



148TH

FIGHTER WING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

HOME OF THE 2008
RAYTHEON TROPHY



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

148TH FIGHTER WING VISION

Expect, Provide and Be the Best!

148TH FIGHTER WING MISSION

Provide the best trained personnel to defeat America's enemies and respond to state and local emergencies.

148TH FIGHTER WING VALUES

Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do!



THE FEDERAL MISSION

The Minnesota Air National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters). During peacetime, the combat-ready units are assigned to Air Force major commands to carry out missions

compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian and contingency operations.

THE STATE MISSION

When Minnesota Air National Guard units are not under federal control, they report to the Governor of Minnesota, supervised by the Adjutant General. Under state law, the Minnesota Air National Guard provides protection of life, property and preserves peace, order and public safety. The Minnesota Air National Guard has a unique capability to assist local law enforcement in the event of a homeland security incident, a natural disaster or any other emergency.



FROM THE COMMANDER

“History will be kind to me... for I intend to write it”

Winston Churchill



The Bulldogs wrote their own history in 2009. We have long claimed that we are the best fighter wing in the Air National Guard - this year we proved it. The Air Force awarded the 148th Fighter Wing the *Raytheon Trophy* and announced to the world that the Bulldogs are “*the Best Air Superiority Squadron in the United States Air Force.*” At our Raytheon celebration in July, Gov. Pawlenty declared: “We have the best National Guard in the United States of America . . . and we have the data and awards to prove it.”

The Wing began 2009 with people and jets in combat. As those members returned from Iraq, we started a trek down the path towards a major evaluation - an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). This event would evaluate the 148th’s ability to perform their wartime mission in a severely stressful, chemical environment. The Bulldog Team spent the rest of the summer laying the framework and training for a world-class inspection. In August, 80 members of the Air Combat Command Inspection team spent a week watching the 148th machine in action. To say they were impressed would be an understatement. Again, the Bulldogs wrote their own history. The overall “Excellent” rating was combined with 61 individuals and teams nominated as “Superior Performers.” The Inspection Team Chief captured the historic performance with this summary: “*the 148th is one of, if not THE BEST unit we’ve ever inspected.*”

The Bulldog history of 2009 was not complete yet. We added to our ever-expanding trophy case with the *Air Force Outstanding Unit Award*, the Air Force Association *Outstanding ANG Flying Unit Award*, and the National Guard Association *Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque*. Our National leadership also recognized the tremendous 148th Family Program Office with the *DOD Family Readiness Award*.

If the deployments to Iraq, Operational Readiness Inspection, and stack of national awards weren’t enough, the Bulldog’s historical year continued as we deployed yet again in support of the Nation’s war on terror. Our Security Forces Squadron was ordered to Southwest Asia, and our Civil Engineers to Afghanistan. We capped off the year in December with a visit from the new Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Bud Wyatt. General Wyatt had to see for himself what this Wing was all about! And of course, throughout the year we protected America’s skies with our skilled Alert Forces.

Indeed, the mighty Bulldogs wrote their own history in 2009 – in doing so, proved we are the best. The Duluth name is on the minds of our national leaders; we enjoy vibrant support from our elected representatives and our surrounding community. Our reputation is well-established and our future looks bright! Let’s enjoy another historical year in 2010.

FRANK STOKES, Colonel, MN ANG
Wing Commander

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 1999, the 148th converted from an Air Defense unit to a General Purpose Air Defense unit. Following Sept. 11, 2001 the 148th conducted alert operations in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE). The Wing flew more hours in support of ONE than any Air Defense unit and was the only unit in the United States Air Force to maintain three alert sites at one time.



2009 DEPLOYMENTS

Iraq Combat Operations – Joint Base Balad, Iraq

- Flew 620 sorties for a total of 2,660 flying hours
- Provided Close Air Support (CAS) for ground forces in contact with opposing forces and Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System (TARS) coverage for CENTCOM CCs/battle decision-makers



Operation Enduring Freedom

- Deployed the 148th Civil Engineering Squadron to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan
- Deployed the 148th Security Forces Squadron to Southwest Asia



2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Received an “Excellent” rating during the 2009 Operational Readiness Inspection
- The ACC Inspection Team declared “The 148th is one of, if not the best Wing we’ve ever inspected”
- Performed 2,394 sorties with 5,300 flying hours with zero mishaps
- Performed 24/7 home station Air Sovereignty Alert mission
- Scrambled 2 F-16s under the direction of North American Aerospace Defense Command, intercepting a stolen Canadian Cessna aircraft near Michigan’s Upper Peninsula
- Efficiently transferred 148th active alert mission to Minneapolis, Minn. in May, July & August during unit exercises
- Trained and liaised with state and local emergency, law enforcement and medical agencies during a Mass Accident Response Exercise (MARE)

2009 AWARDS

- Raytheon Trophy
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award
- National Guard Association Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque
- Department of Defense Family Readiness Award
- Received Emmy Award for participating in Hockey Day Minnesota from Joint Base Balad, Iraq



179TH FIGHTER SQUADRON PROVES AIR SUPERIORITY

The 179th Fighter Squadron was declared the best air superiority squadron in the U.S. Air Force when officials announced the winner of the 2008 Raytheon Trophy. The award was presented by Raytheon CEO Dr. Tom Kennedy during a ceremony in Duluth Minn. on Friday, July 31, 2009. Gen. Craig R. McKinley (Chief, National Guard Bureau) and Minnesota Gov. Timothy J. Pawlenty joined Wing leaders and members in the celebration. "We have the best National Guard in the United States of America," said Gov. Pawlenty, "and we have the data and the awards to prove it."

