2 0 2 0 A N N U R E P O R T



Leaders, Colleagues, Friends and Fellow 148th Bulldogs,

This annual report details the highlights and accomplishments of a year none of us imagined. Despite the challenges of 2020, the Bulldogs of the 148th Fighter Wing were one of the precious few organizations that didn't take a pause. We leaned in hard and operated at 100% while simultaneously producing our own masks and PPE for all of our employees when these items were not commercially available. During a pandemic we performed our mission of rapidly responding to state and community needs while training ready Airmen to defeat America's enemies domestically and abroad.

We started 2020 with a 60-day, NORAD-tasked homeland defense mission in the south-eastern United States. Under NORAD direction, the Wing conducted air defense operations in support of National Special Security Events and provided Presidential protection with our F-16s up and down the East Coast. We intentionally accomplished this task with half of the personnel authorized, ultimately saving the U.S. Air Force and taxpayers millions of dollars. When reports that COVID-19 was threatening the United



States came to the forefront, our deployed members self-quarantined well before the CDC had any guidance, enabling 148th mission assurance, and preserving the continuity of our National Command structure.

The investment Americans make in the National Guard has never been so relevant. In 2020 this investment paid huge dividends. COVID-19 and the civil unrest in the wake of George Floyd's death called the Airmen of the 148th to new ways of protecting our homeland and protecting our state. Airmen volunteered to support no-cost COVID-19 testing sites across Minnesota from May through December. 100% of Wing personnel were supporting the COVID fight or activated in June when Governor Walz signed executive order 20-56, activating the entire Minnesota National Guard, in support of a peacetime emergency. 50 Security Forces and Communications Airmen deployed to the Twin Cities where they augmented civilian authorities and provided critical radio communications infrastructure and support.

In addition to defending our homeland and supporting the needs of our Governor and State, we conducted a first of its kind training with our joint service partners. In August, we partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct a first of its kind water survival and rescue training in Lake Superior. This training allowed us and the Coast Guard to realistically practice a downed aircraft and pilot rescue in Lake Superior.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal continued to train with their Air National Guard partners in addition to augmenting the Secret Service during eight Very Important Persons Protection Support Activity events in the region.

As we look to the future, we must continue to modernize our facilities and our airspace to keep pace with our adversaries and prepare for a 5th Generation or newer manned fighter aircraft. We must train at an extremely high level to anticipate whatever our nation and state may need. Thank you for your continued support of the 148th Fighter Wing.

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Proposition of the 148th Fighter Wing.

**Proposition of the 148

Colonel Chris Blomquist Wing Commander, 148th Fighter Wing



148th FIGHTER WING Legacy of Excellence

Ouvision

Be the premier Wing ready to lead, employ and support **superior** air power with advancing weapons systems

OutVISSION

Protect America's global interests and defend the homeland with exceptional people, aircraft, equipment and capabilities

Our/ALUES

Bulldog pride, development, professionalism, balance and commitment



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OUR BOTTOM LINE IS TO BE READY TO FIGHT OUR NATIONS WARS AND IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO OUR STATES NEEDS

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 148th is one of two Air National Guard wings trained to provide Suppression and Destruction of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD/DEAD) support for our nation. The 148th is also a NORAD Aerospace Control Alert-trained flying wing capable of defending the air sovereignty of North America when tasked.

When called upon, we provide Airmen with diverse skills, capabilities and experience with specialized equipment to support Minnesota's domestic operations response efforts. In 2020, the 148th provided Citizen-Airmen to support pandemic relief and civil unrest missions.

1,049
AIRMEN ASSIGNED
490 Full-Time

4,470
FLYING HOURS

2,900 SORTIES (FLIGHTS)

97.39% PILOT MISSION-READY RATE

74.81%

"NORAD HAS A 24/7 NO-FAIL MISSION OF PROTECTING THE SKIES OVER NORTH AMERICA AND THE 148TH DEMONSTRATED THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND EXCELLENCE ONCE AGAIN."

- CANADIAN MAJ. GEN. DEREK JOYCE, DEPUTY COMMANDER, CONTINENTAL U.S. NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND (NORAD) REGION

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Members of the 148th Security Forces Squadron deployed to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base, Kuwait in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the deployment was extended for one month.

EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE DISPOSAL MISSIONS

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel supported eight NORTHCOM tasked Very Important Persons Protection Support Activity (VIPPSA) missions.

