To the Citizens of Minnesota:

We know that the people of Minnesota count on the National Guard to serve our state and nation in times of difficulty, and we are committed to ensuring that we remain ready.

More than 22,000 Minnesota Guard members have served overseas since 9/11. Most have seen combat. Many have served three or four tours. What was a strategic reserve during the Cold War is today a fully operational component of the total force. Recruits now join the Minnesota National Guard because they want to be part of the fight. They desire to serve their community, their state, their nation.

To the Minnesota National Guard:

As my term as Governor comes to an end, the First Lady and I want to thank you for your dedication and service to our state and country. It has been one of the great honors of my life to be Governor and the Commander-in-Chief of the Minnesota National Guard.

By nearly every measure, you are the best of the best and that’s not just a proud Governor speaking, you have consistently proven it both here at home and abroad. Your service to our state and nation has come at a historic time for our country and we are so grateful for you and your family’s dedication and continued sacrifice to protect our freedoms.

Please know that you are heroes and we have cherished our time getting to know you and seeing what amazing people we have as our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. Thank you and God Bless!

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty

To the Citizens of Minnesota:

On a national level, change is coming. After eight years in Afghanistan and Iraq, we’re finding that the duration of these conflicts are challenging our military. Our economy will force our national leaders to make some tough choices. To sustain the Minnesota National Guard long into the future and continue to be a national leader, we are committed to build upon the solid foundation already in place.

To the citizens of Minnesota, you have our word that the Citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard are on call and we will respond in the future as we have done in the past.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash

2011 Priorities

Provide a competent, ready force for our state and nation.

We must maintain our role as a full spectrum force. From catastrophic events at home to deployments abroad, the Guard must continue to seamlessly integrate with the broader force. We will be able to leverage our national Department of Defense and interagency relationships built over many successful deployments. In Minnesota, we must ensure the Guard is prepared to carry out our homeland defense and disaster response mission. With members in nearly every Minnesota zip code, we are our military’s first responders.

We must continue to work toward an optimal force structure.

We’ll do this by striving to maintain the significant investment in readiness made over the last seven years. Guard units must be trained, equipped and ready for deployments.

We must advance our environmentally sustainable infrastructure with regards to our facilities and equipment statewide.

Continue to set the standard with our environmental initiatives and be stewards of our natural resources.

Continue to grow, coordinate and communicate our “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” program.

When Guard units do deploy, we need to continue to take care of their families. Spouses of deployed Guard members are far from a community of other families who share in the burden of protecting our nation. Serving these geographically dispersed families is our first priority.

The Minnesota National Guard must continue to diversify our military force.

We are committed to fostering an environment that truly represents the demographics of the communities in which we serve. We must have leaders that reflect those who we lead and serve.

Develop capacity to combat the emerging cyber warfare threat.

Ensure the Minnesota National Guard is prepared to defend our nation against the next threat.

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash’s Albums

Bosnia | Iraq | Community | Installation

Ceremony
Fellow Servicemembers around the nation

September 19, D.C. on Sept. 20th.
was recognized as ‘Best Transportation Unit’ in the Army in Washington,
at the Chisholm High School on Sept. 19th and then the 114th Trans. Co.
It was two days of celebration for the 114th Transportation Company.
Transportation Company welcomed home with award

Like

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October 3

•

National Guard team.
place finish
in the tournament is the highest showing ever by a

Fifty-seven teams brought 462 competitors to the tournament where

Combatives Tournament held October 1-3 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Minnesota Army National Guard takes 4th at All Army Combatives
Tournament
Fourteen Soldiers competed in this year’s sixth annual All Army Combatives Tournament held October 1-3 at Fort Benning, Ga.
Fifty-seven teams brought 462 competitors to the tournament where Soldiers display their hand-to-hand combat skills. Minnesota’s fourth place finish in the tournament is the highest showing ever by a National Guard team.

Share

2010 Accomplishments


Like

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Col. Greg Haase likes this.

Col. Greg Haase, 133rd Airlift Wing Commander likes this.

