

# MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL REPORT 2010



NEW  
DIRECTIONS

## To the Citizens of Minnesota

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### Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard Nash

4,919,479 Minnesotans like this.



To the Citizens of Minnesota:

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

More than 22,000 Minnesota Guard members have served overseas since 9/11. Most have seen combat. Many have served three or four tours. What was a strategic reserve during the Cold War is today a fully operational component of the total force.

Recruits now join the Minnesota National Guard because they want to be part of the fight. They desire to serve their community, their state, their nation.

We have countless families to thank for supporting their sons, daughters, mothers and fathers as they serve. Employers of deployed Soldiers and Airman also deserve our state and nation's gratitude. Most of all, we have Guard members themselves to salute. They have left their families at home, put their careers on hold and risked their lives for their country.

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

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

### Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty

4,919,479 Minnesotans like this.



To the Minnesota National Guard:

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

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

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

**Richard Nash** is humbled to have just been sworn in as Minnesota's 30th Adjutant General this morning. The Minnesota National Guard has a long and proud history and I couldn't be more honored to lead the fine men and women of this organization.  
Nov. 1 - Like - Comment

**Robert Eidsvoog** Minnesota is honored by having back-to-back quality Commanders as Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard.  
Oct. 4 - Like - Comment

**Rich Hall** Congratulations on becoming the 30th Adjutant General of Minnesota. You are an inspiration to the Soldiers and Airmen. A True Leader.  
Oct. 22 - Like - Comment

Watch Minnesota Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Minnesota National Guard swear in Maj. Gen. Rick Nash as Minnesota's 30th Adjutant General at:  
YouTube.com/watch?v=OJALQ4GxgA

**Tim Pawlenty** Today, Mary and I remember all those who have served our nation in uniform to defend freedom and keep us safe. To all the servicemen and women around the world, and their families, thank you for your strength, courage, patriotism and honor.  
Nov. 11 - Like - Comment

407 people like this.

**Pamela Ernst** Thanks for all you and Mary have done for the Minnesota National Guard. You can not even imagine how much that support meant while they were deployed in Iraq.  
Nov. 11 - Like - Comment

**Jerret Wright** Thank you for your support sir! - your Marine friend  
Nov. 11 - Like - Comment

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## Maj. Gen. Richard Nash

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### 2011 Priorities

13,663 Airmen and Soldiers like this.



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

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



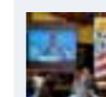
#### We must continue to work toward an optimal force structure.

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



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

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



#### Continue to grow, coordinate and communicate our "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program.

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



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

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



#### Develop capacity to combat the emerging cyber warfare threat.

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

## Maj. Gen. Richard Nash's Albums



Bosnia

Iraq

Community

Installation Ceremony



Minnesota National Guard 2010 Accomplishments

Wall Info Photos Discussions Video

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash and 4,919,479 Minnesotans like this.



Transportation Company welcomed home with award

It was two days of celebration for the 114th Transportation Company. The hometown community held a welcome home ceremony for the unit at the Chisholm High School on Sept. 19th and then the 114th Trans. Co. was recognized as 'Best Transportation Unit' in the Army in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 20th.

September 19 • Like • Comment • Share

7 people like this.

Andrea Swanson welcome home! and thank you so much!  
September 21 • Like • Comment



Minnesota Army National Guard takes 4th at All Army Combatives Tournament

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

October 3 • Like • Comment • Share

Sgt. Maj. Padilla and 8 other people like this.

Minnesota earns award for excellence

The Minnesota National Guard was awarded the Army Communities of Excellence Award for the fourth time.

April Corniea likes this.



1/34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion is awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation award

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army General John W. Vessey Jr., with the assistance of 1st Brigade commander Col. Eric Kerska, attaches the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the battalion colors at a ceremony Aug. 15 at Camp Ripley.

August 15 • Like • Comment • Share

10 people like this.

Debbie Mericle, Hooah! Hearing this makes me so proud to be an American citizen. But also, because my son is part of the 34th Infantry Division. He has not deployed yet, but I am so proud of him for being a part of this.  
April 16 • Like • Comment

Rusty Ramirez Congratulations! You are the best!  
August 17 • Like • Comment

Guardman earns award for Iraq coverage

Spc. J.P. Lawrence was presented with a Thomas Jefferson Award in recognition of being the 'Best Sports Writer' in the Department of Defense.

October 3 • Like • Comment • Share

Lt. Col. Kevin Olson and MNNG Public Affairs likes this.



208th Weather Flight receives award

The National Guard Association awarded the 133rd Airlift Wing's 208th Weather Flight the United States Distinguished Mission Support Plaque for 2010.

December 11 • Like • Comment • Share

Col. Greg Haase likes this.



Minnesota National Guard 2010 Accomplishments

Wall Info Photos Discussions Video

Fellow Servicemembers around the nation like this.



Watch Sgt. Joe Roos' "Troop" music video at: [YouTube.com/watch?v=uiCYEXs\\_FwE](http://YouTube.com/watch?v=uiCYEXs_FwE)

National Guard Bureau recognizes Minnesota Guardsmen

Four Minnesotans were recognized at the 2010 National Guard Bureau's Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Opportunity Training Workshop. Lt. Col. Trancey Williams was recognized as the National Guard Bureau State Equal Employment Manager of the Year. Also honored was Maj. Mark Hesser, Director of Equal Opportunity at the St. Paul-based 133rd Airlift Wing and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Campos. The final Minnesotan recognized was Sgt. Joe Roos, a 34th Infantry Division Soldier, named the 2009 Equal Opportunity Advisor of the Year.

September 3 • Like • Comment • Share

Lt. Col. Trancey Williams likes this.

148th Earns Outstanding Unit Award

The 148th Fighter Wing earned its seventh Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The recognition is awarded annually to 10% of Air Force units which have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

January 27 • Like • Comment • Share



Col. Frank Stokes likes this.



Supply Excellence

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

Col. Shawn Kempenich, J-4 likes this.

Master Sgt. Raeline Davis, Senior Supply Sgt. Her management style and interpersonal communication were an asset through the competition and during her tenure with the RSG.  
June 19 • Like • Comment

208th Weather Flight members lead by example

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

June 24 • Like • Comment • Share

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



148th Firefighter named Air Guard's "Best"

Master Sgt. Mark Watzcak, Assistant Fire Chief of the 148th Fighter Wing, was recognized as Military Fire Fighter of the Year by the Air National Guard Fire Chief's Association and presented with "The Chief Albert Fitzpatrick" Award.

November 22 • Like • Comment • Share

Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander likes this.



257th MPs earn both Soldier and NCO of the Year

After four long and highly competitive days at Camp Ripley, the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year were announced by Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills, Minnesota National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj.

The 2010 Soldier of the Year is Spc. Geoffrey Latsch, 257th Military Police Company, a native of Big Lake, Minn. The 2010 NCO of the Year is Sgt. Jeremy Swanson, 257th Military Police Company, a native of Buffalo.

