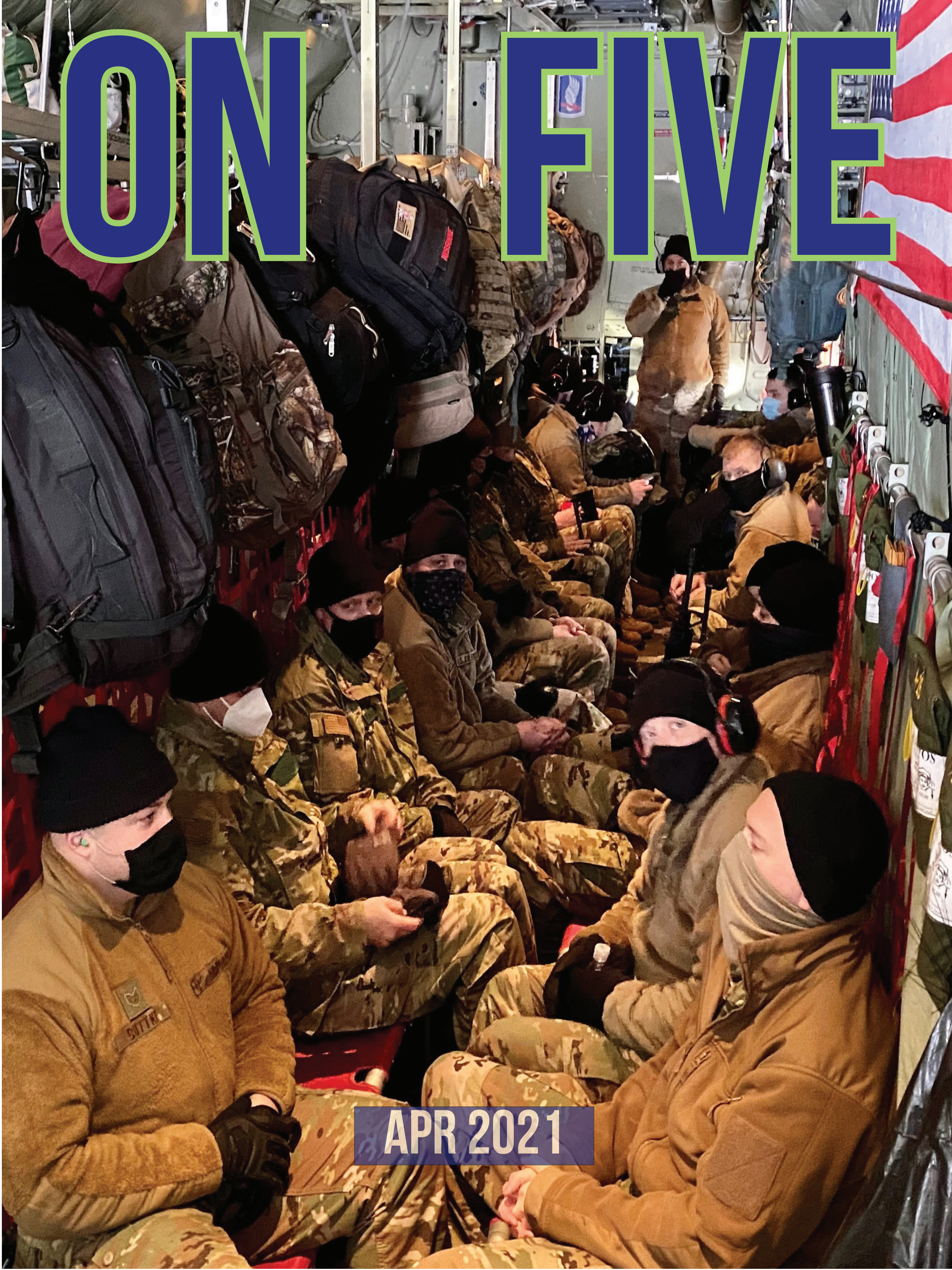


ON FIVE



APR 2021

CHIEFS CORNER

The Minnesota Air National Guard provides protection of life and property and preserves peace, order, and public safety. From a guardsman perspective, our state mission has never rung truer words than it has over the past year. We were called upon several times to support our state and nation in the midst of a pandemic and an environment of civil unrest. We left our families, jobs, and comforts of home to answer the call. What was asked of us was nothing shy of incredible, but in true Bulldog fashion, we accomplished every time hack, task, and mission with the highest level of excellence.

