

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# FROM THE COMMANDER

2022 was a challenging yet successful year for the Bulldogs. I want to recognize 148th Fighter Wing members, their families, employers and community for the tremendous support during a demanding deployment year. For those almost 500 Airmen who deployed on the aviation deployment, reserve component period or Operation Allies Welcome, I want to personally thank you for serving our country and accomplishing the mission. For those members that stayed home, thank you for keeping the home station mission rolling while picking up various additional tasks.

Moving forward, we will continue training to be ready when our state or nation needs us. To accomplish these diverse missions, we will work diligently to bring new members into our Wing with over 100% staffing levels. A fully staffed work force will allow us the ability to accomplish anything the nation and state asks of us.

Ensuring mission readiness is essential. We must continue focusing on every member of our team. To do this, we will build resiliency within the force by emphasizing connectiveness amongst the team and providing resources and training to help. We will ensure a safe working environment by continuing to reinforce a strong safety culture throughout the Wing.

To be ready for any mission, we must continue modernizing our equipment, infrastructure and policies. As the ASQ-236 Radar Pod Center of Excellence for the Air National Guard (ANG), we will be the experts on all aspects of this new capability and provide our expertise to other Air National Guard units. Our maintenance experts will continue modernizing aircraft with new radars and other improved equipment, making the F-16 more survivable and lethal against modern-day threats. To effectively train to current tactics, we will continue revolutionizing the airspace, making it the best in the entire nation. We will continue improving base infrastructure to meet the demands of future missions. We will also work to eliminate old policies that are outdated and irrelevant in today's environment.

Partnerships at all levels are essential to success in today's operating environment. Minnesota will officially welcome Norway as a new State Partnership Program (SPP) country while continuing our long-standing ties with Croatia. We will get to know our SPP partners by training together and getting to know each other's capabilities. On a state level, we will be ready to provide people and resources when called upon by the Governor in times of need. Locally, we will continue to support our community with fire services, emergency management and Explosive Ordnance Disposal when requested.

I am proud to work alongside the Bulldogs and look forward to serving our state and nation in 2023!



*Nathan P. Ayesta*



# 148th FIGHTER WING

*Legacy of Excellence*

## MISSION

Provide mission ready airmen and equipment to meet state and federal taskings while promoting critical partnerships.

## VISION

Build a resilient Bulldog team reflective of our community, trained and equipped with modernized aircraft and infrastructure, ready to succeed against current and future threats.



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# 1,035

AIRMEN ASSIGNED

455 Full-Time Military Employees  
95 Federal, State or Contracted Employees

# 7,443

FLYING HOURS

# 2,355

SORTIES (FLIGHTS)





Nearly 50% of all 148th Airmen deployed overseas to one of ten different countries in Southwest Asia or Africa.

350 personnel and 12 of the Wing's F-16s deployed to the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. While deployed as the 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Bulldogs supported the U.S. Air Forces Central air tasking order for 115 days. Bulldogs flew 766 sorties, conducting 79 intercepts in 4,716 flying hours totaling 2,259,774 miles. This is comparable to going around the earth 90 times.

## FEDERAL MISSIONS

Nearly 100 Airmen from Security Forces, Civil Engineering, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Logistics, Administration and the Fire Department deployed to Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Niger for six-months in support of federal missions.