208th Weather Flight members lead by example
Three members of 133rd Airlift Wing were recognized as Air Force Reserve Component Battlefield Members of the Year: 2nd Lt. Casey Brown, Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Gardner and Senior Airman Ryan Keever.

Like

•

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills and 6 other people like this.

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills, Assistant Fire Chief of the 148th Fighter Wing, was recognized as Military Fire Fighter of the Year by the Air National Guard Fire Chief’s Association and presented with "The Chief Albert Fitzpatrick" Award.

Like

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Comment

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Like

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Comment

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Supply Excellence
Chief Warrant Officer Laura Dukowitz, 347th Regional Support Group Property Book Officer, was honored as the winner of Supply Excellence Award in Richmond, Va.

Like

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Col. Frank Stokes likes this.

Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Firefighter Wing Commander like this.

148th Firefighter named Air Guard’s “Best”
Master Sgt. Mark Watzlak, Assistant Fire Chief of the 148th Fighter Wing, was recognized as Military Fire Fighter of the Year by the Air National Guard Fire Chief’s Association and presented with “The Chief Albert Fitzpatrick” Award.

Like

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257th MPs earn both Soldier and NCO of the Year
After four long and highly competitive days at Camp Ripley, the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year were announced by Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills, Minnesota National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj.
The 2010 Soldier of the Year is Spc. Geoffrey Latsch, 257th Military Police Company, a native of Buffalo, Minn. The 2010 NCO of the Year is Sgt. Jeremy Swanson, 257th Military Police Company, a native of Buffalo, Minn.

Like

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Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills and 6 other people like this.

Command Sgt. Maj. Major Scott Mills, when people ask me about the Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard, it is Soldiers just like these that I tell them about, because believe that we have the greatest Soldiers around. All of these competitors give it their all. I am proud of each and every one of them.

Like

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Comment

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The Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air National Guard command headquartered in St. Paul. They provide personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and resource guidance and support to the Major Commands in the Minnesota National Guard. 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.

Col. (Ret) Bill Hose

Comment

Col. Richard Weaver, after seven years in Camp Ripley post as the 1st BCT commander, passed the flag to Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauver. The change was not only for the man who commands the post but also for the changes that are going on at the installation itself. As Camp Ripley personnel and staff prepare for another busy training season with two Brigade-size elements deploying in support of operations around the world, efforts are underway to prepare the camp.

November 18

Brig. Gen. Joe Kelly, Director of the Joint Staff

Comment

On June 5, 2010, a Change of Command Ceremony was held for Camp Ripley's Post Commander, Col. Richard Weaver, who retired after seven years, passed the flag to Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauver. The change was not only for the man who commands the post but also for the changes that are going on at the installation itself. As Camp Ripley personnel and staff prepare for another busy training season with two Brigade-size elements deploying in support of operations around the world, efforts are underway to prepare the camp.
133rd Airlift Wing

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard unit headquartered in St. Paul, that operates C-130 “Hercules” cargo aircraft. The Wing deployed 173 Airmen to 11 countries world-wide, executing 82,051 total days serving in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Coronet Oak, Joint Enterprise, Deep Freeze and Unified Response. During Operation Enduring Freedom missions, Airmen logged 1,581 combat sorties and 1,773 flying hours, transporting 18,803 passengers and 4,693 tons of cargo, 443 via airdrop, executed 415 combat missions for U.S. and Coalition forces, including airdrops at 300 feet altitude, enabling ground forces to continually stay in the fight. Airmen logged 121 hours flown during 39 sorties to flood-ravaged Tajikistan and Pakistan, providing critical disaster relief. The 133rd Airlift Wing was one of the first military units responding to earthquake torn Haiti, transporting 143 tons of cargo and 195 passengers, including refugees, utilizing night vision capabilities that enabled 24 hour operations.

