MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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To the Citizens of Minnesota:

This report highlights the significant achievements of the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Department of Military Affairs in 2019. I am continually impressed by the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers and Airmen who serve in the state of Minnesota.

Your Minnesota National Guard is committed to protecting our state and nation here at home, supporting federal missions across the globe and engaging with the communities across Minnesota.

In 2019, the Minnesota National Guard conducted winter storm response in several southern Minnesota communities, as well as flood response along the Red River. We also sent aviation assets to support our neighbors in Nebraska, providing critical assistance during flood relief operations.

This year was also significant in that we had more than 650 Soldiers from our 34th Red Bull Infantry Division return after a successful 10-month deployment to the Middle East and we sent nearly 700 Soldiers from the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade out to the same region in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. We also have many other Soldiers and Airmen supporting ongoing operations across the globe.

The demand for the National Guard continues to be high. In the next year we anticipate having more than 1,500 of our Guardsmen deployed in support of ongoing overseas operations. Maintaining readiness to support this increased operations tempo is our number one priority.

Just as important as our mission to support our state and nation, is our commitment to the communities in which we serve. Our Guardsmen serve at 61 facilities in 58 communities across Minnesota; they live in all the areas in between. As members of the community, we strive to be good stewards and good neighbors.

As we go into 2020, your support for the Minnesota National Guard remains critical. The operational tempo for our Soldiers and Airmen will continue to increase and the support of our families and employers will continue to be key to our mission success.

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

VISION

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen capable of fighting our nation's wars, protecting our country, and responding to our state's emergencies, while remaining the most-trusted institution in Minnesota.

PRIORITIES

Our bottom line responsibility is to be ready to fight our nation's wars and win. Everything we do supports and is connected to our primary responsibility. Each service member must be competent in his or her assigned duties. We are all responsible, each Soldier and Airman, to maintain baseline physical, administrative, medical and dental requirements.

PEOPLE FIRST

The Minnesota National Guard's greatest asset is our people. We strive to recruit and retain individuals with diverse experience, skills, and talents. We are committed to investing in the physical and mental wellbeing of our Soldiers and Airmen, increasing readiness throughout the Minnesota National Guard.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to fostering an environment that prioritizes leader development. Through mentorship we develop talented and diverse people from within who will grow and become the future of our force. We strive for our organization to reflect the communities we serve and protect.

ORGANIZATIONAL SAFETY & SECURITY

The Minnesota National Guard continually assesses to enhance the safety and security of our cyber networks, facilities and workplace environment. We maintain programs and initiatives to protect our force from external and internal threats.

FISCAL & PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainable infrastructure ensures our ability to respond to state and federal needs. By investing in renewable energy and conservation practices, we safeguard our future in Minnesota's communities. As fiscal stewards, we ensure our economic impact reaches all corners of the state.

COMMUNICATE & PARTNER

Relationships are the foundation of our organization's operational success. We work closely with our interagency partners to best serve the state of Minnesota during disasters. Our global connections foster interoperability during worldwide training and contingency operations. Our service members and their families depend on support from our employers and communities to accomplish our state and federal missions.

PEOPLE FIRST

The Minnesota National Guard's greatest asset is our people. We strive to recruit and retain individuals with diverse experience, skills, and talents. We are committed to investing in the physical and mental wellbeing of our Soldiers and Airmen, increasing readiness throughout the Minnesota National Guard.

In the Minnesota National Guard, our people truly are our most important resources. Without our Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees, our organization would not be able to consistently meet our state, federal and community missions. Each member of our more than 13,000-member force is valuable and contributes to the success of the organization.

Diversity and Inclusion

We take pride in our efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within our force. We work to increase diversity in our organization through targeted recruiting by setting goals in line with the current demographics of our state. We strive for inclusion by engaging with our members to promote professional development and opportunities.

Since 2010, the Minnesota National Guard has increased the number of members who identify as racial or ethnic minorities from 7.4 percent to 17.5 percent. With a targeted recruiting goal of 25 percent for females and minorities, the Minnesota National Guard has seen a significant increase in diversity in the junior ranks, from 9.3 percent in 2010 to 23.9 percent in 2019.

In 2019, the Minnesota National Guard hosted its fifth annual leadership development event to promote diversity and inclusion throughout the organization. More than 300 members of the Minnesota National Guard attended the 2019 Women's Leadership Forum at Best Buy in September. The event focused on helping attendees to "Break the Mold" and highlighted ways women can excel in nontraditional roles.

Through efforts like the Women's Leadership Forum, direct mentorship with senior leaders and a focus on highlighting females across the organization, the Minnesota National Guard has succeeded in bringing the attrition rate for females to within just 1.9 percent of their male counterparts.

Recruiting and Retention

The Minnesota Air National Guard maintained their average number of enlistments for both the 133rd Airlift Wing and the 148th Fighter Wing. In 2019 recruiting teams brought 208 new Airmen into the force during the fiscal year, 24 of these were commissioned officers.

In fiscal year 2019, the Minnesota Army National Guard met its recruiting mission for the 19th year in a row. As the Minnesota National Guard increases its end strength, Minnesota's Recruiting and Retention Battalion continues to assist the National Guard in achieving its recruiting goals. In fiscal year 2019, 1,553 individuals enlisted into the Minnesota Army National Guard, representing 43 percent of all of the military enlistments in the state of Minnesota.

Much of the recruiting success in fiscal year 2019 can be attributed to the Minnesota National Guard's involvement and presence in the local high school market. The support of educators in Minnesota is crucial to our ability to match potential recruits to benefits and jobs that will help them in the future.

In the next fiscal year, the Minnesota National Guard plans to maintain that presence, but also to put a larger focus on the graduate market with a larger footprint in Minnesota colleges and universities.

Retention continues to be a major focus in order to maintain valuable experience and diverse skill sets across the force. The Minnesota National Guard added 13 retention non-commissioned officers in 2019 who are assigned to support major commands with retention efforts. Initial results demonstrate an increase in retention rate by five percent.

In addition to meeting our recruiting goals, we are bringing in young people who represent the best that Minnesota has to offer. This year, 22 of our young Soldiers were named honor graduates in Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training and 11 held the honor of distinguished honor graduate.

To improve success in getting Soldiers from enlistment through their initial training and into their units, the Minnesota National Guard added company commanders to our Recruit Sustainment Program units this year. The additional layer of command emphasis led to an increased training pipeline success from 77.9 percent at the beginning of 2019 to 82.8 percent at the end of the year. In addition, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion is making an increased effort to let RSP Soldiers know about college and career opportunities to motivate Soldiers to continue their service.

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to fostering an environment that prioritizes leader development. Through mentorship we develop talented and diverse people from within who will grow and become the future of our force. We strive for our organization to reflect the communities we serve and protect.

