States.

The Army and Air National Guard are different from the other reserve components in that the

National Guard also works for the Governor of the State of Minnesota and is available to respond to the call of the Governor to report for state active duty in response to domestic emergencies within the state of Minnesota.

We also have the additional mission to add value to our communities.

In addition to making armory space available to serve as a gathering place for community events, our facilities are also available to citizens during emergencies. Furthermore, service members at those facilities are tied into local yellow ribbon networks scattered across our state.

The National Guard, the other reserve components, and our active duty brethren have one standard.

We go to the same basic training, we attend the same schools, we have the same fitness and educational standards. Meanwhile our units must achieve the same readiness standard and accomplish assigned missions.

When our active duty and reserve brothers and sisters take the oath of office they raise their right hand and swear to support the Constitution of the United States.

When our guardsmen raise their hand they also swear an oath to support and defend the constitution of the state of Minnesota.

No other military force does that.

Your Minnesota National Guard is strong.

We have 13,232 (as of JAN18) soldiers and airmen standing ready to support these three missions. This number fluctuates a bit day-to-day because of new recruits and retirements.

I assure you that even during periods of high deployments we still have adequate troops to respond to state emergencies.

Minnesotans also answer the call to service.

Even though we are the 21st state in population we are the eighth largest National Guard formation in the country.

Finally, the state agency that controls the military and provides the crucial link between the state and the National Guard is the Department of Military Affairs.

This is a modest agency that provides civilian leadership, oversight, and support to the military units.

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Slide 4 -- Vision:

Today, in addition to our projected deployments in support of global military operations, our men and women of the Minnesota National Guard face increasingly demanding readiness requirements to ensure we can fight and win our nation's wars. All the while, our commitment to support civil

authorities endures.

Next slide, please.

Slide 5 -- Priorities:

Our Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employee are our most important resources.

We focus on mentorship and provide critical feedback to develop our service members into professional, ethical and caring leaders.

We cherish and value the lives of all those who serve in the Minnesota National Guard and we demand and maintain a culture and a workplace that is safe from internal and external physical threats.

We are fiscally responsible, environmentally conscious and community focused in all we do.

We develop meaningful relationships with stakeholders and our communities and build partnerships with local, state, national and international organizations.

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Slide 6 -- Economic Impact:

To this point I have been talking about what the National Guard is and how we are shaping our future through specific priorities.

Now I want to highlight the positive economic impact and value that the Guard provides the state and nation.

Some organizations try to figure the cost of the reserve versus the cost of the active force.

According to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation and recent Reserve Policy Board studies, a National Guard soldier is significantly more cost effective when compared to an active duty soldier. When we are mobilized for federal duty, a National Guard soldier costs approximately the same as an active duty soldier; however, when not deployed a Guardsman costs the taxpayers one-third of what it costs to house, feed, train, equip and support an active duty soldier.

I don't think these studies present the truest sense of the total cost of the force but I am sure that America cannot afford an active duty of large enough size to accomplish all the missions that the Guard and Reserve accomplish on an ongoing basis.

The Minnesota National Guard receives nearly 94% of its funding from the federal government to maintain our readiness.

The state funds -- although a small percentage -- are critical to meet matching fund requirements for federally reimbursed state positions, construction and asset preservation projects for our facilities throughout the state.

In fact, state-built facilities can often be supported by federal funds as the federal interest in the facility clearly makes it a value for the federal government.

Of the more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen 2,190 are full-time employees, 1,226 federal technicians and 964 Active Guard Reserve.

We have 58 Army facilities in 58 communities throughout the state as well as an Air Wing in Duluth and one in Minneapolis. We are committed to staying in greater Minnesota, as those communities have been loyal to us for decades providing us soldiers and airmen generation after generation.

We also make a large impact in the communities in which we reside by providing stable long-term jobs and community leaders.

And with these full and part-time employees in Minnesota towns, it makes an impact on local businesses.

You can see the town-by-town break down in the annual report.

A few projects to point out that have brought economic stimulation to communities in the form of capital enhancements are the work that is currently underway in Stillwater to build a joint National Guard Armory and Fire Station and the opening of the brand new Benjamin Franklin Training and Community Center in Arden Hills.