During VIPPSA missions, EOD personnel worked with the Secret Service to plan safe regional visits to Minnesota and Wisconsin by the President and Vice President of the United States.

OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE

The 148th Fighter Wing mobilized and deployed 236 Airmen and eight F-16s to the southeastern United States in support of a 60-day NORAD-tasked Operation NOBLE EAGLE mission. Bulldogs enforced Federal Aviation Administration-established Temporary Flight Restrictions, or TFRs, restricting certain aircraft from operating within the defined areas during National Special Security Events.

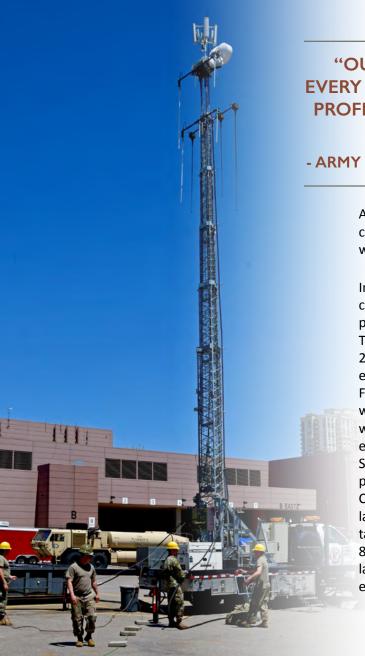
The Bulldogs fulfilled the NORAD mission when the onset of the Coronavirus became relevant, resulting in Airmen being restricted to their military duty base to minimize potential exposure. NORAD has a 24-7 no-fail mission of protecting the skies over North America and the 148th demonstrated their professionalism and excellence.



(above) A pilot from the 148th Fighter Wing prepares for takeoff in support of a NORAD homeland defense mission.

(left) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing conduct training at the Duluth Air National Guard Base.





"OUR NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN HAVE MET EVERY DOMESTIC CHALLENGE PUT BEFORE THEM PROMPTLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. I'M PROUD OF THE ROLE WE PLAY IN KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE."

- ARMY GEN. DANIEL HOKANSON, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

America's investment in the National Guard is paying dividends in our homeland response capability. The 148th Fighter Wing supported the Minnesota National Guard's partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide free COVID-19 testing across the state.

In June, the 148th Fighter Wing conducted a full activation of its personnel after Minnesota Governor. Tim Walz, signed executive order 20-65 in support of a peacetime emergency in the wake of George Floyd's death. Every member who was not a civilian first responder was mobilized in the state's largest ever National Guard activation. 50 **Security Forces and Communications** personnel were deployed to the Twin Cities where they augmented civilian law enforcement and linked all tactical vehicle radios to Minnesota's 800 mhz channel greatly improving law enforcement communications efforts.



ACCELERATE CHANGE OR LOSE

"IF OUR NATION'S MILITARY IS TO REMAIN THE BEST IN THE WORLD, WE NEED TO DO OUR PART TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO."

- GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR, AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

EOD FIELD TRAINING

In July, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel partnered with the Delaware and New Jersey Air National Guard to conduct a field training exercise at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota. The exercise featured advanced marksmanship techniques, intelligence field analysis, counter improvised explosive object training, demolition techniques and area clearance techniques.

SECURITY FORCES FIELD TRAINING

In August, Security Forces personnel conducted a 10-day field training exercise at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota. The exercise included weapons qualifications on diverse firearms, Humvee driving skills, mounted land navigation tactics and convoy operations.

WATER SURVIVAL, SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING

In August, the 148th partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard for a first of its kind water survival, search and rescue training in Lake Superior. Aircrew were transported into 60-feet of water utilizing equipment and water survival techniques required if a pilot were to eject from an aircraft over water. An MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Station Traverse City hoisted Aircrew from Lake Superior, transporting them to the 148th Fighter Wing. This realistic training provided pilots perspective on how to adapt and survive for an extended period of time in a great lake with an average temperature of 39-degrees while awaiting rescue crews.

NORTHERN LIGHTNING

In August, the 148th Fighter Wing participated in the Northern Lightning tactical-level, joint flying training focused on air interdiction and close air support in a contested environment. Training scenarios were held at both Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wisconsin and in the 148th's vast airspace complex. Fifty aircraft and nearly 1,550 members of the National Guard, Air Force, Army and Navy from California, Idaho, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin participated in the National Guard Bureau-sponsored event designed to integrate 4th and 5th generation tactical aircraft.

