

148TH

FIGHTER WING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

148TH VISION:

Expect, Provide and Be the Best!

148TH MISSION:

“Provide Ready Airmen to Defeat America’s Enemies and Rapidly Respond to State and Community Needs.”

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD HAS THREE MISSIONS

THE FEDERAL MISSION:

The Minnesota Air National Guard is a reserve component of the United States Air Force. During times of national emergency, the President of the United States may call National Guard members into active federal service. Since the Guard’s inception more than 370 years ago, members of the Minnesota National Guard have served in every major conflict involving United States Armed Forces.

THE STATE MISSION:

During peacetime, the governor commands the National Guard. In its “state” role, the National Guard assists local law enforcement agencies during emergencies. The Minnesota National Guard has more than \$1 billion in equipment that it can use to assist our state during emergencies. The distribution of airmen, equipment and facilities allows the National Guard to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies statewide.

This dual federal-state mission is unique in the U.S. military and sets the National Guard apart from any other reserve component.

THE COMMUNITY MISSION:

The Minnesota National Guard’s mission is to add value to each of the more than 62 communities in which it serves.



FROM THE COMMANDER

“What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight – it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



While Dwight D. Eisenhower may not have been talking about the 148th Fighter Wing “Bulldogs”, he certainly could have been. In 2008, the mighty Bulldogs exceeded all Air Force and Air National Guard expectations by a landslide. In many ways, it was a year of “firsts” for the Wing. Air Sovereignty Alert, or protecting America’s skies, remains our top priority. We fulfill the Alert mission 24/7 in Duluth, however, we can pack up and move on a moment’s notice when our Nation calls. In 2008, the Nation rang our phone often. When the Air Force grounded its F-15 fleet, the Bulldogs swiftly deployed to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii to protect America’s skies for nearly three months. This was our FIRST operation deployment to the Pacific Command Theater of Operations. One week after returning from Hawaii, our phone rang again and we were asked to spend a couple months at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. While in the Great White North, the mighty Bulldogs were the FIRST F-16 unit to intercept a Russian “Bear” Bomber off the coast of Alaska. Lastly, we were asked to set up another Alert site a little closer to home – in Minneapolis for the Republican National Convention.

We cannot accomplish our mission without focusing on safety. The safety of our members is the responsibility of every member of the 148th Fighter Wing. In 2008, the 148th was the FIRST unit in the entire Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard to receive OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program “Star” Rating. This rating was based on written safety and health management systems, sustained superior performance and a commitment to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards. This accomplishment is a true testament of the teamwork our members, union representatives and leaders displayed to take care of our most valuable resource – our personnel.

While the Bulldogs answered every emergency call for help, we also professionally planned our recurring commitment to the Nation’s War on Terrorism. In 2008, we packed up and deployed to Iraq for the third time in four years. However, this trip was the FIRST time our Wing provided all the aircraft for our rotation.

While the mighty Bulldogs continue to forge ahead, planning future deployments and inspections, we have to thank those who founded the 148th. In September of 1948, the original 50 148th Fighter Wing members stood on a concrete ramp at the Duluth Municipal Airport during its activation ceremony. This year, the 148th was honored to have three of those original members, Col. John Hed, Maj. Howard Ramstad and Tech. Sgt. Lou Gerards attend a 60th Anniversary gathering. The 148th has grown and flourished due to the hard work and leadership of those who served before us. It will continue to flourish due to the talent and work of its current members, along with the strong support of our families and community.