The future of the Minnesota National Guard depends on developing professional, ethical and caring leaders who can influence and inspire our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to accomplish any mission in any environment.

We focus on mentorship and provide critical feedback to further develop our service members. Our inclusive organization delivers a breadth of leadership opportunities that enable our Airmen and Soldiers to grow and serve their nation and state. They are agile and adaptive leaders who advance their organizations by developing the individuals within them. Our leadership culture enables officers and non-commissioned officers to make decisions appropriate at their level.

Leadership Engagement

The Minnesota National Guard is taking a deliberate and targeted look at our efforts in two areas critical to leader development — ensuring our service members have completed the training they need to progress and ensuring leaders are providing timely and accurate evaluations for their subordinates.

The Minnesota National Guard is able to consistently obtain seats for professional military education courses and ensure those seats are filled with qualified individuals. From our analysis in recent years however, we've learned that we could do a better job of filling those school seats with the right people by using order of merit lists to ensure the best qualified individuals have the first chance to attend these critical courses.

The Minnesota National Guard is also taking proactive steps to ensure evaluations are completed on time and to better track evaluations as Soldiers move from one command to another.

Improvement in these two critical areas will lead to an increase in job satisfaction for our service members. Our ultimate goal is to ensure our service members want to continue their service and stay in the organization for years to come.

Providing Diverse Opportunities

The Minnesota National Guard provides opportunities for leaders to participate in community engagements that help to educate others on the mission of the Minnesota National Guard. We are committed to growing leaders at all levels who will use their diverse skills and experiences to better our organization.

Each community engagement includes junior, mid-grade and senior leaders who are able to interact with members of the community and promote a positive message about the Minnesota National Guard. The engagements also give the service members an opportunity to learn leadership skills and engage with their leaders outside of normal drill activities.

The Minnesota National Guard also facilitates participation in other broadening opportunities including advanced schools, workshops and competitions for qualified individuals.

ORGANIZATIONAL SAFETY & SECURITY

The Minnesota National Guard continually assesses to enhance the safety and security of our cyber networks, facilities and workplace environment. We maintain programs and initiatives to protect our force from external and internal threats.

Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention

This year in an effort to start a conversation around sexual assault and harassment within the force, the Minnesota National Guard held town hall events across the state. The adjutant general spoke about where the organization currently stands in regards to sexual assault and the steps we will take on the issue moving forward.

As part of the event, the organization released publicly, for the first time, its numbers of sexual assault cases between 2014 and 2018. In that five-year period, the Minnesota National Guard received 90 reports of sexual assault. Of those reports, 39 were restricted reports. Restricted reports are an option for survivors to receive support services without triggering an investigation and without details about the survivor or the incident being disclosed. Of the remaining 51 unrestricted reports, 35 cases involved Minnesota National Guardsmen as both the victim and the offender.

The Minnesota National Guard also highlighted several resources available to survivors of sexual assault and harassment, both internal to the organization and externally in the local communities. The town hall events provided access to behavioral health staff, judge advocate corps officers, community resources and staff from the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigations which conducts administrative investigations in sexual assault cases.

The adjutant general assembled a team to review all of the Minnesota National Guard's internal policies and processes in relation to sexual assault prevention and response. The team will review all former cases and solicit input from survivors and responders as to how the organization can improve.

The town hall events are just the first step as the Minnesota National Guard seeks to enter the larger conversation about sexual assault in the community by engaging with local agencies and organizations to come up with better solutions to address this complex issue.

Cyber Security

The Minnesota National Guard continues to expand and improve its capabilities to maintain and defend Department of Defense networks, as well as provide subject matter experts who collaborate with government and industry leaders to improve information security and protect critical infrastructure at all levels.

The Minnesota National Guard completed a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection (CCRI) in 2019, earning scores above the National Guard Bureau average for both non-classified and secret systems. The inspection assesses an organization's cyber defenses and vulnerabilities in order to improve the overall security of the information network.

Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's 177th Cyber Protection Team participated in several exercises in 2019 including *Locked Shields*, one of the world's largest and most complex real-time cyber defense exercises hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence. Minnesota is just one of four states with a fully-staffed Cyber Protection Team. The team is preparing to mobilize in 2020.

In August, six members of the Minnesota National Guard traveled to Croatia to complete a five-day network defense exercise for members of the Croatian Armed Forces as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program. This year's event was the eighth technical cyber training event between the two nations.

Soldiers and Airmen from the Minnesota National Guard also attended a cyber symposium in Croatia in August where they shared best practices and learned from Croatian cyber experts. This was the sixth cyber symposium coordinated between Minnesota and Croatia and included a faculty member from Metropolitan State University who presented to the group.

Providing cybersecurity education and awareness is one of the key tasks in the partnership's ongoing efforts to counter transnational threats.

Sustainable infrastructure ensures our ability to respond to state and federal needs. By investing in renewable energy and conservation practices, we safeguard our future in Minnesota's communities. As fiscal stewards, we ensure our economic impact reaches all corners of the state.

Our path to sustainability is laid out in our readiness center master transformation plan, a 30-year comprehensive plan to provide operations and training facilities that adequately support the readiness, training requirements and mission objectives of the service members and units of the Minnesota Army National Guard. We strive to do this in the most cost-efficient manner possible, while ensuring we maintain a robust presence in communities across the state of Minnesota.

The most recent Readiness Center under Military Construction (MILCON) is the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Headquarters in Arden Hills. This facility will be the most modern and advanced building in the Minnesota Army National Guard's inventory. The facility will be nearly 150,000 square feet and designed to meet or exceed the sustainability benchmarks set forth.

The Minnesota National Guard prides itself as a leader in promoting energy, water and waste conservation and reduction practices. We build our new facilities and renovate our existing facilities with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, standards in mind.

The Minnesota Army National Guard continues to add renewable energy sources to its portfolio, with electric and thermal systems. We are currently placing an 80 kilowatt solar array on our Inver Grove Heights property that will provide nearly 30 percent of the facility's yearly electrical consumption. We have seen a 23 percent reduction compared to a 2017 adjusted baseline with 17 percent of energy use being produced by renewable sources.

The Minnesota National Guard is five years into its energy efficiency challenge. Results for fiscal year 2019 showed a 3.35 percent overall reduction in energy use. Forty-nine percent of participating facilities are meeting or exceeding the reduction goal of three percent. Between 2014 and 2018 the Minnesota National Guard had a $547,490 cumulative cost savings due to this program that focuses on teaching and implementing environmentally-responsible behavior.

