

JULY 2020

ON
FIVE

COMMANDERS CORNER

Hey Bulldogs! I have been your Mission Support Group Commander for almost 9 months already but my excitement from joining the 148th has not waned. I am proud to serve with you as we continue to accomplish our mission despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the civil unrest in our State. I know we will continue to excel as we continue to be presented with new challenges.

We are clearly entering a period of change in our society and our country. When COVID finally passes there will still be social norms adopted during the pandemic that will likely become permanent. At my civilian job, our leadership is already asking us how often we think we need to be in the office. Is commuting five days a week a thing of the past? For those who do not have the option of working from home, new procedures are being adopted to keep employees and customers safe. Will these procedures ever go away? We will not know until we get there but we need to accept that life will not go back to exactly the way it was.

We also will be part of societal change, ushered in by the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis policeman. No one can watch that 8 minute 46 second video and say that action was justified. Although there is no excuse for the rioting and destruction we saw in our state and around the country, those actions cannot overshadow the message behind the peaceful protest that the status quo needs to change. Racism still exists in our country and we need to ensure we are part of the solution and not perpetuate the problem.

I encourage you to research our newest leader in the Air Force. On Jun 9th, General Charles Q. Brown was approved 98-0 by the US Senate to become the 22nd chief of staff of the Air Force. He will also be the first African American military service chief (Gen Colin Powell was the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, not a service chief). When he discussed the expectations coming with his nomination, his humility stands out. “I’m thinking about how I may have fallen short in my career, and I will continue to fall short living up to those expectations.” He also talked about how his own experiences in the Air Force “didn’t always sing of liberty and equality.” It was personally enlightening, and discouraging, that I have served in the same Air Force for 28 years and what he described was foreign to me. Again, I encourage you to learn about him, and to support his mission of making “institutional improvements so that all airmen can serve in a professional environment where they can reach their full potential.”



Colonel Lyle Shidla, Mission Support Group Commander

BROWN CONFIRMED AS THE 22ND AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

BY: CHARLES POPE- SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Senate confirmed [Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.](#), June 9, to be the 22nd Air Force chief of staff, clearing the way for the decorated pilot and experienced commander to become the first African American in history to lead a branch of the U.S. military as its highest-ranking officer.

The vote was 98-0

In advance of today’s vote on his confirmation, Brown testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing May 7. During the hearing, Brown pledged to ensure Air Force readiness to support the National Defense Strategy, if confirmed. “I am committed to the Air Force achieving irreversible momentum towards implementation of the National Defense Strategy and an integrated and more lethal joint force,” Brown said.

[Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett](#) congratulated Brown on his confirmation and highlighted the important role he will play leading the Air Force into the future and carrying on the strategic vision of the current Air Force chief of staff, [Gen. David L. Goldfein](#).

“I join leaders, Airmen and [Space Professionals](#) from across the forces in congratulating Gen. Brown and his wife Sharene,” Barrett said. “Leaders of their caliber will perpetuate the legacy of excellence that Gen. Goldfein and Dawn Goldfein have epitomized over the last four years. Gen. Brown’s unrivaled leadership, operational experience and global perspective will prove crucial as we continue modernizing the Air Force to meet tomorrow’s national security challenges and protect our nation.”

Goldfein also congratulated Brown and cited his unparalleled qualifications to be the next Air Force chief of staff. “There is no one I know who is better prepared to be chief of staff, no one who has the experience and the temperament to lead the Air Force,” Goldfein said. “The Air Force and our nation will be in good hands under his leadership.”

Chief of Space Operations and fellow service chief, [Gen. Jay Raymond](#) also congratulated Brown on his confirmation.

“Gen. Brown is an innovative leader who clearly understands the complex and evolving strategic environment we face today as a Department,” Raymond said. “He clearly understands the importance of leading across all domains to compete, deter and win — especially in war-fighting domains like space. I am thrilled with Gen. Brown’s confirmation. I couldn’t ask for a better teammate.”

Brown was commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech University. He is a command pilot with more than 2,900 flying hours, including 130 combat hours.

Brown currently serves as the [U.S. Pacific Air Forces](#) commander and the



Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.

air component commander of [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command](#) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. U.S. Pacific Air Forces is responsible for Air Force activities spread over half the globe in a command that supports more than 46,000 Airmen serving principally in Japan, South Korea, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

Brown will replace Goldfein Aug. 6 at a swearing-in ceremony.



