

ON FIVE

JULY 2021



A 148th Fighter Wing Crew Chief performs preventative maintenance on a Block 50 F-16CM Aug. 11, 2021 while at Northern Lightning. Northern Lightning provided a tactical level, joint training exercise emphasizing user defined objectives resulting in tailored, scenario based, full spectrum, high end training. See the next edition of the On Five for a lot more on Northern Lightning. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Audra Flanagan)

COMMANDERS CORNER

The 148th has a long history of sitting alert around the world in the F-16. Throughout the 1990’s we had an alert detachment down at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. We sat alert in too many places to mention in this article but it is in the double digits. From Panama to Iraq. Curacao to Alaska. Puerto Rico to Hawaii and many others. Our final years in the alert business were at home station in Duluth. Sometime during 2015 our home station alert was stood down and put on standby. The 148th worked hard to take care of our folks and find alternate ways to help them from picking up a temporary detachment in Riverside, CA to a few other missions.

Those were tough times for our members that earned a fulltime paycheck from the alert mission in Duluth. It was a way of life and an identity for many of us. I can’t tell you how many folks had to make significant life changes as a result of losing the mission. We had a lot of great people go to other units or find other ways to make a living and serve. This certainly shows the resilience of our guardsmen and women and the flexibility of the ANG enterprise. However, it was also a bit of a dark time for many.

In many ways we’ve recovered or forgotten. For those of us that have been around throughout the transition you can still see some of the effects or relics of our alert mission here in Duluth. Over the years we have kept a small contingent of pilots, maintainers and command post controllers current and qualified in the alert mission should we ever be called upon. About a year ago Madison was announced as the next F-35 base. They will be transitioning for about two years beginning in October 2022.

During that conversion the 148th has been called up to sit alert at Madison. Over this past year we tried diligently to drive a decision to station alert back in Duluth if the 148th was volunteered to backfill. Duluth has all of the capabilities and infra



COL CHRIS BLOMQUIST-148TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER

structure as well as strategic significance geographically. Especially with the great power competition in the Arctic increasing. However, NORAD/NORTHCOM and First Air Force required us to be at the Madison location. So, we will do again what we've done better and more often than anyone throughout our history, going back to our humble beginnings in the F-16ADF at Tyndall in the early 90s. Deployed alert.

The alert mission has its challenges but it also presents many opportunities for the 148th and our members. We have the ability to build even stronger relationships with the 115th FW in Madison which will be symbiotic in our wartime taskings and daily training. It is rewarding to have a full-time mission protecting the United States and our citizens 24/7/365. Bulldog alert, anytime, anywhere!

KENDALL SWORN IN AS 26TH SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

BY: STAFF SGT. NICOLAS Z. ERWIN SAF/PA

Frank Kendall was administratively sworn in July 28 as the 26th Secretary of the Air Force, placing him as the department’s civilian leader responsible for organizing, training, equipping and ensuring the welfare of nearly 700,000 Airmen, Guardians and their families. He replaces John Roth, who served as the Acting Air Force Secretary for the last six months.

“I am both honored and humbled to serve as the incoming Secretary of the Air Force,” Kendall said, shortly following his swearing in.

Kendall’s first official day on the job was both brisk and busy.

By mid-afternoon, he had met with Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks; Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones; his predecessor Roth; Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr.; and Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond.

“With Under Secretary Jones, and alongside Gen. Brown and Gen. Raymond, I will be totally focused on ensuring that our Air and Space Forces can fulfill their missions to defend the nation against our most challenging threats, today and into the future,” Kendall said. “I will do everything I can to strengthen and support the great teams of American Airmen and Guardians who have dedicated themselves to protecting our country.”

In the coming weeks, Kendall will fully define his priorities and focus on posturing both services for strategic competition, modernization and future budget adaptation to address global challenges.

His broad intent for the department was stated during his confirmation hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee, May 25.

“If confirmed, my priorities would be straightforward and mirror precisely those articulated by Secretary of Defense (Lloyd) Austin as they apply to the Department of the Air Force – taking care of our people, mission performance and building teams,” Kendall said. “Our military is people first and foremost.”