In January, I had the honor of serving as the enlisted leader of our 100 Airmen responding to the U.S. Capitol in support of Operation Capitol Response (PI-59). Initial information was limited; our tasking was unclear, the preparation was short-notice, and the logistics seemed impossible. We were deploying state-side to preserve one of our most sacred events, the Presidential Inauguration, a peaceful transfer of power. The group of 100 was diverse, most were asked to work in an unfamiliar environment well outside of their chosen career field. Despite the hurdles, we traveled 1,200 miles and completed the mission flawlessly.

In April, I served as the enlisted leader of our 100 Airmen responding to the Minnesota Capitol in support of Operation Safety Net. This time we had more information about our mission, but our minds were not at ease. The atmosphere was tense as it was close to home and the environment we were entering was controversial, political, and emotionally charged. We had to somehow find a way to preserve constitutional rights while holding the safety of all involved paramount, these were our neighbors after all. As we prepared, circumstances changed which, upon no notice, required us to deploy one week earlier than anticipated. Everyone tasked was to report to base immediately.

Both instances I described above shared the fact that we needed to be ready at a moment's notice, and we were. Guardsmen left their civilian employment, some half way through their day, said "Goodbye" to their families, and reported for duty. They responded to tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations that were far beyond what they had been asked to do before. Timelines did not exist; there was no date of return, and that is what they had to tell their families, friends, and employers. They had no political affiliations, they could not voice their personal opinions, and they had to stand fast in the face of adversity. What I observed was the largest display of resilience that I had ever witnessed. They were asked to do something historic at a tempo the National Guard has not experienced.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

I ran across the prayer that follows during the State Active Duty these past weeks. I was familiar with it as it is often used in the Christian tradition. But of late, it has to me sounded even more powerful as the mission in the Twin Cities was being undertaken by my brothers and sisters of the 148th and members of the Army and Air Guard across the state of Minnesota. You were sent into a volatile situation as a very real instrument of peace. Our mission was not only to protect buildings and people, but in a deeper sense it was to be peacemakers. The difference, I have been told between a peacekeeper and a peacemaker is that a peacemakers find themselves in a situation that is not peaceful and are charged with the sacred duty to bring peace with them. That is exactly what happened. In the aftermath of this activation, it is important to continue in our mission of being peacemakers around our state and around the world. There are surely those among us that are still feeling the effects of this latest mission. May we be peacemakers there as well. The Chaplain Corps stands ready to assist each and all in that mission as well as any we are called to serve together.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

HILLEREN REPRESENTS 148FW AT CHIEF OF NGB BIATHOLON CHAMPIONSHIP



148th Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, Master Sgt. Mark Hilleren, participated in the Chief of the National Guard Bureau's Biathlon Championships held at Camp Ripley Training Center in February. This was the first Biathlon for Hilleren, who participated in the individual Sprint and Pursuit races as well as the Relay and Patrol team races. "The skiing was good" said Hilleren who was well prepared from training for the 2021 Birkebeiner. "The shooting was more difficult than I thought. The process is more complex than just picking up a gun and firing," said Hilleren.

Biathlon is one of four National Guard Bureau recognized Joint Force Recreation and Community Support events available to National Guard members. Other events include marathon, marksmanship and parachuting. (Photos by Tony Housey-Camp Ripley Public Affairs)



CMSGT JOZEF MIKETIN-SFS CHIEF ENLISTED MANAGER

I know we (the National Guard) are a great force, but I gained a new level of confidence during these missions. A confidence that Bulldogs can go anywhere, anytime, and display excellence in all we do.



CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DARREL KYLE



THE ONLINE ON FIVE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 148TH FIGHTER WING,
DULUTH, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 2020, VOLUME 4

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148TH FIGHTER WING SUPPORTS ARCTIC AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE

BY: 2LT CRYSTAL KIRCHNER/ 148FW/PA

The 148th Fighter Wing “Bulldogs” are no strangers to extreme cold. Last week they were able to test their capabilities in Canada and Greenland, proving the ability to operate in a multinational environment with an advanced mission set, to include sub-zero weather conditions.

On the morning of March 20, 2021, four F-16’s and 45 airmen departed Duluth, Minn., to participate in a six-day North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) arctic air defense exercise that spanned from the Beaufort Sea to Thule, Greenland, and extended south down the Eastern Atlantic to the U.S. coast of Maine. The exercise provided an opportunity to hone homeland defense skills as Canadian, U.S. and NATO forces operated together in the Arctic.

The Bulldogs arrived at their first destination in Yellowknife, Canada, and less than 36 hours later a small team forward-deployed to Thule Air Base, Greenland. In both locations, Airmen collaborated and trained with the Royal Canadian Air Force, the 140th Fighter Wing out of Denver, Colo., and the 133rd Airlift Wing out of St. Paul, Minn. where they focused on increasing small team tactical proficiency in the arctic. Pilots flew tactical missions over the Nunavut province and through the coastal fjords of Greenland, security forces personnel defended military operating zones, aircraft maintenance personnel worked to maintain mission-capable aircraft, and together all were able to advance military capabilities.

