

2012

148TH FIGHTER WING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

ANNUAL REPORT

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



VISION

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

MISSION

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

FEDERAL MISSION

Maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances).

STATE MISSION

When Minnesota Air National Guard units are not mobilized or 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.



MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PRIORITIES

1. Competent Ready Force
2. Optimal Force Structure
3. Sustainable Infrastructure
4. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
5. Diversify the Force
6. Cyber Security and Response



**Minnesota Adjutant General
Major General Richard C. Nash**

FROM THE COMMANDER

2012 was “the year of success” for the 148th. The wing enjoyed tremendous achievements and solidified the Bulldog legacy for the future.

The 148th became Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) experts. In February, we completed our conversion “graduation exercise” as the lead SEAD unit for Red Flag. We participated with 139 aircraft from three countries and flew more sorties and hours than any of them! On April 1st, the 148th declared full operational capability. Most notably, we maintained our alert mission during the entire period.

In June, we officially became an Active Associate unit. The “site activation task force” quickly declared us the most prepared wing they had visited. The wing deployed our new Block 50’s to Afghanistan along with nearly one third of our Airmen. Our team melded active duty Airmen and equipment to form a cohesive unit under 148th command. Results were stellar: 1,140 sorties and over 5,300 hours – more than we would normally fly in a year! The Bulldogs did not miss a single mission as we supported service members on the ground and Central Command leadership.

In July, the medical group experts earned yet another “excellent” rating during their Health Services Inspection. Our communications flight ensured compliance with a highly successful security assessment – achieving 99% passing rate! Our alert experience blazed forth once again during the Alert Force Evaluation in December. The NORAD inspection team could not document a solitary finding or area for improvement – an entire inspection report that only lists “strengths!”

Many other successes defined 2012. The wing flew Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon in November. We hosted an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) event, “Boss Lift,” the mayor of Duluth, Air National Guard Chaplain, and a special advisory task force for the Adjutant General. And of course we stacked more hardware into the trophy case with our third Air Force Association “Outstanding Unit Award,” the National Guard Bureau Winston P. Wilson award, and the Air National Guard Ground Safety Office of the Year.

More success is in store for 2013. In August we will host the Air Combat Command Inspector General during our Readiness Inspection. We will undertake other assessments including Environmental Safety, Standardization and Evaluation, and the Precision Measurement Equipment Lab. Those inspection teams will arrive in Duluth armed with a perception of our excellence. I am confident we will once again prove why the best F-16’s in the U.S. inventory are on our ramp!

Years of success like 2012 continue to cement our reputation of excellence. To the 148th Airmen: Thank you for your hard work and dedication, and the focus you place on our mission. To our amazing community supporters and elected leaders: We appreciate the trust and support you have bestowed on our wing. We will do all we can to fortify your loyalty.

Frank H. Stokes, Colonel, MN ANG
Wing Commander



148th Fighter Wing Commander
Colonel Frank H. Stokes

*“Success isn’t a result of
spontaneous combustion.
You must set yourself on fire.”*

Arnold H. Glasow





Minnesota National Guard Priority 1

COMPETENT, READY FORCE

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.

The 148th Fighter Wing flies the Block 50 F-16CM, the newest and most capable F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. The Bulldogs perform Aerospace Control Alert (ACA), protecting America's skies 24-hours a day. The 148th Fighter Wing is one of only two Air National Guard wings tasked to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) support for our nation. The Wing continues to actively support overseas Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) taskings in the support of the Global War on Terror.



In 2012, the 148th:

- Declared "Full Operational Capability" in the Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) mission
- Deployed approximately 300 Airmen to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as 33 contingency operations in nine countries
- Successfully completed:
 - Air Force Vulnerability Assessment
 - Health Services Inspection
 - Fighter Alert Force Evaluation (FAFE) from NORAD
- Executed a demanding three-week training deployment to Red Flag, marking the completion of Block 50 F-16 mission conversion
- Conducted two major accident response exercises with city, county and state agencies

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) identifies and disposes of explosives found within the local area, providing the only source with this capability in the region

OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE

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 eight years. Guard units must be trained, equipped and ready for deployments.

In 2012, the 148th Fighter Wing was officially designated as an Active Associate Wing.

The 148th:

- Prepared plans to accept active duty Airmen at the 148th Fighter Wing
- Recruited and trained to the Block 50 manning document
- Partnered with the Military Affairs Committee (MAC) and civic leaders to gain support for the Active Associate mission



What is an Active Associate Wing?

In an Active Associate Wing, active duty Airmen are assigned to work along side our Guard members in order to:

- Increase the wing's capability to deploy
- Increase the experience level of the active duty Airmen
- Provide superior cost savings to the Air Force

What are the benefits?