Kendall’s past tenures include Pentagon tactical warfare program director, Strategic Defense Systems assistant deputy undersecretary and most recently, under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics and 10 years as an active-duty U.S. Army officer.



Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall shakes hands with Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones on arrival for his first day at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., July 28, 2021. (U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Dietrich)



Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall speaks with Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr. and Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones during his first meeting with the Department of the Air Force's service chiefs at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., July 28, 2021. (U.S Air Force photo by Eric Dietrich)

TAG VISITS 148FW ENGINE SHOP



Brig. Gen. Shawn P. Manke, Adutant General Minnesota National Guard takes a group photo with Engine shop Airmen on June 24, 2021.



THE ONLINE ON FIVE

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MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES 25 YEAR CROATIA PARTERNERSHIP

July 25, 2021 (ST. PAUL, Minnesota) – The Minnesota National Guard is celebrating 25 years of partnership with Croatia under the National Guard’s State Partnership Program.

“It’s a resonating part of the Minnesota National Guard/Croatia partnership that it is built on a bedrock of professionalism, knowledge and knowing that you’re there to share experiences,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Wickman, commanding general of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

The partnership started in 1996 with familiarization events which have over the years developed into hands-on training and military exchanges, and recently has grown to include civilian exchanges between government officials and experts in critical fields like cybersecurity. Minnesota universities and Minnesota-based companies have sent cyber experts to Croatia for symposiums and workshops focused on improving cybersecurity.

This partnership proved crucial in building relationships that have benefitted both countries. Soldiers from Minnesota and Croatia partnered together to send five Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams to Afghanistan starting in 2008. The teams provided support to the Afghan National Army to increase the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces.

“That was such a significant measure of operational success for this partnership program,” said Wickman. “It shows interoperability in a combat situation.”

In 2009 Croatia became a full member in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a recognition of the transformation that occurred in modernizing their military and moving toward a NATO model. In 2013 Croatia was also accessed into the European Union. Over the years the Minnesota National Guard has provided support with common, shared issues such as homeland defense, civil response, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, border security and, most recently, cyber security.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the partnership, a delegation of Croatian senior military officials visited Minnesota to meet with Governor Tim Walz, tour Camp Ripley, visit with cyber security leaders at Metropolitan State University, and familiarize themselves with the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

“It’s been a journey for us, a journey in which the Croatian Armed Forces has gone through a significant transformation,” said Admiral Robert Hranj, the Croatian Chief of Defense. “We came out of the war-torn country, we joined NATO, we joined the EU, we’ve participated in many international operations, many times with Minnesota National Guard units, making on some occasions, joint units. And for all these changes in the Croatian military, cooperation with the Minnesota National Guard played a huge role.”

The partnership is truly one in which both sides benefit by sharing information and best practices, and building relationships amongst allies.

“There’s always something you can take from another nation, another soldier, that you can grow with and bring back to your unit,” said Maj. Lukas Wright who deployed as part of an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team.

Through the State Partnership Program, the National Guard maintains long-term relationships that strengthen alliances; enhance interoperability; reassure allies; deter adversaries; and build partner capacity to meet emerging challenges across the spectrum of military operations.

“The environment is complex, it crosses borders, and we need partners,” said Wickman. “You can’t do things unilaterally. You really have to have great relationships and partners to deal with these complex issues that span the globe.”

The Minnesota National Guard’s relationship with Croatia remains important as the United States continues to demonstrate its commitment to security, peace and stability in Europe and to deter regional aggression.



FORT MCCOY TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER, Wis. --

The 179th Fighter Squadron, assigned to the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard provided cover with its Block 50 F-16CM fighter aircraft to Special Operations Forces personnel from the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, who jumped from C-130s assigned to the 133rd Airlift Wing over Fort McCoy’s Warrens and Badger Drop Zones June 23-25, 2021.

Close Air Support, or CAS, is defined as air action by aircraft against hostile targets that are in close proximity to friendly forces and require detailed integration. CAS provides firepower in offensive or defensive operations to destroy or disrupt enemy forces.

