

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

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A woman in military camouflage uniform is interacting with children in what appears to be the interior of an aircraft. She is leaning over, looking down at something in her hands. Several children are visible, some wearing pink hats. The setting is a narrow aisle with overhead storage bins and aircraft seats.

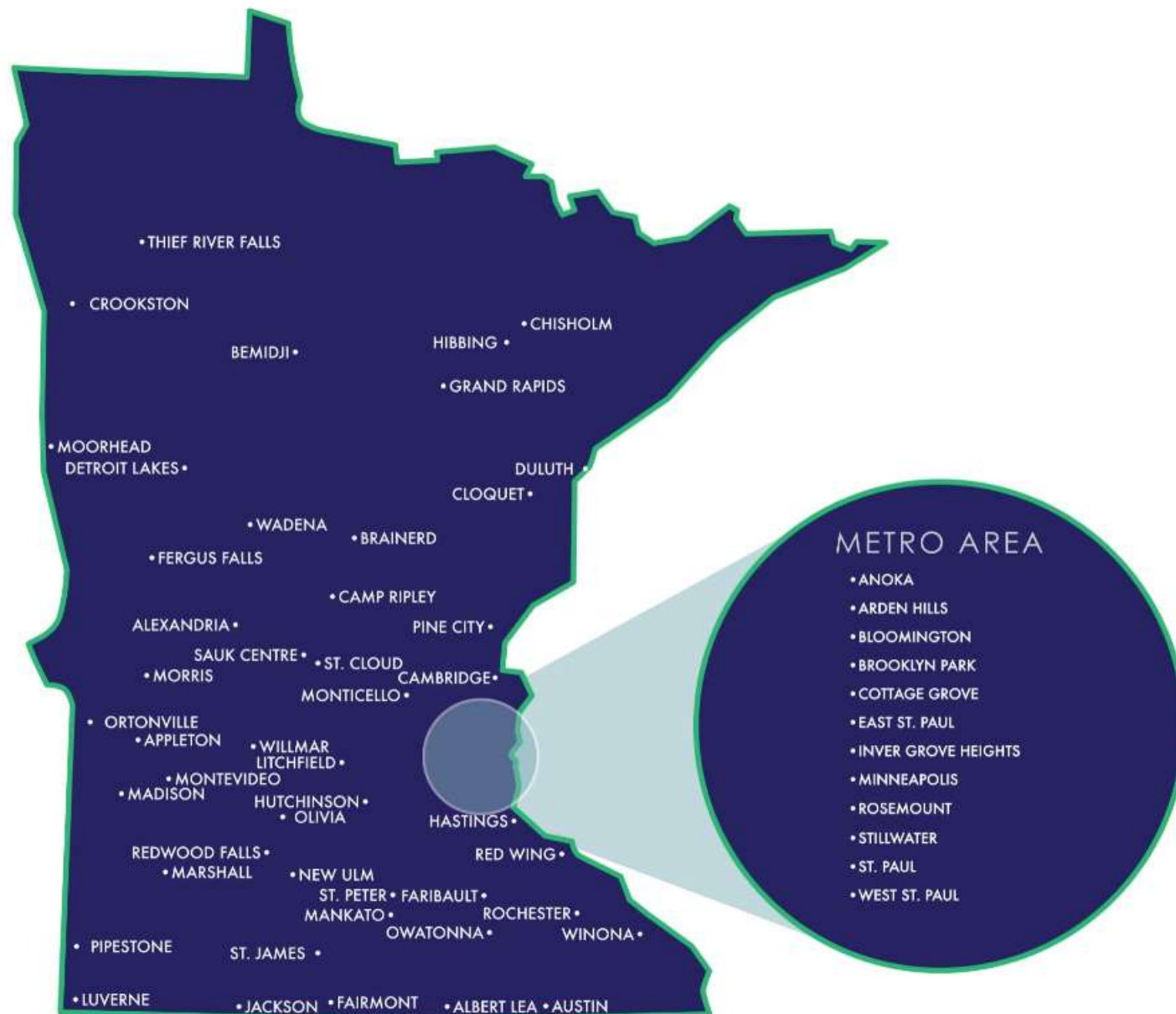
Who are we?

