



MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

FACT SHEET

148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, MN

Wing Executive Support Officer, Maj. Audra Flanagan
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MISSION

Provide ready Airmen to defeat America's enemies and rapidly respond to state and community needs.

VISION

Expect, Provide and Be the Best!

General Information



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Unit Location | Duluth International Airport, Duluth, MN |
| Aircraft | F-16C+, Block 25, Fighting Falcon |
| Mission Designation | General Purpose & Air Defense |
| Assignments | Air Combat Command (ACC) North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Air National Guard Bureau Minnesota Joint Force Headquarters |
| Wing Commander | Colonel Frank H. Stokes |

Recent Unit Accomplishments & Awards



- * Raytheon Trophy awarded to 179th Fighter Squadron (2008)
- * First Air Force Unit to receive OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program STAR rating (2008)
- * NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Award (2008 & 2009)
- * William W. Spruance Safety Award (2008)
- * Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (1979, 1988, 1999, 2001, 2007 & 2008)
- * Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award (2006 & 2009)

History

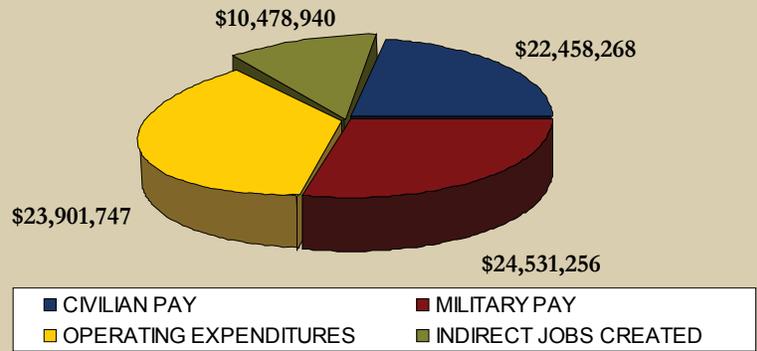
The 148th Fighter Wing was established Sept. 17, 1948 and has grown from 50 members to approximately 1,000. The unit has changed aircraft several times over six decades - from the propeller-driven F-51D Mustang, to the super-sonic F-16C Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft flown today.



Economic Impact

The 148th Fighter Wing has approximately 1,062 members (465 are full-time) and is the ninth largest Duluth area employer. The Wing's overall annual economic impact is about \$81.4 million. Personnel wages, totaling over \$47 million, translates into home, vehicle and other item purchases. These purchases often occur through local businesses and people. Construction projects, like the \$26 million estimated expenditure for the Composite Aircraft Maintenance Facility, also boost the local economy. Community impact, measured by the number and value of indirect jobs created, is also an important indicator of how the 148th Fighter Wing enhances the Duluth area.

FY 2008 Economic Impact - \$81.4 Million



The Flying Mission



Since the 148th was activated it has primarily maintained an Air Sovereignty/Air Defense role; defending the United States against potential aggressors. With the end of the Cold War, the 148th also conducted Air Defense and Drug Interception missions from several locations. In 1998, the 148th converted from an Air Defense unit to a General Purpose Air Defense unit. Following Sept. 11, 2001 the 148th has conducted alert operations in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE). The 148th flew more hours in support of ONE than any Air Defense unit and was the only organization to support three alert sites at one time. The 148th deployed in 2005, 2007 and 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Other Missions

- * The 148th Fire Department provides 24-hour operations as the sole crash and rescue force for the Duluth International Airport
- * The 148th Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) supports identification and disposal of explosives found within the local area, providing the only source with this capability in the region
- * The 148th Communications Squadron operates one of two Joint Communications Platforms (JCP) in the state



Personnel

People represent the most vital resource to the successful completion of the 148th mission.

- * 148th members performed over 6,500 community service hours for fiscal year 2008
- * In 2007, the 148th attained the highest retention rate of personnel out of 88 Air National Guard wings
- * In 2008, the 148th attained a new staffing record of 111.41%



F-16C+ FIGHTING FALCON



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Primary Function | Multi-role Fighter |
| Builder | Lockheed Martin Corp. |
| Power Plant | F-16C/D : one Pratt and Whitney F100-PW-220E |
| Thrust | F-16C/D: 27,000 pounds (12,150 kilograms) |
| Length | 49 feet, 5 inches (14.8 meters) |
| Height | 16 feet (4.8 meters) |
| Wingspan | 32 feet, 8 inches (9.8 meters) |
| Speed | 1,500 mph (Mach 2 at altitude) |
| Ceiling | Above 50,000 feet (15 kilometers) |
| Max Takeoff Weight.... | 37,500 pounds (16,875 kilograms) |
| Range | Over 2,100 nm (2,425 mi; 3,900 kilometers) |