These CAS scenarios proved the concept of integrating multiple units within a relevant high threat scenario in nearby Fort McCoy Total Force Training Center, Wisconsin. This training opportunity included both Minnesota Air National Guard flying wings, the 148th Fighter Wing and 133rd Airlift Wing, as well as personnel from the Wisconsin Air National Guard, U.S. Army Training Range and U.S. Air Force.

“Our primary goal in this scenario was to identify and exercise a scenario associated with having Special Tactics Operators in-filled via C-130 and live jump into a Drop Zone while F-16s provided Suppression of Enemy Air Defense against Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air Defense Artillery,” said 179th Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Grant Brown. Simultaneously, Forward Air Controllers (Airborne) provided support until Special Operations Forces could get set up on the ground.

These scenarios provided a paradigm shift from more traditional CAS missions because they required the F-16 Forward Air Controllers to go in first to find and destroy threats to the jumpers, build an initial ground picture and prepare the area for CAS operations.

“Proficient and competent SOF Operators cannot be mass produced during times of emergency,” said Senior Airman Nathaniel Betterton, Combat Controller assigned to the 26th Special Tactics Squadron. “SOF Operators must continue to hone their skills and maintain their proficiencies with unique training opportunities,” added Betterton.

During CAS training, it is important to build trust between fighter aircraft and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, JTACs, on the ground. “Because of these high impact, low cost in-house, face to face training scenarios, the 26th Special Tactics Squadron has developed a level of trust and confidence in the abilities of the 179th Fighter Squadron,” said Brown.

“No one asset or force can defeat advancing threats alone,” said Brown. “It takes execution in training to understanding both the capabilities and risks associated with these missions,” Brown added. The 179th is already planning following on scenarios for live jumps with SOF Operators into its advanced SEAD training plan.

Situated on 60,000 acres of rolling hills in west-central Wisconsin, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy trains members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, living up to the nickname “Total Force Training Center.”

STARBASE EXPLORERS TAKE FLIGHT

The Department of Defense STARBASE Summer Explorers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) camp at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn. focuses on bringing a love of science, technology, engineering, and math to children at the elementary school level. The program was carefully and thoughtfully designed to provide young scientists with exciting hands on experience with things like: rover programming, GPS navigation, water filtration, microscope investigation, 3-D printing, rocketry, CAD software, and virtual reality.

In total, the 2021 STARBASE Minnesota - Duluth Summer Explorers STEM camp will support over 300 incoming 4th-6th graders including 42 military students over the course of four, four-day sessions, running July through August. The camp is open to the general public, with priority given to partner organizations and program sponsors. This year, general registration was promoted to all partner schools across northeastern Minnesota with a specific focus on two youth organizations: the Family Free Center of Duluth, and the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School who due to COVID restrictions were unable to participate in STARBASE throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Educators have historically observed a decline in STEM interest as students’ enter their middle school years. The STARBASE Summer Explorers STEM camp focuses on facilitating a truly one-of-a-kind experience that will spark a lifelong interest in STEM. Program organizers have designed the curriculum to help set children on a path toward success as they progress throughout their middle and high school years while providing exposure to careers in STEM fields in our region and beyond.

STARBASE has created an environment that encourages teamwork, respect, and creativity while enabling students to participate in applied math and science activities. The camp allows students to see the results of their work come to life in real-world applications. Charity Johnson, the Director of STARBASE Minnesota – Duluth stated that she believes that this is the key to engaging students long-term and inspiring a life-long love of STEM. Camp organizers want to encourage participating students to continue to take math and science courses throughout their middle and high school years.

When speaking with local 148th Fighter Wing parents about their experience with the STARBASE Summer Explorers STEM camp, Lt. Col. Robert L. Wroblewski, a flight surgeon with the 148th Medical Group described it as, “a perfect blend of fun activities and learning experiences that would keep children interested in STEM and light the path for future STEM related careers.”