We are 13,362 citizen Airmen and Soldiers capable of fighting our nation's wars, protecting our country, and responding to our state's emergencies, while remaining the most-trusted institution in Minnesota.



What do we do?

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



What are our priorities?



People First



Leader
Development



Organizational
Safety & Security



Fiscal & Property
Responsibility



Communicate &
Partner

People First

A photograph of a Black male soldier in U.S. Army camouflage uniform hugging a young person with curly hair. The soldier's uniform has a "U.S. ARMY" patch and a unit patch with a star. The background is a warehouse with yellow signs and a Facebook logo.

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

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a camouflage military uniform, is seated at a table and smiling while gesturing with her hands. She is in a meeting room with other people in uniform seated at tables in the background. The room has white walls and red chairs.

Leader Development

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

Organizational Safety and Security

A soldier in camouflage uniform stands at the front of a room, addressing a group of soldiers seated in rows of black chairs. The room has a light-colored stone wall. To the left of the speaker is a wooden podium. Behind the speaker are three flags: the United States flag, the Minnesota National Guard flag, and a red flag. The speaker is holding a small white card.

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

A woman in a military uniform, wearing a camouflage cap and jacket, is holding a black tray filled with small green seedlings. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, another person in a light blue shirt is partially visible, and the setting appears to be an outdoor field.

Fiscal & Property Responsibility

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

The background image shows two soldiers in full tactical gear, including helmets and goggles, standing in a snowy field. They are positioned in front of a large military vehicle, possibly an armored personnel carrier. The soldier on the left is wearing a tan jacket and a camouflage helmet, while the soldier on the right is wearing a green camouflage uniform and a grey helmet. Both are looking towards the right. The scene is set in a winter environment with snow on the ground and a clear sky.