Our team prides themselves on their ability to execute the funding that we are allotted on time and on budget.

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Slide 7 -- Air National Guard:

Now let me share some details about the units in the Minnesota National Guard, and I'll start with our two distinguished Air Guard units.

The Air National Guard is a 'base' oriented force with wings located at both the Minneapolis-St Paul Airport and a base at the Duluth Airport.

Both of the wings have a reputation for consistently having a strong personnel end-strength; with all available positions being filled at a rate of 101%.

The **133rd Airlift Wing** is a Minnesota Air National Guard flying wing headquartered at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Utilizing the C-130 Hercules, the 133rd provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift capability to transport troops, cargo and medical patients across the globe in addition to providing the citizens of Minnesota with domestic operations and disaster response support. The 133rd is known as the first federally-recognized National Guard flying unit in the country.

The **148th Fighter Wing**, headquartered in Duluth, flies the Block 50 F-16CM Fighting Falcon, the newest F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. Also known as the Bulldogs, the 148th Fighter Wing is one of only two Air National Guard wings tasked to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense for our nation. The 148th continues to actively support overseas Air Expeditionary Force and Expeditionary Combat Support taskings for operations worldwide.

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Slide 8 -- Army National Guard:

The Minnesota Army National Guard also has a strong tradition of personnel strength which promotes the readiness of its units.

The Army Guard maintains 118% percent strength, which enables us to field fully manned units to respond to federal missions while preserving other units to answer the call of the Governor.

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

The organization of the Minnesota Army Guard closely follows the structure of the US Army. We have a Major General two-star headquarters in perhaps our most recognizable unit -- the "Red Bulls" of the 34th Infantry Division.

The Rosemount-based **34th Red Bull Infantry Division** oversees the training and operations of ten National Guard brigades in six different states - a total of 25,000 soldiers in all. In Minnesota, the division includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, 84th Troop Command and the 347th Regional Support Group. The 34th Infantry Division is capable of deploying its Main Command Post, Tactical Command Post and Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion to provide command and control for Army brigades.

I will now talk about the four Army brigades in Minnesota.

The Bloomington-based **1st Armored Brigade Combat Team** of the 34th Infantry Division is capable of providing the U.S. Army with a trained and ready combat force, in addition to supporting local civil authorities throughout Minnesota in a disaster. The brigade is one of seven Army National Guard Armored Brigade Combat Teams.

The St. Paul-based **34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade** supports the 34th Infantry Division and the state of Minnesota by providing aviation capabilities – both UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters – for federal and state missions. The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade continues preparation to assist civil authorities during state missions that include fire suppression, flood response and search and rescue.

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

The final brigade, the Cambridge-based **84th Troop Command** is a unique and diverse organization that maintains a large footprint across Minnesota, with units spanning from Appleton to Stillwater. The 84th Troop Command includes a headquarters element; 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery; 682nd Engineer Battalion; 34th and 257th Military Police Companies and the 55th Civil Support Team. Because of its unique organization, the 84th Troop Command often finds its units supporting domestic response missions. The very specific Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, or CBRN, response capabilities within the 55th Civil Support Team and the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, are an asset to the state.

Another unit that is unique to Minnesota is the Camp Ripley-based **175th Regiment Regional Training Institute** which provides combat arms, military occupational specialty and leadership training to the Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Army to prepare soldiers and units for deployment at maximum combat readiness levels. The Minnesota National Guard's 175th Regiment Regional Training Institute received the "Institution of Excellence" award from the Army's Training and Doctrine Command for achieving a score of 97.5 percent in their accreditation process.

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Slide 9 -- Camp Ripley:

I want to highlight our state-owned 53,000-acre training center, Camp Ripley, located about five miles north of Little Falls in Morrison County.

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

Camp Ripley serves as a training center for all military services as well as civilian agencies. In addition to partnerships with the Minnesota Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Corrections, Education, Health and Natural Resources, many local law enforcement agencies also train at Camp Ripley. New partnerships are added each year.