- State of the art facilities, airspace and aircraft
- An estimated \$4.7 million initial boost to the local economy
- Improve mission readiness
- Air National Guard members have, on average, 18 years of experience that would be shared with their active duty counterparts

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

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 cultural resources.

The 148th Fighter Wing is on a continuous mission to reduce energy consumption and to incorporate energy savings into base operations.

Areas of focus in 2012:

- Maintained the weapons training facility as the #1 project for the Minnesota National Guard
- Opened the new Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) facility with smaller storage tanks, improved secondary containment system, fully compliant storm water treatment system, truck spill containment system, and high efficiency HVAC systems
- Installed new roofs on vital facilities after conducting basewide roof inspection
- Designed alternate gate, providing a second entrance for efficient resource deliveries
- Designed operations debrief and simulator projects
- Continued installation of light-emitting diodes (LED's) and induction lighting basewide in an effort to increase lighting efficiency
- Coordinated with local utility providers to capitalize on energy improvements through rebate program



“One way to reduce our energy consumption is to consolidate our facilities. Right now we have multiple functions in multiple buildings--we need to consolidate those facilities and functions into one location to effectively conserve energy and wing maintenance resources. This could be done through demolitions, remodeling, and construction--which is our constant focus.” - 1st Lt. Joseph V. Solberg, 148th Fighter Wing Deputy Base Civil Engineer



BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

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



The purpose of **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Duluth** is to train and empower the community to support Servicemembers and their families during the phases of deployment and reintegration.

Areas of focus:

- Care of military members currently serving
- Care of family members
- Care of children, youth and young adults from military families
- Care of veterans
- Organize community support and awareness



YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

The goal of the **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** is to prepare Airmen and families for deployment, sustain families during deployment, and reintegrate Airmen with their families, communities, and employers upon return from deployment.

In 2012, the 148th:

- Ensured deploying Airmen and their families were involved with the yellow ribbon process, pre and post deployment
- Tracked pre and post deployment resiliency and reintegration events
- Improved member resiliency by offering 24 family events throughout the year



148TH FIGHTER WING AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM

Our Mission is to share timely and accurate information on a regular basis to establish a level of awareness among leaders, Servicemembers and families.

Our Purpose is to provide a basic foundation of training, education and resources that encourages self-sufficient families during times of training, deployment and mobilization.

Our Vision is to develop strong families equipped to handle the challenges of life in the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Family programs include:

- Key Volunteer Program
- Inter Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC)
- Strong Bonds weekends for military couples and singles
- National Guard youth and teen camps
- Home Community Childcare on Guard drill weekends
- Bulldog Family Fund





Minnesota National Guard Priority 5

DIVERSIFY THE FORCE

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.

148th Fighter Wing 2012 Diversity Initiatives:

- Recruiters focused on college fairs and diverse communities
- Established the Key Volunteer Program, and invigorated Family Readiness programs
- Coordinated Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "Educator Day" events in Duluth
- Organized civic leaders aviation event with a KC-135 flight
- Participated in two sessions of the Air National Guard "Leadership Challenge Program"
- Expanded relations with local Native American leadership



CYBER SECURITY AND RESPONSE

We must develop the capacity to combat the emerging cyber warfare threat and ensure the Minnesota National Guard is prepared to defend our nation against the next threat.

The 148th Fighter Wing prepares for the cyber battlefield, where the threat is just as important as conventional, physical attacks.

In 2012, the wing:

- Selected and trained a Chief of Information Protection
- Successfully accomplished a demanding Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) Information Assurance Assessment Program (IAAP) evaluation
- Maintained full compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) directives
- Maintained strict compliance with Air Force Time Compliance Network Order (TCNO) directives
- Integrated 800MHz emergency command and control radio capability throughout the wing
- Advanced network security through implementation of virtual private network capability

In addition, the 148th Communications Flight stages, maintains and operates the Minnesota National Guard's (MNNG) Joint Communication Platform (JCP3) and Remote Communications Platform (RCP3). This capability provides mobile command, control, communications and computers for use during cyber attack response.





READINESS

The 148th Fighter Wing maintains mission readiness through exercises, hands-on and computer-based training, training deployments and inspections to ensure that the Bulldogs are fully trained and capable to deploy and perform its federal and state missions.