148th Fighter Wing

The 148th Fighter Wing heads in a new direction: the wing, headquartered in Duluth, is converting from F-16 Block 25 to Advanced Block 50 Aircraft. The 148th Fighter Wing is the first Air National Guard wing to convert to this upgraded configuration from the active duty Air Force, and is one of only two guard units in the country to fly them. After years of hard work and support from state and national politicians, along with local community groups and leaders, the unit was awarded new aircraft that provided the wing with ready capabilities well into the future. In 2010, the 148th Fighter Wing deployed 100 Airmen to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

34th Red Bull Infantry Division

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, based in Rosemount, oversees the training and operations of eight National Guard brigades in six different states. Known as the "Red Bulls," the 34th Infantry Division completed their deployment to Iraq in February. More than 1,230 Soldiers redeployed to Minnesota and completed their Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Training. Brig. Gen. David Elicerio took command of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. Richard Nash in October. The change in leadership marks the transformation to a new structure, which further aligned the division with the multi-component structure that will be the framework for future military operations.

1st Brigade Combat Team

The Minnesota Army National Guard’s Bloomington-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, was alerted to prepare for a deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. The 1st Brigade Commander Col. Eric Karsha, who is also a battalion chief in the Rochester Fire Department, formally announced the alert after a fire department training exercise. In preparing for the deployment, the 1st BCT participated in the Minnesota Army National Guard Exemptable Combat Training Capability at Camp Ripley in August. The training brought the most up-to-date, theater-specific training to mobilizing Army National Guard units. The brigade conducted several state missions, to include assisting law enforcement agencies after deadly tornadoes hit the Wadena area in June and providing flood fight support in the Red River Valley in March and September.

133rd Airlift Wing

Thank you National Guard Bureau Commanding General for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit our Soldiers and Airmen. It is always great to hear from our Service members.
34th Combat Aviation Brigade

The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, headquartered in St. Paul, supports the state of Minnesota with aerial fire suppression, reconnaissance, flood-assistance, search and rescue and other emergency requests. The Saint Cloud-based Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, departed in November for a deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. Flying OH-58 Chinook cargo helicopters, the Company B mission is to provide aerial movement of troops, equipment and supplies for support of maneuver, combat and combat service support operations.

175th Regional Training Institute

The 175th Regional Training Institute provides training for Army, Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers. Using innovative training techniques, the Camp Ripley-based unit trained more than 1,046 Soldiers in a variety of military, leadership and technical skills in 2010. Through the 175th, 38 commissioned officers and seven warrant officers graduated from Officer Candidate School.

Homeland Security

The 56th Civil Support Team and the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) are ready to protect Minnesota and its citizens 24/7/365. They do this by supporting civil authorities in situations which have the potential for catastrophic results. The 56th Civil Support Team focuses on identifying, assessing and assisting in biological, radiological, nuclear and high-explosive incident sites.

4th Troop Command

The 4th Troop Command, headquartered in Roseville, provides field artillery, chemical and engineering capabilities. After a deployment to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery returned in March to armories in Montevideo, Marshall, Madison, Olivia, Morris, Onotton, Appleton and Anoka. The Soldiers completed 591 combat missions, traveling more than 1.9 million miles without accident or injury.

44th Troop Command changes commanders

Col. Kevin Gerdes passed the unit colors to Col. William Lieder at a Change of Command ceremony on June 13, 2010. The colors symbolize the commander’s authority, representing his responsibility in the organization.

55th Civil Support Team

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Bertrang Col. Gerdes has done a daunting job leading the 4th Troop Command. He continually set the high standards for all and expected nothing but the best. June 12

84th Troop Command

Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauveur I am so proud of these Soldiers, they did everything ranked to the max.

175th Regional Training Institute

Training Institute (175th Regiment)

Training Institute

175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

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Home of the Brave

With the deployment of the 55th Civil Support Team, the Minnesota National Guard is down to just the 4th Troop Command

175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

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175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

Training Institute
1855-1860
Minnesota became a Territorial Enrolled Militia in 1855, but it only existed on paper until April 1856 when the first uniformed volunteer company was formed in St. Paul.

1861-1865
When Civil War broke out in April 1861, volunteers from Minnesota’s militia formed a nucleus for the first three companies of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The “First Minnesota” is officially recognized as the senior regiment in the Union Army because Alexander Ramsey was the first governor to offer state troops to President Lincoln. The regiment went on to serve with distinction in the Army of the Potomac and became legend as a result of its gallant charge at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. By the war’s end Minnesota organized and recruited volunteers for 11 infantry regiments, two cavalry regiments, a heavy artillery regiment, three light artillery batteries and two sharpshooter companies, totaling 22,000 men.