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

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that the utility of Camp Ripley to our taxpayers is enormous.

Please consider this my personal invitation for you to travel to Camp Ripley so you can see for yourself how this incredible site can continue to benefit Minnesota.

Next slide, please.

Slide 10 -- Statewide Presence:

The Minnesota National Guard operates in 58 facilities in more than 50 communities throughout our state.

It is crucial that we optimize the physical capabilities at each location.

Our locations enable us to best meet our mission requirements, while enhancing partnerships throughout the communities in which we serve.

This slide illustrates the geographic locations of our armories, air bases and training sites throughout the state.

Next slide, please.

Slide 11 -- Global War on Terror:

Since 9/11, a great deal has changed for the Minnesota National Guard.

We used to be called “weekend warriors,” but a decade of exceptional performance by the units that I have just showcased changed that.

We transformed from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

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Slide 12 -- Operations:

The Minnesota National Guard has deployed Soldiers and Airmen more than 26,000 times on behalf of our nation to dozens countries around the world – places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo; and homeland security missions that stretched from Europe to securing the U.S. southwest border.

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Slide 13 -- Future Operations:

And while not as large, there will continue to be a demand for Minnesota National Guard forces.

In 2018, several Minnesota National Guard units will send Soldiers and Airmen overseas, and the Headquarters Battalion of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division will deploy in the fall to Kuwait.

Next slide, please.

Slide 14 -- State Active Duty Summary:

And all the while that we've had Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen serving in harm's way on our nation's behalf, we've always had enough people and equipment – more than enough people and equipment – to answer the call for unexpected state emergencies.

As you can see, since 2005 nearly 23,000 man-days – that is one person on active duty for the state, per day – were ordered by the Governor to assist local authorities for a variety of disasters – fires, floods, blizzards, tornadoes and missing person searches.

I should point out that the relationships that we have built – and continue to build – in the training environment at Camp Ripley greatly assists when these missions occur with little or no notice.

This is the value we add for Minnesota – having regional mobile, trained, rapidly-deployable forces that can quickly assist when civilian assets are overwhelmed, then quickly step away when operational capability is regained by the civilian incident commander.

We will continue to maintain a force that is available and effective when needed anywhere in our state.

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Slide 15 -- Essential Core Capabilities:

In addition to our ability to rapidly respond to a natural disaster, post-9/11 has caused the Minnesota National Guard to become better equipped and organized to respond for larger-scale disasters or an attack on the homeland.

The National Guard Bureau is committed to the fundamental principle that the States must possess 10 core capabilities for homeland readiness.

Governors count on National Guard assets to be available to them within the first hours of a domestic incident.

To meet the governors' requirements, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau established 10 essential capabilities for National Guard Domestic Operations, which are displayed on this slide.

The essential 10 capabilities also encompass cyber response, of which I should note that the Minnesota National Guard was recently chosen to receive a Cyber Protection Team – a unit of more than 30 cyber specialists which will be dedicated to training for cyber operations.

We have some specialized units in the Minnesota specifically designed for domestic operations.

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Slide 16 -- Domestic Operations:

First, the 55th Civil Support Team.

The 55th is a 22-member group of full-time soldiers and airmen on call 24 hours a day in the event that a law enforcement agency needs specialized help in detecting, identifying, analyzing or assisting when a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazard may be present.

We also have a joint CERF-P, which stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package. We are one of only 17 states with this capability.

This group of more than 200 soldiers and airmen are trained to assemble and assist local law enforcement during an event that might require extraction, decontamination or other assistance in a contaminated environment.

The Minnesota National Guard also has the capability to construct a modular mobile hospital that would provide medical professionals, and a place to treat patients in the event of the loss of medical facilities, or a requirement to augment civilian medical professionals.

We also have a cell of counterdrug soldiers and airmen, who are full time and assist law enforcement agencies with demand reduction, analysis, and eradication.

Next slide, please.

Slide 17 -- Yellow Ribbon Program:

But with all the best organized units, the best trained leaders and the best equipment, we still need to take care of our most important asset – our soldiers, airmen and their families.

The cornerstone of this process is the homegrown “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” program.