Major Joe Solberg assumes command of the 148th Civil Engineering Squadron during a June 14th ceremony



THE ONLINE ON FIVE

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BASS NAMED AS THE 19TH CHIEF MASTER SGT. OF THE AIR FORCE

BY: CHARLES POPE SAF/PA

[Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne S. Bass](#) was selected June 19 to become the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, becoming the first woman in history to serve as the highest ranking noncommissioned member of a U.S. military service.

In selecting Bass, incoming [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CO Brown](#) said Bass brings skills, temperament and experience that the job requires and an outlook on leadership that meshes with his own.

“I could not be more excited to work side-by-side with Chief Bass,” Brown said.

“She has unique skills that will help us both lead the Total Force and live up to the high expectations of our Airmen,” he said. “She is a proven leader who has performed with distinction at every step of her accomplished career. I have no doubt that Chief Bass will provide wise counsel as we pursue and implement initiatives to develop and empower Airmen at all levels.”

Brown, who will become the 22nd Chief of Staff in August, said selecting the correct candidate to serve as chief master sergeant was one of his most critical decisions in advance of his becoming Chief. The search to replace outgoing [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright](#) was both broad and rigorous.

Bass emerged as the consensus choice from a group of more than a dozen finalists from across the Air Force’s global operation, officials said. The finalists were selected based on breadth of experience, recommendations from senior commanders and performance across each candidate’s Air Force career.

“I’m honored and humbled to be selected as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and follow in the footsteps of some of the best leaders our Air Force has ever known,” Bass said. “The history of the moment isn’t lost on me; I’m just ready to get after it. And I’m extremely grateful for and proud of my family and friends who helped me along the way.”

When asked about the job and her partnership with Brown, Bass acknowledged that strong “chemistry” is important and the standard was set by Wright and [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein](#).

Brown, she said, is “the kind of leader we’ve all wanted to work with. I’m excited for the opportunity to serve as his chief and his wingman. Together, we will do everything we can to ensure that every Airman and their families are taken care of and feel like they are a part of our Air Force family.”

She added, “CMSAF Wright and Team 18 have set a pretty high bar, but I know that Team 19 will rise to the occasion.

“... My job will be to help set the stage for individual and team development, so our brothers and sisters are healthy, engaged and ready for the fight!” Bass said.

Wright endorsed the choice as well.

“I’ve known Jo for many years and watched closely as she’s guided Team 18 and led her own teams to great success,” he said. “This is a historic moment for our Air Force and she is a phenomenal leader who’ll bring new ideas and her own style to the position. She’ll do great things for our Airmen and she’ll blaze her own trail as our CMSAF.”

Bass is clearly prepared for the new assignment.

She currently serves the command chief master sergeant, Second Air Force, at [Keesler Air Force Base](#), Mississippi. In her current assignment, Bass is the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the commander on all matters relating to the professional development, proper utilization, and the readiness of the enlisted corps.

The command consists of four training wings, 18 groups with 76 operating locations worldwide, in support of 13,000 enlisted, officers, civilians, contractors and 36,000 basic military trainees per year.

In addition, [Second Air Force](#) is home to more than 260 Air Force specialties through 2,300 courses graduating 150,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and international students annually in various fields including financial management, security forces, cyber, personnel, weather, civil engineer, and aircraft maintenance, while providing 93% of the Air Force’s initial skills training.

She began her career in 1993 with a posting at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, and has served at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as the command chief master sergeant for the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and at the Pentagon as chief, Air Force Enlisted Developmental Education.

Her service awards include “Distinguished Graduate” from the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in 2009 and the 2011 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award for the 86th Operations Group.

By coincidence, Bass also shares two notable similarities with her soon-to-be partner, Brown. Both come from Army families. Bass lived in several overseas and stateside locations, prior to entering the Air Force. Brown’s father is a retired Army colonel.

Brown is the first African American in history to be confirmed as a chief of staff for any branch of the U.S. military. Bass will be the first woman to serve as the senior enlisted leader for a military service.

