

Click to move to Slide 1: Introduction

Good afternoon. I am _____ and today I will be leading you in a presentation we call Guard 101. The purpose of this presentation is to educate you on the Minnesota National Guard's mission, priorities, major commands, and service member care.

Click to move to Slide 2: Who are we?

The Minnesota National Guard is compiled of more than 13,000 citizen Airmen and Soldiers who serve three missions: federal, state, and community.

We are your neighbors, your classmates, your friends and family. We serve the country, state, and community while also fulfilling our responsibilities to our civilian employers and communities.

Click to move to Slide 3: What do we do?

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

The Army and Air National Guard are different from the other reserve components in that the National Guard also works for the Governor of the State of Minnesota and is available to respond to the call of the Governor to report for state active duty in response to domestic emergencies within the state of Minnesota.

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

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

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

We go to the same basic training, we attend the same schools, we have the same fitness and educational standards. Our units must achieve the same readiness standard.

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

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

No other military force does that.

Your Minnesota National Guard is strong.

Minnesotans also answer the call to service.

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

Click to move to Slide 4: Where are we located?

While deployments, training, and exercises take us outside of the state of Minnesota. All of our armories and wings are located inside the state.

Click to move to Slide 5: It Will Zoom in to the State of Minnesota

Click to move to Slide 6: It Will Move to the State of Minnesota with Cities Labeled

The Minnesota National Guard has a presence in 58 communities across the state.

During this presentation I will introduce you to each of our Major Commands.

First, we will start with those located in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

Click to move to Slide 7: It Will Zoom Into the Metro Area

Click to move to Slide 8: It will Move to Joint Force Headquarters

First up is Joint Force Headquarters.

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

Click to move to Slide 9: It will Move to 34th Red Bull Infantry Division

The Rosemount-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division oversees the training and operations of ten National Guard brigades in six different states - a total of 23,000 soldiers in all. In Minnesota, the division includes the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Combat Aviation

Brigade, 84th Troop Command and the 347th Regional Support Group. The 34th Infantry Division is capable of deploying its Main Command Post, Tactical Command Post and Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion to provide command and control for Army brigades.

Click to move to Slide 10: It will Move to 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

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

Click to move to Slide 11: It will Move to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team

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

Click to move to Slide 12: It will Move to 347th Regional Support Group

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

Click to move to Slide 13: It will Move to 133rd Airlift Wing

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

Click to move to Slide 14: It will Move Back to the Map of the State with Cities Labeled

Click to move to Slide 15: It will Zoom to the City of Cambridge

Click to move to Slide 16: It will Move to 84th Troop Command

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

Click to move to Slide 17: It will Move Back to the Map of the State with Cities Labeled

Click to move to Slide 18: It will Zoom to Camp Ripley

Click to move to Slide 19: It will Move to Camp Ripley Training Center

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

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

In addition to partnerships with the Minnesota Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Corrections, Education, Health and Natural Resources, many local law enforcement agencies also train at Camp Ripley. New partnerships are added each year.

Camp Ripley is well known for its excellent hunting and fishing. Several annual outdoor sporting events honor service members and wounded veterans, including the “Trolling for the Troops” fishing event in June and the “Deployed Soldiers’ Turkey Hunt” in May. Members of the community can also take advantage of the deer hunting opportunities at Camp Ripley.

Click to move to Slide 20: It will Move to 175th Regional Training Institute

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

Click to move to Slide 21: It will Move Back to the Map of the State with Cities Labeled

Click to move to Slide 22: It will Zoom to the City of Duluth

Click to move to Slide 23: It will Move to the 148th Fighter Wing

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

Click to move to Slide 24: What are our priorities?

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

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

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

We are fiscally responsible, environmentally conscious and community focused in all we do. We develop meaningful relationships with stakeholders and our communities and build partnerships with local, state, national and international organizations.

Click to move to Slide 25: Zoom in to People First

Click to move to Slide 26: People First

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 and federal missions. Each of our more than 13,000 members are valuable and contribute to the success of the organization.