Communicate & Partner

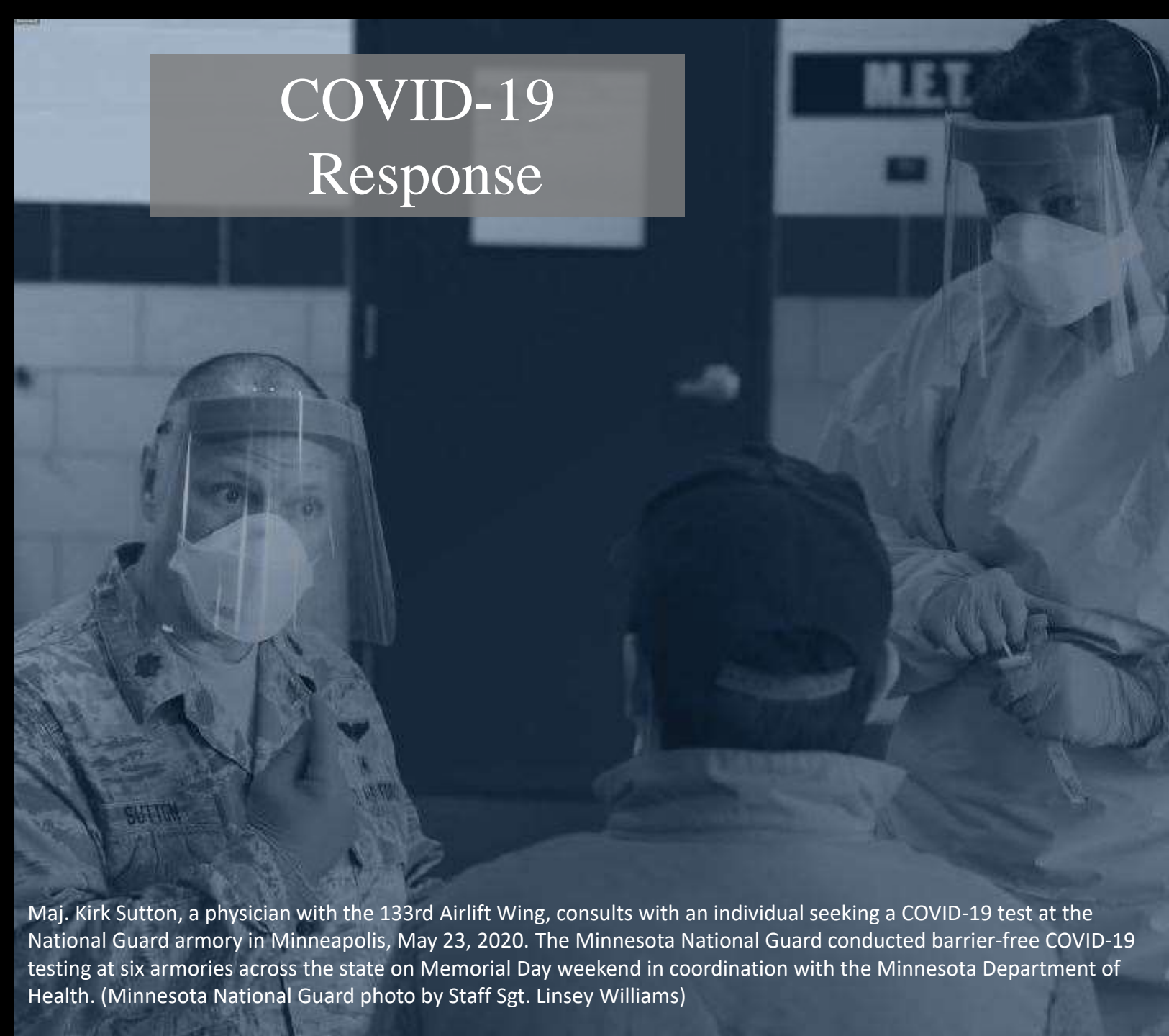
Relationships are the foundation of our organization's operational success. We work closely with our interagency partners to best serve the state of Minnesota during disasters. Our global connections foster interoperability during worldwide training and contingency operations. Our service members and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

COVID-19 Response

In March, the Minnesota National Guard was called on to assist the state with the acquisition and distribution of supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). The Minnesota National Guard provided PPE from its medical warehouse at Camp Ripley to first responders across the state.

In addition to assisting with logistics and supply distribution, an early mission for the Minnesota National Guard – in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Army Corps of Engineers – was to assist with the identification and selection of Alternate Care Sites around the state to be used in the event that the capacity of local healthcare facilities were overwhelmed.

The Minnesota National Guard started remote training on drill weekends for most units in March to comply with State of Minnesota and Centers for Disease Control guidelines for social distancing. Leaders created virtual training plans that focused on completing mandatory online training requirements and conducted communication and planning via video teleconferencing capabilities.



Maj. Kirk Sutton, a physician with the 133rd Airlift Wing, consults with an individual seeking a COVID-19 test at the National Guard armory in Minneapolis, May 23, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard conducted barrier-free COVID-19 testing at six armories across the state on Memorial Day weekend in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Linsey Williams)

In May, the Minnesota National Guard began supporting COVID-19 testing in Minnesota's long-term care facilities. Approximately 100 Soldiers and Airmen assisted with conducting more than 70,000 tests at more than 500 facilities between May 14 and August 25 to assist state health officials.

In September, the Minnesota National Guard was asked to support barrier-free, community-based COVID-19 testing at multiple locations across the state. Minnesota Guardsmen provided support with logistics, registration, supply management and transportation, in addition to hosting many of the testing sites at local National Guard armories. The mission was initially scheduled for four weeks but continues indefinitely.