FRANK STOKES, Colonel, MN ANG
Wing Commander

BULLDOG OPERATIONS TEMPO

Operations:

NOBLE EAGLE
ENDURING FREEDOM
IRAQI FREEDOM
JUMP START
CONTINUING PROMISE
NORWEGIAN EXCHANGE

Global Support:

Afghanistan, Antarctica, Columbia, Croatia, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Germany, Haiti, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Norway, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates

LEGEND



148FW Aircraft



148FW Airmen

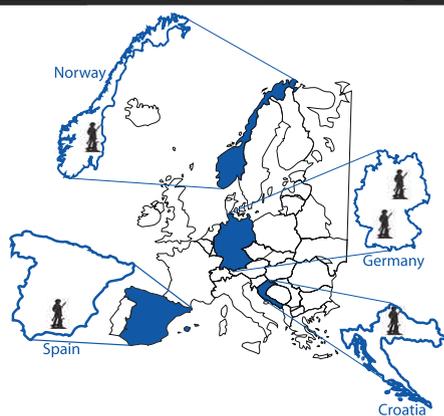
Source: Vectorportal.com



United States of America



South West Asia



Europe

2008 HIGHLIGHTS:

- New staffing record of 111.41%
- National Guard Association Distinguished Flying Unit Award
- William W. Spruance Safety Award
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award 
awarded to the 148th Fighter Wing
1979, 1988, 1999, 2001, 2008
- Deployed 269 personnel to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM performing 620 combat sorties totaling 2,660 flying hours
- Deployed 200 personnel to Hickam AFB, Hawaii to support Air Sovereignty Alert for 2 ½ months
- Deployed 131 personnel to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska to support Air Sovereignty Alert for 6 weeks
- First F-16 unit to intercept a Russian TU-65 “Bear” bomber aircraft
- Supported Air Sovereignty Alert during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.
- Zero mishaps while performing 2,103 sorties totaling 3,952.8 flying hours

INSPECTION RESULTS FROM 2008

- “Mission Ready” NORAD Alert Force Evaluation (AFE)
- “Excellent” Health Services Inspection (HSI)
- Voluntary Protection Program “Star” Rating. First unit in the entire U.S. Air Force to receive this award.



148TH ADDING VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Throughout 2008, while distant and overseas deployments occurred frequently, members of the 148th performed 6,552 hours of community service. Members participated in local parades, fundraisers, environmental support, athletic activities and community boards. The following are only a few examples of our dedication and commitment:

- Duluth Air Show and Aviation Expo
- St. Scholastica Thanksgiving Buffet
- Minnesota Adopt-A-Highway Program
- Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family and Project Gift Wrap Programs
- Grandma's Marathon
- John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon
- NorthShore Inline Marathon
- Memorial Blood Center Corporate Sponsor
- 40 Flyovers for Patriotic Holidays and Special Events
- 25 Base Tours for organizations ranging from Legislators to Business Leaders to Cub Scouts

Since 1948, the members of the 148th Fighter Wing have been more than residents in this area; they have been an integral part of the community. Community support is viewed as a responsibility, as a duty to give back and to strengthen our surroundings with time and dedication.



COMMUNITY SYNERGIES

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing are trained to meet extremely high standards and to work on some of the most highly technical equipment in the world. While some of the training and equipment are used strictly to support Air Force missions, others closely mirror activities in the local community, often providing needed services otherwise not available. Examples include Duluth Airport Crash Rescue and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).



Airfield Fire Department

- Crash and rescue response for the Duluth International Airport, providing 24/7 emergency coverage
- Capability to respond to local communities in need, especially those without standing fire departments
- In Fiscal Year 08, the 148th Fire Department responded to 234 calls, including 5 mutual aid calls, 14 in-flight emergencies and 9 ground aircraft emergencies

