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# **DMA Support Our Troops Account Briefing**

**3 March 2017**



# Agenda

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- 1. Statutory History and Background**
- 2. Role of Minnesota Military Family Foundation (MMFF)**
- 3. Other Grants**
- 4. Summary of 2016 Report**
- 5. Disbursement History**
- 6. Questions**



# Background

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- **“Support Our Troops” Account established by Legislature in 2005, Minnesota Statute 190.19.**
  
- **Special revenue fund, license plate sales, half to Military Affairs, half to Veterans Affairs**
  
- **Four purposes for Department of Military Affairs:**
  1. **Grants directly to eligible individuals.**
  2. **Grants to one or more eligible foundations for the purpose of making grants to eligible individuals.**
  3. **Veterans’ services.**
  4. **Grants to family readiness groups chartered by the Adjutant General.**



# Role of MMFF

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- **The Minnesota Military Family Foundation functions as an “eligible foundation” to determine eligibility and distribute grants to individuals**
- **Requests for assistance are initiated by Minnesota National Guard Family Assistance Centers, which are staffed by federal contract employees who provide assistance to all service branches and components in Minnesota.**
- **Requests generally are directed to the foundation once the local assistance mechanisms have been exhausted.**
- **Once the Family Assistance Center validates the request and the servicemember or family member need, the request is forwarded to the MMFF board. The board considers the request and either approves or denies the request.**
- **If approved, the board makes payment, generally to a vendor, not usually the servicemember directly**



# Other Grants

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- **To Unit Family Readiness Groups as described in statute**
- **For “Veterans Services”:**
  - **In 2013, the Adjutant General determined that Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counsellor (LDAC) support was critical to support our servicemembers who were struggling with dependency. No federal resources were available for this support, and this was an appropriate “veterans service” to qualify for this funding. Initially one counsellor was hired, and due to demand, a second counsellor was added in 2014**
  - **In 2014, the Adjutant General determined that a process to consider other requests for grants for “veterans services” be established. After consultation with the Department of Administration, the Support Our Troops Grant Board was established. The board considers requests, and determines whether or not the requests meet the criteria established in their charter, and either approves or denies the requests. If approved, a grant is provided for the veterans service, and the recipient organization reports their performance based on the terms established by the board.**



# Summary of 2016 Report - Grants Through MMFF

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- The MMFF received a total 151 requests.
- Of these, 58 met the requirements.
- The total requested was \$146,204 but after the \$2,000 cap, \$109,863 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. \$36,341 was paid using funds from private donations to MMFF.
- The requests are categorized by the most serious need.

▪ Mortgage/Rent	19
▪ Vehicle Repair	12
▪ Emergency Home/Appliance	8
▪ Medical/Dental	3
▪ Utilities	2
▪ Daycare	2
▪ <u>General Bill Paying/Special Needs</u>	<u>12</u>
▪ <b>Total Grants</b>	<b>58</b>



# Summary of 2016 Report – Other Grants

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- **\$139,200.95 were expended for wages, fringe, and miscellaneous costs for two LDACs**
- **\$23,072.89 to the Armed Services center at MSP International Airport to provide food to military members.**
- **\$37,000.00 to the Minnesota Military Museum**
- **\$24,400.00 to the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Charity to fund six approved flyovers by World War II era aircraft at Veteran events.**
- **\$50,000.00 to the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Charity to fund a portion of two of the Honor Flight iterations carrying World War II veterans to Washington, D.C.**
- **\$50,000.00 to Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp to support camp participation by Minnesota National Guard family members.**
- **\$55,000.00 to Minnesota Military Radio Hour for expanded coverage to further reach veterans and citizens of Minnesota with service member and veteran-oriented programming, and support travel to deployed locations to produce radio shows.**
- **\$25,000.00 to Defending the Blue Line to provide 50 scholarships for hockey equipment, tickets, and hockey camps for children of military families.**
- **\$57,250.00 to the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation to fund a contract with a museum archival technician and data entry clerk to inventory and catalogue the museum artifacts and archives.**
- **\$16,467.50 was disbursed to the Serving Our Troops organization to provide meals for Minnesota National Guard soldiers and their families either serving overseas or preparing for deployment.**
- **19 Family Support Group Grants of \$1000.00 each**



# Income and Disbursement History

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**See Spreadsheet**