Through programs like the federal Sentinel Landscape and Army Compatible Use Buffer, the Minnesota National Guard and Camp Ripley are working with the state and local landowners to find solutions and easements that limit encroachment and allow for land and nature conservation while preserving the training capabilities at Camp Ripley.

We are also in the process of adding a two megawatt generator at Camp Ripley that will give the Minnesota National Guard the ability to operate off the grid, in the event of natural disasters or domestic support missions.

Not only are we environmentally conscious, but the Minnesota National Guard also strives to be fiscally responsible with the funds we receive from the state and federal government. The internal review division of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office has a team of independent auditors who conduct comprehensive, independent audits of our organizational policies, programs, systems and procedures.

These audits ensure we are meeting all required measurements and standards. They help us identify significant trends and critical problems in our organization and provide recommendations to help us continually improve. We share this information, as well as our best practices, with other states' National Guards and our higher headquarters.

The Minnesota National Guard achieves and maintains required resourcing levels through its resource management division, which directs and coordinates budget management, finance and accounting services, and military and civilian payroll processing. The division provides staff coordination, administration and technical guidance for activities relating to operating programs and budget execution. They also provide professional financial management advice and assistance as required.

Effective management and administration of the organization's budget and resources ensures that the Minnesota National Guard is on the right track to produce a highly trained, battle-ready force to support missions across Minnesota and around the world.

Relationships are the foundation of our organization's operational success. We work closely with our interagency partners to best serve the state of Minnesota during disasters. Our global connections foster interoperability during worldwide training and contingency operations. Our service members and their families depend on support from our employers and communities to accomplish our state and federal missions.

Community Support and Engagement

The Minnesota National Guard values the support of Minnesota communities, specifically through the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, which provides resources and assistance to service members, veterans and their families in Minnesota. These networks of dedicated volunteers are invaluable to our military families.

Since 2008, 51 companies in Minnesota have been designated as Yellow Ribbon Companies, 11 of those are Minnesota-based Fortune 500 companies. Since 2010, 20 Minnesota Colleges and Universities have been designated as Yellow Ribbon, including 17 from the Minnesota State Colleges and University system.

Yellow Ribbon Company seminars are held twice a year in the spring and fall for Yellow Ribbon Companies to share best practices, build relationships and learn about military support topics. In addition, many Yellow Ribbon companies are partnering their employee resource groups with the Minnesota National Guard's special emphasis councils to strengthen their diversity outreach.

As an organization with members who serve in communities across the state, we strive to be involved in and contribute to the communities in which we serve. Our Guardsmen work closely with the networks in the communities they serve to build relationships and connect to organizations that provide resources to service members and veterans. We conduct dedicated outreach to local civic groups, schools, organizations and agencies to highlight the mission of the Minnesota National Guard.

Partnerships

The Minnesota National Guard works closely with other Minnesota state agencies to best serve the people of Minnesota during disasters or emergencies. This includes providing resources at Camp Ripley for multiple state agencies to conduct training, including the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota State Patrol and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In 1996, the Minnesota National Guard and Croatia were aligned under the National Guard State Partnership Program. The relationship began with familiarization events which have developed into military exchanges involving the sharing of tactics and techniques. After 23 years, the Minnesota National Guard continues to be invested in this key partnership.

Moving forward, the Minnesota National Guard will focus on several priority areas for upcoming exchange events with Croatia including maintenance and operations of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and F-16 Fighting Falcon and increasing domestic operations, cyber, and medical capabilities and proficiency.

February 2019 marked the 46th Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange. This enduring relationship with the Norwegian Home Guard combines training and cultural and social events to strengthen ties between the two nations. The NOREX began in 1974 to promote goodwill and build military readiness. In 2020, the annual exchange will take place at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, and Camp Elvegårdsmoen, in northern Norway.

The women and men who serve in the Minnesota National Guard do so under 10 major commands, covering all corners of the state with a physical presence in 58 communities. The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs is the state agency that oversees and supports military operations of the Minnesota National Guard. The Minnesota National Guard supports both state and federal missions with more than 13,000 Airmen and Soldiers from across the state. 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.

MAJOR COMMANDS

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/jfhq

34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION
MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil/34id

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.ang.af.mil

148TH FIGHTER WING
148fw.ang.af.mil

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The Minnesota National Guard provided support to local authorities several times in 2019. In early February, the 224th Transportation Company supported Renville County in response to a significant snow storm by opening the Olivia armory. Soldiers rescued eight stranded motorists and sheltered 15 personnel overnight in the armory. Later in February, the Minnesota National Guard opened armories in Owatonna, Albert Lea, Olivia, Saint James and Red Wing to provide shelter to 329 citizens in need. Minnesota Guardsmen rescued 182 stranded motorists using Small Unit Support Vehicles, or SUSVs.

In March, the Minnesota National Guard provided aviation support to Nebraska to assist with flood response operations. The aviators transported sandbags to reinforce a man-made levy protecting a nuclear power station and aided in hay bale drops to feed cattle.

In April, the 224th Transportation Company conducted traffic control on roads with downed power lines near Austin after a winter storm. In Olso, Soldiers from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry assisted with transporting personnel and equipment over flooded roads. In Halstad, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery conducted levee patrols of the Red River.

In 2019, the Joint Force Headquarters served as the higher headquarters during the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, in August.

2020 OBJECTIVES
The Minnesota National Guard is preparing to implement the Army Combat Fitness Test across the force in 2020. Equipment is expected to arrive in the spring to be prepositioned throughout the state, enabling Soldiers to conduct diagnostic tests leading up to record testing after October 2020.

HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Soper

STRENGTH
483 Airmen & Soldiers

34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

MISSION
The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provides training and readiness oversight for ten National Guard brigades with more than 23,000 Soldiers across Minnesota and eight other states. In Minnesota, the Red Bulls include the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, 84th Troop Command, and the 347th Regional Support Group.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
During 2019, the Red Bulls were responsible for mission command and control of Task Force Spartan of Operation Spartan Shield, headquartered in Kuwait, leading a diverse formation of nearly 10,000 National Guard, Army Reserve, and Active Duty Army Soldiers conducting theater security operations across the Middle East.

Throughout the deployment, the Red Bulls conducted numerous training exercises, maintaining a lethal force to deter regional aggression and strengthening relationships with U.S. allied forces and host nations. The Red Bulls executed *Eastern Action* in Qatar, *Desert Observer* in Kuwait, *Iron Union 9* and *Iron Union 10* in United Arab Emirates, planning for *Eager Lion* in Jordan, *Inferno Creek* in Oman, *Earnest Leader* in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, *Desert Leopard* in Kuwait and Qatar, and *Steppe Eagle* in Kazakhstan.

While deployed, the division also dedicated resources to support Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel through the Theater Coordinated Assistance process. Task Force Spartan Soldiers performed vital missions in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan in support of United States Central Command priorities.