When Brown and Bass move to their new assignments, they will confront an Air Force in transition. The force is moving from a heavy focus on combating terrorism to one that must be prepared to confront China, Russia and other peer adversaries. Each will be called on to continue the Air Force’s efforts to improve resiliency across the force and reduce suicides.

They also will be responsible for addressing racial disparity in the Air Force.

Across all those issues and others, Bass, as chief master sergeant of the Air Force, will provide direction for the enlisted force and will represent their interests.

Like previous CMSAFs, she will be the public face of Air Force enlisted personnel and those in all levels of government. As noted by Brown, she will be a personal adviser to the chief of staff and [Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett](#) on issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of more than 410,000 enlisted members.

JENSEN SELECTED AS THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

MINNESOTA JFHQ/PA

The President has nominated Major General Jon Jensen, the Adjutant General of the **Minnesota National Guard**, to serve as the next director of the Army National Guard at **The National Guard** Bureau, subject to confirmation by the United States Senate.

Maj. Gen. Jensen has served as Minnesota’s Adjutant General since 2017, after having held various leadership positions within the Minnesota National Guard. He has served in the National Guard for 37 years.

“I want to congratulate Major General Jensen on this appointment and thank him for his outstanding work as Minnesota’s Adjutant General,” said **Governor Tim Walz**. “Those who know Major General Jensen are not surprised he’s been picked for this top position. Not only has he served our state well, but he’s worked with his colleagues across the country to build relationships and expand the partnership between National Guard forces and the federal Government.”

(Photo Caption) Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard pending Senate confirmation will be the next director of the Army National Guard. If confirmed, Jensen would receive a third star and succeed Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson.



"ALL-IN": AS LONG AS WE'RE ARE NEEDED

BY STAFF SGT. LINSEY WILLIAMS- MN NATIONAL GUARD PA

June 5, 2020 (MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.) — In Minneapolis, just before a 10 p.m. curfew, a white sport utility vehicle pulls to a stop at the corner of Cedar Avenue and East 26th Street, waiting for the stoplight to turn green. On this same corner are Minnesota National Guard Soldiers from Charlie Co., 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. They are providing security for Cedar Food & Grill, the only grocery in a two-mile radius that has not been ravaged by looters.

“How long are you guys going to be here?” The driver shouts to a troop on the sidewalk.

“As long as we’re needed, ma’am,” he replies.

When Minnesota Governor Tim Walz authorized a full activation of the Minnesota National Guard on May 28, Minnesota Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen said, “We are ‘all-in’ for the people of Minnesota.”

Civil unrest ravaged Minneapolis as the month of May came to a close. Looting was rampant, fires raged in small businesses and a police precinct was burned to the ground. The people of Minnesota needed extra security that the National Guard could provide.

Members of the Minnesota National Guard come from all over the state. Though their experience and perspectives may differ, they work together and accomplish any mission placed before them. Thousands of Minnesota Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen heeded the call to drop everything and respond to the needs of their state.

Pfc. David Sanchez was ready and quick to report for duty. A lifelong native of South Minneapolis, he has been too busy to think about what’s going on outside of his current mission. In the days before being activated, Sanchez was managing an auto parts store on Lake Street in South Minneapolis. One night, after locking up the store, people rushed the building and began looting. The next day it was burned.

Since being placed on state active duty, Sanchez has been standing shoulder to shoulder with his National Guard brothers and sisters of the 175th Forward Support Company as they conduct security missions across the Twin Cities, both day and night. “Not everybody here is from the metro. Sharing my experience with these guys is pretty nice,” Sanchez said. “Maybe it changes their perspective knowing that this is home for someone they’re right next to.”

For the 257th Military Police Company, one of the first units activated for the state’s active duty mission, their time has been filled with both challenges and rewards. At least, that is how Staff Sgt. Chase Tao puts it.

“Coming together like this, it is more breadth than depth. We are from all walks of life,” she says. When Tao is not doing her military duties, she is a sheriff’s deputy in the metro area. In her 14 years of service in the Minnesota National Guard, she has never seen a mission this complex. “What is most important, though,” Tao said, “Is that a lot of what we do today will affect tomorrow. We are human and here to help out.”

Farther north, at the Arden Hills Armory where hundreds more troops have mustered, other members of the 257th rest and wait for their next shift or on-call mission. A paramedic by trade, Spc. Emerson Swenson was also activated. As a combat medic, he provides an important set of skills to his team as they support civil authorities.