April 18 • Like • Comment • Share

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

Command Sgt. Major Scott Mills, When people ask me about the Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard, it is Soldiers just like these that I tell them about, because I believe that we have the greatest Soldiers around. All of these competitors gave it their all. I am proud of each and every one of them.  
April 18 • Like • Comment



**Joint Force Headquarters**

- Wall
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- Video

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



**Joint Force Headquarters**

The Minnesota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters is a joint Army and Air National Guard command headquartered in St. Paul. They provide personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and resource guidance and support to the Major Commands in the Minnesota National Guard. Joint Force Headquarters coordinates military support at the request of the Governor in the event of a disaster and is capable of providing a joint command staff for federal military forces operating within the State of Minnesota.

**Col. (Ret) Bill Hose** We issued 171 iPads to leadership in the Minnesota National Guard to enhance communications within the organization. December 11 • Like • Comment

**Lt. Col. Greg Thingvold** Minnesota processed 2,128 packets for Post-Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence Program reimbursement, over two and a half times the number of packets any other state processed. We did this to ensure that all Soldiers were afforded an opportunity to claim this hard-earned benefit. December 11 • Like • Comment



**Counterdrug Task Force**

The Minnesota National Guard Counterdrug Program adds value to our local communities by working hard to support Minnesota's law enforcement agencies, schools and community organizations fighting against the sale and use of illegal drugs in Minnesota, narco-terrorism and other drug related activities.

In 2010, the team supported 91 organizations and presented an anti-drug message to 17,225 Minnesota youth. They also provided free training to 2,393 law enforcement officers, first responders, community organization members, and military members.

**Michele Leonhart, DEA Acting Administrator** Red Ribbon week is a time to remember those who have given everything in the fight against dangerous drugs. We wear the Red Ribbon to symbolize our dedication to living healthy, drug-free lives. October 28 • Like • Comment



**Operational Mentoring Liaison Team**

Minnesota National Guard Soldiers teamed with the Croatian Armed Forces as an extension of the State Partnership Program to develop and field a combined Operational Mentoring Liaison Team. These Soldiers served alongside their Croatian partners in Afghanistan as part of the NATO International Security Assistance Force.

**Minnesota Military Radio Hour** Learn how the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian military are teaming up to train the Afghan National Army (ANA). [www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com](http://www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com) November 18 • Like • Comment • Share

**First Lady Mary Pawlenty, creator of Military Family Care Initiative** We want you to know that we care and Minnesota cares deeply. October 21 • Like • Comment

**Sgt. 1st Class Michael Turnipseed, OMLT II** In our 35 joint patrols, our team has learned many lessons which have helped us sharpen our tactics, techniques and procedures and modify our standard operating procedures. April 19 • Like • Comment

**Jon S Helgeson** I am very proud of my Grandson, Keith Berven, for volunteering for the OMLT team. November 28 • Like • Comment



**Camp Ripley Training Center**

- Wall
- Info**
- Photos
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- Video

Morrison County, Crow Wing County and Cass County likes this.



**Camp Ripley Training Center**

Fifty-three thousand acres just north of Little Falls, Minnesota, provides the best training facility in the region for military and civil authorities. This year, Camp Ripley hosted two exportable Combat Training Center exercises for the 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams to prepare them for their upcoming missions. Some of the many improvements included construction of nine houses for billeting troops, an Air Traffic Control Tower, important range and training resource improvements, expanded fire and emergency service capabilities and additional simulation systems.

**Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauver, Camp Ripley Post Commander** If you haven't been to Camp Ripley in the last year, you haven't been to Camp Ripley. June 5 • Like • Comment

**Col. Eric Kerska, 1st BCT Commander** Camp Ripley provides a great training location. November 23 • Like • Comment

**New Commander among changes at Camp Ripley**

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



**Camp Ripley receives award for protecting land around it**

Concerns over housing developments encroaching on military training fields led camp officials to seek support in developing a buffer around it. The effort and a three county partnership in buffer development from Morrison, Crow Wing and Cass counties, recently received statewide recognition. The project earned the 2009 County Conservation award from the Association of Minnesota Counties and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

**John Jaschke, Water & Resources Board Director** These award recipients are all good examples of innovative solutions to local natural resource concerns. January 7 • Like • Comment



**Tribute to the Troops**

More than 350 motorcyclists came to Camp Ripley on Sept. 12, 2010 as part of the 7th Annual Tribute to the Troops ride. They were taking part in the ride to support Families of fallen Soldiers from Minnesota.

**Sgt. Stacey Langner, Training Support Unit** It really warms my heart to see the kind of support that these people give us. It's something they are passionate about and they care so much about us. September 12 • Like • Comment

**Col. Richard Weaver** After seven years at Camp Ripley it's going to be hard for me to leave a great place. I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time; transition in the Army, transition of the Guard after 9-11, things really seemed to fall into place. We have a lot of new facilities here on post, a lot of new ranges, and the way we train Soldiers has changed over the last seven years. It's a great organization and I am really happy to have been part of it.

**Nicole Nizzi** Good luck, Colonel. March 29 • Like • Comment

**Dan Cisar** I have a couple of youth campers here that wish you luck Colonel! March 29 • Like • Comment

**Stefanie Crowley Demeule** Thank you for your dedication and devotion. Wishing you the best in all future endeavors. March 29 • Like • Comment

**Camp Ripley Training Albums**



Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division conduct grenade training at Camp Ripley Aug. 6, 2010. The Soldiers are training for deployment in 2011.

The Norwegian Youth Home Guard learn how to build temporary shelters as part of cold weather field exercises taught during the Norwegian Exchange Program in February. Camp Ripley has hosted Servicemembers from all over the world as part of Minnesota's State Partnership program.

Soldiers with A Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion participate in Quick Reaction Force (QRF) State Active Duty training on July 21, 2010. The QRF is trained to provide security and crowd control.

Spc. Tiara Winn and her fellow 34th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers qualified as Combat Lifesavers during their annual training period at Camp Ripley, Minnesota in July.



## Minnesota Air National Guard Units

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Air Mobility Command likes this.



### 133rd Airlift Wing

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard unit headquartered in St. Paul, that operates C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft. The Wing deployed 473 Airmen to 11 countries world-wide, executing 62,051 total days serving in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Coronet Oak, Joint Enterprise, Deep Freeze and Unified Response. During Operation Enduring Freedom missions, Airmen logged 1,581 combat sorties and 1,773 flying hours, transporting 18,803 passengers and 4,693 tons of cargo, 443 via airdrop; executed 415 combat missions for U.S. and Coalition forces, including airdrops at 300 feet altitude, enabling ground forces to continuously stay in the fight. Airmen logged 121 hours flown during 39 sorties to flood-ravaged Tajikistan and Pakistan, providing critical disaster relief. The 133rd Airlift Wing was one of the first military units responding to earthquake torn Haiti, transporting 143 tons of cargo and 195 passengers, including refugees, utilizing night vision capabilities that enabled 24 hour operations.



**Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Mills** Thank you National Guard Bureau Command CMSgt Jelinski-Hall for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit our Soldiers and Airmen. It is obvious you care about the well-being of our Servicemembers.  
November 21 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/133aw

### 148th Fighter Wing

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



#### 148th Fighter Wing earns top Family Readiness Award

The Family Readiness Group at the 148th Fighter Wing has been awarded the Department of Defense Family Readiness Award. The Family Readiness Award recognizes the top unit in each of the seven reserve components, for demonstrating outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness.

**Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Wing Commander** The 148th Fighter Wing "Bulldogs" are very honored to be selected for this award. Our mission success is critically dependent on the training & well-being of our Airmen. It's imperative that we do all we can to take care of them and ensure their families are supported.  
January 10 • Like • Comment



#### Duluth-based 148th to get newer batch of F-16 fighters

DULUTH - After being recommended for closure just five years ago, the 148th Fighter Wing has upgraded planes on the way. The Block-50 F-16s will modernize the fleet and help secure the 148th's future. The older F-16 is on its way out at the 148th Fighter Wing.

**Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard** You don't see many chambers who recognize their local military. Thanks for taking care of the (Servicemen and women) that make Duluth a rich community.  
October 25 • Like • Comment

**John Laurin** That's great news for the base's future! Congrats!  
November 1 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/148fw



## Minnesota Army National Guard Units

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Don Shelby likes this.

### 34th Red Bull Infantry Division

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, based in Rosemount, oversees the training and operations of eight National Guard brigades in six different states. Known as the "Red Bulls," the 34th Infantry Division completed their deployment to Iraq in February. More than 1,200 Soldiers redeployed to Minnesota and completed their Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Training. Brig. Gen. David Elicerio took command of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. Richard Nash in October. The change in leadership marks the transformation to a new structure, which further aligned the division with the multi-component structure that will be the framework for future military operations.



**Jim Ruether** I have been all over this country and parts of the world. When I wear my Red Bull Cap, I am amazed at the people who come up and say they know someone who served or served themselves.  
July 26 • Like • Comment



**James Wosika** I am very proud of the 34th Inf. Div., my son was in B Co., 2-136 CAB in Fallujah, Iraq. KIA 1-9-07. Also, your folks put a street sign with his name on it in Basra on your base. Thank You so much for that. You guys are #1 in my book.  
January 26 • Like • Comment

**Brig. Gen. David Elicerio, 34th Infantry Division Commanding General** Mr. Wosika, James will never be forgotten by the Red Bulls!  
January 27 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id



### 1st Brigade Combat Team

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



**Minnesota Public Radio** Soldiers with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 194th Armor, in St. Cloud participate in training that prepares them for their deployment in Spring 2011. The training exercise is meant to prepare National Guard Soldiers with as many war-like experiences as possible before they deploy. It also helps build their confidence with the weapons and with each other.  
November 22 • Like • Comment

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/11/22/minnesota-national-guard-red-bulls-training-deployment/>



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/1bct



## Minnesota Army National Guard Units

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United States Forces - Iraq and International Security Assistance Force - Afghanistan likes this.

### 34th Combat Aviation Brigade

The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade, headquartered in St. Paul, supports the state of Minnesota with aerial fire suppression, reconnaissance, flood assistance, search and rescue and other emergency requests. The Saint Cloud-based [Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment](#), departed in November for a deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. Flying CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopters, the Company B mission is to provide aerial movement of troops, equipment and supplies for support of maneuver, combat and combat service support operations.



**Minnesota National Guard** Our Chinook company has deployed to Iraq! A departure ceremony was held for the eighty deploying Soldiers on Nov. 27, 2010.  
November 29 • Like • Comment

**Maj. Gen. Rick Nash** This company proved their mettle in a previous deployment. It is that determination which will carry them through this one.  
November 27 • Like • Comment

**Capt. Nate Foster, Company B Commander** I am very fortunate to lead a highly-trained group of Soldiers for this mission. All of our Soldiers show tremendous initiative and enthusiasm to do the job well.  
November 29 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34cab



### 347th Regional Support Group

The Roseville-based 347th Regional Support Group provides specialized capabilities such as military police, personnel, medical, finance and human resource services. Soldiers from the [114th Transportation Company](#) returned in June after a deployment to Afghanistan.

The 114th Trans. Co. provided theater convoy security and ground transport of mission essential supplies to the Marine Corps and other Coalition Forces throughout Afghanistan. The Cottage Grove-based [204th Area Support Medical Company](#) returned from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in July. The company provided healthcare services to U.S. and Coalition Forces.

### 175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

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



#### 204th ASMC Soldiers earn leadership award

Maj. Paul Peterson and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Nietfield of the 204th ASMC were recipients of the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award, which was established by the Army Medical Command following the first combat loss of a medical officer supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The award is presented annually to one Army Medical Service Corps Health Services Officer and one NCO who have demonstrated the characteristics of Teal's leadership, professionalism, and operations qualities that go far beyond expectations.

**Maj. Paul Peterson, 204th ASMC Commander**  
The unit did a great job of representing the Minnesota National Guard. Doctors that we worked with said they would deploy with the 204th anytime.  
June 28 • Like • Comment



#### Officer Candidate School graduates OCS State Class 54

Since 1956 when the Minnesota Military Academy was formed, 2,101 Soldiers have received their commission through the Officer Candidate School program in Minnesota.

**Lt. Col. Michael Lins, OCS Commander** It's possible that within the next 12 months one or more of these candidates will be leading troops anywhere in the world.  
March 2 • Like • Comment

MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/175rti

Public Safety Officials throughout Minnesota like this.



### 84th Troop Command

The 84th Troop Command, headquartered in Roseville, provides field artillery, chemical and engineering capabilities. After a deployment to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the [1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery](#) returned in March to armories in Montevideo, Marshall, Madison, Olivia, Morris, Ortonville, Appleton and Anoka. The Soldiers completed 591 combat missions, traveling more than 1.9 million miles without accident or injury.



#### 84th Troop Command changes commanders

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

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Bertrang** Col. Gerdes has done an extraordinary job serving as the 84th Troop Command Commander. He continually set the high standards for all and expected nothing short of the best.  
June 13 • Like • Comment



#### 151st Field Artillery returns to Minnesota

More than 600 Soldiers from the 1-151 FA and E Battery, 151 FA returned home.

**Spc. Travis Skindelen** I'm looking forward to spending some time with the family...barbecue and beer, that's what I'm looking forward to.  
March 28 • Like • Comment

**Lt. Col. Scott St. Sauver** I am so proud of these Soldiers. They did everything I asked of them.  
March 28 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/84tc

### Homeland Security

The [55th Civil Support Team](#) and the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) are ready to protect Minnesota and its citizens 24/7/365. They do this by supporting civil authorities in situations which have the potential for catastrophic results. The 55th Civil Support Team focuses on identifying, assessing, advising and assisting in biological, radiological, nuclear and high-explosive incident sites.

**Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Wood, Senior Enlisted Leader for North American Aerospace Defense command and U.S. Northern Command** Homeland Defense is still an important mission and the National Guard plays a big part in that mission.  
September 1 • Like • Comment



#### 55th CST Protects Citizens

Sgt. Timothy Nordstrom, 55th Civil Support Team Survey Member, monitors the equipment from the fourth level of the Mall of America. The Minnesota National Guard's 55th Civil Support Team, specializing in weapons of mass destruction, assisted mall security by setting up equipment to detect harmful gases during a [high-profile book signing](#).