Click to move to Slide 27: Diversity & Inclusion

Falling under our People First priority is our commitment to Diversity & Inclusion.

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.

Click to move to Slide 28: Recruiting and Retention

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 NCOs 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, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion is making an increased effort to let Recruit Sustainment Program Soldiers know about college and career opportunities to motivate Soldiers to continue their service.

Click to move to Slide 29: What are our priorities?

Click to move to Slide 30: Zoom in to Leader Development

Click to move to Slide 31: Leader Development

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 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.

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.

Additionally 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.

Click to move to Slide 32: What are our priorities?

Click to move to Slide 33: Zoom in to Organizational Safety & Security

Click to move to Slide 34: Organizational Safety & Security

The Minnesota National Guard is continuously making security upgrades and improvements to its facilities and infrastructure to ensure the safety of the Guardsmen who serve in our organization. We maintain detailed plans and conduct training to ensure we are ready to respond to any potential threats to safety.

Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention has become an increasing priority for the Guard. 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 last year. 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. Incrementally our conversations and awareness on this important topic continue to grow and enter the larger conversation about sexual assault in the community as we engage with local agencies and organizations to come up with better solutions to address this complex issue.

Cyber Security will also continue to be a safety priority. 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.

Click to move to Slide 35: What are our priorities?

Click to move to Slide 36: Zoom in to Fiscal & Property Responsibility

Click to move to Slide 37: Fiscal & Property Responsibility

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.

Click to move to Slide 38: What are our priorities?

Click to move to Slide 39: Zoom in to Communicate & Partner

Click to move to Slide 40: Communicate & Partner

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

Due to the Coronavirus this year, we postponed what would have been our 47th anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard Reciprocal troop exchange.

This is the longest-running military exchange in the world, and we are already planning for our 50th anniversary.

We also have a special relationship with Croatia.

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

Croatia is now a full NATO member and joined the European Union in 2013. In 2016, we celebrated the 20-year anniversary of this critical partnership.

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

Click to move to Slide 41: How do we support our service members and their families?

At the Minnesota National Guard, we like to say: "People first, mission always."

In order to accomplish our mission, we have to take care of our Soldiers and Airmen.

Now I will talk about how we do that.

Click to move to Slide 42: Family Programs

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.

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.

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.

Click to Move to Slide 43: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

The cornerstone of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen is Minnesota's homegrown "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Networks have formed across the state in communities, companies and counties to partner on meeting the needs of service members, veterans and military families.

Volunteer community networks work closely with our internal and external support partners to synchronize community resources to fill gaps in services and support to service members, veterans and military family members. The program has expanded since its inception in 2008.

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company program recognizes companies who meet state requirements by creating sustainable action plans to recruit and hire skilled veteran and service member leaders, support military connected employees in the workplace and partner with Yellow Ribbon Networks in the communities they serve.

Since the city of Farmington was proclaimed the first Yellow Ribbon Community Network in December 2008 - 94 networks, encompassing more than 240 cities and 27 counties have completed the process of being recognized as a Yellow Ribbon Community.

Since Target Corporation became the first Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company in 2008, over 71 companies across the state have made over and above commitments to serve those who are military connected.

Minnesota's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program has become a national model of building relationships in communities across the state in sharing resources to ensure no service members, veteran or military family member feels isolated or alone.

Click to move to Slide 44: Education Benefits

In addition to federal tuition benefits in the form of the G.I. Bill and federal tuition assistance, we are very proud of Minnesota's State Tuition Reimbursement program. This unique reimbursement program offers National Guard members reimburse up to 100% of the undergraduate rate of the University of Minnesota and up to 50% of the graduate rate. The Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement program is a key tool for our recruiters.

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

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

Click to move to beginning of the presentation:

I've spent the last several minutes giving you the overview of the Minnesota National Guard's two pronged mission – both state and federal, as well as a look at our organizational priorities, major commands, and service member care.

We are a 13,000 member organization, made up Soldiers and Airmen that live, work and serve in our communities, and are ready to answer the call when our state and nation need us.

What are you questions?