MEDICAL GROUP FIELD TRAINING

In September, Medical Group personnel consisting of doctors, physician assistants, nurses and medical assistants, conducted a field training exercise at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota. In addition to classroom training and environmental training, staff conducted patient load training alongside Critical Care Flight Paramedics from the 2-211th General Support Aviation.

READINESS EXERCISE

In October, the 148th conducted a large scale readiness exercise during the snowiest October in Duluth history. Every aspect of the Wing's flying mission, security mission and emergency response mission were tested to exhaustion.









67

OPERATION AMERICAN RESOLVE #AIRFORCESALUTES

The 148th Fighter Wing conducted a series of 67 fly-overs across Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to honor frontline COVID-19 responders and essential employees on May 6th and 13th.

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PATRIOTIC & HONORARY FLYOVERS

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ashland, WI Gladstone, MI

Aurora, MN Mercer, WI

Barnes, WI Moose Lake, MN

Bessemer, MI Nashwauk, MN

Ely, MN St. Cloud, MN

SEPTEMBER

Minnesota Twins American League Wild Card game

DECEMBER

Funeral fly over in honor of Lt. Col. William Reese, a U.S. Air Force Reserve pilot who flew 180 combat missions in Vietnam

(pg. 12 left, top) Two 148th Fighter Wing F-16s and a 133rd Airlift C-130 fly over the Minnesota State Capitol on May 6, 2020.

(pg. 12 left, bottom) 148th Fighter Wing pilots fold a U.S. Flag prior to supporting Operation AMERICAN RESOLVE fly overs on May 13, 2020.

(pg. 12 right, bottom) Medical Staff at St. Joe's Hospital hold a thank you sign during Operation AMERICAN RESOLVE fly overs on May 6, 2020.

(pg. 13 right) Two 148th F-16s fly over the Minneapolis VA hospital on May 6, 2020,

"WE NEED A CULTURE WHERE EVERY AIRMAN FEELS VALUED, RESPECTED, INCLUDED AND ABLE TO BE THEIR VERY BEST."

- Chief Master Sgt. Joanne Bass, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

REBECCA CHAPIN

Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager 218-788-7833



100.29%
PERSONNEL END STRENGTH

91.74% RETENTION RATE

MARLAINA PETERSON

Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist

218-788-7835



\$1.1 Million

139 AIRMEN USED STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT \$1,071,281 paid towards Airmen tuition costs

\$300,000
123 AIRMEN RECEIVED STATE ENLISTMENT BONUSES

\$309,701 paid to 148th Airmen

WENDY GUNDERSON

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

218-788-7584



\$800,000

61 AIRMEN RECEIVED FEDERAL ENLISTMENT BONUSES \$800,500 paid to 148th Airmen

89
NEW RECRUITS









THE USAF MUST RECRUIT, ACCESS, EDUCATE, TRAIN, EXPERIENCE, DEVELOP AND RETAIN AIRMEN - OFFICER, ENLISTED AND CIVILIAN - WITH THE ATTRIBUTES REQUIRED TO COMPETE, DETER AND WIN IN THE HIGH-END FIGHT CHARACTERIZED BY AMBIGUITY AND UNCERTAINTY.

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE ACTION ORDER A - AIRMEN

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Minnesota National Guard and its corporate partner, Cargill, hosted its annual Women's Leadership Forum on a virtual platform in 2020. Keynote speaker, Dr. Denise Williams spoke on "The Power of the Innovative Mindset and Diversity Richness." Other topics included financial peace, gender and social inclusion, mentorship and military transitions to the civilian sector.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

148th leaders from all levels attended a daylong course through the Career Management Institute.

FLIGHT COMMANDER'S COURSE

The 148th hosted a Flight Commander's Course, modeled after Air University's Flight Commander's Edge, designed to provide leadership development through management topics and base-specified content to meet local needs.



2020 ECONOMIC IMPACT

The 148th Fighter Wing continues to be a top-ten employer in Duluth and Saint Louis County. With over 1,000 employees, military construction projects, paid tuition and local service contracts, the 148th has an economic impact of \$96 million.