“Duty comes first,” said Swenson. “I’m proud of doing this.”

Security Forces Squadrons from both the 133rd Airlift Wing and the 148th Fighter Wing brought their quick reaction force teams to the response. Tech. Sgt. Michael Fish is a member of the 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron headquartered in Duluth. Fish is the third generation of men in his family to make a career in the 148th. “I know everyone I’ve talked to is just proud to be here,” said Fish. “That’s the oath we all took. That’s what the National Guard is all about.”

Troops have completed over 60 unique missions since state activation began, many of which have lasted for multiple days. From protecting the last un-looted grocery store to providing security so that firefighters can accomplish their life-saving mission, the Airmen and Soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard have remained committed to the needs of Minnesotans.



MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PERFORM FLYOVERS HONORING FRONTLINE COVID WORKERS

MN JFHQ/PA

May 13, 2020 (ST. PAUL, Minn.) – The Minnesota National Guard along with the 934th Air Wing of the Air Force Reserve conducted additional statewide flyovers in recognition of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic response as part of Operation American Resolve. The Minnesota National Guard also performed flyovers on May 6,

“Last week’s flyovers were an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight,” said Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. “We chose several hospitals as flyover points, but it is truly only a symbolic gesture, as the intent isn’t to honor only those facilities, but all the essential workers statewide. Whether you are a medical provider or a meat packing employee; a teacher or gas station attendant; an emergency responder or a garbage collector, your work and the care you provide have kept our state safe and functioning. Thank you for your service and your sacrifice.”

“We are proud to extend our gratitude across Minnesota and honor those who have been working non-stop to keep our community safe by thanking them with this series of flyovers,” said Col. Chris Lay, 934th Airlift Wing commander. “Together with our Air National Guard partners, we want Minnesotans to know that this American Resolve is a tribute to the spirit instilled within our Nation and we will prevail beyond this difficult time.”

The flights scheduled for Wednesday are the second and likely final part of a statewide effort to recognize health care workers, emergency responders, food industry and other essential workers throughout the state that have done their part to keep the state functioning during the stay at home order.

The aircraft flying these missions will be combinations of F-16 Fighting Falcon and C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Minnesota National Guard’s 148th Fighter Wing out of Duluth, and the 133rd Airlift Wing out of Saint Paul, as well as from the Air Force Reserve’s 934th Airlift Wing.

“Our crews must fly regularly to maintain their proficiency,” said Col. James Cleet, 133rd Airlift Wing Commander, “This is an outstanding way to both train our aircrew and to recognize those in our community that are on the frontline working hard for the citizens of Minnesota.”

The flight path for Wednesday will reach the following communities: Aitken, Albert Lea, Alexandria, Baudette, Bemidji, Big Fork, Blue Earth, Burnsville, Cloquet, Cook, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Edina, Ely, Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hermantown, Hibbing, International Falls, Jackson, Luverne, Mankato, Marshall, Moorhead, New Prague, New Ulm, Northfield, Redwood Falls, Rochester, Roseau, Shakopee, Silver Bay, Thief River Falls, Two Harbors, Virginia, and Worthington in Minnesota and Ashland, Bayfield, Eagle River Florence, and Superior in Wisconsin, and Crystal Falls, Ironwood, and Ontonagon in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Flyovers are set to fly near local medical facilities in each community, if possible.

“Our Guardsmen live and work in these cities. The Minnesota National Guard has units and facilities in 58 communities throughout the state. They have always supported us, this is a small way we can show that we support them too,” said Col. Christopher Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing Commander. “Thank you for your service.”

These flyovers are incorporated into previously scheduled training missions.



148TH FIGHTER WING COMMUNICATIONS TEAM IS CALLED TO STATE ACTIVE DUTY

BY: SSGT DANI THARALDSON- 148FW/PA

When Minnesota Governor Tim Walz called for the state-wide activation of the Minnesota National Guard (MNNG) on May 28, over 750 Airmen of the 148th Fighter Wing (148FW) in Duluth, Minn. were ready to respond. They were told to have a 72-hour bag packed with uniforms and essentials, be on alert and wait from home to hear what comes next.

