



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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## LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



***"From everyone who has been given much,  
much will be demanded; and from the one  
who has been entrusted with much, much  
more will be asked."***

Luke 12:48 NIV

## FROM THE COMMANDER

Leaders, Colleagues, Friends and fellow Bulldogs,

We couldn't be happier with the SEAD mission and F-16 block 50 aircraft we've been given. As the new Wing Commander of the 148th Fighter Wing, I am excited to present to you the 148th Fighter Wing 2017 Annual Report. This has been our busiest deployment and training year to date. Within these pages are the accomplishments, virtues and values of our Wing, all made possible by the hard work and dedication of our service members, their families and the continued support of our communities and leadership.

Our annual report data is a direct correlation of our unit's hard work and un-matched abilities. We have always said the 148th has a "Legacy of Excellence." The hard facts found within this report's pages, are proof of our legacy, year after year. This year culminated in an inspection that labeled our great Wing as "Highly Effective". According to the ACC

Inspector General this is the only HIGHLY EFFECTIVE rating given to an Air National Guard unit! Proof that we are a fantastic return on your investment.

Our Wing focus areas are derived from the MN National Guard Adjutant General's 2017 Campaign Plan. The guidance in the Camplan, nested with the 148th's process of continuous improvement, has sustained the 148th Fighter Wing as the seventh largest employer in Duluth for years. This relates to \$86.8 million going back into the local community and state in wages alone. Over \$18 million has been contributed to indirect jobs and \$9.4 million more in construction, improvements and operating costs into the local community in 2017.

Our citizen airmen are leaders within our community and full-time enduring residents that vote, pay taxes and contribute in countless ways. Our members volunteered over 4,680 hours of

community support. We are proud to call ourselves neighbors to the Duluth community, both on the ground and in the sky. We work hard every day to ensure we live up to the excellence expected of us through fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship. The community has been there for us in good times and in bad. We continue to be thankful for all those that support our members and the 148th Fighter Wing.

We will continue to live up to "A Legacy of Excellence" by continuously improving everything we do and collaborating with our local partners.

Colonel Chris Blomquist  
Wing Commander  
148th Fighter Wing



## MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PRIORITIES

- COMPETENT, READY FORCE
- OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE
- SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
- BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON
- DIVERSITY
- CYBER SECURITY & RESPONSE

**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.





COMPETENT, READY FORCE

3,900.+

FLYING HOURS

2,500.+

SORTIES (FLIGHTS)

1,200.+

AIRMEN DEPLOYED

94.2%

PILOT MISSION-READY RATE

78.9%

AIRCRAFT MISSION CAPABILITY RATE

HIGHLY  
EFFECTIVE

WE PROVIDE THE REQUIRED  
PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND  
PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE WE HAVE  
A COMPETENT, READY FORCE TO MEET  
THE NEEDS OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

The 148th Fighter Wing flies the Block 50 F-16CM, the newest and most capable F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet, and is one of only two Air National Guard wings trained to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) support for our nation.

In 2017, the 148th Fighter Wing was rated as **"highly effective"** following a four-day capstone inspection by the Air Combat Command (ACC) Inspector General that evaluated, verified and validated the Wing's effectiveness. The "highly effective" rating was the first given to an Air National Guard unit under the ACC and only the third unit to receive the designation since 2014.

The 148th currently has a **48-member Wing Inspection Team (WIT)**, which performed **eight unit inspections**, and 29 work-area inspections throughout 2017.

WE OPTIMIZE OUR FORCE BY  
ORGANIZING OUR PERSONNEL,  
EQUIPMENT AND CAPABILITIES  
TO ACCOMPLISH CURRENT AND  
ANTICIPATED MISSIONS.

The 148th Fighter Wing maintains an optimal force structure of **1,000+ Airmen** who are trained and mission ready to provide vital support to our state, nation and country at a moment's notice.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT MISSIONS:

The **Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight**, when approved by the Minnesota Adjutant General, identifies and renders safe explosive hazards found within the local area, providing a unique capability to the region.

