

# ON FIVE

January / February / March 2024





# COMMANDER'S COLUMN

LT. COL. SCOTT PROM, OPERATIONS GROUP

Minnesota and Norway's histories have intertwined for hundreds of years. The historical relationship continues to thrive currently in the Minnesota National Guard.

Alumni of the 148th Fighter Wing are very familiar with its partnership with Norway due to the long standing Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange or NOREX. The Minnesota Army and Air Guard just wrapped up it's 51st NOREX with the Heimevernet or Norwegian Home Guard.

What may not be well known is the 148th Fighter Wing just eclipsed the one-year mark of the ratification of Norway as official State Partnership Program nation with the Minnesota National Guard. Some would ask why does this matter? Unlike NOREX, the State Partnership Program opens up opportunities to officially work with ALL of the Norwegian Armed Forces including the Heimevernet, Air Force, Army and Navy.

Norway joins Croatia as nations Minnesota has been entrusted to build connections with under the State Partnership Program. The State Partnership Program is extremely valuable since it helps generate civil-military relationships through events like trilateral engagements, training exercises, assistance with defense plans, interagency operations, emergency management and facilitations of humanitarian aid.

The 148th Fighter Wing's collaboration with Norway's Air Force has been seamless since the State Partnership Program ratification due, in part to our Northern Minnesotans' shared Scandinavian ancestry, their use of United States technology, and Western tactics.

Since 2023, the 148th Fighter Wing has already executed quarterly flying training events with the Norwegian F-35 squadron based out of Luke Air Force base. The 148th and the Norwegian Air Force have also participated in multiple collaborative exchanges. Highlights include hosting Norwegian leadership at the 148th for a "day in the life" and sending members to the Norwegian Military Academy to participate in their yearly Air Power Seminar. Reactions from both parties have been so positive the partnership plans to grow rapidly in the next year.

The 148 Fighter Wing will be hosting a contingent of the Norwegian F-35's and personnel this summer from the Luke Air Force base detachment. The Wing has also been invited to Norway to fly and train in the "High North" environment in calendar year 2025.

The future looks bright for the 148th and its expanding role of building partnership that help deter aggressions from America and its allies near peer threats.



*Lt. Col. Staale Nymoen, and Col. Kenneth Ovland, leaders within the Norwegian Armed Forces, tour Duluth with Lt. Col. Scott Prom and Col. Nathan Aysta on Nov. 29, 2023.*

**Contents of the On Five are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth International Airport, Minnesota 55811.**

- |                             |                         |                                       |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Col. Nathan Aysta .....     | Wing Commander          | Senior Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe .....  | Public Affairs Superintendent |
| Col. Babette Van Hees ..... | Deputy Commander        | Master Sgt. Megan Shaner .....        | Chief of Community Engagement |
| Audra Flanagan .....        | Chief of Public Affairs | Senior Airman Tylin Rust .....        | Public Affairs Apprentice     |
| Capt. Natasha Hilsen .....  | Public Affairs Officer  | Airman 1st Class Addie Peterson ..... | Public Affairs Apprentice     |

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN DARRELL KYLE

*"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1*

It has been a Winter to remember. Then again, so was last year. Last year you may recall that we had a record snowfall. This year, I have shoveled twice. Seasons are funny things. We may think that we know what to anticipate when one season changes to another. But I find that it is a rare time indeed when I know what is coming around the corner let alone around the changes in the year.

All the times of our lives, or seasons if you will, come with their benefits and challenges. There are even transitions within the context of a season. For us as individuals and as a Wing, we are in the midst of a change. The "releveling" that is occurring will bring many changes for us. For some it will be a bigger change than others. As we go through this change of seasons, we may not be certain what the next season may look like for each of us and all of us. I suppose that this time of uncertainty may be a season in and of itself. When the old gives way to the new it may not be a change that we welcome or desire. But change comes to all of us.

There are other seasons of our lives as well. Families, work, friends, and even family members are with us for a time. A new job may take a child or us across the county or around the world. The death of a loved one ushers in a season of grief and loss. Children grow and leave home for the next season of life. Old friends may go and new ones enter our lives. Changes seem to be constant across our lives.

But change, even unanticipated changes, can overtake us and overcome us. We are also not left to face those changes by ourselves. We don't do this journey by ourselves. There are people that travel with us even if only for a time.

And it will soon be Spring. I'm not sure what the new season will bring. But I do have trust that we will be traveling along that journey with people that care about and for us. Today, that seems to be enough.



## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR

MRS. WENDY GUNDERSON

**SEXUAL ASSAULT  
PREVENTION &  
RESPONSE**

**Protecting  
Our People  
Protects  
Our Mission.**



**APRIL IS  
SEXUAL  
ASSAULT  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**

**DENIM DAY**  
is coming up on  
April 24, 2024

## WING OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



**Senior Airman Connor Foster**  
*148th Fighter Wing's 2024 Airman of the Year*



**Tech. Sgt. Richard Schiff**  
*148th Fighter Wing and Minnesota Air National Guard noncommissioned officer of the year*



**Master Sgt. Alicia Lagarde**  
*148th Fighter Wing and Minnesota Air National Guard senior noncommissioned officer of the year*



**Master Sgt. Shannon Housey**  
*148th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year*



**Capt. Phil Larson**  
*148th Fighter Wing and Minnesota Air National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year*



**Capt. Cody Donald**  
*148th Fighter Wing Pilot of the Year*

*Wing OAY award recipients pose for a group photo with Chief Master Sgt. Jozef Miketin, Wing Command Chief, and Col. Babette Van Hees, Deputy Commander, Jan. 5, 2024.*



## BULLDOG EARNS EOD “MASTER BLASTER” DISTINCTION FOR AIR NATIONAL GUARD

BY AUDRA FLANAGAN

Mitigating the hazards of explosive materials and other weapons takes courage, precision, and skill. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) members take on some of the Air National Guard’s most dangerous missions at home and abroad.