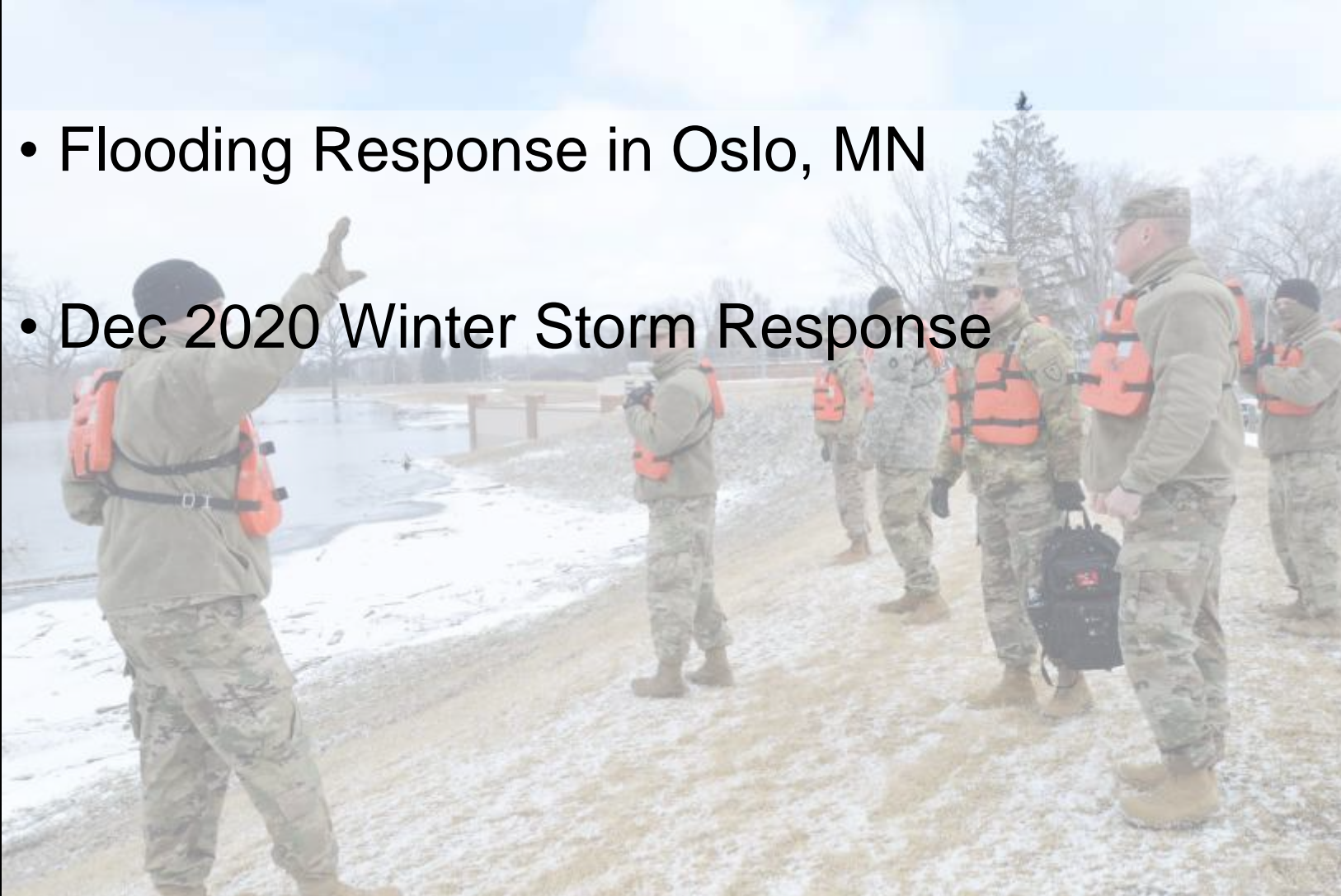
The Minnesota National Guard activated some of its nurses and medics, along with several hundred non-medical personnel to provide support for long-term care facilities in need of additional staff. The non-medically trained personnel received three days of instruction in basic patient care tasks before being placed into teams alongside the nurses and medics.