“NORAD’s most recent Arctic live-fly exercise utilizing Canadian, U.S. and NATO forces enabled our Airmen to hone their Agile Combat Employment (ACE) skill sets to defend North America across the high north,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Kirk Pierce, commander, Continental U.S. NORAD Region. “We are grateful to the highly professional and experienced Bulldog team of Airmen. They deployed and executed operations demonstrating NORAD’s extensive capability to provide aerospace warning and defense.”

This was the 148th Fighter Wing’s first-time deploying F-16 Fighting Falcons to exercise Agile Combat Employment and Dynamic Force Employment concepts.

“This is just the beginning and we will take the lessons we learned from this experience and continue to develop our ACE capabilities in the future,” explained 179th Fighter Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Paul Thornton. “In order to maximize the effectiveness of ACE, we need our Airmen to embrace becoming multi-functional Airmen. The way we did our jobs 10 years ago, five years ago or even last year is not the way we will do our jobs in the future. There will be more emphasis put on developing agile Airmen who are capable of operating outside of their specialty. We all need to embrace the culture of, ‘what can I do to help this mission succeed’.”

The Arctic’s austerity requires specialized training and acclimation by both personnel and material as temperatures reached -57 degrees Fahrenheit with wind-chill during the first week of Spring. Being able to survive and operate in extreme cold weather is imperative for contingency response or combat power generation. People and machines do not operate well in extreme cold and winter months are continuously dark and much colder.

While deployed, some Airmen served in their traditional specialty roles as well as transitioned to secondary roles. Tech. Sergeant Jesse Bergman explained that “part of the day a person could be performing security tasks and later in the day they could be performing their primary role of working on aircraft. It’s a new concept, and the more we do it, the better we will get at it.”

The Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. emphasized in the concept document Accelerate Change or Lose that, “Having multi-capable Airmen who are able to perform a diverse range of duties and responsibilities enhances mission effectiveness and allows for this style of small team movement and mission execution to be possible.” He expressed, “this skill-set is critical as the Air Force continues to prioritize improving capabilities and being agile while adapting to the future.”

Col. Chris M. Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing commander, said, “As the northernmost fighter wing in the Air National Guard, I expect us to operate more in the arctic in the future in order to counter an ever-increasing arctic presence by our near-peer competitors. Our national security depends on our ability to operate in arctic regions and the Bulldogs are up to the challenge.”