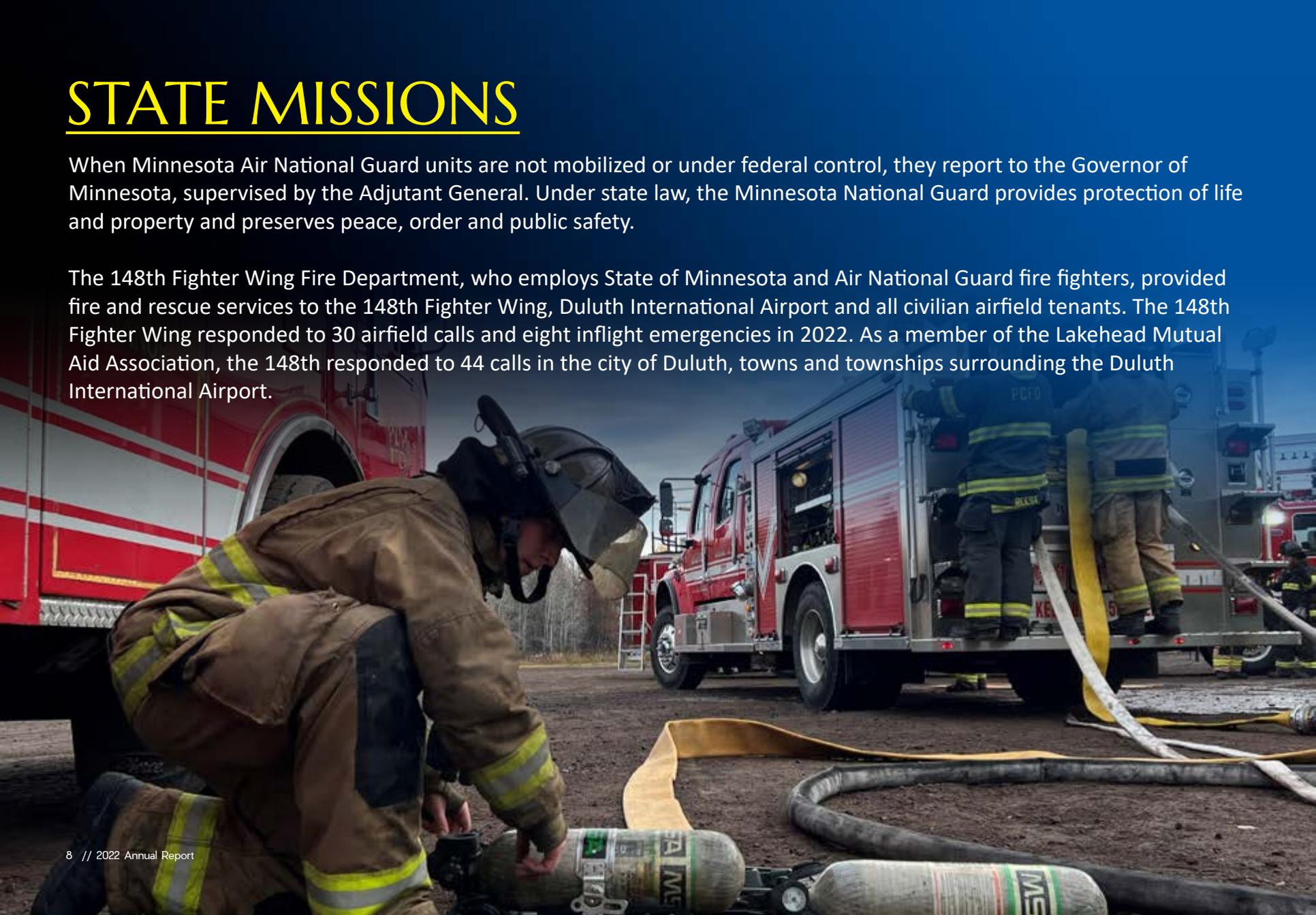
30 Airmen from varying specialties deployed to both Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. and Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. to support the resettlement process for Afghan refugees who were becoming U.S. citizens. Airmen provided logistical support, medical support and mentoring during the Homeland Defense mission titled Operation Allies Welcome.