In July, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division transferred authority of Task Force Spartan to the Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Cyclone Division. By early fall, more than 650 Red Bull Soldiers returned home from deployment.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In the fall of 2020, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division headquarters will move to their new facility located at the Arden Hills Army Training Site. Additionally, the division will support the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation in July of 2020 and participate as a response cell for the 1st Cavalry Division and 82nd Airborne Division's warfighter exercise in October of 2020.

HEADQUARTERS
Rosemount, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Michael Wickman

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Whitehead

STRENGTH
858 Soldiers

34TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

MISSION
The Saint Paul-based 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade is an Army National Guard unit that supports the 34th Infantry Division and the state of Minnesota by providing aviation capabilities – both UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters – for federal and state missions.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In March, 10 Soldiers and a CH-47 Chinook from Company B, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion deployed for State Active Duty flood relief support to the state of Nebraska. During their 16-day mission, Company B moved numerous passengers and more than 296,000 pounds of equipment and supplies.

In May, 52 Soldiers from Company C, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion returned from Kuwait after a successful mission of providing medical evacuation support to Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve under the 35th ECAB.

The 34th ECAB "Red Devils" spent 2019 preparing for deployment by completing annual training at Camp Ripley Training Center and conducting regionally aligned forces training prior to departing for additional mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas.

In October, 34th ECAB deployed with nearly 700 Soldiers from Minnesota to command an aviation task force of over 1,400 Soldiers from the active component, Army Reserves, Army National Guard from ten different states, and coalition partners from Spain and Italy.

On December 5, 2019, the 34th ECAB experienced a tragic loss when a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a maintenance flight southwest of Saint Cloud, Minnesota, killing three Soldiers from Company C, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In 2020, the forward elements of the 34th ECAB will continue their mission as part of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, with an expected return in the fall of 2020. Company B, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion will support a June 2020 rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, in preparation for a future deployment in 2021.

HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Gregory Fix

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Hellkamp

STRENGTH
1,286 Soldiers

1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The brigade completed a warfighter exercise in May. The exercise consisted of elements from the brigade, Joint Force Headquarters, 347th Regional Support Group, 84th Troop Command and Camp Ripley as well as support from the Oklahoma National Guard, the Army's Mission Command Training Program and the 157th Infantry Brigade.

In July, the brigade moved more than 2,000 pieces of equipment and 4,500 personnel from Minnesota and 10 other states to Fort Hood, Texas, to conduct the eXportable Combat Training Capability, or XCTC, exercise. XCTC is a 21-day collective training event to achieve platoon-level maneuver and live-fire validation, and increase maneuver proficiency at the company level.

During the training, the brigade qualified 64 M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles on Bradley Table XII, 29 M1 Abrams tanks on Table XII, 55 Bradley platoon lanes, 29 Tank platoon lanes, 52 Sustainment lanes, qualified 6 Paladin platoons on Table XII, emplaced 2,100 meters of wire obstacles, dug 1,800 meters of tank ditch, delivered 379,404 rounds of ammunition, and distributed 167,665 gallons of fuel.

The 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry participated in the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division XCTC exercise in July. The battalion accomplished all platoon and company tasks. Company I, 334th Brigade Support Battalion, won the prestigious Philip A. Connelly Award for food service excellence in the U.S. Army National Guard field kitchen category, which was the first time a Minnesota unit has won the award.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In 2020, the 1/34th ABCT will complete a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California, a capstone validation event in preparation for a deployment to the Middle East in 2021. The 2-135th is training and preparing to deploy more than 700 Soldiers for deployment to the Horn of Africa in June of 2020.

HEADQUARTERS
Bloomington, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Timothy Kemp

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Erickson

STRENGTH
5,248 Soldiers

347TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In 2019, the 347th RSG supported several deployments of units within its formation. The 147th Financial Management Support Detachment returned in April after providing finance support and processing military transactions in five different locations across the Middle East. Six Soldiers from the Casualty Liaison Team 2 returned in July from Afghanistan where they were responsible for casualty reporting and accountability of U.S. Army Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians and contractors throughout Afghanistan. The 247th Financial Management Support Detachment deployed to several locations in the Middle East in January and returned to Minnesota in November.

The 347th RSG's Casualty Liaison Team 3 and 1904th Acquisition Team deployed in May and June and are expected to return in the spring of 2020.

In August, the 347th RSG supported the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division's eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation at Fort Hood, Texas. The RSG enabled the brigade by providing contracting, life support and accountability for the nearly 3,000 Soldiers from the 1/34th ABCT who participated in the exercise.

The 347th RSG also conducted community engagement and outreach through several events in the Twin Cities metropolitan area by providing static displays and speakers.

2020 OBJECTIVES
The next year will focus on additional force structure planning and implementation of a new transportation company. The 347th RSG will also provide support to the 1/34th ABCT's National Training Center Rotation at Fort Irwin, California.

HEADQUARTERS
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Stephen Schemenauer

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Esquivel

STRENGTH
1,006 Soldiers

84TH TROOP COMMAND

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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In the spring of 2019, 160 Soldiers of the 851st Vertical Engineer Company returned from a 10-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The unit conducted engineer support missions in six countries throughout U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The 55th Civil Support Team was evaluated by Army North during collective lanes training in September where they demonstrated a high level of proficiency on all 12 collective tasks and showed a strong capability to perform the unit's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives response mission.

In 2019, the 34th Military Police Company was assigned as the host unit for the 46th Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange at Camp Ripley where they partnered with local law enforcement agencies to put together training to support the Norwegian Rapid Response Forces mission. In 2020, the 257th Military Police Company will fill this important role.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In training year 2020, the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery will conduct a battalion-level training deployment to Canadian Forces Base Shilo in Manitoba, Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Armed Force's 38th Artillery Tactical Group. This training exercise will stress the logistical capabilities of the battalion, as well as the battalion's operational capabilities as it trains in unfamiliar terrain.

Also in 2020, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 194 Field Artillery will deploy to Afghanistan with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division where they will defend U.S. and Allied positions using the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar system. The 34th Military Police Company will deploy to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in 2020 in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

HEADQUARTERS
Cambridge, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Brian Pfarr

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. George Jensen

STRENGTH
1,848 Soldiers

175TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

MISSION
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.

Each year hundreds of Soldiers from both the reserve and active components travel to Camp Ripley to attend one of more than 30 courses offered by the 175th RTI. The institute ensures the courses offered meet requirements for all components, drawing students from across the country and supporting the One Army School System.