In 2017, EOD :  
Provided Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA):  
**Two Responses, 43 Man-hours**

Executed Very Important Persons Protection Support Activity (VIPPSA) Missions:  
**Seven Missions, 1041 Man-hours**

Performed Camp Ripley Unexploded ordnance (UXO) Response:  
**Six Responses, 159 Man-hours**

**103%**  
PERSONNEL END STRENGTH  
17TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OVER 100%

**93%**  
RETENTION RATE  
EXCEEDING WING GOAL OF 90%

The **148th Fire Department** provides 24-hour emergency operations support as the sole fire and rescue service for the Duluth Air National Guard base, Duluth International Airport and its civilian tenants.

In 2017, the 148th Fire Department responded to **180 emergency service calls** of which over 84 included dispatching wing resources to our local community.

OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE





## SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

**WE INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE OUR  
FACILITIES ARE ECONOMICALLY  
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND  
AND REMAIN ASSETS TO SERVICE  
MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES.**

**30%**

**REDUCTION IN ENERGY USE SINCE 2003**

**24.8%**

**REDUCTION IN WATER CONSUMPTION SINCE 2007**

**\$9.4 MILLION**

**IN LOCAL ECONOMY STIMULATION TO INCLUDE  
CONTRACTING, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES**


Areas of Focus in 2017:

- **Achieved a solid waste diversion rate of 66%** of solid waste being diverted from landfills.
- The Wing's number one Military Construction (MILCON) project to construct a Weapons Load Training Facility for \$7.6 Million was awarded and began construction. The new facility provides space for the overhaul and repair of fighter aircraft weapons release and gun systems, shop and tool space for gun and/or ejector unit cleaning, maintenance offices, a dispatch office, bench stock, as well as storage space for test equipment, alternate mission equipment (AME), spare gun systems, and mobility equipment.
- Construction of a new Corrosion Control Cleanroom nears completion. The cleanroom is amongst the first of its kind in the Air Force, and is designed to mitigate the cross-contamination potential of hexavalent chromium, a potentially harmful substance used in the aircraft painting process.
- Renovation of the Precision Measurement and Electronics Laboratory (PMEL) site's pavements, electrical system, and lighting was completed. The project completely transformed the site at PMEL, **drastically improving functionality, access, and overall safety.**

Future Infrastructure Initiatives:

- A project to renovate and construct an addition for the Logistics Readiness Squadron began design and is slated for construction in 2019.
- Design of a project to install four Mission Training Center (MTC) simulators in the North end of building 211 was initiated. Renovation is expected to be design complete in 2018 and start construction in fiscal year 2019.





## BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

WE CONNECT SERVICE MEMBERS,  
VETERANS, MILITARY FAMILIES,  
EMPLOYERS AND COMMUNITIES TO  
ENSURE THE RESILIENCE OF THOSE  
WHO SERVE.

568

SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS SERVED  
THROUGH PRE AND POST DEPLOYMENT EVENTS

### AIRMEN AND FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM

- In conjunction with the 148th Fighter Wing Chaplains, Family Readiness provided support for **25 military couples** to attend two Strong Bonds Marriage retreats at resorts in the Grand Rapids and Beaver Bay areas. **32 Student Flight members** attended a "Got Your Back" Singles retreat at Fish Lake.
- **Mentored kids** with parents on a TDY to South Korea on Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. **41 dependents** attended a day at the 148 FW following in the footsteps of their parents or mentors.
- **Joining Community Forces:** In September 2017, **64 local and regional military resources** met to discuss the way forward for our community to ensure all military, veterans and families were given support when needed.