1866-1915
Minnesota’s National Guard was converted to four U.S. Volunteer Regiments when the war with Spain began in April 1898. The Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur, were to take the right flank.

1916-1940
In July 1916, because of border raids conducted by Pancho Villa and the courting of an unstable Mexican government by Germany, President Woodrow Wilson used his new legal authority to mobilize the nation’s entire National Guard for combat duty on the border. Minnesota’s 109th Observation Squadron became the first federalized recognized air unit in the National Guard in January 1921. In June 1931, a new field training site was opened to troops at Camp Ripley north of Little Falls.

1941-1945
The 34th Infantry Division became the first American Division to ship to Europe in February 1942. It fought through North Africa (where men of Minnesota’s 175th Field Artillery fired the first American shells against the Nazis), and Italy. Braun’s tank company fought the Japanese and endured the Bataan Death March. The 101st Observation Squadron ended up in Europe, where it initially flew klunk V “Spitfires” with the Royal Air Force during World War II. They later flew reconnaissance missions with P-51 Mustangs.

The Minnesota National Guard became part of a newly-organized 47th “Viking” Infantry Division following World War II, and its airborne branch became part of a new Air National Guard.

1946-1953
In January 1951, as a result of the massive and sudden reinforcement of North Korean forces by Soldiers from Communist China, the 47th Division was selected to serve as a training division for two years during the Korean conflict and as replacement troops in Korea and Germany. Minnesota’s Air National Guard was also activated, contributing pilots to Korea’s “Mig Alley.”

1954-1969
Troops by the Soviet Union to oust Western troops from West Berlin in 1961 prompted the Berlin Crisis and a cut-off of the 133rd Air Transport Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, who served in federal active duty for 11 months while operating out of their home station at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. During the Vietnam War, although never officially mobilized, the Air Guard flew hundreds of supply and transport missions to Southeast Asia.

1970-2000
Unlike the war in Vietnam, Desert Shield/Desert Storm made heavy use of reservists. More than 600 Minnesota Guard members volunteered or were activated with their units, including the 106th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, 106th Light Equipment Maintenance Company, the 1187th Medical Company, and the 25th Military Police Company. The war was over by April 1991, and soon Minnesota’s troops headed home.

2001 to present
Immediately after the attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., Minnesota Air National Guard F-16 Fighter Jets from the 148th Fighter Wing were providing combat air patrols over key locations. Troops mobilized to ensure that Minnesota airports were safeguarded.

Minnesota National Guard troops executed the Bosnia Security Force (SFOR-14) mission 2003-04 and the Kosovo Force (KFOR-5) mission in 2004. More than 22,000 Minnesota Army and Air National Guard Servicemembers have served since 9/11, including the 1st Brigade Combat Team’s epic 22-month tour in 2005-07, and the 2005-10 34th Red Bull Infantry Division’s Command and Control of nine of Iraq’s eighteen provinces. Minnesota National Guard forces are heavily involved in the “Long War” to this day. Current operations have troops deployed for Operation Noble Eagle (Homeland Security); Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); and Operation Iraq Freedom (Iraq).
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

The comprehensive Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is united to bring Servicemembers all the way home. Military Families and supporters are getting the information they want to know about events, deals, jobs and youth camps by becoming e-members at BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org.

Military Family Care Initiative

Turning concern into action is the goal of the Military Family Care Initiative. In 2010, The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program of the Minnesota National Guard took over the responsibility of this program to centralize and coordinate information on people and organizations wishing to help and those needing help.

Events and Deals

Looks like its going to be a beautiful weekend, check out the Afton Apple Orchard Military Appreciation Day tomorrow, Oct. 16 in Hastings. Their 15-acre com maze features a “yellow ribbon” and thank you message to troops.