In 2012, the Bulldogs performed the following exercises:

Military exercises:

- Silver Flag- provides up-to-date field practices for bare base setup in contingency operations
- Red Flag- Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) training exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Emergency response exercises:

- Natural Disaster Response Exercise- a simulated tornado touch down with focus on sheltering in place by wing personnel and disaster support to civilian authorities
- Active Shooter Exercise- a full scale exercise that included local emergency response organizations such as St. Louis County Law Enforcement, Gold Cross Ambulance, and St. Luke's and Essentia Health Hospitals
- Strategic National Stockpile Communications Exercise- focus on testing emergency response communications with seven counties and all hospitals in the Northeast Minnesota region
- Patriot Exercise- a full scale emergency response exercise that brought local, state and federal agencies together with military units from multiple states to evaluate agency readiness

Looking ahead at 2013 challenges, the 148th Fighter Wing will perform a Readiness Inspection to test the pre-deployment and deployment capabilities of the wing in one intensive inspection.



DEPLOYMENTS

In 2012, the 148th Fighter Wing deployed to the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing, Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the deployment, the 148th:

- Flew 1,140 sorties (or flights) totaling more than 5,300 hours which is comparable to 18 months of home-station flying
- Missed zero sorties due to maintenance

During 2012, the Bulldogs deployed more than 300 Airmen to nine countries.

The wing previously deployed to Iraq in 2005, 2007 and 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From the heat of Southeast Asia to the Antarctic cold of McMurdo Station, the Bulldogs performed impeccably; continuing their legacy of excellence.

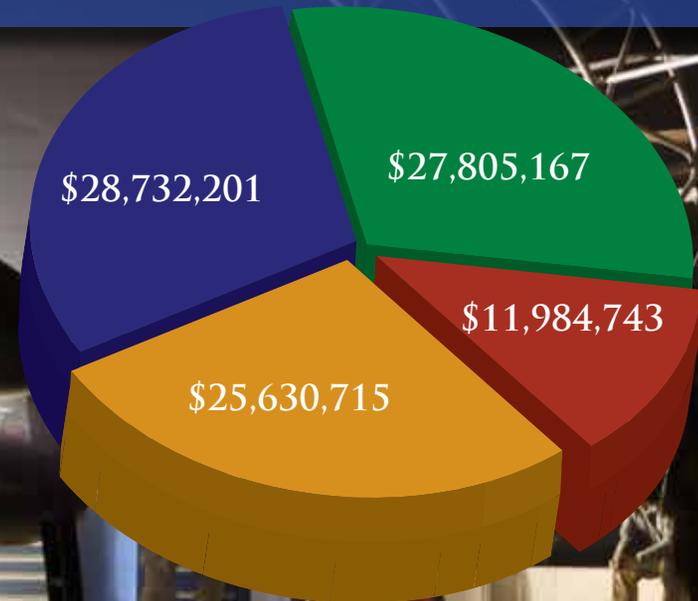




ECONOMIC IMPACT

The 148th Fighter Wing has approximately 1,000 members (more than 450 are full-time) and is the ninth largest Duluth area employer. The wing's 2012 fiscal year economic impact is over \$94.2 million. Personnel wages, totaling more than \$54.4 million, translates into home, vehicle and other item purchases. These purchases often occur through local businesses and people. Ongoing base construction projects also boost the local economy. Economic impact is also an important indicator of how the 148th Fighter Wing enhances the Duluth area.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 ECONOMIC IMPACT - \$94.2 MILLION



- MILITARY PAY
- OPERATING EXPENDITURES
- INDIRECT JOBS CREATED
- CIVILIAN PAY



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In 2012, 148th members devoted nearly 5,000 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:

- 16 F-16 U.S. Air Force approved fly overs in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan
- John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon
- Thanksgiving Day Buffet
- Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Christmas City of the North Parades
- Support six volunteer fire departments
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Supported three Northland Honor Flights
- Civil Air Patrol support
- Duluth Air Show support
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) support
- Boy Scouts of America support
- Adopt-a-Highway clean-up project





AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Air Force Association's 2012 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award
- National Guard Bureau's 2012 Winston P. Wilson Trophy
- 2012 Air National Guard Ground Safety Office of the Year
- 2012 Adjutant General's Outstanding Safety Office Award
- Air National Guard Outstanding New Journalist



2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- Declared “Full Operational Capability” in the Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) mission
- Completed conversion from Block 25 to Block 50 F-16
- Successfully deployed approximately 300 Airmen to nine countries including Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom
- Performed 24/7 home station Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission during major aircraft conversion
- Performed successful Alert Force Operational Assessment (AFOA)
- Performed successful Fighter Alert Force Evaluation (FAFE)



FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Maintain 24/7 Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission
- Welcome Active Associate Airmen
- Continue to upgrade and improve main campus
 - Weapons load training facility
 - F-16CM simulator training facility
- Prepare for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

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