BY: TSGT JESSICA CORRIGAN



PREPARED DOWN TO THE BASICS

BY: TYLIN RUST

Student Flight is a unique part of the Air National Guard. The goal is to assist newly enlisted members in preparing for Basic Training and Technical School while allowing them to participate in their chosen careers prior to heading out to initial training. It gives a better understanding for newly enlisted members of what is expected of them when they get to Basic Training and Technical School while introducing them to the atmosphere and team at the 148th Fighter Wing.

Student Flight members work as a team to provide support for those leaving for training. They work out together and study memory work. Memory work is learning specific Air Force related knowledge, such as: the M16 rifle platform, the Airman’s creed, and Air Force ranks and history. Memory work is what all Airmen are expected to know before graduating Basic Training. Learning this early is designed to help the Student Flight members focus on other things while at Basic Training.

Student Flight meets on Drill weekends. They start off with the recruiting team at the 148th participating in memory work and listening to classroom presentations given by members around the base and recent Basic Training Graduates. The other half the day is spent shadowing their shop and their fellow enlisted peers who have already been through Technical School.

Airman Basic Erin Wester is one such student. Wester went off to Basic Training at the end of April. She enlisted as a Biological Environmental Engineer. During her drill days she has worked with her shop in keeping the base and its members safe. Wester assisted with fit testing masks, shadowed her team members while testing water pipes that had burst on base and has assisted with testing for COVID-19 for the members who were going off to Washington D.C.

“Being part of student flight makes me feel more prepared and not as nervous now to go off to Basic Training.” said Airman Basic Wester. She went on to say that being a part of student flight has been nice and is enjoying the atmosphere of the 148th, and feels more prepared to perform her job when she returns in a few months.

As the Student Flight program continues to grow, so does the knowledge and preparedness of our new Airmen.



AIR FORCE RELEASES CARDIO AND STRENGTH FITNESS ALTERNATIVES FOR EARLY 2022
(SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS-PUBLISHED JULY 2, 2021)

The Air Force will provide Airmen five physical fitness assessment alternatives—three for the cardio portion and sit-up components and two for the push-up component of the physical fitness assessment beginning in early 2022.

Airmen will select from the traditional 1.5-mile run, 1-mile walk or the High Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (20M HAMR) to meet the cardio requirement. Then select from traditional push-ups or hand release push-ups for one strength component; and from sit-ups, the cross-leg reverse crunch or plank for the other strength component to complete the comprehensive fitness assessment.

Finalized fitness assessment scoring charts, with alternative components broken out by gender and age, will be provided at a later date.

“We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all model,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. in the initial change announced May 2021. “More testing options will put flexibility in the hands of our Airmen – where it belongs. We know not all Airmen maintain their fitness the same way and may excel in different areas. Alternate components provide choices while still providing a mechanism to determine overall fitness.”

This initiative is the result of Airmen providing feedback to Air Force leaders through the physical fitness working group in conjunction with looking at the way other services complete their physical fitness programs. From the data collected, the Air Force fitness working group conducted research and testing on the health benefits of the current fitness components and various other components to come up with the alternative options.

Each new component has been developed to be an equivalent measure of fitness regardless of methodology. For example, the 1-mile walk alternative is a scientifically-valid estimation of the member’s aerobic capacity (also referred to as VO2 max), which measures fitness and aerobic power. Test scores incorporate time to complete the 1-mile test along with the member’s age, weight, and heart rate at the time of walk completion. Based on the rigorous scoring to pass this test based on age, weight, speed, and heart rate, there is no significant difference of scores between the walk and run tests.

“What we care about is measuring and testing aerobic fitness. The ‘walk’ is not a stroll in the park and both the pace required and method for computing aerobic fitness make it 100% equivalent to the run,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services. “In fact, I think we’ll find fewer people will prefer that option over the more traditional mile-and-half run.”

Air Force members and fitness monitors will have approximately six months for a break-in period to familiarize themselves with the use and execution of the alternative testing options prior to having them officially available in early 2022. The six-month timeline will help ensure fitness assessment cells are prepared to train physical training leaders to administer tests using the new options. During the six-month break-in period, units and Airmen will also be able to provide feedback on the new components that will allow any adjustments as necessary prior to live use.