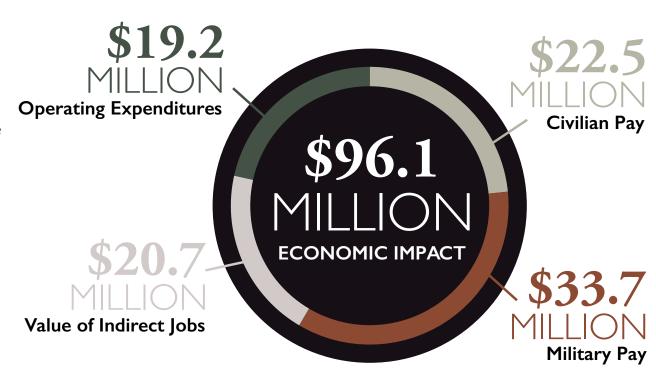
2020 CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

In 2020, the 148th completed a first of its kind Mission Training Center (MTC) containing a state of the art simulation experience. The \$3.2 million project was constructed in a repurposed building for significantly less than new construction. The MTC features a high fidelity, fourship F-16 simulator which supports pilot training at all levels from initial

qualification to advanced skills training. The MTC will employ six contractors and bring F-16 pilots from across the midwest to Duluth for training adding to our local economic impact.

A new \$1.6 million STARBASE Minnesota Duluth classroom facility project was also completed. The state-of-the-art classrooms will provide 2,250 area fifth graders with exciting Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum.

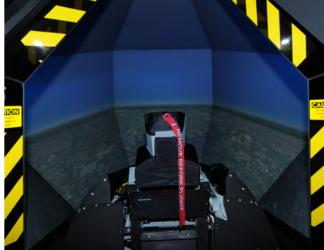
Extensive utility infrastructure projects were also completed at the Wing's Munition's Storage Area.



2021 PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The 148th has an aggressive modernization plan for 2021, which includes a ground breaking for a new small arms range, which will drastically improve the readiness of all 148th members. The 148th also looked to consolidate its footprint by constructing a new Domestic Operations storage facility, which will reduce the Wing's dependence on leased facilities. Additionally, we plan to begin construction on our new, consolidated Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) facility, which will provide office space and storage of supplies, equipment, mobility bags and personnel in one central location.









"WE VALUE AND ARE COMMITTED TO OUR PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY AND WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE."

- MAJ. GEN. SHAWN MANKE, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL - MINNESOTA

Our partners at **STARBASE MINNESOTA DULUTH** led by a team of licensed instructors, help students become scientists and engineers in a stimulating learning environment. The 25-hours of intensive STEM activities complement student math and science progress while helping schools satisfy state and federal standards for learning.

148TH FIGHTER WING FIRE DEPARTMENT provides fire and rescue services to the 148th and the Duluth International Airport, including all civilian airfield tenants - Cirrus Design and Monaco Air. Through the Lakehead Association Mutual Aid Agreement, the 148th FD responded to 152 fire calls including 68 mutual aid calls.

Through the EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT (EMAC), the 148th was able to provide St. Louis County with a portable shelter as part of their regional COVID-19 response efforts. The EMAC has enabled the 148th and local government agencies to work together to accommodate our communities emergency needs.

Led by the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, the MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC) continues to advocate on behalf of the 148th Fighter Wing and all area military organizations to maintain their positive economic impact in the region. The MAC has built and sustained a strong relationship with elected officials and military leaders at the Air National Guard and Air Force level for two decades.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- » Conducted a full mobilization of 148th Airmen onto State Active Duty after Governor Walz authorized the National Guard in the wake of George Floyd's death and the civil unrest that followed
- » Conducted 67 fly-overs in three states in support of frontline and essential workers supporting COVID-19 with a program called OPERATION AMERICAN RESOLVE
- » Completed construction of the new Mission Training Center
- » Supported State of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Health mission to conduct no cost COVID-19 testing across the state
- » Deployed in support of NORAD homeland defense mission with less people and aircraft, saving money
- » The Bulldogs of the 148th never slowed down due to COVID-19
- » Led the Air National Guard in mask-masking production in April when none were available commercially

2021 OBJECTIVES

- » Prepare for 5th Generation or new manned fighter aircraft
 - ~ Modernize airspace for current and future missions
 - ~ Continue noise mitigation; improving noise contours
- » Maintain full NORAD Aerospace Control Alert mission readiness, implement Air Combat Employment (ACE) concept; small team dynamic force protection over a vast area
- » Train and operate utilizing the Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) concept
- » Integrate sims into daily flying to maximize mission readiness
- » Recertify as an OSHA VPP Star Certified Workplace