The courses offered at the 175th RTI qualify Soldiers as infantrymen, cavalry scouts, wheeled vehicle mechanics and tracked vehicle repairers. The 175th RTI offers advanced leader courses for several military occupational specialties and the Maneuver Senior Leader Course Phases I and II. The institute also contributes to the commissioned ranks by offering Phases I and II of Officer Candidate School and Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In 2019, the 175th RTI expanded their reach to provide instruction and certification requirements to the U.S. Army by providing tracked and wheeled vehicle recovery courses to members of the 2nd Infantry Division stationed at Camp Humphreys, Korea.

The 1st Battalion (Warrant/Officer Candidate School) provided the Minnesota National Guard with 23 commissioned officers and nine commissioned warrant officers. The 175th RTI provided instruction to 842 Soldiers graduating from seven separate programs of instruction.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In 2020, the RTI will continue to provide the highest level of training to prepare leaders as they embark on their next level of responsibilities in an ever-evolving and more complex operating environment. The RTI strives to retain its relevance in leader instruction by adhering to the Army Learning Model which promotes an adaptive, continuous learning model focused on providing a quality, relevant and effective learning experience.

HEADQUARTERS
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Brian Bobo

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Klinkner

STRENGTH
94 Soldiers

CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER

MISSION
Camp Ripley, located near Little Falls, Minnesota, is a 53,000-acre regional training center hosting numerous ranges and state-of-the-art facilities that support the training requirements of military and civilian agencies. In addition to providing resources enabling customers to train in a realistic environment, Camp Ripley remains committed to environmentally-sound stewardship throughout Central Minnesota to include its 18 pristine miles of undeveloped Mississippi River shoreline.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
During the 2019 training year, Camp Ripley facilitated more than 395,000 man-days of military training and 61,000 man-days for local and state interagency partners.

Camp Ripley facilitated warfighting exercises for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

Since 2010, rail operations have been critical in supporting exercises hosted at Camp Ripley for nine states. In August, rail operations supported the movement of more than 2,000 pieces of equipment to Texas for the 1/34th ABCT.

Camp Ripley's environmental team received the National Guard Bureau Environmental Award for its work to grow and preserve the Sentinel Landscape in central Minnesota. Camp Ripley is the only National Guard facility to participate in this program which protects agricultural and recreational land surrounding military installations.

In addition to providing training for Minnesota National Guard service members, Camp Ripley facilitated training for U.S. Navy divers from the Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Department of Natural Resources. Camp Ripley is the largest employer in Morrison County, contributing a total economic impact to the local community of more than $260 million in fiscal year 2019.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In 2020, Camp Ripley will focus its efforts on the improvement of its facilities. This includes the completion of several buildings, to include a fire station.

Camp Ripley will continue to work with its state agency and military partners to synchronize training and share resources to provide an optimal training environment.

SENIOR COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse

COMMANDER
Col. Joshua Simer

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Erickson

STRENGTH
872 Soldiers, Airmen & Civilians

133RD AIRLIFT WING

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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In 2019, seven members of the 133rd Airlift Wing completed support for Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica. The more than 60-day mission supported the United States Antarctic Program for the accomplishment of the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Program's objectives.

From April to November, the 133rd Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel where they provided security for American advisors and helped build a sustainable and independent Afghan Air Force in an effort to bring peace to Afghanistan. The Airmen directly advised the Afghan Security Forces on how to conduct airbase security operations, fly-away security operations and tactical combat casualty care skills. The unit completed 351 combat flight hours and 64 outside-the-wire missions which directly increased the Kabul Air Wing's combat effectiveness and survivability.

In the spring, members of the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron led the installation of over 11 miles of fiber optic and copper cable at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The 210th received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Airmen with the 133rd Medical Group conducted innovative readiness training over a period of nine days in Puerto Rico. The training simultaneously provided healthcare to 9,052 patients at six different sites.

The 133rd transported 90,000 lbs. of humanitarian aid from "Feed My Starving Children" to Kabul as part of the Denton Program.

2020 OBJECTIVES
In 2020, the 133rd Airlift Wing will support several air expeditionary forces and reserve component period deployments, as well as deployments for training around the world to continue to maintain a high level of readiness.

HEADQUARTERS
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. James D. Cleet

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Chief Master Sgt.
Lance J. Burg

STRENGTH
1,219 Airmen

148TH FIGHTER WING

MISSION
The 148th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Duluth, operates the F-16C Block 50 Fighting Falcon to provide air sovereignty at home and abroad. The wing is comprised of Airmen prepared to rapidly respond to support federal and state missions and community needs. The unit is one of only two Air National Guard wings tasked to provide suppression of enemy air defense support for the nation. The 148th remains the seventh-largest employer in Duluth, employing more than 1,000 Airmen and maintaining 22 airplanes.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In 2019, the 148th Fighter Wing participated in training exercises around the world. After a year of nearly 500 Airmen deploying in 2018, the 148th focused on readiness, training and community outreach in 2019.

In the beginning of 2019, nearly 180 Airmen participated in Frisian Flag, a 12-day NATO partnership exercise at Leeuwarden Air Base, Netherlands. This exercise allowed all international participants to train on operational tactics with multiple coalition partners including Germany, Poland, and France.

A small number of Airmen from the 148th visited the Croatian Air Force in April, as a part of the State Partnership Program. The Airmen demonstrated the capabilities of the F-16, which the Croatian Armed Forces is aiming to acquire.

The 148th participated in both iterations of the *Northern Lightning* exercise, in May and August. The exercise brings together personnel from approximately 20 active-duty Air Force, National Guard, Navy and Marine Corps units to perform a joint training exercise that replicates today's air battle space with current and future weapons platforms.

The 148th worked with local communities with STARBASE, and conducted outreach through Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

2020 OBJECTIVES
The 148th will maintain full NORAD Aerospace Control Alert mission readiness support, as well as support aerospace expeditionary and combat support directives. The 148th is preparing and training for the 5th generation manned fighter aircraft. We will be working with the Federal Aviation Administration to expand our airspace, which enables increased instrumentation and communication capabilities.

HEADQUARTERS
Duluth, Minnesota

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Blomquist

ENLISTED LEADER
Command Chief Master Sgt.
Lisa Erikson

STRENGTH
1,044 Airmen

MISSION

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

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 the people in Minnesota are safe.

Ninety-five percent of our total budget comes from the federal government through direct federal funding cooperative agreements. The state general fund accounts for 4.63% of our budget.