New Family Assistance Center

The newest Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Family Assistance Center opened its doors at the Becker County Courthouse in Detroit Lakes, Minn. The newest addition is unique in that it is the first to be located in the same building as a County Veteran Service Office which will be beneficial to Servicemembers and their families. Minnesota’s Family Assistance Centers are located throughout the state, offering resources, referrals and support to all Servicemembers and military family members.

30-Day Yellow Ribbon Training

Soldiers and their families visit with many service providers during the 34th Field Artillery Division 30-Day Reintegration event at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
Federal Mission

133rd Airlift Wing supports Haitian earthquake relief

Fifty-three Airmen from the Minnesota Air National Guard’s 133rd Airlift Wing returned safely January 30, 2010, from a two-week deployment to Puerto Rico where they flew 39 sorties in support of Operation Unified Response. During the deployment, the C-130 crews flew relief missions into Haiti and the Dominican Republic, hauling passengers and much needed water, equipment and other critical supplies.

February 10 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

133rd Airlift Wing assists with Pakistan flood relief

Airmen and aircraft from the Minnesota Air National Guard provided humanitarian support to flood ravaged Pakistan. The first American military aircraft to fly into Pakistan with assistance was from the Minnesota Air National Guard.

August 17 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Red Bulls return home

Twelve hundred Soldiers from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and stationed at Basra, Iraq. They returned this spring and as a team, the Red Bulls accomplished the following objectives: they left Iraq with a more capable security force; the Government of Iraq increased their ability to provide for the well-being of Iraqi citizens; and they set the conditions for a successful drawdown of U.S. military forces from Iraq.

January 29 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Members of the 133rd Airlift Wing return from Afghanistan

Seventy-six Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing returned from a two-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The returning Airmen deployed in early July aboard one of the Wing’s eight C-130 “Hercules” aircraft. During their stay the deployed aircraft flew more than 450 sorties, hauling more than 5,700 passengers and delivering nearly 1,400 tons of critical cargo.

September 27 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Bulldog named best Security Forces Senior NCO in Air National Guard

Master Sgt. William J. Hawley was selected as the Security Forces Senior NCO of the Year for 2010. Physical fitness is a priority for Master Sgt. Hawley who has completed two marathons and two triathlons this year.

When he isn’t setting an example at the 148th Fighter Wing, Master Sgt. Hawley is a Police Officer for the City of Ely, Minn.

March 7 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Iraqi and Back: Minnesota's Stories

This Emmy-nominated documentary is about five Minnesota National Guard Soldiers, from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, and their families as they embark on a year-long deployment to Basra, Iraq.

April 11 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Friends and family welcome home the 114th Transportation Company

Over 150 Soldiers returned to Minnesota following their 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

March 26 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share

Aviation Crew returns from Afghanistan

Five Soldiers from the St. Paul-based Detachment 39, Operational Support Airlift (OSA) returned home following their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

December 31 - Like · Comment · Share

Like · Comment · Share
Minnesota Guard trains with its Croatian State Partnership Program counterparts

This National Guard Bureau sponsored program partners a state’s National Guard with a single country or region in support of U.S. Government policies. The Minnesota National Guard’s partner is the Republic of Croatia. The State Partnership Program directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state and national levels. The program’s public diplomacy effectiveness lies in its ability to leverage the full breadth and depth of U.S. defense and interoperability capabilities from within the state-country relationship. The exchange objectives are to train, exercise and promote the interoperability of Croatian armed forces and the Minnesota National Guard using NATO standards set inside Peace Support Operation scenario through a live exercise.

300 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers Activated for Flood Duty

In March 2010, Governor Tim Pawlenty ordered more than 300 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers to State Active Duty for Flood Fight 2010. The Soldiers that were activated were from the Moorhead-based 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 138th Infantry and St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade sent two UH-60 Blackhawk and one OH-58 Kiowa helicopter equipped with aircrews and support personnel in order to provide aviation assistance to the North Dakota National Guard.

New Quick Reaction Force selected

Approximately 160 Soldiers of A Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, are the latest Quick Reaction Force. The Quick Reaction Force serves as a security element at any time needed to support local and state requirements. To be validated, the Soldiers need to show they can dispense and control crowds using different formations and nonlinear means.