Spc. Joseph Sumner, a medic with the Minnesota National Guard Medical Detachment (left), explains the process for bathing a resident during temporary nursing assistant training at Camp Ripley, December 3, 2020. The Minnesota National Guard trained more than 350 Soldiers and Airmen to provide basic patient care for residents in long-term care facilities impacted by staffing shortages from COVID-19. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens)

Weather Emergencies

- Flooding Response in Oslo, MN
- Dec 2020 Winter Storm Response



Civil Disturbance Response



On May 28, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-64, declaring a peacetime emergency and activating the Minnesota National Guard to protect life, preserve property and ensure the right of people to peacefully demonstrate in Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding communities.



By May 31, more than 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen were on duty. It was the first full activation of the Minnesota National Guard for state active duty and the largest domestic deployment in the organization's 164-year history. The Minnesota National Guard was fully integrated with local and state agencies, executing a coordinated response. The Minnesota National Guard was called to duty four additional times in the following months in response to additional instances of civil unrest.

Global Defense Activities



34TH ECAB DEPLOYMENT

Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield

After completing mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, in late 2019, the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) deployed to the Middle East, where the unit assumed authority of the aviation support mission for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield on Jan. 2, 2020.

The aviation support mission, coined Task Force Red Devils and led by the 34th ECAB, consisted of nearly 2,000 members from active-duty components, multiple National Guard units across 10 states and additional coalition service members from Italy and Spain. The task force provided the majority of aviation assets and support to 15 locations within five different countries in the Middle East.

Having assumed Operation Inherent Resolve's mission to ensure the lasting defeat of Daesh, the ECAB found itself at the forefront of the events following the U.S. airstrike that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Soleimani on Jan. 3, 2020.

In the days following the transfer of authority ceremony, the aviation unit was notified that Iran had launched several theater ballistic missiles targeting Coalition bases housing U.S. personnel in Iraq. Using aircraft to assist in the rapid reduction of personnel at the Joint Operations Command – Iraq and the Baghdad



NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Rotation 20-08.5

In the summer of 2020, Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, participated in a large-scale combat exercise at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The training, which required eight battalions to conduct decisive-action operations as one collective task force, was the first of its kind since the U.S. Army finalized plans to methodically resume exercises for large formations, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Soldiers attending the NTC rotation underwent a deliberate process to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, including screening and testing in their home state prior to departure. Dozens of additional mitigation measures, like the use of masks,

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2ND BATTALION, 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DEPLOYMENT

Operation Enduring Freedom

Nearly 700 soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Horn of Africa in the summer of 2020. The battalion is serving as part of a task force to improve security posture at U.S. installations and forward operating bases in the U.S. Africa Command region, while maintaining a rapidly deployable force prepared to respond to crisis. The unit reported to Camp Ripley in June, where they trained before departing for Fort Bliss, Texas.

There are six major units in the 2-135th Infantry: Headquarters Company in Mankato and Owatonna, A Company in West St. Paul, B Company in Rochester, C Company in Winona, D Company in Albert Lea and 1135th Combat Support Company in Faribault. The battalion is joined by C Company, 113th Cavalry Regiment, out of LeMars, Iowa, and C Company, 106th Cavalry Regiment, from Aurora, Illinois.

Global Defense Activities



Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing, fly over the Minneapolis Veterans Health Care System in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 6, 2020. The flyover was part of a nationwide effort to recognize healthcare workers, emergency responders and other essential workers throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Amy M. Lovgren)



Tech. Sgt. Heather Boutin and Senior Airman Megan Lenling, Air Transportation Specialists with the 133rd Airlift Wing, direct and onload palletized cargo onto a C-17 Globemaster III, June 13, 2020, as part of the Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program. The medical supplies were donated by a St. Paul-based non-profit organization for delivery to Danli, Honduras to assist people with disabilities. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Bristol Evasco)

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