Other exercise options such as swim, row, and bike tests were reviewed but are not being implemented at this time. “It’s important for our testing options to be available and executable for all Airmen at all locations,” Kelly said. “If you are at a remote location or a location that does not have a pool or other needed equipment, those options become less equitable. We want our Airmen to have the same options no matter where they are testing.”

These changes align under the Air Force’s Action Order Airmen, people-first approach.

“If we are truly going to get after building a culture that embraces fitness as a lifestyle, then we have to grow beyond the mentality of a one-size-fits-all PT test,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. “Providing our Airmen with these options is a step in the right direction toward developing an Air Force that is fit to fight, anytime, anywhere.”

The waist measurement is no longer a scored part of the physical fitness test. A separate assessment of body composition, as required by DoD Instruction 1308.3, will continue starting in October 2021. Further details on the body composition program will be released at a later date.

In addition to the fitness component changes, the Department of the Air Force also released the myFitness capability on July 1. The new feature will replace the Air Force Fitness Management Site II and serve as a single location for all total force Airmen and Guardians’ fitness needs.

The capabilities that exist today allow Unit Fitness Program Managers and Fitness Assessment Cells to manage fitness assessments, documentation and scheduling, to include walk-in, same-day fitness testing in myFitness. Additionally, users are able to view past scores, individual fitness reports, dashboards showing completed or updated fitness assessments scores and allow for the download of Fitness Screening Questionnaire as well as medical forms. Users can also access a calculator for estimating fitness results and composite scores.

FITNESS STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



AIR FORCE RELEASES CARDIO AND STRENGTH FITNESS ALTERNATIVES FOR EARLY 2022 (CONT.)

myFitness will eventually allow users to schedule fitness assessments, receive automated notifications for scheduled testing or cancellations, access and submit fitness assessments, upload medical documents for review.

myFitness is hosted on the myFSS platform and a part of the department’s initiative to improve Airmen and Guardian’s experience with technology by making applications user-friendly and more easily accessible. Active duty, Guard and Reserve personnel will be able to access and use myFitness worldwide.

To access myFitness, go to <https://myfss.us.af.mil>.

For additional information on Physical Fitness, Airmen can visit [myPers](#) or the Air Force’s Personnel Center’s [fitness program page](#). Draft fitness score charts are available on MyPers to use until final score charts are provided.

The Space Force will follow these fitness standards until service-specific guidance is developed and published.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATION AND PATRIOTISM BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN

After a year of social distancing, online learning, teleworking and isolation, our communities have returned to gathering and celebrating. This has provided the 148th the opportunity to increase its community engagement.

The Air Force’s community engagement mission is to run active community relations programs to enhance morale, public trust, and support and demonstrate that the Air Force is a community partner and a responsible steward of National Resources. Furthermore, the Air Force’s vision of community engagement is to:

- a) Increase public awareness and understanding of the armed forces
- b) Support Air Force recruiting by inspiring patriotism and encourage young people to serve in the military
- c) Maintain a reputation as a good neighbor as well as a respected, professional organization charged with part of the responsibility for national security

COVID-19 took away many of our traditional recruiting techniques as recruiters were not allowed in most area schools for more than a school year. As a result, community engagement is more important than ever.

Examples of community engagement include attending Air Shows, professional sporting events, expos or trade conferences in an official capacity. Air Force flyovers, marching in parades, speaking at schools or patriotic events, supporting events with National Anthem vocalists are additional examples of community engagement.

This spring, the Minnesota Twins opened the doors of Target Field to larger audiences. The Twins were eager to inspire patriotism with the Minnesota National Guard and 148th Fighter Wing. Poor weather with low ceilings prevented the 148th from providing a 2-ship F-16 flyover but Tech. Sgt. Noah Feehan represented the Wing by raising the American Flag during the home opener pre-game programming April 8, 2021. Since then, Senior Airman Kristin Swannstrom, Staff Sgt. Alaina Lathrop and Staff Sgt. Victor Foxx have also raised the flag as part of the Twins’ salute to service programming.