37th Annual Norwegian Exchange

The Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard participated in the 37th Annual Troop Reciprocal Exchange. About 220 Soldiers and Airmen from each nation participated in the 2010 exchange. The training operations were held at the Vaernes Training Facility in Norway and Camp Ripley in Minnesota. The exchange began in 1974 and is the longest-running military exchange partnership between any two nations. The exchange promotes good-will and sharpened military readiness between the nations.

Guard on patrol after deadly tornados

Governor Tim Pawlenty mobilized 118 Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard to assist local law enforcement after 119 tornados ripped through the state in June. Forty-three Soldiers from the Wadena-based D Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 138th Infantry and 75 Soldiers from the Albert Lea-based D Co., 2nd Battalion, 138th Infantry were mobilized in support of Wadena, Freeborn and Steele County authorities, providing security patrols and operating traffic checkpoints. With the downed power lines and potential for gas leaks, the most important task was to make sure that the citizens were in safe areas. Assisted by the Red Cross staff, at least ten people sought refuge in the Albert Lea armory.

Owatonna and Martin County Flood Response

The Minnesota National Guard was authorized by the Governor to assist the city of Owatonna and Martin County Sheriff's office with search and rescue operations. Guard members patrolled for stranded vehicles in order to get people to safety.

State Mission

Wall | Info | Photos | Discussions | Video

MG Nash | Accomplishments | Joint Force HQ | Units | History | Yellow Ribbon | Federal Mission | State Mission | Community | Legislative Impact | Economics | Thank You

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Guard on patrol after deadly tornados

Governor Tim Pawlenty mobilized 118 Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard to assist local law enforcement after 119 tornados ripped through the state in June. Forty-three Soldiers from the Wadena-based D Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 138th Infantry and 75 Soldiers from the Albert Lea-based D Co., 2nd Battalion, 138th Infantry were mobilized in support of Wadena, Freeborn and Steele County authorities, providing security patrols and operating traffic checkpoints. With the downed power lines and potential for gas leaks, the most important task was to make sure that the citizens were in safe areas. Assisted by the Red Cross staff, at least ten people sought refuge in the Albert Lea armory.

Owatonna and Martin County Flood Response

The Minnesota National Guard was authorized by the Governor to assist the city of Owatonna and Martin County Sheriff's office with search and rescue operations. Guard members patrolled for stranded vehicles in order to get people to safety.

New Quick Reaction Force selected

Approximately 160 Soldiers of A Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, are the latest Quick Reaction Force. The Quick Reaction Force serves as a security element at any time needed to support local and state requirements. To be validated, the Soldiers need to show they can dispense and control crowds using different formations and nonlinear means.

Minnesota Guard trains with its Croatian State Partnership Program counterparts

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Twins' Military Appreciation Day

The Minnesota Twins honored Veterans and Servicemembers from all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces during their Military Appreciation Day on July 3, 2010. Navy Leap Frogs jumped from a C-130 'Hercules' and parachuted onto the field, providing the crowd a first-rate show on the proficiency of these soldiers. The 1st Battalion 153rd Infantry and 25th Infantry Division recognized a return ceremony and shortly after, Old Glory was unfurled on an expansive of real grass at Target Field. Go Twins!

Purple Heart recipient raises flag at new Target Stadium

A new tradition began this year when the Minnesota Twins offered Servicemembers the opportunity to raise the U.S. Flag at home games. Spec. Jacob Benson, a military police officer with the 507th Military Police Company, was the first flag raiser. Spec. Benson was the survivor of a rocket attack in Iraq where he lost three of his friends. April 12 - Like - Comment - Share

Minnesota Vikings Salute the Military

The Minnesota Vikings honored Servicemembers and Veterans during their game with the Arizona Cardinals at Mall of America Field Nov. 7, 2010. Soldiers from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, 114th Transportation Company and 204th Army Combat Medical Support Company and Armor from the 133rd Armored Wing were recognized during halftime. November 1 - Like - Comment - Share

Red Bull Sings at Target Field

Sgt. Katherine Gor, of the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, sings 'God Bless America' at the Minnesota Twins' Target Field.