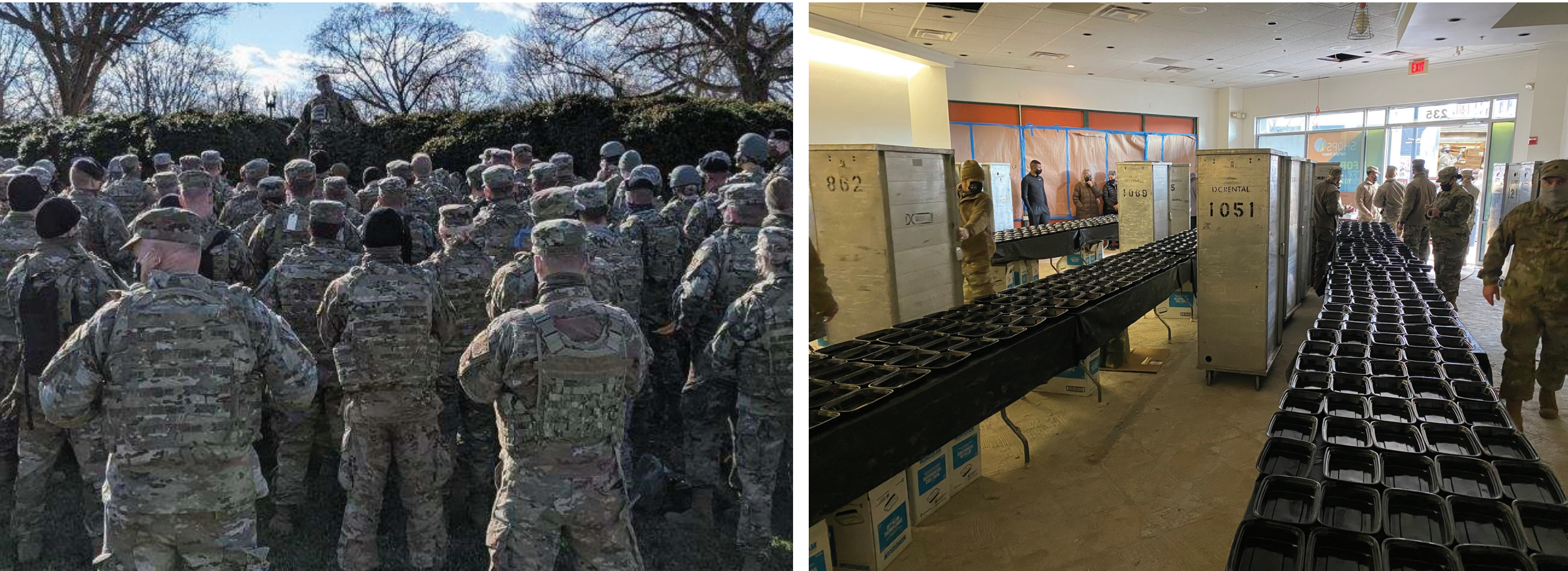


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148FW AIRMEN FEED THE TROOPS DURING PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN-148FW/PA



Prior to January 6th, 2021 eight Services Specialists from the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard were already prepared to support the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The Airmen planned to serve up 2,500 National Guard service members daily out of a mobile Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, or SPEK kitchen. SPEK kitchens are utilized during both overseas and domestic operations.

The scope of the mission changed dramatically after the National Guard was charged to increase its presence in the National Capitol Region to ensure safety and security during the Inauguration. More than 25,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen from 54 states, territories and DC are currently providing security, communications, medical evacuation, and other support to civilian authorities throughout the Presidential Inauguration.

Air National Guard airmen from Arizona, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Minnesota and Tennessee partnered with restaurant staff, caterers, drivers and volunteers to prepare and deliver hot meals to service members supporting the Inauguration.

148th Services specialist, Master Sgt. Christopher Simonson served as the team lead for 148th members who were assigned to Delia’s Mediterranean Grill & Brick Oven Pizza with the goal of serving 15,000 meals per day. “This is one of those opportunities in my military career I could not pass up,” said Simonson, a 20-year veteran of the 148th who has deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates in 2008 and Thumrait Air Base, Oman in 2012. “We’re augmenting restaurant staff any way we can. We’re working alongside volunteers and staff unloading trucks, cooking meals and assembling to go containers,” said Simonson.

Delia’s is located in a strip mall in nearby Alexandria, Virginia. In a Facebook post, the restaurant announced “we are honored to be selected to provide meals to the National Guard this upcoming week.” In addition to Guard members from the 148th Fighter Wing, airmen from the Arizona, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and Tennessee Air Guard assisted restaurant staff and volunteers.

“The feeding operation was expanded into unused store spaces to increase food production capabilities,” said Simonson. Delia’s and its partner company, Heirloom DC, was one of a handful of local establishments contracted to feed National Guard members.

Once meals were prepared, HUNGRY Catering also based in Arlington, Virginia drove and delivered meals to a nearby armory for dissemination to National Guard members. HUNGRY is also a food delivery and logistics platform serving in all 50 states. According to its website, HUNGRY has partnered with municipalities and non-profits to deliver over two million meals to seniors and children across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Services specialist, Staff Sgt. Krishia Baltazar, who deployed to Puerto Rico in 2017 in support of Hurricane Maria relief operations, said “supporting service members in this capacity has been one of the most rewarding missions I have been a part of. My favorite aspect was all the Services units from different states came together like we’ve been working alongside each other for a long time.”

Upon his return, Simonson will return to State Active Duty status as he supports a COVID-19 testing site at a Minnesota National Guard Armory in Hibbing, Minnesota. Simonson has been supporting the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 support partnership since October 2020.

Baltazar will return to her job as a phlebotomist at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota and to her student status at the College of Saint Scholastica. Baltazar will graduate in May with a major in biology.

A3 Director of Operations for the Minnesota Air National Guard and Director of the 148th Mission Support Group, Col. Curt Grayson said “our members were able to adapt and use their experience to work with a local restaurant. It’s great to see the flexibility of the Guard.”

Airmen from the 148th were among nearly 850 Minnesota National Guard soldiers and airmen who provided security, medical evacuation and logistical support to the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The 148th Fighter Wing is located in Duluth, Minnesota.



UNDERDAHL COINED BY GEN. HOKANSON FOR BEING TOP RECRUITER IN STATE



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148TH FIGHTER WING MUNITIONS-IT'S A FAMILY

BY: SMSGT RALPH KAPUSTKA & MSGT JOEL PATTERSON

The 148th Fighter Wing Munitions Flight supports the entire wing with munitions items. This can include anything from bombs, missiles, and rockets for F-16 combat training missions or bullets and explosives for base support missions. The Munitions Flight is also responsible for the assembly of those weapons for both air to air and air to ground missions; this can include GPS and laser guided bombs, missiles, chaff and flares, 2.75mm rockets, and 20mm ammunition. Additionally, the munitions section supplies a variety of explosives that support aircraft maintenance, such as rocket catapults for the ejection seats and air crew safety items. Furthermore, they are responsible to receive, inspect, store, and issue operational munitions for Security Forces and demolition munitions for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal function at the Wing.