For the 148FW Communications Flight, what came next has become the epitome of their shop motto, “Flexibility is the key to Airpower.” An initial call came on May 29, requesting two members as support for the 210th Engineering Squadron, a tenant unit of the 133rd Airlift Wing (133AW) in St. Paul, Minn. As the situation developed, the team increased to six to deliver and operate their Remote Communications Platform 3 (RCP3) in support of joint efforts for the entire MNNG and local authorities in the Twin Cities. Within two-hours, all six team members arrived at the Wing from various locations. Right away, they started the ‘out-processing’ checklist of gathering their gear and readying equipment. Gas masks, ID tags, utility belts and canteens, Individual Body Armor, Individual First Aid Kits and sleeping bags were secured and packed. In less than two-hours of first arriving at the Wing, the team was on their way to the Arden Hills Army Training Site.

The 152-mile trip to Arden Hills could only be made at 50 mph. The RCP3 is a mobile communications tower mounted on a Ford F-750 truck, a custom design built with the help of our Communications Flight Radio Frequency Transmissions Technician. Its tower, fully extended to 106 feet, has the ability to boost radio, phone and wireless internet signals up to a 50-mile range in the open. Developed for use to support flood relief along the Red River Valley, where communication infrastructure is scarce or non-existent, it had never been tested or used in an urban environment, as there had never been a need.

Upon arrival at the Arden Hills Training Site, it was confirmed they were headed for Minneapolis. The team quickly realized, although it was a familiar area, they had \$1 million worth of equipment and no weapons or protection. An Army Colonel at Incident Command immediately contacted a Quick Reaction Team and tasked them to provide an armed escort and ensure their safe arrival. “It got incredibly real, incredibly fast,” remarked the Plans and Resources Superintendent of the 148FW Communications Flight. “Although I feel all the training and exercises over my 22-years in the Air National Guard truly prepared me for this activation - riding in that convoy, with instructions not to stop no matter what, down a deserted I-35W toward downtown Minneapolis ... was not something I ever could have expected to experience in my military career.”

The team faced a whole new set of challenges in this new urban environment. Discovering the perfect area to set-up the RCP3 was trial and error, requiring multiple moves due to nearby buildings blocking the tower’s signal. Weather was a constant concern, as lightening and winds above 25 mph required them to retract the tower, significantly diminishing the signal range. Lack of space prevented the platform from being secured to the ground with wires as it required a 75-foot radius. The team was tasked with the impossible and asked to provide the capability to tie in all military vehicle radios (Humvee and MRAP/light tactical vehicles) for direct communication with the State 800 mhz channel. It was a huge ask, as no one thought this could be done. The RCP3 Overall Lead Technician pulled off a miracle and completed the task, which allowed not only direct communication with any military vehicle within an 18-mile radius, but also allowed for improved response times.

Being entirely surrounded by Army National Guard, the team discovered a new found respect for Soldiers while watching their responses first-hand. They commented how it was something to see the Soldiers go from a chill vibe and waiting, to full mobility once the command was given to roll out. Hundreds of Soldiers would just spring into action and quickly deploy, convoy after convoy poured out of the building. They wouldn’t miss a beat, driving through the gate and into the street to help keep Minneapolis safe.

The way the team worked together and with other units and agencies set the tone for accomplishing the mission at hand. Some relationships were both comforting as well as instrumental. The Team was able to establish direct communication with the 133AW’s RCP3 located at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minn. They even discovered their sister unit was there, Soldiers from 5th Platoon, 114th Transportation Company headquartered in Duluth, tasked with patrolling streets and supporting local authorities with their MATV’s (all-terrain MRAP vehicles.)



148TH FIGHTER WING ASSISTS WITH COVID TESTING FOR THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

BY: SSGT DANI THARALDSON- 148FW/PA

June 13, 2020 (DULUTH, Minn.) Members of the 148th Fighter Wing (148FW) Medical Group are volunteering in efforts to make COVID-19 testing readily available throughout the state of Minnesota, in accordance with directives from Gov. Tim Walz.