Deployment Airmen and Soldiers take hockey to Afghanistan

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron and the Army Reserve 372nd Engineering Battalion enjoy a floor hockey tournament held at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in honor of the 2010 Minnesota High School State Hockey Tournament. Search - Like - Comment - Share

Minnesota National Guard partners with Minnesota Wild

During the 2010-11 Minnesota Wild season, the Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Color Guard performed for the Wild's home opener against the Calgary Flames. In front of nearly 16,000 fans, they marched ceremoniously onto the ice and presented the Nations colors while America's National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" and Canada's National Anthem, "O Canada," were performed. The partnerships between the Minnesota Army National Guard and Minnesota's four major sports organizations; Wild, Vikings, Timberwolves and the Twins have given opportunity for Minnesota's Soldiers and Airmen to be recognized. October 15 - Like - Comment - Share

Operation Minnesota Heroes Month

The Minnesota Timberwolves and the Fasstbreak Foundation partnered to demonstrate the organization’s support and appreciation of Servicemembers and Veterans. Operation Minnesota Heroes Month focuses on honoring, serving and recognizing Minnesota's troops and their families through in-game elements, special events and a grant. The Timberwolves Military Appreciation Day began with a color guard and 40 new enlistees raising their right hand.

Minnesota Swarm Military Appreciation Night

The Minnesota Swarm Professional Lacrosse Team held a Military Appreciation Night for all Minnesota military members on April 9. Maj. Gen. Richard Nash recently returned from Iraq and was presented a honorary jersey from the Minnesota Swarm Team at the beginning of the night's activities.
Legislative Impact

Minnesota National Guard is thankful for the support of our congressional delegation and appreciates their efforts in advancing the causes to increase the readiness and relevance of the Guard. Their efforts to advocate for the Guard were exceptional as exemplified by Rep. Keith Ellison, Rep. Tim Walz, Rep. John Kline, Rep. Erik Paulsen, and Rep. Betty McCollum.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

The groundbreaking ceremony was held and construction started for the Grow the Army Readiness Center at the Arden Hills Army Training site. This $11.1 million facility will provide for a critical shortfall of space due to additional force structure assigned to the Minnesota Army National Guard. The latest in efficiency and cost-effective energy control measures are being incorporated into the design.

Stillwater, Minnesota

The city of Stillwater is one step closer to making a new combined National Guard Armory and city fire station a reality. Stillwater leaders held a workshop to discuss the purchase of land for a new multi-million dollar complex that may become home to the Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, which is currently stationed in Bloomington.

Faribault, Minnesota

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 17, 2010 to build a berm around what will be a new Forward Operating Base constructed to train Soldiers preparing to deploy in support of operations around the world. A new Army National Guard, the United States Army Reserve planned for joint-use to service the needs of the Minnesota Armed Forces Reserve Center. This facility is completed construction and ribbon cutting ceremony for a $16 million Armed Forces Reserve Center. This facility is planned for joint use to service the needs of the Minnesota Army National Guard, the United States Army Reserve and the community of Faribault.

Legislative Impact

Thank You
Pay and Expenditures

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<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Pay and Expenditures Federal</th>
<th>Pay and Expenditures State</th>
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In addition to the combat deployments, the Minnesota National Guard has responded to 23 separate times to state active duty missions between 2003 and today. Everything from fires, floods, homeland security and missing person searches to blizzards – Major General Shellito ensured that the Guard was ready to help the citizens of Minnesota when called upon to serve. I am especially proud of General Shellito’s contributions to the “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” program. This innovative approach to ensuring that Minnesota Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members come “all the way home” has modeled for the nation how to best treat our Servicemembers and their families.

Thanks, Lt. Gen. Larry Shellito. You have done a great job as Adjutant General – our state thanks you for your service.

Governor Tim Pawlenty

November 1, 2010
MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
FUNERAL HONORS

Hosted the 4th Annual Funeral Honor Competition and earned 2nd Place

Performed more than 4,300 funeral honors, which was a 40% increase over 2009

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
FUNERAL HONORS

Performed more than 250 military honors and color guard details

Traveled 35,166 miles to perform all events

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