Munitions personnel are commonly referred to as “AMMO” since they build, inspect, deliver, and maintain munitions items in their area. This area is commonly confused with the weapons load shop, which is an exclusively different career field. Once the Munitions personnel inspect, build, and deliver the properly configured munitions item to the Weapons load crews they take control of the actual armament (loading) of the aircraft on the flightline. Two very important steps, but this is what makes them different!

It is also a common misconception that all munitions items come pre-built in a box for use, but this is not the case. Many different munitions configurations have different levels of assembly that has to happen prior to use. In fact there can be a lot of detail and parts that go into configuring a munition prior to use or it could be as relatively simple as removing it from the “box”, it just depends on the type of munition and the mission it’s configured for.

Surprisingly there is not the inherent risk that you would expect from working with explosives, this is due to the extensive hands on training provided and strictly followed safety procedures. Technical data is also strictly adhered to, this provides a step by step reference in the assembling of the munitions item. Technical data also ensures Munitions personnel are inspecting, assembling, and performing steps in the right order to guarantee a safe, reliable, and fully functioning weapon.

Why join the Munitions Flight? Because you would not have a mission without ammo. Without munitions, the jet would just be going for a flight. To say they have an impact on the lethality of the mission is an understatement. “I think this is a great job for those who want to have a second family and to be part of something bigger than themselves. You don’t have a chance to do something like this out in the civilian world, it is truly special to be a part of something like this,” said Tech. Sgt. Bryan Johnson, 148th Fighter Wing Munitions.

Being that the munitions area is geographically separated from the main base for safety reasons they are around each other a lot more. Because of that separation and time together they are able to develop stronger ties and friendships with each other, creating an extremely close knit group of people with a strong personal bond; a bond that Munitions cleverly refer to as “f-AMMO-ly”.

This “f-AMMO-ly” sentiment was echoed by experienced and new personnel alike. “As soon as I got my job tour and came back here I knew this is where I wanted to be,” said Airman 1st Class Kale Mosiniak, Munitions Systems Specialist who has been in the Guard for only 18 months. “We’re like a big family back here, the way we are separated from the rest of the base. My favorite thing about the job is the environment, everyone getting along, if you screw up they will let you know but it is not mean.”



148TH FW MED GROUP CONTINUES TO PROVIDE COVID SUPPORT

The 148th Fighter Wing started to provide COVID support in May 2020 when Medical Group members were called to active duty to deliver COVID testing throughout the state. Currently, the 148th has two members in Stillwater, Minn., administering testing.

Since testing began in 2020, the 148th has expanded its prevention role when it began vaccinating 148th members on December 28, 2020. Shortly after this, 148FW Medical Group members assisted with providing immunizations throughout the state.

Our people are happy to be out there helping, it’s a mix between the Army and Air Guard,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kelvin McCuskey, 148th FW Medical Group Superintendent. “Attitudes are good, they like going out there and seeing what is going on and making a difference in their communities. For some of them it is a little tough to try and volunteer as they have their own civilian jobs, a lot of them work at hospitals and would like to be out there but they can’t. We just ask for volunteers as there is nothing mandatory at this point.”

At its peak, the 148FW has had up to 12 members supporting the COVID mission at any given time over the last year. McCuskey stated, “it is important for the National Guard to be out there on the forefront helping the community with the vaccines and the testing, we have the capability to do it, that is why we are here and signed up. The state needs us!”

Capt. Elaine Hammond has been on some type of orders since June 1, 2021, supporting the COVID mission, she is a physician assistant at the 148FW and also works as physician assistant at St. Lukes Hospital, Duluth, Minn.