STRATEGIES

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

Four programs support these efforts:

- The Maintenance of Military Training Facilities Program maintains the state's facilities used to train and house the members of the Minnesota National Guard and to protect the state's investment in facilities.
- The Enlistment Incentives Program supports and manages the enlistment and retention incentives and tuition reimbursement programs which provide incentives for membership in National Guard.
- Emergency Services funds emergency response activities at the order of the Governor when the National Guard is activated in response to state emergencies.
- General Support provides the general administrative, financial, accounting, budgeting, project management, strategic planning, and human resource support necessary for the operation of the department.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEADQUARTERS	COMMISSIONER	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	STRENGTH
Saint Paul, Minnesota	Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen	Mr. Don Kerr	360 State Employees

NATIONAL AWARDS

- Minnesota National Guard | Army National Guard Top Large State Award for Medical Readiness
- 148th Fighter Wing | National Guard Association Spaatz Trophy
- 148th Fighter Wing | 2019 Gen. Mark A. Welsch III Air Force One Award
- 148th Fighter Wing | Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award
- Camp Ripley | National Guard Bureau Environmental Award
- 210th Engineering Installation Squadron | Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- 34th Military Police Company | 2019 Major General Harry Hill Bandholtz Award
- 1135th Combat Support Company | Philip A. Connelly Award, Army National Guard
- Minnesota National Guard Women's Special Emphasis Council | 2018 National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award
- Sr. Airman Jeffrey Fouts | 2018 U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. T.J. Lobraico Award for Excellence
- Tech Sgt. Amy McMillan | 2018 Air National Guard Athlete of the Year
- Master Sgt. Mark Jurakovich | 2019 Air National Guard Senior NCO of the Year
- Sgt. 1st Class Carinda Horton | National Marketing NCO of the Year
- Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Stiffarm | Society of American Indian Government Employees 2019 Military Meritorious Service Award
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Harry Ballard | Black Engineer of the Year - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference Stars and Stripes Military Service Award
- Maj. Corey Robinson | 2018 National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Individual Award

REGIONAL AWARDS

- Minnesota National Guard | Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Inspiring Efficiency IMPACT Award
- Tech Sgt. Jeff Sprick | Air National Guard Region Two Recruiter of the Year

STATE AWARDS

- Sr. Airman Shane Stedje | Minnesota Air National Guard Airman of the Year
- Spc. Mason Stariha | Minnesota Army National Guard Soldier of the Year
- Staff Sgt. John North | Minnesota Army National Guard NCO of the Year
- Tech Sgt. Maren Solem | Civil Servant of the Year
- Master Sgt. Robert Frey | Minnesota Air National Guard NCO of the Year
- Sr. Master Sgt. Jeffrey Pinger | Minnesota Air National Guard Sr. NCO of the Year
- Capt. Christopher Ziegler | Minnesota Air National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year
- Annette Kuyper | Seven Seals ESGR Award
- Sandra Freeman | Civil Servant of the Year
- Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jason Wright | Civil Servant of the Year
- Brig. Gen. Sandy Best | Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award
- Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen | 2019 Lavender Community Award
- Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen | Seven Seals ESGR Award

The Minnesota National Guard is committed to ensuring that service members and their families are taken care of before, during and after deployment. We do this by offering several touch points and resources where families can go to receive information and assistance.

Prior to deployment, service members and families have the opportunity to attend a family preparation academy to connect with benefits and resources. While the service member is deployed, family members attend a family reintegration academy to help them understand the challenges of reconnecting with their service member.

After deployment, service members and families attend two reintegration events — one to address immediate needs and resources, and another to discuss longer-term issues. Classes at the events deal with job search and resume creation, financial planning, communication and relationship building.

Family Readiness Support Assistants

Minnesota's Family Readiness Support Assistants serve all levels of command in maintaining readiness of Soldiers, families and communities by promoting self-sufficiency, resilience and stability for the unique demands of military life before, during and after deployment. FRSAs work with commanders to bridge the gap between Soldier and Family Readiness Group leaders and the units.

In 2019, FRSAs provided support to 79 Soldier and Family Readiness Groups and 181 statutory volunteers who volunteered 13,198 hours throughout the fiscal year. The team also supported 36 SFRG meetings, 48 family events and 20 Yellow Ribbon reintegration events.

The Minnesota FRSA team hosted Family Readiness Annual Training for 100 attendees in Walker, Minnesota in March. The training focused on self-improvement, as well as perseverance and resilience.

Minnesota Military Family Assistance Centers

Minnesota's Military Family Assistance Centers build relationships with community and area providers, resources, organizations and Yellow Ribbon networks to provide assistance to military members and their families in Minnesota.

There are nine family assistance centers located in

Minnesota: Arden Hills, Bloomington, Cambridge, Camp Ripley, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Mankato, Montevideo and Rosemount.

Family Assistance Center staff attend unit drill weekends and family days to ensure service members and families know where to go for help and what resources are available to them. The FACs conduct monthly outreach to the families of deployed service members, as well as attend Yellow Ribbon reintegration events before and after deployments to ensure families have access to resources throughout deployment.

Child and Youth Programs

The Minnesota National Guard Child and Youth Program positively impacts Soldier and family readiness, resilience and retention by providing secure, timely, flexible and high-quality youth development opportunities and resources.

In 2019, the program served 3,157 youth from all branches of the military. Volunteers from the program donated 11,942 volunteer hours.

In 2019, the Child and Youth Program conducted several outreach events for youth, including a youth pheasant hunt, ice fishing event, tween and family overnights.

The Minnesota Military Teen Panel is comprised of 12-14 military-connected youth who meet quarterly. The panel is empowered to be part of the decision-making process and helps design events and activities for military youth across the state. In 2019, 24 teens attended the Minnesota Teen Summit which focused on overcoming obstacles. In addition to resilience training, the attendees completed several service projects in the local community.

This year the Mall of America hosted a Month of the Military Child event for the third year. Attendees received 1,500 Nickelodeon Universe wristbands and 300 bears from Build-A-Bear Workshop. During the month, military families received 300 Minnesota Timberwolves tickets and 200 Minnesota Twins tickets. The Child and Youth Program also hosted its annual photo and art contest for Month of the Military Child.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

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

The Minnesota National Guard goes beyond just encouraging and recognizing diversity in the organization by placing an added emphasis on ensuring all members of the Minnesota National Guard feel included. Inclusion ensures members know that they are valued for the unique skills and perspectives they bring to the organization.

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

Through these councils, the Minnesota National Guard works to promote leader development and inclusion within the organization. Each council has one or two main events they support or attend each year and also sends members to attend additional community engagements throughout the year.

Special Emphasis Council members are supported by leaders at all levels of the organization and are authorized time to perform these duties during normal duty hours.

The Minnesota National Guard's special emphasis councils are partnering with corporate employee resource groups in established Yellow Ribbon companies. The groups share best practices and serve as another link between Minnesota employers and Minnesota Guardsmen.

Through targeted diversity efforts, the Minnesota National Guard has strengthened its relationships within the Somali community in Minnesota. In 2020, the Minnesota National Guard plans to host an Iftar dinner in conjunction with local Somali leaders.