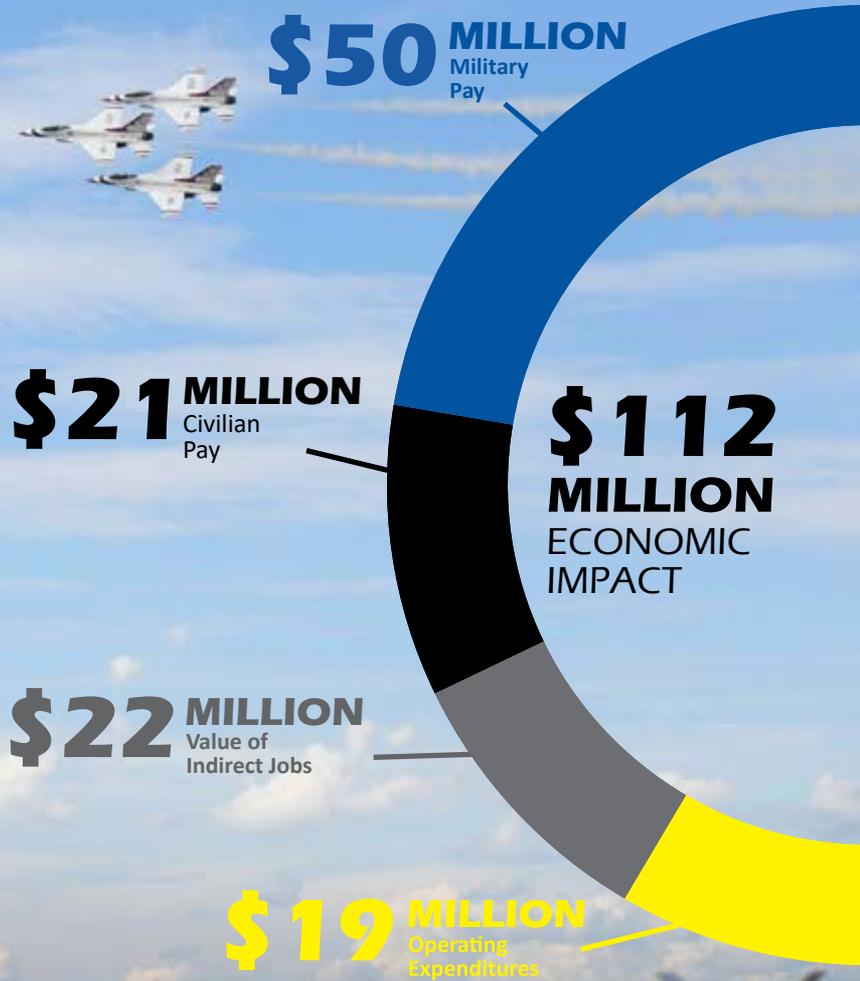
# STATE MISSIONS

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 National Guard provides protection of life and property and preserves peace, order and public safety.

The 148th Fighter Wing Fire Department, who employs State of Minnesota and Air National Guard fire fighters, provided fire and rescue services to the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth International Airport and all civilian airfield tenants. The 148th Fighter Wing responded to 30 airfield calls and eight inflight emergencies in 2022. As a member of the Lakehead Mutual Aid Association, the 148th responded to 44 calls in the city of Duluth, towns and townships surrounding the Duluth International Airport.



# ECONOMIC IMPACT



# AGILE COMBAT EMPLOYMENT (ACE)

Agile Combat Employment, or ACE, is a proactive and reactive operational scheme of maneuver executed within threat timelines to increase survivability while generating combat power. When applied correctly, ACE complicates the enemy's processes, creates operational dilemmas for the enemy and creates flexibility for friendly forces.



ACE provides greater agility to outpace an adversary's action through movement and maneuver. ACE relies on multi-capable Airmen demonstrating expertise in their duty position while becoming efficient in duties outside of their scope. While deployed to the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, the 148th Fighter Wing personnel and F-16 fighter aircraft forward deployed to Thumrait Air Base, Oman and Cairo, Egypt in support of ACE training events.



## ACCURATE TEST

55 Airmen and four F-16s traveled to Thumrait Air Base, Oman for 16-days to plan and fly Close Air Support, Defensive Counter Air and Offensive Counter Air with Omani F-16s. This deployment with U.S. Air Forces Central regional allies provided Airmen the opportunity to exchange information, techniques and tactics while executing 20 sorties.