**Javier Rodriguez-Ramos, an observer controller with U.S. Army North** The 55th CST has done extraordinarily well. They have to be aware of their surroundings and look for any type of dispersal-type device while constantly taking pictures and relaying any type of clue to the command center.  
September 5 • Like • Comment



MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/rsg



## Minnesota National Guard History

**1856-1860** [edit]  
 Minnesota formed a Territorial Enrolled Militia in 1850, but it only existed on paper until April 1856 when the first uniformed, volunteer company was formed in St. Paul.

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



1st Minnesota at Gettysburg.

**1866-1915** [edit]  
 Minnesota's National Guard was converted to four U.S. Volunteer Regiments when the **war with Spain** began in April 1898. The Thirteenth

Minnesota Volunteer Regiment fought Spanish troops and Filipino insurrectionists in the Philippines from 1898-99. During the **Battle of Manila**, the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur, were to take the right flank.

**Minnesota Military Radio Hour** We discover one of Minnesota's most historic military units, The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry! from 100.3 KTLK FM!  
[www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com](http://www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com)  
 The First Minnesota  
 By: Stephen Osman  
 November 10 at 9:14am • Like • Comment • Share

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

**1941-1945** [edit]  
 The **34th Infantry Division** became the first American Division to ship to Europe in February 1942. It fought through North Africa (where men of Minnesota's 175th Field Artillery fired the first American shells against the Nazis), and Italy. Brainerd's tank company fought the Japanese and endured the **Bataan Death March**. The 109th Observation Squadron ended up in Europe, where it initially flew **Mark V "Spitfires"** with the Royal Air Force during World War II. They later flew reconnaissance missions with **P-51 "Mustangs."** The Minnesota National Guard became part of a newly-organized **47th "Viking" Infantry Division** following World War II, and its airmen became part of a new **Air National Guard**.



Human animated crest of 34th Sandstorm Division, U.S. Army, Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, 1918.

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



192d and 194th Tank Battalions, at Bataan. For their gallantry in action, both units were awarded three Presidential Unit Citations.

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

### DIVARTY Remembered



There would be many more re-organizations and relocations over the years, but 1917, is the year that the 125th Field Artillery Regiment was officially born. During **World War II**, they continued making history when the unit left for North Africa in December 1942. The 125th FA ended up firing over 250,000 rounds of artillery ammunition in 480 days of combat, which was more than any other battalion. Col. Delgehausen, who commanded DIVARTY from October 1985 to October 1987, put it best. "Being in the Minnesota National Guard was ..."  
 Read more at [MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/history](http://MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/history)

**1970-2000** [edit]  
 Unlike the war in Vietnam, **Desert Shield/Desert Storm** made heavy use of reservists. More than 600 Minnesota Guard members volunteered or were activated with their units, including the **109th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight**, **109th Light Equipment Maintenance Company**, the **1187th Medical Company**, and the **257th Military Police Company**. The war was over by April 1991, and soon Minnesota's troops headed home.

**2001 to present** [edit]  
 Immediately after the attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., Minnesota Air National Guard **F-16 Fighter Jets** from the **148th Fighter Wing** were providing combat air patrols over key locations. Troops mobilized to ensure that Minnesota airports were safeguarded. Minnesota National Guard troops executed the **Bosnia Security Force (SFOR-14)** mission 2003-04 and the **Kosovo Force (KFOR-5)** mission in 2004. More than 22,000 Minnesota Army and Air National Guard Servicemembers have served since 9/11, including the **1st Brigade Combat Team's** epic 22-month tour in 2005-07, and the 2009-10 **34th Red Bull Infantry Division's** Command and Control of nine of Iraq's eighteen provinces. Minnesota National Guard forces are heavily involved in the "Long War" to this day. Current operations have troops deployed for **Operation Noble Eagle** (Homeland Security); **Operation Enduring Freedom** (Afghanistan); and **Operation Iraqi Freedom** (Iraq).



"BY, WITH, and THROUGH" print by Jody Harmon

By the Iraqis, With our Assistance, and Through their Government.

This print depicts American Soldiers at a key leader engagement with Iraqi Soldiers and the Iraqi Police. This meeting is taking place "Outside the City" of Basra, Iraq. The movement of American Soldiers to positions outside of all major cities took place just prior to the arrival of the **34th Infantry Division**. To enter the cities, American troops had to be with or supporting Iraqi forces. The skyline of Basra in the background is punctuated by the al-Moosawi Mosque's beautiful dome. Also visible is the ever present burn-off pipes with perpetual flames on top. The billboard was a product of the 34th Division's Information Operations cell. It states: "Register to vote-Vote for the future of Iraq". Also notable are the ever present rotary wing aircraft, feral dogs, and large quantities of trash.

With lineage derived from the Minnesota Regiments of Civil War fame, the brave Red Bulls, who fought their way from Algeria through Tunisia and up the Italian peninsula during World War II, amassing more days of front line combat than any other US division, answered the Nation's call once again. On February 10, 2009, the Division began the mobilization of 1,039 Soldiers to serve a year's mission for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, headquartered at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, had operational control over half of all of Iraq's provinces and commanded U.S. Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, Joint and Coalition units. The Division spent ten months conducting full spectrum operations, alongside Iraqi Army units, providing security and stability for a burgeoning democracy. The Red Bulls oversaw the training and enhancement of Iraqi Security Forces including Iraqi Army, Border, and Police units. The Red Bulls aided community leaders as Iraqis developed and improved the civil capacity of southern Iraq by building market centers and schools, by encouraging free enterprise, by improving the water treatment facilities and infrastructure, and by preparing for the 2010 general elections. The 34th Infantry Division led the theater redeployment process as the United States prepared to withdraw its forces and equipment from the country. From Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to Salerno, Italy to Basra, Iraq, the 34th Infantry Division continues to rise to the challenge whenever our nation calls its warriors to the frontline.

September 19 • Like • Comment • Share

Maj. Gen. Nash and 13,663 Soldiers and Airmen like this.





**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**

Wall | Info | Photos | Discussions | Video

13,663 Guardsmen and their families like this.



**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**

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

Join Our Mailing List

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

**Governor at Veteran Small Business Seminar**



6:48 / 13:37

**Veterans Small Business Seminar**



St. Paul saw the first "Veterans Small Business Seminar". Five similar seminars were presented, around the state, in cooperation with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Minnesota Department of Economic and Employment Development, the U.S. Small Business Administration and SCORE.

**Buddy Winn** Very well done event, and coming soon to other towns in MN.  
August 31 • Like • Comment

**Shelli Anderson Markgraf** Beyond the Yellow Ribbon website has it all on there, check it out!  
August 31 • Like • Comment

**Meg Riffe** Great networking opportunity. I met some really neat people.  
August 31 • Like • Comment



**National Guard Youth Camp**

The 2010 camp marked the 20th year that Youth Camp has provided a unique and enjoyable opportunity for dependants, nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters and grandchildren of Minnesota National Guard members and retirees. Activities include biking, swimming, canoeing, orienteering, rifle marksmanship, archery and navigating through the confidence course.