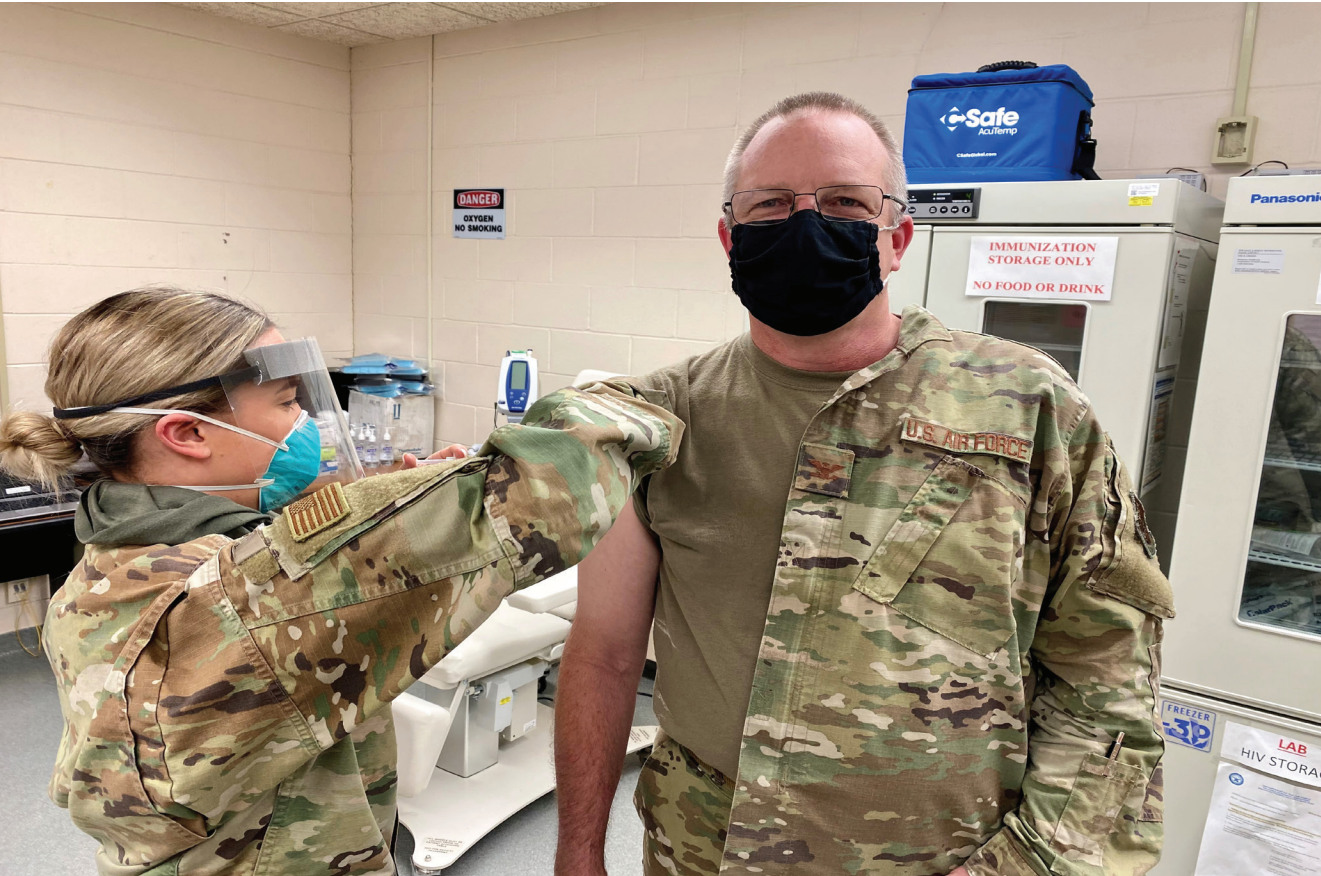
Hammond has been one of the key personnel on the Medical Group staff to make tough decisions with regards to COVID. “We deal with a lot of questions as to whether a person should come to work or not; we run through a little history with the member, have you had exposure when making a decision,” said Hammond. “We try to do a risk reduction while maintaining a functional base so we don’t put everyone out for seasonal allergies.”

Hammond is quick to point out that she could not do this if not for her civilian employer. “They have allowed me the flexibility to come up and support my unit in a time of need.”

I get the COVID numbers every day for St. Louis County, the number of positive cases, where people have died, it is shocking and you think about our elderly that are most vulnerable to this,” said McCuskey. “The more people that get the vaccine the better...the sooner we get through this the better.”

As of Apr. 27, 2021, approximately 53% of 148th members have been administered the first COVID vaccine dose and close to 50% of the members have gotten both doses. In addition, the Med Group has been given approval by the Minnesota Joint Force Headquarters and the National Guard Bureau to give vaccinations to dependents as long as they are in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

“It is totally voluntary, but we still have a lot of people at the base that haven’t been vaccinated and unsure whether they want it or not,” said McCuskey. “The more people that get vaccinated the better, and the quicker we can get to herd immunity.”



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ADLS TRAINING TRANSITIONS TO "MYLEARNING"

By Dan Hawkins, Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs /
Published March 02, 2021

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – As part of Air Education and Training Command’s efforts to aggressively and cost-effectively modernize education and training, Airmen and Guardians can access the “myLearning” digital platform on the Air Force Portal beginning March 18, 2021.