## AGILE PHOENIX

54 Airmen and four F-16s traveled to Cairo, Egypt for 11-days to integrate with Egyptian Air Force and Indian Air Forces. 148th F-16s were the first U.S. F-16s to land in Egypt in 15-years. 87 Egyptian Air Force pilots received valuable weapons school and realistic flying training sorties.



# PEOPLE

## **Airmen volunteered 5,371 hours**

In a time when less than 1% of the population has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, our success depends on recruiting and retaining top talent. Our Airmen are drug-free, fit, resilient and well trained. They receive generous benefits for higher education from the State of Minnesota and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It's common to see Bulldogs from the 148th Fighter Wing volunteering, coaching and serving others.

Our Airmen have diverse foundational skills and have the ability to succeed in contested environments. These Airmen have proven their capabilities at home, at school, at work and in deployed locations.



**\$635,984**

139 AIRMEN USED STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

**\$240,104**

95 AIRMEN RECEIVED STATE ENLISTMENT/RETENTION BONUSES

**\$635,022**

61 AIRMEN RECEIVED FEDERAL ENLISTMENT BONUSES

**101.1%**

PERSONNEL END STRENGTH

**92.56%**

RETENTION RATE

**58**

NEW RECRUITS

**21**

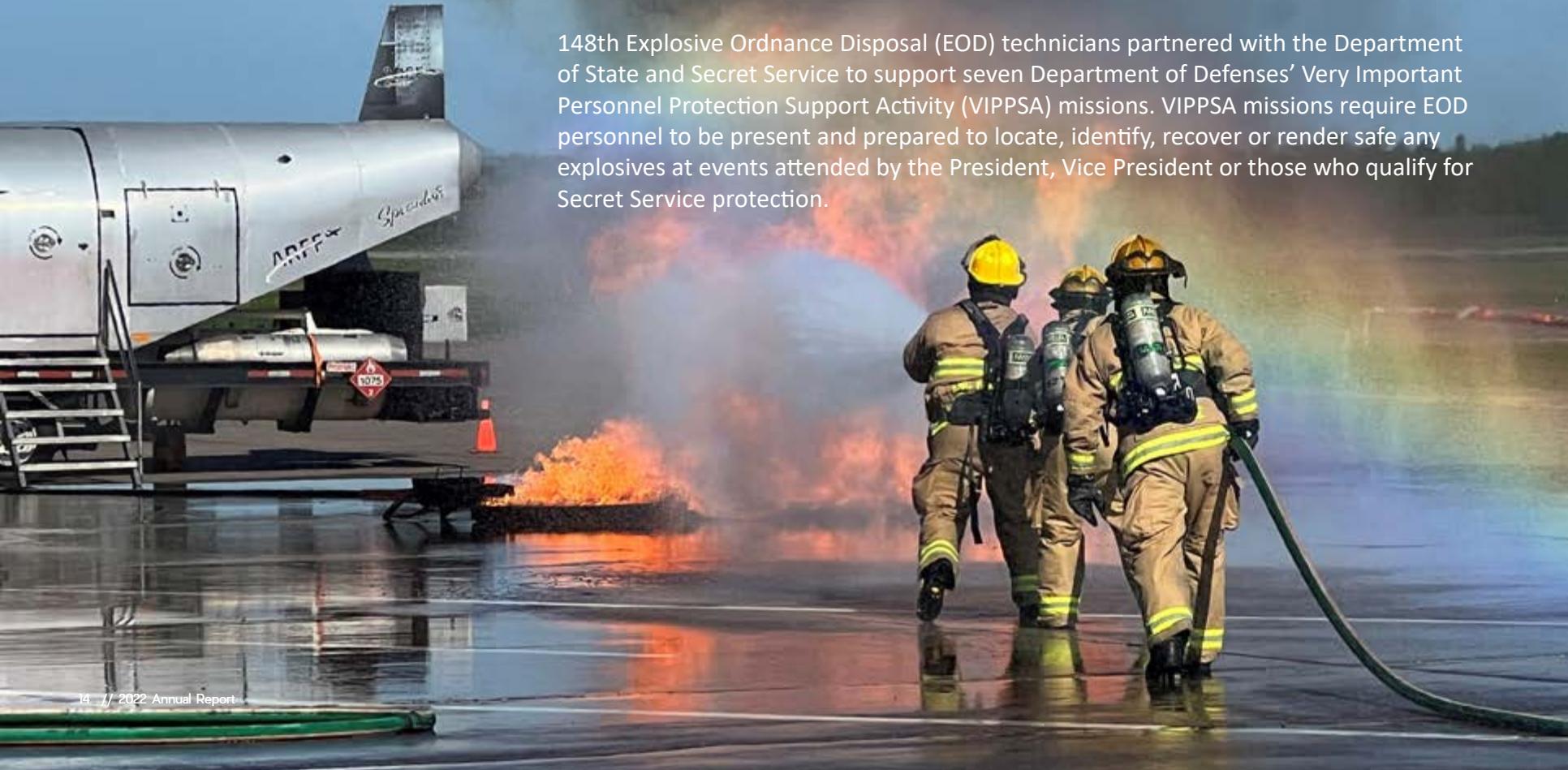
AIRMEN EARNED CCAF ASSOCIATE DEGREES



# PARTNERSHIPS

The 148th Fire Department participated alongside 25 first responder agencies in a full-scale Triennial exercise at the Duluth International Airport in June. The complex scenario allowed participants to exercise communication and response with diverse agencies with a goal of saving lives. The 148th, Duluth and Superior Fire Departments collaborated in October to host a first-of-its-kind, two-week finishing school for newly hired fire fighters at Lake Superior College's Emergency Response Training Center. The course was designed to assist new fire fighters to be successful in their positions.

148th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians partnered with the Department of State and Secret Service to support seven Department of Defense's Very Important Personnel Protection Support Activity (VIPPSA) missions. VIPPSA missions require EOD personnel to be present and prepared to locate, identify, recover or render safe any explosives at events attended by the President, Vice President or those who qualify for Secret Service protection.