July 17 • Like • Comment • Share

**Master Sgt. Rich Kemp, Youth Camp Counselor & Board Member** Wow! I can't believe it's been 20 years. We had another great camp this year.  
Aug. 31 • Like • Comment



**Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration**

Servicemembers and their families cast their lines into Lake Minnetonka on June 25, 2010 during the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration in Excelsior, Minn. The event, hosted by Fishing for Life, paired families with professional anglers for a unique chance to rediscover fishing as a life-long sport.

June 25 • Like • Comment • Share

**Minnesota Military Radio Hour** Find out what it takes to go "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" and what's on the mind of the Minnesota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash!  
[www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com](http://www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com)  
November 18 • Like • Comment • Share

**Minnesota Military Radio Hour** Interested in starting a small business? We talk to Jim Finley from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development about upcoming Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Veteran Small Business Seminars. From KTLK FM!  
[www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com](http://www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com)  
November 10 • Like • Comment • Share

**Yellow Ribbon Cities, Counties and Companies**

Gov. Tim Pawlenty presented 18 Yellow Ribbon proclamations to nearly 30 Minnesota cities, counties and companies during the Yellow Ribbon Summit at Boeckman Middle School in Farmington, Minn. In their quest to be proclaimed Yellow Ribbon, the entities developed detailed Yellow Ribbon action plans and conducted various events that supported Servicemembers and their families, and will continue to do so after being awarded the title.

September 22 • Like • Comment • Share

9 people like this.

**Tom Lyons** What a great ceremony, I am happy to have been a part of it.  
September 22 • Like • Comment

**Kenn Roehl** Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of something so important, the Southeast Minnesota Yellow Ribbon Network is so excited about our proclamation!  
September 22 • Like • Comment

**Patti Bitney Starke** All of us from the Woodbury Yellow Ribbon Network are honored to support our Servicemembers!  
September 22 • Like • Comment



**Military Family Care Initiative**

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

July 28 • Like • Comment • Share



12 people like this.

**Beyond The Yellow Ribbon** This is your online spot to sign up to support military families with yard work this summer.  
July 28 • Like • Comment



**Events and Deals**

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

Oct. 15 • Like • Comment • Share



**New Family Assistance Center**

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

April 13 • Like • Comment • Share

8 people like this.

**Mike Farren** It is a great opportunity for Servicemembers and their families to be able to utilize FACs and CVSOS in one building!  
April 14 • Like • Comment

**Lauri Brooke** We are excited to have a FAC right around the corner :)  
April 15 • Like • Comment

**Beyond Yellow Ribbon** Another new FAC opened this week Rochester. Find all FAC locations and contact information on our website.  
November 8 • Like • Comment

**Mental Wellness 2010**



6:44 / 22:00

**Mental Wellness 2010**

Nearly every member of the Minnesota Army National Guard received the "Mental Wellness 2010 - PMCS your mind" training revolving around a mental wellness documentary written and directed by the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon team. The video took a bronze in the Health and Wellness category of the 31st Annual Telly Awards and was nominated for a Regional Emmy.

April 20 • Like • Comment • Share

3 people like this.

**CTV North Suburbs** It was great working with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon on a video that will impact Servicemembers  
April 21 • Like • Comment

**Karen Seeger** This video is really making an impression on our Servicemembers.  
April 21 • Like • Comment



**30-Day Yellow Ribbon Training**

Soldiers and their families visit with many service providers during the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division 30-Day Reintegration event at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

March 6 • Like • Comment • Share

8 people like this.

**Miles Eakins** There was a really good turnout at this event.  
April 26 • Like • Comment

**Meghan Erickson** My family received a lot of good information at the event, thank you.  
April 26 • Like • Comment





**Federal Mission**

Wall | Info | Photos | Discussions | Video

Senior military leaders like this.



**133rd Airlift Wing assists with Pakistan flood relief**

Airmen and aircraft from the Minnesota Air National Guard provided humanitarian support to flood ravaged Pakistan. The first American military aircraft to fly into Pakistan with assistance was from the Minnesota Air National Guard.  
August 1 • Like • Comment • Share

**Lt. Col. Andy Burda, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Deputy of Operations** Our crews are completely immersed in the war effort and to have them switch gears in such a way is a credit to their professionalism and to their common devotion to what makes America great, that we always will come to the aid of those in need, even while engaged in combat operations.  
August 12 • Like • Comment

**Peggy Henrich Kology** Way to go guys!  
August 13 • Like • Comment



**Members of the 133rd Airlift Wing return from Afghanistan**

Seventy-six Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing returned from a two-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The returning Airmen deployed in early July aboard one of the Wing's eight C-130 "Hercules" aircraft. During their stay the deployed aircraft flew more than 450 sorties, hauling more than 5,700 passengers and delivering nearly 1,400 tons of critical cargo.  
September 27 • Like • Comment • Share

**133rd Airlift Wing supports Haitian earthquake relief**

Fifty-three Airmen from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing returned safely January 30, 2010, from a two week deployment to Puerto Rico where they flew 39 sorties in support of Operation Unified Response.

During the deployment, the C-130 crews flew relief missions into Haiti and the Dominican Republic, hauling passengers and much needed water, equipment and other critical supplies.  
February 10 • Like • Comment • Share

**Lt. Col. Jim Bixby, Commander** This was a unique and challenging deployment.  
February 1 • Like • Comment



**Bulldog named best Security Forces Senior NCO in Air National Guard**

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

When he isn't setting an example at the 148th Fighter Wing, Master Sgt. Hawley is a Police Officer for the City of Ely, Minn.  
December 8

Like • Comment • Share

**Col. Penny Dieryck, Mission Support Group Commander**

His ability as a Security Forces person is phenomenal. This achievement is remarkable in the fact that there are approximately 8,000 Security Forces personnel in the Air National Guard and he was selected as the top Senior NCO of all those personnel.  
December 8  
Like • Comment



**Red Bulls return home**

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



**Minnesota National Guard** Did you know that more than 1,200 Citizen-Soldiers representing 273 Minnesota Communities and 14 states deployed with the Red Bulls? Four Minnesota National Guard units deployed with the 34th Infantry Division from the communities of Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights, Faribault and Stillwater.  
February 2 • Like • Comment



You can also watch the documentary by visiting YouTube or [www.tpt.org](http://www.tpt.org).

**Iraq and Back: Minnesotans' Stories**

This Emmy-nominated documentary is about five Minnesota National Guard Soldiers, from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, and their families as they embark on a year-long deployment to Basra, Iraq.  
April 11 • Like • Comment • Share

The 34th Infantry Red Bull Division like this.



**Return of the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery**

More than 600 Soldiers returned in March following their 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.  
March • Like • Comment • Share

**Minnesota National Guard** Read more about their missions and accomplishments on the unit pages at [www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org).  
December 8 • Like • Comment



**Friends and family welcome home the 114th Transportation Company**

Over 150 Soldiers returned to Minnesota following their 12-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.  
June 9 • Like • Comment • Share



**Aviation Crew returns from Afghanistan**

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

**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Darin Skopek, Det 39 Pilot** I'm just glad to be back, after a very successful mission, a job well done, we're happy to be back.  
December 8 • Like • Comment



Twelve Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard and their Croatian partners serve in Afghanistan mentoring an Afghan National Army Battalion in order to increase the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces.  
June 25 • Like • Comment • Share



Eighty Soldiers of Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. Company B's mission is to provide aerial movement of troops, equipment and supplies for support of maneuver, combat and combat service support operations.  
November 27 • Like • Comment • Share



State Mission

- Wall
- Info
- Photos
- Discussions
- Video

Tim Pawlenty and 5,266,214 Minnesotans likes this.