The AETC Learning Services division is launching the new secure learning management system (LMS) that will enable student learning, automation and reporting for roughly 800,000 Total Force users in three phases, with the first phase consisting of a modernized and interactive training platform that allows Airmen to access training modules previously found on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS).

“Our training systems that support Force Development must be relevant to today’s Airmen so we can accelerate the change we need to keep pace with the fast-paced virtual learning world,” said Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, AETC director of operations and communications. “To develop an Airman’s competencies to out-think and out-perform any adversary in complex operational environments, we need to leverage modern information technology...myLearning helps us modernize how we train our force.”

Users are advised they should complete all training coursework in ADLS not later than March 10. The ADLS website will be inaccessible to users March 26.

“Users who log in to myLearning March 18 may not initially see their historical training transcripts reflected in the system,” said Denise Padilla-Rorie, AETC myLearning program manager, said while emphasizing patience with the new system. “The transcript data is scheduled to migrate into myLearning.”

According to Padilla-Rorie, the platform’s vision is to centralize LMS platforms across the force and allows the student to access multiple databases and training curriculum with a single login, which eliminates the need for Airmen to have multiple passwords for access.

“How and where Airmen learn continues to change and we must account not only for “learn-from-work,” but also “learn-from-anywhere,” said Floyd A. McKinney, AETC chief of learning services. “If we are going to

meet the challenges of an uncertain future, we need to bring learning to Airmen instead of sending Airmen to learning – there has never been a



better time to innovate.”

Phase two of the rollout is slated to begin this spring when the Enterprise Blended Learning Service (EBLS) is migrated to the new system, Padilla-Rorie said. Phase three will begin later this year and involve added system capabilities and additional integration of other learning systems.

“By the end of phase III, the goal of myLearning is that the system will meet Airmen for training where they are, whether it’s on a network computer or a tablet in the comfort of their own home, giving them control over the time and place training can occur,” said Rotary Green, AETC myLearning product development program lead.

Currently, users must log-in with their Common Access Cards, but officials are working to add two-factor authentication protocols in the coming months. Additional features of myLearning will be announced over the next year as the site continues to build functionality and expand to other learning systems.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site or have feedback for the development team, email aetc.scoh.asdhelpdesk@us.af.mil

MILITARY SERVICE RUNS IN THE FAMILY (BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN)

On a brisk March day, Hermantown High School senior Joey Gigliotti raised his right hand and took the Oath of Office at the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard. The Oath, which is taken by military members to declare their support of the Constitution, was administered by Gigliotti’s aunt, Capt. Mylii Pukema who serves as the Director of Inspections in the 148th Inspector General office.

Watching this milestone event were three generations of family members who had taken the same oath. Gigliotti’s father, Chief Master Sgt. Ryan Gigliotti, currently serves as the Equipment Maintenance Flight Chief in the 148th Maintenance Squadron. In this capacity, Chief Gigliotti serves as the senior enlisted manager to over 100 personnel in six diverse aircraft maintenance shops. Chief Gigliotti enlisted in 1990 as an Aircraft Fuel Systems specialist. Since enlisting he’s held a variety of positions within the 148th Maintenance Group and has deployed to Howard Air Force Base, Panama; Joint Base Balad, Iraq three times; Osan Air Base, South Korea; Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base, Kuwait and numerous locations around the United States in support of NORAD-tasked homeland defense missions.

Gigliotti’s grandfather, retired Chief Master Sgt. Richard Pukema served over 23-years in the military; 18 of those years were with the 148th Fighter Wing. “I was a traditional, or part time, member and the opportunities afforded by the professional training and experiences in the 148th helped me in both the military and 28-years of law enforcement,” said retired Chief Pukema.

Gigliotti’s mother, Kalika Pukema, served as a Medical Service Technician in the 148th Medical Group from 1992 to 2002.

When asked why he joined the Air National Guard, Gigliotti said “Growing up in a military family, I’ve been able to meet my parent’s amazing friends and have come to appreciate the great community that is created at the 148th. I’ve heard the stories of many great adventures and I look forward to creating my own experiences in the future with the Air Guard.”

Gigliotti will attend Basic Military Training at Joint Base Lackland – San Antonio, Texas then will proceed to Shephard Air Force Base, Texas where he’ll receive technical training to become an F-16 avionics technician. Gigliotti earned top scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, also known as the ASVAB, which gave him the ability to choose from any career field at the 148th. Gigliotti chose Avionics as he thought “working on the jets will be a new and interesting challenge and the team setting will be awesome.”

After taking a gap year to attend Basic Military Training and technical school, Gigliotti plans to use the Montgomery G.I. Bill at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus where he plans to major in either Engineering or Architecture.

The 148th Fighter Wing is an F-16-equipped Air National Guard base located in Duluth, Minnesota. Over 1,000 members are assigned to over 100 diverse career fields. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about serving your state and nation, contact a recruiter at (218) 788-7818.