3,616

HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE FOR 148 FW MEMBERS

\$21,700

TO LOCAL COMMUNITY DAYCARE PROVIDERS





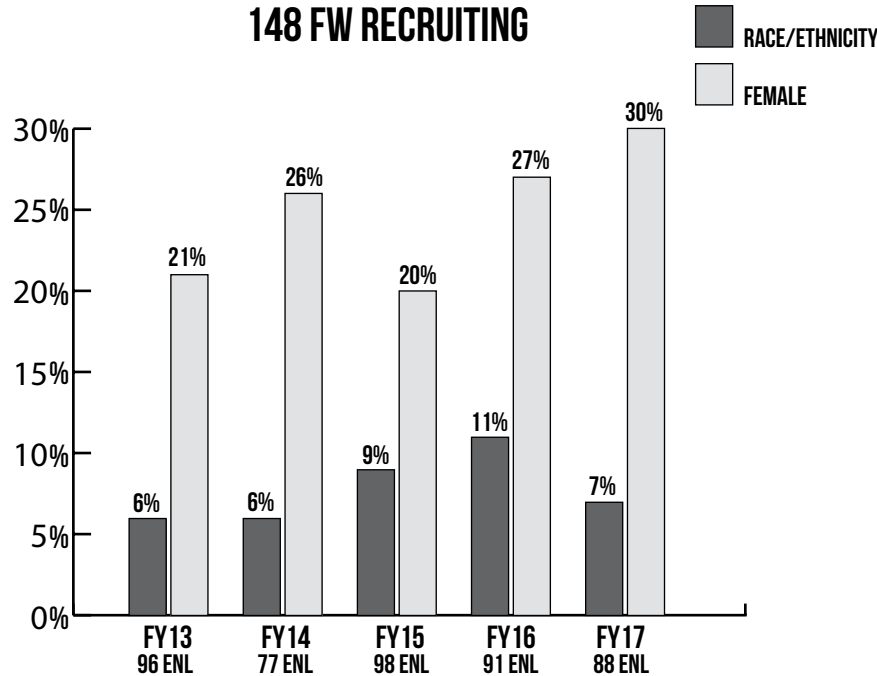
# DIVERSITY

**WE VALUE DIVERSITY IN OUR ORGANIZATION TO BROADEN OUR PERSPECTIVE, INCORPORATE A VARIETY OF STRENGTHS AND BETTER REPRESENT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.**

**Diversity Actions and Involvement:**

- The 148 FW will continue to cultivate an environment representative of all our surrounding communities through outreach to local colleges, formal professional development during Non-Commissioned Officer training courses, and providing direct assistance to our recruiting team.
- In 2017, the 148 FW facilitated five community “4 Lenses Personality Temperament” workshops attended by over 135 city employees, police officers and college students to increase personal awareness and understanding of different temperaments.
- From participating at the Duluth Women of Distinction Luncheon and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) meetings to collaborating with local leaders associated with Community Action Duluth on their Racial Awareness Workshop, the 148 FW makes diversity and inclusion a constant priority.

**148 FW RECRUITING**







## CYBER SECURITY & RESPONSE

### WE SECURE OUR STATE'S MILITARY NETWORK AND COLLABORATE WITH INTERAGENCY PARTNERS TO ENHANCE OUR RESPONSE TO AND RECOVERY FROM NEGATIVE CYBER EVENTS.

In 2017, the 148th Fighter Wing continued its focus on Cyber Security and Response achieving the following:

- Continued successful support in meticulous configuration and maintenance of 1st Air Force operational Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications Systems.
- Augmented a robust security posture by migrating and reconfiguring the operating systems of **20 servers and 800 client systems across three networks**.
- Fostered proactive threat mitigation through the re-evaluation and upgrading of base boundary protection infrastructure.
- Dedicated nine members, across three conferences, to gather and disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge through engagement with external military and civilian subject matter experts. This data lead to a complete reworking of the local technological vision.
- Installed new Voice over Secure Internet Protocol (VoSIP) infrastructure and devices, **reducing equivalent functional communication equipment needs by 50%**.
- Committed to customer support as shown by processing **645 work tickets** and resolving an **estimated 3,000** other customer interactions.





# DEPLOYMENTS

THE 148TH FIGHTER WING MAINTAINS MISSION READINESS THROUGH EXERCISES, HANDS-ON AND COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING, TRAINING DEPLOYMENTS, AND INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THE WING IS FULLY TRAINED AND CAPABLE TO DEPLOY AND PERFORM ITS FEDERAL AND STATE MISSIONS.

**1,200+**  
AIRMEN DEPLOYED

**186+**  
SHORT TONS OF CARGO DEPLOYED





## EXERCISES

## JANUARY

### SENTRY ALOHA

Location: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Focus: Over-water Force Integration with 5th Generation Fighters and Navy Forces

## MAY

### MULTI-FORCE FLY-IN

Location: 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minnesota

Focus: Midwest Fighter Integration Exercises

## JUNE

### NORTHERN LIGHTNING

Location: Volk Field, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin

Focus: Force Integration with F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