Owatonna and Martin County Flood Response

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

January 7 • Like • Comment • Share

New Quick Reaction Force selected

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

July 17 • Like • Comment • Share

**Master Sgt. Kevin Moore** The Soldiers are fired up and highly motivated to do this important mission. Just watching the Soldiers' enthusiasm while they are training to perform this mission inspires both enlisted and officers alike.

June 17 • Like • Comment



300 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers Activated for Flood Duty

In March 2010, Governor Tim Pawlenty ordered more than 300 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers to State Active Duty for Flood Fight 2010. The Soldiers that were activated were from the Moorhead-based 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry and St. Paul-based 34th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade sent two UH-60 Blackhawks and one CH-47 Chinook helicopter equipped with aircrews and support personnel in order to provide aviation assistance to the North Dakota National Guard.

March • Like • Comment • Share

4 people like this.



Guard on patrol after deadly tornados

Governor Tim Pawlenty mobilized 118 Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard to assist local law enforcement after 39 tornados ripped through the state in June. Forty-three Soldiers from the Wadena-based D Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry and 75 Soldiers from the Albert Lea-based D Co., 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry were mobilized in support of Wadena, Freeborn and Steele County authorities, providing security patrols and operating traffic checkpoints. With the downed power lines and potential for gas leaks, the most important task was to make sure that the citizens were in safe areas. Assisted by the Red Cross staff, at least ten people sought refuge in the Albert Lea armory.

June 19 • Like • Comment • Share

**Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Dahlen** It was a normal day here at the armory. We were doing our annual Red Cross blood drive and the participation started to drop off. After the sixth or seventh tornado alarm, my phone began to ring off the hook.

June 18 • Like • Comment



Minnesota Guard trains with its Croatian State Partnership Program counterparts

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

May-June • Like • Comment • Share

Lt. Gen. Mladen Kruljac likes this.

**Spc. Chelsea Peterson** Learning the different weapons was challenging, but fun. The Croatians were very understanding and helpful.

May 5 • Like • Comment

**1st Sgt. Marin Šlopac** I was there and I'm proud of all of you guys! Hope to see you all sometimes in future.

May 11 • Like • Comment



Spc. Gerald Brekke participates in a dry fire exercise during the GUARDEX 10 at Gasinci, Croatia.



Distinguished visitors from various countries attend the live exercise to see the results of the partnership between the Minnesota National Guard and the Croatian Armed Forces.



Soldiers from the 682nd Engineer Battalion watch a weapon demonstration by a member of the Croatian Reconnaissance Team.



Soldiers from the 682nd Engineer Battalion work together to clear rooms in a live-fire shooting house during GUARDEX 10.



37th Annual Norwegian Exchange

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

May 4 • Like • Comment • Share

**Jonas Salthammer, Norwegian Home Guard member** The best part of this exchange is meeting new people and seeing the differences between our cultures.

February 17 • Like • Comment

**Staff Sgt. John Hugh, Exchange Platoon Leader** They are very hard core, and very motivated. When you see that kind of motivation, esprit de corps and can do attitude it is absolutely awesome. It has been a pleasure training them ... I couldn't have asked for a better group of young people to train in my life.

February 20 • Like • Comment



Minnesota Soldiers and Airmen learn to use Norwegian Home Guard cross country ski equipment while deployed to Haltdalen, Norway.



Soldiers from Norway, Sweden, Croatia, and Denmark participate in training as part of the Norwegian Exchange program at Camp Ripley.



A Minnesota Army National Guard Soldier constructs a Norwegian winter shelter during a field training exercise near Haltdalen, Norway.



Soldiers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Croatia train on the M-2.50 caliber machine gun during the Norwegian Exchange program held at Camp Ripley.



## Minnesota National Guard Community

Wall Info Photos Discussions Video

Minnesota Sports Fans like this.



### Twins' Military Appreciation Day

The Minnesota Twins honored Veterans and Servicemembers from all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces during their Military Appreciation Day on July 3, 2010. Navy Leap Frogs jumped from a C-130 'Hercules' and parachuted onto the field, providing the crowd a first rate show on the proficiency of these sailors. The 1-151 Field Artillery and Battery E were recognized in a return ceremony and shortly after, Old Glory was unfurled on an expanse of real grass at Target Field. Go Twins!

39,504 people like this.

**Patrick Klinger, Twins Vice President of Marketing** The Twins are proud to honor the hard working Servicemembers and Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.  
July 3 • Like • Comment

**Kevin Olson, Director of Minnesota National Guard Public Affairs** We sincerely appreciate what the Twins do for our Servicemembers, families and Veterans.  
July 3 • Like • Comment

### Red Bull Sings at Target Field



Sergeant Katherine Gorr

### Red Bull Sings at Target Field

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

July 3 • Like • Comment • Share

**Goran Hajduk** Svaka Cast ! In english, you have my honor!  
August 9 • Like • Comment

**Andrea Swanson** Hoorah! You did very good! :)  
August 9 • Like • Comment

**Ann Reimers** GO Redbulls!  
August 10 • Like • Comment



**Spc. Jacob Benson, 34th Military Police Company** My boys, my brothers. They are deeply missed.  
April 14 • Like

**Staff Sgt. Destiny Johnson, 34th Military Police Company** Never forget!  
April 15 at 10:03am • Like • Flag

### Purple Heart recipient raises flag at new Target Stadium

A new tradition began this year when the Minnesota Twins offered Servicemembers the opportunity to raise the U.S. Flag at home games. Spc. Jacob Benson, a military policeman with the 34th Military Police Company, was the first flag raiser. Spc. Benson was the survivor of a rocket attack in Iraq where he lost three of his friends.

April 12 • Like • Comment • Share



### Minnesota Vikings Salute the Military

The Minnesota Vikings honored Servicemembers and Veterans during their game with the Arizona Cardinals at Mall of America Field Nov. 7, 2010. Soldiers from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, 114th Transportation Company and 204th Army Combat Medical Support Company and Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing and 133rd Airlift Wing were recognized during halftime.

November 7 • Like • Comment • Share

64,111 people like this.

**Sua Vang** The Vikings media posted a video of the players visiting Camp Ripley a few days ago. I loved it and just thought I would mention it to everyone. It's great how the Vikings are showing so much support of our National Guard and vice versa. Our National Guard and Vikings together, although incredible separately, together they make an unstoppable force to be reckoned with!  
June 3 • Like • Comment

**Minnesota National Guard** Agreed Sua! The Twins and the Wild, Timberwolves, Swarm, Saints and Gophers are also very supportive. You should see the Xcel Energy center on a night when the Wild play. The pillars have big wraps with Minnesota Soldiers on them. Minnesota is a pretty great and supportive state.  
June 9 • Like • Comment

**Brig. Gen. Jerry Lang** Thanks for a fantastic tribute to our Servicemembers and Veterans! SKOL VIKINGS!  
November 7 • Like • Comment

**Louise Chevalier** Awesome! Thank you for your service!  
November 7 • Like • Comment

**Margaret Walsh Menker** Way to go 133rd!  
November 7 • Like • Comment

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Band played alongside the University of Minnesota's band during the Military Salute Halftime show on October 23, 2010.