The Minnesota National Guard has also enhanced its presence in the LGBTQ community through engagement with Lavender Magazine, as well as participation in community events. In 2019, Lavender highlighted several LGBTQ individuals in the Minnesota National Guard to their readers and Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen received a community award for his work as an ally for the LGBTQ community.

In 2019, the Minnesota National Guard expanded its outreach to the Native American community through a cultural exchange at Camp Ripley where members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribes, along with students from several area schools and members of the Minnesota National Guard harvested sage and planted traditional prairie plants near the Mississippi River.

In 2019, the Minnesota National Guard promoted two senior women leaders to general officer positions: Brig. Gen. Stefanie Horvath, the Minnesota National Guard Director of the Joint Staff, and Deputy Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Johanna Clyborne, the first woman to be promoted to the rank of two-star general in the Minnesota National Guard. Additionally, Brig. Gen. Sandy Best, the Minnesota National Guard Chief of Staff Air, accepted a position as the Special Assistant to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau for Diversity and Inclusion.

The adjutant general's junior advisory council is chaired by the adjutant general and managed by the command senior enlisted leader and command chief master sergeant. It is comprised of 22 junior officers and enlisted members throughout the organization and provides the junior members with direct access to senior leaders and an opportunity to provide feedback on matters relating to service member issues and retention.

2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a new member of the Council of Governors for the 2019-2021 term, Governor Walz has taken the lead on championing two of the council's six priorities: increased full-time support for the National Guard and duty status reform. Increased funding authorization for full-time staff will enable units to get closer to our identified requirement levels and is essential to driving the mission readiness of our force. Duty status reform is a multi-year effort that will take our current complex state of over 30 legal authorities to mobilize reserve component (RC) members and simplify it to four or five mobilization categories with the ultimate goal of benefits parity when the RC is tasked to support federal missions.

The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains language that removes the prohibition on eligibility for Tricare Reserve Select for reserve component members who also work as federal technicians. Currently this is the only group prohibited from accessing Tricare as a healthcare option. Having access to Tricare as an option greatly improves flexibility to reserve members and their families when switching between Tricare coverages before, during and after deployments.

The FY20 NDAA also contains language to fix 10 USC 12304(b), a reserve component mobilization authority, to ensure that reserve component members who deploy under this authority are able to get credit for time served on active duty to apply towards reducing the age at which they can collect retired pay on par with other like mobilization authorities in support of federal contingency missions.

The FY2020 Defense Appropriations bill contains an $11 million military construction (MILCON) appropriation for the construction of a new vehicle maintenance facility in New Ulm. This construction will replace an end-of-life facility with a modern and environmentally sustainable facility to meet today's Army requirements.

2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

Ensure that we are focused on People First through:

- Increasing full-time support staff for the Minnesota National Guard
- Restoring the ability of our Soldiers to utilize their earned GI Bill and federal tuition assistance benefits concurrently
- Providing federal tuition assistance to our Airmen
- Achieving maternity leave parity for RC mothers
- Achieving aviation pay parity for our aircrews

Supporting efficient and effective Fiscal & Property Responsibility through:

- 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 C-130H3 Hercules aircraft fleet