TWO OATHS, ONE FRIENDSHIP (BY AUDRA FLANAGAN)

In 2014, Staff Sgt. Jason Johnston enlisted in the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard as an Aircraft Metals Technician. In this capacity, Johnston serves as a machinist and welder who fabricates and custom-makes metal components critical to the functioning of the Wing’s F-16 aircraft. Since enlisting, the Hermantown native has deployed to Osan Air Force Base, South Korea (2016), Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base, Kuwait (2018) and the Southeastern United States in support of a NORAD-tasked homeland defense mission in 2020. “My favorite experiences since joining the 148th are deploying overseas. It’s what we train for and there is no better feeling when it all comes together,” said Johnston.

Johnston’s roommate and Grandma’s Sports Garden coworker, Andy Boso, was interested in military service in 2014, but felt stuck in the daily grind of work at the time. “After COVID-19 hit, my eyes were opened to how fragile work can be,” said Boso.

Johnston, a full time Metals Technician, encouraged Boso to consider the Guard for years. “Jason was an encyclopedia of information. He answered my questions and gave me useful data,” said Boso.

Earlier this month, Johnston and Boso, accompanied by their families raised their right hands took the Oath of Office together. Johnston reenlisted for 6-years while Boso took his initial Oath.

Boso will attend Basic Military Training and then technical school where he’ll learn skills to be an Aircraft Armament System specialist, also known as a weapon’s loader. “Weapons seemed like the perfect fit because I like to be moving and stay busy,” he said. “I was able to meet the folks in the shop during my tour and everyone seemed friendly,” Boso added.



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BULLDOG IN ACTION

Name and Rank: Airman 1st Class Sebastian Haugen

Job Title: Munitions Systems Specialist

What made you join the Guard: I joined the guard for a reasons? The first reason was that I knew I wanted to go to school but I was unsure of my future after High school. I thought the Air Force would offer a great start to my career and really aid in developing that sense of professionalism in me. I also joined because my father has served with the Navy and now currently with the Air National Guard. I saw firsthand the impact his military experience has had on his life, which motivated me to keep that tradition going. As a bonus the base is only a short 10 minute ride from my home, that proximity made it feel like the 148th was in my own backyard in a sense.

What is your favorite part of the Job? My favorite part of being a Munitions Specialist is that I get to contribute directly to the mission. Whether it is through inspecting munitions assets, building up bombs or missiles, or directly transporting assets to the flight line, I can see product of my work effect our mission with the fighter jets here at the 148th FW. I also enjoy that munitions has its own sense of family outside of normal base operations. We have each other’s backs out here and you can see that trust appear in our work.

What has being in the Guard taught you? Being in the guard has taught me what it means to be a resilient leader. Basic and Technical training was the longest I have been away from home in my young career. As a 19 year old, being able experience that separation and getting to take control of my personal narrative was extremely important. I was able to develop as a professional while doing hands on work with other Air Force members who come from all different backgrounds around our world. Experiencing this resilience has given me confidence that I can achieve a lot with the Air Force and in my communities outside of it.

Any Deployments or State Active Duty? I have not participated in any deployments at this point as I have just gotten back from Technical Training in the last year. When called upon I will be honored to help serve the greater communities of Minnesota.

What do you do in the civilian world? Outside of the Air National Guard I am a full-time student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I am coming to the end of my sophomore year where I am pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Management Information Systems and Marketing with minors in Leadership and Geography. This summer I will be participating in my first internship with the Travelers Insurance company. I truly value education in my life, having access to learning new information is such as privilege and I hope that I can use what I learn to make a greater impact on the world someday. When I am not working or attending school you can find me outside. I enjoy biking on trails, running, and camping in the beautiful Boundary Waters. In the twin cities I am also a big foodie and enjoy trying new restaurants and cuisine each week.



AROUND THE WING

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A cool moment before the [#Twins](#) home opener today as Tech. Sergeant and Cloquet native Noah Feehan of the Minnesota National Guard had the honor of raising the flag as part of the Salute to America.

Sweet mask sir! (Picture courtesy of Bally Sports North)

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A collage of six photographs. Top left: A line of soldiers in camouflage uniforms marching on a sidewalk. Top right: Soldiers in camouflage uniforms standing in a parking lot next to a red double-decker bus and a white van. Middle left: A soldier in a flight suit and helmet pulling a yellow strap on a piece of equipment. Middle right: A soldier in camouflage uniform loading green gear bags onto a wooden pallet. Bottom left: A group of soldiers in camouflage uniforms walking on a tarmac. Bottom right: A close-up of a man in a dark blue suit and beret speaking into a microphone.