October 23 • Like • Comment • Share



**Minnesota Military Radio Hour** An Army band deploys to Iraq? Listen to the story of the Citizen Soldier/Musicians of the Minnesota National Guard's 34th 'Red Bull' Infantry Division Band as they traverse the combat zone to keep morale high! [www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com](http://www.MinnesotaMilitaryRadioHour.com)  
November 10 • Like • Comment • Share

### 'Red Bulls' thank Twins

The Minnesota Twins and the Minnesota National Guard have forged a strong relationship over the last decade. On Sept. 8th, the 'Red Bulls' showed their appreciation. Maj. Gen. Rick Nash presented a limited edition print entitled "By, With, and Through" to Twins president Dave St. Peter.

September 8 • Like • Comment • Share

**Dave St. Peter, Twins' President** In a time when we often talk about heroes, the real heroes are the men and women in uniform serving our country. The Twins and the people across Twins Territory, say thank you, it is our honor.  
September 8 • Like • Comment



### Deployed Airmen and Soldiers take hockey to Afghanistan

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

March 7 • Like • Comment • Share



**Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament** Where's the ice?! Thanks for your service to our country! We look forward to you being back home and playing on some real ice!

### Minnesota National Guard partners with Minnesota Wild

During the 2010-11 Minnesota Wild season, the Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Color Guard performed for the Wild's home opener against the Calgary Flames. In front of nearly 18,000 fans, they marched ceremoniously onto the ice and presented the Nations colors while America's National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," and Canada's National Anthem, "O Canada," were performed. The partnerships between the Minnesota Army National Guard and Minnesota's four major sports organizations; Wild, Vikings, Timberwolves and the Twins have given opportunity for Minnesota's Soldiers and Airmen to be recognized.

October 10 • Like • Comment • Share



### Operation Minnesota Heroes Month

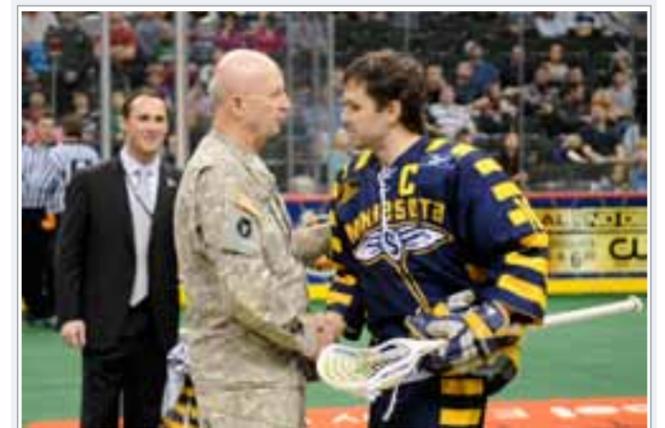
The Minnesota Timberwolves and the Fastbreak Foundation partnered to demonstrate the organization's support and appreciation of Servicemembers and Veterans. Operation Minnesota Heroes Month focuses on honoring, serving and recognizing Minnesota's troops and their families through in-game elements, special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

November 12 • Like • Comment • Share



Maj. Jess Ulrich swears-in new enlistees into the Minnesota National Guard before a Timberwolves game.

**Tiffany Marie Mensch** Left hand side, last person on the front of the row, one back that's me!  
November 13 • Like • Comment



### Minnesota Swarm Military Appreciation Night

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

April 9 • Like • Comment • Share

64,111 people like this.

**Richard Nash** Thanks again for the Minnesota Military Appreciation Night. The military families were very thankful for your donation of tickets and had a great time.  
April 9 • Like • Comment

**Minnesota Swarm** When are you going to join us, General? You have a jersey now. You should be all set!  
April 9 • Like • Comment

### St. Paul Winter Carnival Torchlight Parade

Chief Warrant Officer Chara Klug, Chinook pilot, hands out National Guard footballs to the crowd at the St. Paul Winter Carnival Torchlight Parade.

January 30 • Like • Comment • Share



Col. Mike Huddleston likes this.



Legislative Impact

Wall | Info | Photos | Discussions | Video

Minnesota National Guard is thankful for the support of our congressional delegation and appreciates their efforts in advancing the causes to increase the readiness and relevance of the Guard. Their efforts to advocate for the Guard were exceptional as exemplified by the efforts in solving the Post-Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence Program issue.  
December 8 • Like • Comment

13,663 Soldiers and Airmen like this.

Minnesota National Guard's Albums 12 Photo Albums



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**Camp Ripley, Minnesota**

invested more than 7 million dollars in infrastructure enhancements. Personnel from the Camp Ripley Roads and Railroad Dept. push dirt on March 17, 2010 to build a berm around what will be a new Forward Operating Base constructed to train Soldiers preparing to deploy in support of operations around the world.  
March 17 • Like • Comment

Future deploying Soldiers like this.

**Arden Hills, Minnesota**

The ground breaking ceremony was held and construction started for the Grow the Army Readiness Center at the Arden Hills Army Training site. This \$11.1 million facility will provide for a critical shortfall of space due to additional force structure assigned to the Minnesota Army National Guard. The latest in efficiency and cost effective energy control measures are being incorporated into the design.  
Feb 5 • Like • Comment

**Stillwater, Minnesota**

The city of Stillwater is one step closer to making a new combined National Guard Army and city fire station a reality.

Stillwater leaders held a workshop to discuss the purchase of land for a new multi-million dollar complex that may become home to the Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, which is currently stationed in Bloomington.

The site would also be home to a more centrally located fire station for the city. A new fire hall will improve response times for the fire department to Stillwater's outlying areas.

The Army wants to have the new Stillwater armory constructed by the spring of 2015.  
April 17 • Like • Comment

**Faribault, Minnesota**

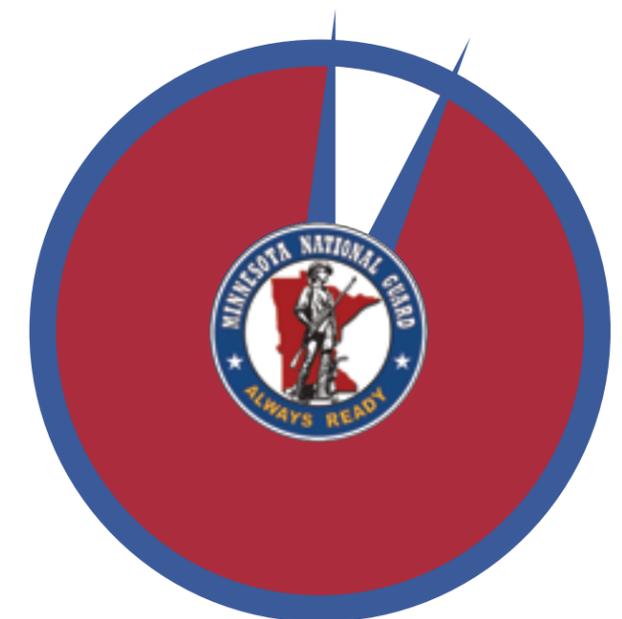
completed construction and ribbon cutting ceremony for a \$16 million Armed Forces Reserve Center. This facility is planned for joint-use to service the needs of the Minnesota Army National Guard, the United States Army Reserve and the community of Faribault.  
August 29 • Like • Comment

Citizens of Faribault like this.