In 2021, 148th recruiters set up a booth and attended the Grandma’s race expo, Staff Sgt. Ben Churchill sang the National Anthem at the marathon start line and the Wing provided a 2-ship F-16 fly over at the start of the marathon. In a thank you note to the 148th, the staff at Grandma’s Marathon said “We value all of your members throughout the year and are so happy when our worlds can intersect. You help our community safe and strong so things like Grandma’s Marathon can happen, and for that we are all grateful.”

The 148th was active during the 2021 Duluth Airshow which boasted attendance of 40,000 spectators on June 26th. The 148th provided an F-16 static display, a flyover, a recruiting booth and an Air National Guard Recruiting national asset. Air Shows are integral part of the Air Force’s community engagement program as they inspire patriotism and the love of aviation.

The 148th will be collaborating with the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Twins to honor the 20th Anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001.



U.S. AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND & SINGING SERGEANTS TO PLAY AT THE DECC

Based in Washington, D.C., The United States Air Force Concert Band is the premier symphonic wind ensemble of the United States Air Force. Together with the Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the United States Air Force, these groups represent the U.S. Air Force and our country as part of The United States Air Force Band. On tour, the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants present classic and new wind ensemble repertoire, stellar instrumental and vocal soloists, medleys of opera classics and Broadway favorites, and moving patriotic tributes to our heroic veterans. These groups are proud to represent all Airmen, whose selfless service and sacrifice ensure the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America.

The USAF Concert Band will play at the DECC’s Symphony Hall on Thursday, October 21st at 7:00pm. Free tickets will be available beginning Friday, September 10th through Eventbrite.



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BULLDOG IN ACTION

Name and Rank: Staff Sgt. James Crilley

Job Title: Operations Intelligence Specialist

What made you join the Guard? The main reason was to give back while helping preserve the freedoms and opportunities afforded to myself and others by the men and women whom served before me.

What is your favorite part of the Job? My favorite part of the job is getting to know all the amazing people I have worked with over the years, ranging from all branches of the U.S. military to include foreign military partners. Seeing everyone working together to achieve the goal of making the world a safer place is truly incredible and I am grateful to be a small part of that.

What has being in the Guard taught you? I have learned that throughout life you will not have all the answers, instead it is important to ask questions in order to learn and grow. The Guard has also taught me that regardless of where someone is from, their background, experience, etc. we all have the ability to add valuable and important knowledge required to accomplishing the mission. Seeing this has taught me that people are the most valuable asset and our differences make us stronger.

Any Deployments or State Active Duty? 2020 Operation Noble Eagle (Operations Intelligence Specialist)

What do you do in the civilian world? Prior to taking a full-time position with the ANG, I worked in the public utilities field (water and electric). Now I am a full time husband and part-time college student on the civilian side and I plan to join one of the local volunteer fire departments once we are finished building our new home.



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, the 9/11 Global War on Terrorism Task Force, and the Minnesota Military Museum will mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11 this September with an event on the Minnesota State Capitol grounds. The official “9/11 Day of Remembrance” is scheduled in-person for Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021. In addition to memorializing the events of that day and honoring those impacted, this event is focused on bringing the community together through a message of hope, unity and resilience.

The event will feature participation in the national Tolling of the Bells, a reading of names of those killed on 9/11 and in-action during the Global War on Terrorism, along with a commemorative ceremony including aircraft flyovers, guest speakers, musical performances, and military honors. Speakers will include Gov. Tim Walz, retired Army Gen. Joseph Votel, MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke, Gold Star Mother Jill Stephenson and Mariah Jacobson, daughter of Flight 93 hero Tom Burnett.

Other elements of the day will include a 9/11 documentary screening and museum exhibit, live music, food vendors, connection opportunities, children’s activities and more.

The 148th plans to support multiple 9/11 20th Anniversary Remembrance events. More information will be posted on our social media platforms and the Wing App.



AROUND THE WING