Started in 1953 by Hughes Aircraft Company, the trophy is given annually to the top air-superiority or air-defense squadron in the Air Force. The honor marks only the fourth time an Air National Guard unit received the award and only the second F-16 unit. "Whether it is your dream, or your mission... it matters to this state, to this country and to the entire Air Force and we are profoundly grateful to you," said Gov. Pawlenty. "You stand for values, courage and patriotism and we are so proud."

"It's awesome for the Bulldogs to get recognition for the hard work they did in 2008," said Lt. Col. Eric Chandler, 179th Fighter Squadron Commander. "All our people make it look easy, but it isn't. They deserve this kind of award." Units are graded on air defense and air superiority mission performance, operational mission performance, organizational readiness inspection results, training exercise participation, unit achievements and awards, individual achievements and awards and unit incentive programs. "This



award is especially important to our wing, because it validates the intense effort we have put forth over the last several years: the many times we have answered calls... packed up and deployed on short notice; and accomplished the mission in a professional, efficient manner,” said Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander. “We have done all this without complaining, and in a manner that often left the operation in better shape than when we came. The Bulldogs should feel good that our efforts were not lost on our nation’s leadership.”

“Air superiority is only one of our tasked missions,” said Col. Howard Hayes, 148th Operations Commander. “We are a general purpose Air Defense unit, we drop bombs. We are honored to be selected from a group of air-to-air units... it shows we have very talented and dedicated people. To be highlighted like this is an intense honor for everyone.”

In addition to Gov. Pawlenty and Gen. McKinley, also on hand to praise the unit were U.S. Senators Amy Klobucher and Al Franken, Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito - Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota, and Duluth Mayor Don Ness. While the evening focused on what has been accomplished by the unit, words were also spoken about the future. “Gen. McKinley, you know about the needs of this country and this military,” said Gov. Pawlenty. “I don’t think it’s too much to ask the Air Force to give back to a unit that gives so much.” “I assure you,” said Gen. McKinley, “that your congressional delegates and I will continue to work to make sure this unit is recognized and rewarded.”





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In 2009, 148th members devoted themselves to more than 4,800 hours of support to our local community. Members participated in parades, blood drives, fundraisers, environmental support, and were mentors and community board members. Some examples include:

- 40 F-16 fly-overs
- 15 tours at 148th Fighter Wing
- Beargrease Sled Marathon
- Thanksgiving Day Buffet
- Scout leaders/Youth coaches
- Volunteer Fire Fighter Departments
- Contributed \$14,566 to the Combined Federal Campaign



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The 148th enjoys vibrant support from the surrounding community, its leaders and our elected representatives. Organizational groups, surrounding Chambers of Commerce and other community forces have continually demonstrated a strong flow of support for the Wing, its mission, and its members. The local Military Affairs Committee is focused on staying up-to-date on both current and future operations for all the military branches to include the 148th FW, the Coast Guard, Army Reserve, and



Army National Guard. We are humbled by the outpouring of support during deployments and other times of need.



OTHER MISSIONS

- The 148th Fire Department provides 24-hour operations as the sole crash and rescue force for the Duluth International Airport
 - 251 responses
- 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
 - 28 responses in Minnesota and Wisconsin
- The 148th Communications Squadron operates one of two Joint Communications Platforms (JCP) in the state
 - The communications capabilities of the JCP can provide military and civilian personnel with Internet, radio, telephone, voice and data transfer, and power



FAMILY PROGRAMS/GUARD FAMILY NETWORK

The Guard Family Network consists of all 148th members,

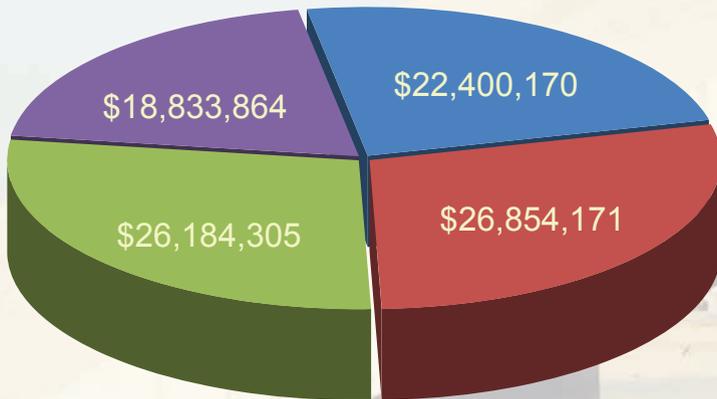
significant others, retirees, family members, and friends of 148th members. Family Programs include:

- Inter service family assistance committee (ISFAC)
- Free golf, fishing and family gathering for veterans at Cragun's on Gull Lake, Minn.
- National Guard youth and teen camps
- Military child care in your neighborhood
- Key readiness volunteers



148TH ECONOMIC IMPACT - FISCAL YEAR 2009 -

\$94.3 Million



■ CIVILIAN PAY

■ MILITARY PAY

■ OPERATING EXPENDITURES

■ INDIRECT JOBS CREATED

Construction

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Arm/Dearm Pad
- Wing Storage Facility
- Operations Remodel
- Demolish Buildings 220 & 245
- Fuel Cell Hanger

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Weapons Load Training Facility
- Fuel Storage Facility



FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Maintain Fighter Mission with Alert
 - Block 50 F-16
 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter
- Increase Assigned Aircraft from 15 to 18
 - 18 Aircraft is critical for future Active Duty Association
- Community Basing with Active Duty Forces
 - Facilities and Experience are in Place
 - Vibrant Community Support
 - Pilots Average over 2,300 hours
 - Maintainers Average over 19 years Experience
- Continue Facility Upgrades
 - Fuel Cell in FY 2010
 - Fuel Storage facility in FY 2010
 - Weapons Load Training facility in FY 2011





148th Recruiting Team

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