# MODERNIZATION

## **AIRCRAFT UPGRADES:**

Nearly half of the wing's F-16 fighter jets received new active electronic scanned array (AESA) radar which enables pilots to locate targets in the air and on the ground more easily with high definition.

The 148th is currently an Air National Guard Center for Excellence for the ASQ-236 radar pod. The all-weather, precision pod can find fixed, moving and maritime targets.

The entire fleet of F-16s are currently undergoing a dozen structural and strengthening modifications through the F-16 service life extension program (SLEP). The 148th's F-16s are part of the advanced combat fleet and are programmed to be in the U.S. Air Force fleet through the mid-2040s.

## **AIRSPACE:**

The 148th has continued to work with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Guard Bureau and other partners to modernize our Military Operating Airspace to meet current and future training needs.



### **FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:**

The 148th invested \$6-million into infrastructure projects which included taxiway and aircraft apron repairs, parking lot modifications to meet anti-terrorism standards, speed barriers and improved lighting across the installation.

Ground was broke on a 12,000 square foot, indoor firing range which will dramatically improve warfighter readiness. A new consolidated Logistics complex will be completed in early 2023 which will provide much needed office space and storage for equipment and mobility supplies.

The 148th will continue its efforts to design and build modern universal aircraft shelters to replace the 1950s-era shelters that were brought to the 148th in the 1980s after the closure of the Duluth Air Force Base.



# ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS



## 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

Nearly 50% of all Wing personnel deployed to 10 different countries

Effective Red Flag training at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada

Successfully executed two ACE missions in Oman & Egypt

AESA radar installations

## 2023 GOALS

Recruit to over 100% staffing

Retain current talent

Continue facility, aircraft & airspace modernization efforts



CONNECT  
WITH US

Join our team!



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