A team of eight medical technicians, who all are part-time at the Wing, jumped at the opportunity to gain more military experience and help local communities in a first of its kind mission administering free COVID-19 tests. The team split into three separate groups, covering locations in Duluth, St. Paul and Wilmar and have been testing since May 17 in partnership with the 133rd Airlift Wing, Army National Guard Medics and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Aerospace Medical Technician, Tech. Sgt. Sean Prouty states they’ve conducted thousands of tests. “We worked the community clinical in Duluth over Memorial weekend and completed 1,400 tests - which exceeded our goal just that weekend.” Prouty explained that many were concerned with doing the test because of the pharyngeal swab method that went from the beginning of the nasal passage all the way to the back of the throat. They are now doing a less invasive method, which swabs just inside the nose.

The team has been extremely diligent in taking measures to protect themselves and their patients while performing the tests. Daily, they take their own temperature and do self-checks for symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing) before reporting for work. They have plenty of supplies including gowns, masks and gloves and are strict about infection control and handwashing. They each receive weekly COVID-19 tests themselves, and luckily no one has been positive so far. If exposure to a positive patient were confirmed, they will self-quarantine for 14-days to ensure safety.

Testing has been completed on all age ranges, as young as an infant to a 105-year old adult. As nursing homes have been most susceptible to the pandemic, many locations they travel to are long-term care facilities. They not only test every resident, but all staff as well. “It’s been an awesome experience. I’ve most enjoyed the patient care aspect, being able to talk with the residents and staff. You really feel you’re able to make a difference through helping to minimize the spread of the virus,” said Senior Airman Makenzie Louzek, Aerospace Medical Technician.

The team credits past medical training and exercises in preparing them to be mission ready. “Even though you can go years without using the skills you learn, they come back to you when you need them,” said Prouty.



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BULLDOG IN ACTION

Name: Tech. Sgt. Chelsie Larson
Job: Aerospace Medical Technician
Hometown: Proctor, Minnesota

How long have you been the Guard? 8.5 years - Me and my twin brother were trying to do it together!

Do you have any other family in the Wing? My Dad did one active duty enlistment right out of high school, but never really talk about it. The fun part about that is ... I didn't even know my dad was in the Air Force until I was in high school, and my brother and I approached my parents about enlisting! Both our parents were super supportive, and my Dad even said to us, "I wished I would have joined the Guard."

What is your favorite part of the job? There is always something different: one day I could be helping with orders, the next day a blood draw, and the next day - a pilot physical. I was really fortunate to be able to land a full-time job, I really enjoy the travel, and the people. I learned there was a lot more to the guard; there is a lot more than just the flexibility and school benefits.

What has being in the guard taught you? The guard has given me structure and taught me how to hold myself accountable. Being a member in the ANG, I do feel pride in doing the best I can in supporting the mission and providing the best possible service to the Wing.

What made you raise your right hand for multiple enlistments? Over my first enlistment, I learned the importance of reliability, honesty, diligence, and hard work. It helped mold me into a person that my family, friends, and coworkers could rely on and respect. I don't think I would have matured the way I did without my career as a guardsman. That, among the all the opportunities to travel and meet people from all different parts of the world, is what made me raise my right hand again.

How did it make you feel to support the state while on State Active Duty? It was almost surreal when I got the late-night call – when I found out we're supporting COVID. Our group got training, supported COVID, and it is cool to think how I'm a small part of the big picture? Honestly it helps me just press forward. You might not understand at the time, the why. But after you're finished and you see the mission, you understand why your role is what it was.



148FW HITS 30 YEARS AS AN ADOPT A HIGHWAY VOLUNTEER

The 148th Fighter Wing has been an Adopt a Highway volunteer for 30 years. Adopt a Highway allows our members to assist in keeping the local area beautiful.

"We have a very beautiful area that we live in and we need to do all that we can to keep it that way, said Tech. Sgt. Adam Ross, 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces. "Being we volunteer in uniform it show the community we care and aren't afraid to be out there leading the way."

Besides interacting with members from other work areas, Adopt a Highway allows members to step away from everyday tasks to come together outside the workplace and give a little bit back to the community. "The feeling you have after a few hours of exercise and picking up trash is amazing," said Ross. "To look back and see that your group has filled so many bags of trash and picked up so many vehicle pieces from collisions makes a person feel good about all that they have helped accomplish in a short time. It takes a couple of hours with a small group, two times a year. It is a high yield with little time commitment."

We have a very beautiful area that we live in and we need to do all that we can to keep it that way.



AROUND THE WING