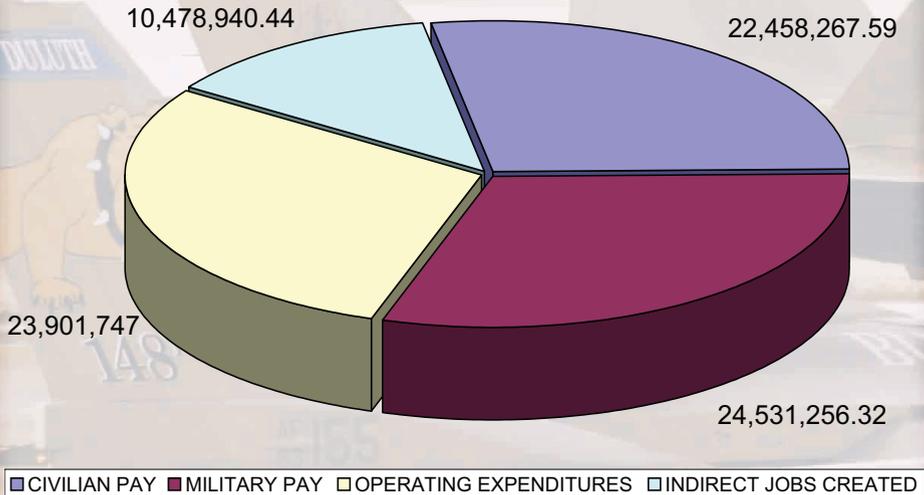
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

- Specialized in the analysis, handling, and response to explosives
- EOD member Master Sergeant Wayne Kettelhut was awarded the Army Bronze Star with Valor for his EOD role while serving in Iraq
- In Fiscal Year 08, the 148th EOD responded to 15 requests in Minnesota and Wisconsin



148TH ECONOMIC IMPACT - FISCAL YEAR 2008 -

Economic Impact – \$81.4 Million



- Economic impact on the local community was \$81.4 million (including payroll, operating expenses and indirect jobs created)
- The Wing employs 1,062 members
- 465 are full-time employees
- Each position at the 148th Fighter Wing sustains 0.23 jobs in the local community. Examples include construction, contractors and vendors.

THE GUARD FAMILY NETWORK

The Guard Family Network has a goal to develop an active, cohesive and supportive network of Air National Guard members, family members and volunteers. They work together to improve family readiness and vigorously support the Airmen who are deployed in service to their country or state. Preparations include:



- Formation of a telephone tree to pass information quickly and efficiently
- Training volunteers and family members on the benefits and services available to them
- Helping Airmen and their families prepare for separation and the problems that come with deployment
- Networking with Guard families to share lessons learned and to provide mutual support



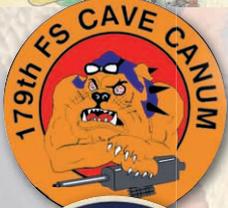
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD & RESERVE

The success of the nation's defense is dependent on the availability of highly trained members of the "Total Force". Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's mission is to obtain employer and community support to ensure the availability and readiness of Reserve forces.



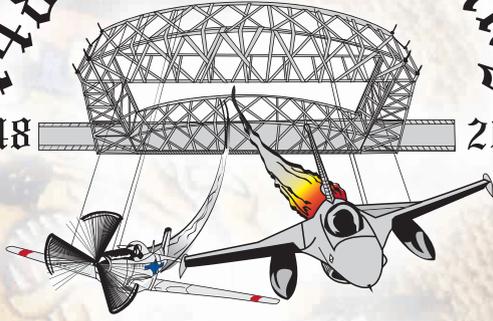
To learn how you can support our Air National Guard members, contact ESGR at 1-800-336-4590 or at their website www.esgr.com





148th Fighter Wing

1948 ————— 2008



60th Anniversary

Duluth, MN



A PROUD TRADITION

On September 17, 1948, a small group of 50 men were mustered in on the flight line of the Duluth Municipal Airport to become the nucleus of the newly formed Air National Guard unit – the 179th Fighter Squadron. As they stood at attention, Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh, The Adjutant General of Minnesota, read Special Order Number 144 ordering the activation of the 179th.



FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Obtain new model F-16s
- Increase Assigned Aircraft from 15 to 18
- Support “Community Basing” and welcome active duty Airmen into our Wing



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AIR NATIONAL GUARD
GUARDING AMERICA DEFENDING FREEDOM

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