MINNESOTA ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor
Tim Walz

Lieutenant Governor
Peggy Flanagan

Attorney General
Keith Ellison

State Auditor
Julie Blaha

Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Senator
Amy Klobuchar

Senator
Tina Smith

Representative, District 1
Jim Hagedorn

Representative, District 2
Angie Craig

Representative, District 3
Dean Phillips

Representative, District 4
Betty McCollum

Representative, District 5
Ilhan Omar

Representative, District 6
Tom Emmer

Representative, District 7
Collin Peterson

Representative, District 8
Pete Stauber

ECONOMIC IMPACT

	Assigned Personnel	Congressional District	State District	Federal Master Cooperative Agreement	State Impact	Federal Impact	Federal Tuition Assistance (people)	Federal Tuition Assistance	State Tuition Assistance (people)	State Tuition Assistance
Albert Lea	99	1	27A	$47,883	$89,146	$2,652,261	16	$49,982	9	$58,740
Alexandria	130	7	08B	$26,930	$33,395	$3,482,766	12	$33,865	2	$11,380
Anoka	146	6	35A	$23,951	$21,973	$3,911,415	20	$53,959	15	$110,120
Appleton	70	7	20A	$61,099	$28,521	$1,875,336	4	$5,708	5	$25,660
Arden Hills	858	4	42A	$16,571,192	$198,362	$22,986,259	112	$270,360	79	$495,770
Austin	137	1	27B	$37,861	$102,008	$3,670,300	14	$40,140	11	$64,189
Bemidji	105	7	05A	$118,473	$68,042	$2,813,004	9	$20,206	8	$36,548
Bloomington	288	3	50B	$50,709	$104,100	$7,715,667	43	$117,102	27	$152,242
Brainerd	218	8	10A	$92,893	$84,396	$5,840,332	25	$64,463	19	$103,127
Brooklyn Park	93	3	36B	$222,811	$105,953	$2,491,518	12	$29,868	6	$49,512
Cambridge	252	8	32A	$91,919	$610,381	$6,751,209	28	$69,569	17	$81,918
Chisholm	157	8	06A	$31,810	$36,957	$4,206,110	11	$34,372	7	$29,016
Cloquet	109	8	11A	$49,043	$40,740	$2,920,166	9	$26,526	9	$43,694
Cottage Grove	204	2	54A	$90,234	$180,370	$5,465,264	36	$94,497	30	$187,493
Crookston	105	7	01B	$45,183	$44,371	$2,813,004	10	$33,469	7	$35,293
Detroit Lakes	72	7	04B	$353,821	$79,591	$1,928,917	7	$21,507	5	$21,073
Duluth	416	8	03B	$53,690	$83,340	$11,144,853	43	$113,074	21	$108,017
Duluth (Air Base)	1,044	8	03B	$6,215,466	$420,828	$73,203,836	0	$0	193	$792,904
Fairmont	112	1	23A	$67,592	$624,726	$3,000,537	7	$21,476	4	$26,996
Faribault	257	1	24B	$137,476	$261,192	$6,885,161	18	$45,236	7	$19,300
Fergus Falls	80	7	08A	$26,399	$25,327	$2,143,241	6	$13,323	8	$22,992
Grand Rapids	86	8	05B	$53,636	$77,803	$2,303,984	6	$18,543	2	$8,919
Hastings	67	2	21A	$28,729	$31,981	$1,794,964	7	$19,002	5	$40,942
Hibbing	97	8	06A	$74,269	$36,414	$2,598,680	6	$16,023	3	$11,678
Hutchinson	83	7	18B	$30,632	$28,128	$2,223,612	8	$20,444	4	$39,209
Inver Grove Heights	136	2	52B	$58,616	$53,596	$3,643,510	16	$34,251	11	$39,943
Jackson	111	1	23A	$39,067	$43,773	$2,973,747	14	$43,096	10	$53,340
Litchfield	137	7	18A	$21,433	$20,566	$3,670,300	15	$53,299	4	$17,439
Little Falls (Camp Ripley)	1360	8	09B	$45,086,472	$3,675,338	$36,435,096	128	$348,186	67	$361,907
Luverne	62	1	22A	$22,380	$32,096	$1,661,012	6	$19,512	6	$23,065
Madison	83	7	16A	$75,363	$56,834	$2,223,612	10	$25,903	9	$34,052
Mankato	189	1	19B	$152,046	$230,569	$5,063,407	37	$111,172	35	$206,882
Marshall	82	7	16A	$27,939	$43,056	$2,196,822	5	$14,081	7	$25,101
Minneapolis	208	5	60A	$65,927	$121,909	$5,572,426	17	$34,105	17	$108,850
Mpls/St Paul (Air Base)	1,219	5	63B	$3,307,586	$571,643	$71,600,973	0	$0	132	$1,188,313
Montevideo	108	7	17A	$128,653	$134,520	$2,893,375	19	$58,155	16	$82,139
Monticello	161	6	29B	$3,304	$41,667	$4,313,272	25	$65,577	8	$34,177
Moorhead	207	7	04A	$77,407	$86,251	$5,545,636	31	$91,079	19	$143,883
Morris	62	7	12A	$50,284	$564,731	$1,661,012	8	$21,429	8	$35,819
New Ulm	114	1	16B	$301,948	$40,910	$3,054,118	12	$38,486	12	$73,362
Olivia	63	7	17A	$24,463	$29,711	$1,687,802	5	$15,120	4	$16,913
Ortonville	84	7	12A	$45,185	$79,382	$2,250,403	16	$40,789	7	$60,364
Owatonna	79	1	24A	$27,946	$36,001	$2,116,450	16	$38,713	9	$56,124
Pine City	120	8	11B	$24,523	$27,222	$3,214,861	13	$37,671	3	$12,641
Pipestone	57	7	22A	$21,192	$27,427	$1,527,059	5	$11,667	2	$11,142
Red Wing	117	2	21A	$26,160	$27,862	$3,134,490	21	$57,350	10	$61,396
Redwood Falls	63	7	16B	$34,462	$422,507	$1,687,802	5	$14,427	4	$20,030
Rochester	157	1	26A	$252,922	$54,251	$4,206,110	11	$30,550	11	$63,381
Rosemount	567	2	57B	$215,588	$132,182	$15,190,220	33	$82,840	42	$197,777
Roseville	0	4	66A	$0	$9,163	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Sauk Centre	76	6	14B	$26,994	$23,874	$2,036,079	6	$21,989	8	$67,104
Saint Cloud	367	7	15B	$1,620,967	$559,795	$9,832,118	26	$72,544	29	$162,588
Saint James	77	1	23B	$27,282	$391,422	$2,062,869	10	$22,403	4	$8,182
Saint Paul (& East St. Paul)	924	4	65B	$6,966,307	$15,149,038	$24,754,433	91	$214,756	77	$488,425
Saint Peter	70	1	19A	$997,027	$1,781,990	$1,875,336	5	$15,230	6	$26,382
Stillwater	455	6	39B	$94,241	$189,134	$12,189,683	49	$139,130	39	$188,164
Thief River Falls	67	7	01A	$31,299	$43,176	$1,794,964	6	$18,412	5	$33,705
Wadena	82	8	09A	$9,645	$1,358,032	$2,196,822	8	$21,843	5	$18,973
West Saint Paul	167	2	52A	$57,351	$94,230	$4,474,015	28	$71,524	13	$81,008
Willmar	87	7	17B	$79,750	$42,431	$2,330,775	5	$13,222	3	$19,607
Winona	159	1	28A	$36,755	$63,729	$4,259,691	23	$66,155	11	$58,049

IMPACT TOTALS

13,362
Assigned Personnel

$84,642,187
Federal Master Cooperative Agreement

$29,678,063
State Impact

$442,152,696
Federal Impact

1,194
Federal Tuition Assistance (people)

$3,197,380
Federal Tuition Assistance

1,156
State Tuition Assistance (people)

$6,656,959
State Tuition Assistance

$559,670,327
TOTAL IMPACT

$41,885
IMPACT PER TROOP

94.7%
FEDERAL FUNDING

5.3%
STATE FUNDING

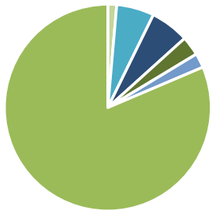
STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

RANK

- Junior Enlisted (53%)
- Mid-grade Noncommissioned Officer (29%)
- Officer (11%)
- Senior-grade Noncommissioned Officer (7%)

RACE

- White/Caucasian (81%)
- Asian (6%)
- Black or African American (6%)
- Hispanic/Latino (3%)
- Unknown (2%)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%)



SEX

- Male (72%)
- Female (28%)

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

Federal Impact | 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.

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.

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

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 have been used. Figures reflect the location of the service member's unit.

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

At 1:55 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, a Minnesota National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter took off from the Saint Cloud Airport to conduct a maintenance test flight. Shortly after takeoff, the pilots initiated a mayday call and contact was lost with the aircraft. Local emergency responders initiated a search and rescue operation and located the aircraft southwest of St. Cloud at 4:15 p.m. The three Minnesota National Guard members onboard the helicopter were confirmed deceased.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord, age 30

Warrant Officer Candidate Kort M. Plantenberg, age 28

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers Jr., age 28

All three Soldiers recently returned from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East, where their unit, Company C, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, conducted medical evacuations in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord was born June 6, 1989 in Breckenridge, Minnesota. He graduated from Perham High School in 2007. He enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard on Aug. 24, 2007, as an M1 Abrams tank armor crewman. In 2016, he became a warrant officer as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter aeromedical evacuation pilot.

Warrant Officer Candidate Kort M. Plantenberg was born March 21, 1991 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He graduated from Albany Area High School in 2009. He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard on March 1, 2016, as an aircraft electrician. Plantenberg was a member of the Minnesota National Guard biathlon team and was preparing to start the state warrant officer program with plans to attend flight school afterwards.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers Jr. was born June 23, 1991 in Madelia, Minnesota. He graduated from St. James High School in 2010. He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard on June 5, 2009, as a field artillery specialist. In 2013, he became a warrant officer as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot.

DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS

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