## AUGUST

### NORTHERN STRIKE

Location: Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Michigan

Focus: Readiness Training, Live Weapons Employment

## SEPTEMBER

### WEASEL MAKER

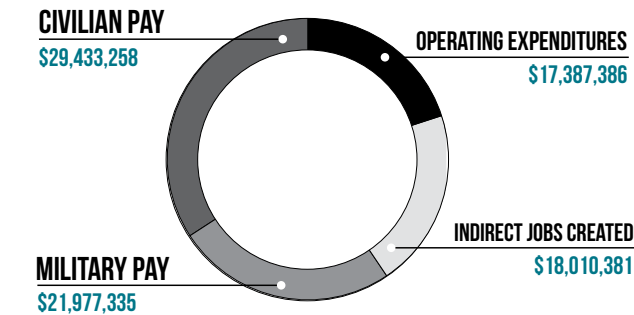
Location: Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada

Focus: SEAD and A10 Weapons School support



# ECONOMIC IMPACT

THE 148TH FIGHTER WING IS THE SEVENTH LARGEST EMPLOYER IN DULUTH WITH OVER 1,000 MEMBERS; MORE THAN 350 ARE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.



**\$86.8 MILLION**  
FISCAL YEAR 2017

148TH MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN BLOOD DRIVES, FUNDRAISERS, ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT, SUPPORTED LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND EVENTS, AND WERE MENTORS AND COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS.

## Some examples include:

- Supported six volunteer fire departments
- Civil Air Patrol
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Boy Scouts of America
- Adopt-a-Highway clean-up project
- Habitat for Humanity
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army Toy Drive
- Memorial Blood Center
- Northern Lakes Food Bank
- Douglas County Humane Society
- Military Kids Club
- Community Youth Athletic Programs
- Special Olympics
- Duluth Airshow
- Duluth Airman's Scholarship
- Twin Ports Thanksgiving Buffet
- John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon

**4,680+ HOURS**  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT





## HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

In the fall of 2017, Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing contributed to response efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing deployed for one month to conduct food service operations for first responders. In addition, Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing provided airfield management support at the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan and another Airman was sent to San Juan to assist with Public Affairs operations.

# 2,750+

MAN-HOURS WORKED

# 8,500+

MEALS PROVIDED TO  
SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN







STARBASE

STARBASE Duluth began programming at the 148th Fighter Wing in November 2017 to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) offerings to students in school districts near and around Duluth. STARBASE Minnesota has been operating in the Twin Cities out of the 133rd Airlift Wing since 1993, serving more than 60,000 metro youth. STARBASE partners military volunteers with students to stimulate an interest in STEM and introduce STARBASE students to potential careers in technology.

STARBASE is currently supported in a shared building alongside Civil Engineering. Future plans include construction for an area dedicated to STARBASE and 148 FW events and training.

**1,400+**  
FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE  
SERVED ANNUALLY







# ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Rated "HIGHLY EFFECTIVE" following a four-day capstone inspection by the Air Combat Command Inspector General

Deployed 1,200+ Airmen & 186+ short tons of cargo

Conducted nine emergency response exercises

Achieved 103% personnel end strength; 17th consecutive year over 100%

Reduced energy consumption by 30% since 2003

### Awards & Recognition

- DoD RAPIDS Site Excellence Award
- National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque
- 2017 Air National Guard Safety Office of the Year
- 2017 Air National Guard Emergency Manager of the Year
- 2017 Air National Guard Bioenvironmental Engineering Airman of the Year
- 2017 Air Force Young Health Care Administrator of the Year

## 2018 OBJECTIVES

Prepare for 5th Generation or newer manned Fighter Aircraft:

- Construct Fighter Aircraft Shelters to house our non-compliant and dilapidated existing shelters.
- Advocate for the improvement and instrumentation of local training airspaces to include emitters for realistic training and readiness.
- Extension of Runway 3/21 at the Duluth International Airport to at least 8,000 feet in length to provide a safety buffer for our aircraft.
- Pursue shared funding to combine a STARBASE Facility housed in the Wing Headquarters building that is mutually beneficial to all.
- Seek a joint partnership to fund and advocate for a proper facility for our Precision, Measurement Equipment Laboratory.

Continue to improve our Campus

- Consolidated Logistics Readiness Squadron Facility
- Weapons Load Training Facility
- F-16CM Simulator Training Facility





# CONNECT

**WWW.148FW.ANG.AF.MIL**



**@148THFIGHTERWING**



**@148FW**