We’ve expanded greatly from the initial years, where the focus was on gathering returning service members at 30-, 60- and 90-days to provide specialized training.

We still do that, but our focus is now on developing “Yellow Ribbon Networks.”

Next slide, please.

Slide 18 -- Yellow Ribbon Networks:

We’ve seen a tremendous outpouring of support from cities, towns, companies, colleges and counties as they form “Yellow Ribbon Networks” statewide.

Since the city of Farmington was proclaimed with the first Yellow Ribbon Network in December, 2008 - 96 networks, encompassing more than 227 cities and 26 counties have completed the process of being recognized as a Yellow Ribbon Network by our Governor. These networks connect and coordinate agencies, organizations, resources and employers for the purpose of proactively supporting service members and military families.

Additionally 60 companies have earned a similar proclamation in recognition that they go above and beyond to hire our veterans and treat them well as employees.

These community networks are especially vital now, as the drawdown of federal dollars to support our Citizen-soldiers and –airmen and their families will most certainly decline, and we will rely on the networks in your respective districts to reach out to our military after wartime-level funding stops.

Next slide, please.

Slide 19 -- Education:

In addition to federal tuition benefits in the form of the G.I. Bill and federal tuition assistance, we are very proud of Minnesota's State Tuition Reimbursement program. This unique reimbursement program offers National Guard members reimburse of up to 100% of the undergraduate and graduate rate of the University of Minnesota. The Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement program is a key tool for our recruiters.

I also want to highlight STARBASE, a DoD-funded Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program located at the 133rd Airlift Wing. This year the program began operations in Duluth at the 148th Fighter Wing as well.

Each year, hundreds of students from under-served Twin Cities schools have the opportunity to be inspired by science. They learn problem solving and experience teamwork by designing missions to Mars, building model rockets and interacting with volunteer military members who serve as mentors.

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Slide 20 -- International Partnerships:

I would be remiss if I did not highlight our international partnerships.

This year, we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard Reciprocal troop exchange.

This is the longest-running military exchange in the world, a fact not lost on Governor Dayton, who traveled to Oslo in recent years to celebrate with Norwegian military leadership.

We also have a special relationship with Croatia.

In 1996, Croatia was designated as the Minnesota National Guard's "State Partnership Program" nation.

We have been training with them and have gained such proficiency that we have deployed six rotations of joint forces to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army.

Croatia is now a full NATO member and joined the European Union in 2013.

In 2016, we celebrated the 20-year anniversary of this critical partnership.

The Minnesota National Guard's international relationships add to our rich traditions in the state.

Next slide, please.

Slide 21 -- DMA:

I mentioned earlier the State Agency that controls and supports the military operations of the National Guard, the Department of Military Affairs.

The department is comprised of and includes the military forces of the state, including the National Guard, the office of the Adjutant General, all military reservations, installations, armories, and air bases owned or controlled by the state for military purposes.

Department of Military Affairs is the agency that the legislature supports with an appropriation to make the whole system work.

This slide depicts the various branches of the Department, with the military components displayed either as green for Army or blue for air, the civilian component in gray and joint functions in purple.

Next slide, please.

Slide 22 -- DMA Staffing:

The Department of Military Affairs employs 350 state employees.

They provide the interface between state and federal programs, and function through a Cooperative Agreement between TAG and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide services like fire protection, security, and other support to the National Guard.

This slide depicts the scale of investment in the department between the federal and state government, and between the full time staff and the traditional National Guard force.

Next slide, please.

Slide 23 -- Funding Levels:

To give you another way of looking at the relative funding levels between federal and state contributions last year, this slide shows the levels of funding provided directly by the federal government, the amount that flows through the master cooperative agreement, and the amount of state funding provided annually to the agency for our operations.

Next slide, please.

Slide 28 -- Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Minnesota National Guard is a cost-effective operational force that leverages the skills of our most talented and our most committed citizens for the vital missions that we serve both at home in Minnesota and abroad.

There are still many untapped methods by which the Guard can expand partnerships with state agencies to continue to increase efficiencies.

Slide 29 -- Questions:

What are your questions?