	Districts		Pay and Expenditures	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Albert Lea	1	27A	\$1,185,475	\$60,861
Alexandria	7	11A	\$1,040,837	\$33,320
Anoka	6	48B	\$1,684,077	\$38,510
Appleton	7	20A	\$496,455	\$31,759
Austin	1	27B	\$1,017,066	\$50,256
Bemidji	7	04A	\$871,119	\$143,269
Bloomington	3	40B	\$9,037,434	\$217,253
Brainerd	8	12A	\$1,911,144	\$86,690
Brooklyn Park	3	47B	\$1,826,470	\$56,717
Cambridge	8	17A	\$1,611,985	\$107,016
Chisholm	8	05B	\$31,214	\$33,114
Cloquet	8	08A	\$1,106,223	\$45,721
Cottage Grove	2	57A	\$2,707,867	\$567,820
Crookston	7	01B	\$1,203,043	\$72,045
Detroit Lakes	7	09B	\$447,147	\$140,691
Duluth	8	06B	\$7,205,665	\$93,519
Duluth (Air Base)	8	06B	\$63,102,580	\$409,027
East St Paul	4	67A	\$1,445,394	\$138,521
Fairmont	1	24A	\$96,354	\$149,312
Faribault	2	26B	\$108,332	\$85,762
Fergus Falls	7	10A	\$110,681	\$32,660
Grand Rapids	8	03B	\$610,407	\$49,791
Hastings	2	57B	\$757,601	\$58,883
Hibbing	8	05B	\$1,168,617	\$46,460
Hutchinson	7	18A	\$1,677,872	\$721,623
Inver Grove Heights	2	39B	\$2,463,150	\$78,399
Jackson	1	22B	\$983,793	\$45,034
Litchfield	7	18B	\$896,337	\$34,352
Little Falls (Camp Ripley)	8	12B	\$93,010,686	\$1,343,530
Long Prairie	7	11B	\$347,038	\$36,307
Luverne	1	22A	\$149,224	\$34,510
Madison	7	20A	\$259,364	\$296,456
Mankato	1	23B	\$2,585,746	\$95,664
Marshall	7	21A	\$373,783	\$35,721
Minneapolis	5	59A	\$773,903	\$181,113
Mpls/St. Paul (Air Base)	5	63B	\$68,476,054	\$446,685
Montevideo	7	20B	\$1,598,472	\$87,962
Monticello	6	19A	\$1,485,402	\$2,088
Moorhead	7	09A	\$2,717,504	\$99,870
Morris	7	11A	\$264,357	\$51,539
New Brighton	4	50B	\$4,130,842	
New Ulm	1	21B	\$2,040,167	\$346,085
Northfield	2	25B	\$632,848	\$95,636

	Districts		Pay and Expenditures	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Olivia	7	20B	\$17,299	\$104,555
Ortonville	7	20A	\$24,953	\$331,151
Owatonna	1	26A	\$564,633	\$55,722
Pine City	8	08B	\$958,741	\$41,934
Pipestone	1	22A	\$839,664	\$23,088
Red Wing	2	28A	\$440,301	\$49,628
Redwood Falls	7	21A	\$390,427	\$169,033
Rochester	1	30A	\$1,248,935	\$31,188
Rosemount	2	37B	\$14,211,531	\$219,213
Roseville	4	54A	\$7,703,219	\$167,261
Sauk Centre	7	13A	\$916,873	\$28,766
St. Cloud	6	15B	\$3,216,514	\$46,067
St. James	1	24A	\$82,378	\$228,961
St. Paul (Cedar St.)	4	65B	\$83,114,949	\$16,172,721
St. Peter	1	23A	\$1,061,841	\$40,897
Stillwater	6	56A	\$773,854	\$47,748
Thief River Falls	7	01A	\$81,614	\$35,681
Wadena	7/8	10B	\$925,480	\$29,381
West St. Paul	4	39A	\$1,744,419	\$33,754
Willmar	7	13B	\$2,263,187	\$31,259
Winona	1	31A	\$1,048,316	\$37,964
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$400,073,220</b>	<b>\$24,707,523</b>

**Federal Expenditures**  
**\$400,073,220**  
**94%**  
**State Expenditures**  
**\$24,707,523**  
**6%**





**Larry Shellito**

Wall | Info | Photos | Discussions | Video



**Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash, Adjutant General MN National Guard** As I begin my tenure as Adjutant General, I'd like to take a moment and thank my predecessor, Brevet Lieutenant General Larry Shellito. General Shellito has been a mentor of mine throughout my career, and all of Minnesota owes him a debt of gratitude.

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

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

Nov 1 at 11:00am • Like • Comment • Share

Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen like this.

**Lt. Gen. Larry W. Shellito (Ret)** I'm thankful for the support of the citizens of Minnesota, Governor Pawlenty, and First Lady Mary Pawlenty, during my time leading the Minnesota National Guard. My focus for my remaining term of service is on maintaining the readiness that our fellow citizens have come to expect of the Minnesota National Guard and ensuring that our nation-leading 'Beyond the Yellow Ribbon' program is well-positioned for a sustainable future. I am extremely proud of the Minnesota National Guard and am honored to have had the chance to serve.

Nov. 1 at 11:20am • Like • Flag

**Governor Tim Pawlenty** General Shellito has been a thoughtful, positive and inspiring leader for the Minnesota National Guard. During the past seven years, our Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families have served with distinction here in Minnesota and around the world. General Shellito's leadership has been a critical part of building our Guard's outstanding reputation and our nation-leading programs to support Guard members when they return from deployments. On behalf of a grateful state, we thank General Shellito for his exemplary service.

Nov. 1 at 11:20am • Like • Flag

**Larry Shellito's Albums** 27 Photo Albums



**Vietnam**  
37 photos



**The early years**  
1,275 photos



**Minnesota's Adjutant General**  
2,375 photos



**Soldiers and Airmen**  
6,321 photos



**Profile Pictures**  
4 photos



**Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo**  
624 photos



**Partnership with Croatia**  
1,275 photos



**Partnership with Norway**  
1,356 photos

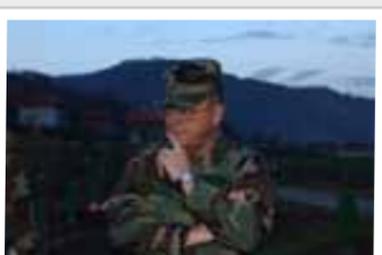


**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**  
163 photos



**Retirement**  
134 photos

**Photos by Others** 493 photos



LARRY W. SHELLITO



## MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FUNERAL HONORS

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

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



## MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD FUNERAL HONORS

Performed more than  
250 military honors and  
color guard details

Traveled 35,166 miles to  
perform all events



# MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD FUNERAL HONORS



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