Each year, the Air National Guard selects EOD Airmen for their achievement and contributions to their home unit, major command, and the U.S. Air Force EOD Program.

148th EOD Superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Hilleren was selected as the Air National Guard’s 2023 Master Blaster in the Senior Noncommissioned Officer category.

Hilleren, a 21-year Veteran who’s deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility three times, has orchestrated collaborative training with state, local and federal bomb technicians to enhance cohesion and interoperability. In November, Hilleren gathered bomb technicians from Crow Wing County, Minn., Bloomington Police and the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for a counter-Improvised Explosive Device exercise which allowed the agencies to collaborate and exchange tactics and techniques.

“Senior Master Sgt. Hilleren is a hard charger,” said Chief Master Sgt. Matthew P. Wilt, Air National Guard Civil Engineer EOD Manager. “Mark has tackled the inspection of the ANG EOD program by identifying and helping fix issues at our flights during staff assistance visits. Mark and the 148th host the “benchmark” of current and future threat training annually with the Advanced EOD Conventional Course at Camp Ripley Training Center, where it has not only been true a total force initiative but also brings in Joint Service personal and state partner nations to train on First Found Ordnance, Mass Demolition Procedures and Protection of Personal and Property.”

Hilleren provided operational expertise on eight response calls and two Very Important Personnel Protection Support Activities (VIPPSA) missions in 2023. VIPPSA missions



provide EOD support to the U.S. Secret Service and Department of State related to the protection of certain U.S. and foreign officials and persons, including the President of the United States.

In 2018, Hilleren was selected for the Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Eugene A. Lupia Award for his superior technical competence and job performance following a deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Freedom Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

“Mark’s energy and passion for service are unparalleled, extending beyond his duties in EOD,” said 148th

Civil Engineering Squadron Commander, Maj. Joe Solberg. “He willingly takes on additional responsibilities within the Civil Engineer Squadron and consistently supports community relations events whenever possible.”

Hilleren is often seen at events educating community leaders and youth on the Air National Guard and EOD mission. “EOD has obscure missions and incredible opportunities that impact our community,” said Hilleren. “You don’t fully appreciate how great this job is until you’re here. If someone is interested in EOD, I’d advise them to dive in headfirst and trust the process.”

Hilleren is also an athlete, demonstrating he is fit to fight. He can often be seen running local races from 5Ks to Duluth’s Grandma’s Marathon. He participated and excelled in the 2021 and 2022 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlons, both held at Camp Ripley. In 2022, Hilleren earned gold in both the 10km Sprint and 12.5km Pursuit races in the novice division.

“The distinction of Master Blaster is a tremendous honor in a career field that has so many Senior NCO’s contributing to the over success of the ANG EOD program,” said Hilleren. “Ultimately, the goal is to ensure our Airmen have the best training and opportunities to ensure they’re prepared to do their job when asked to do so.”

## AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEFENDERS HOST COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS COURSE

BY AUDRA FLANAGAN

50 Air National Guard Security Forces personnel from 15 states gathered at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota, from January 8-19, 2024, for a two-week Cold Weather Operations Course.

“Given the complexities of the global security landscape, it is imperative that our Defenders continue to prepare themselves to deploy and fight in the most challenging of circumstances and operating environments,” said Lt. Col. Shawn Stroup, Deputy Director, Force Protection and Chief, Air National Guard Security Forces. “The Cold Weather Operations Course brought together Security Forces personnel and cadre from across the 90 units in 54 states, territories and delivered its mission to test the mental and physical grit of personnel who may be called to secure the nation’s power projection platforms in sub-zero conditions.”

Planned and hosted by the 148th Security Forces Squadron, the course taught many techniques required to support base defense missions anywhere, anytime, even in subzero temperatures. The course utilized the crawl, walk, and run style of curriculum, using a combination of classroom and fieldwork-type instruction that culminated with a three-day field training exercise.

Classroom instruction focused on injury treatment, equipment use, and preparing to conduct military operations in extreme cold. There were several days of combined classroom and outdoor education where students practiced basic survival skills such as building fires with materials found in nature, hypothermia response, and assembling arctic tent structures.

The event concluded with a three-day field training exercise where class attendees ruck marched long distances in subzero temperatures, built and slept in thermal shelters made from materials found in nature for one night, built and slept in arctic tents for two nights, and responded to challenging scenarios presented by the course instructors.

The course concluded with a cold-water immersion event where students experienced, firsthand, the shock that extremely cold water has on the body.

Course planner and organizer, Master Sgt. Heath Parks, 148th Combat Arms Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, said “it was rewarding to see defenders from all over the U.S. succeed as they went through the misery of cold conditions while developing their practical skills of using proper clothing, shelter construction, and emergency preparedness.”

Camp Ripley provided a realistic training environment for students as temperatures during the field training exercise never rose above zero-degrees, while the “feels like” temperatures sunk to -35 degrees.

“The training days were 24-hours,” said Master Sgt. Alexander Cairry, 126th Security Forces Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. “It took mental fortitude to apply what we learned in the extreme cold.”

Stroup, who provided remarks at the course graduation said, “on behalf of the NGB/A4S team, I am extremely proud of the trainees who completed the grueling 13-day course and am confident that the lessons learned will shape the way we train and equip our Defenders for future operations, both at home and abroad.”



## NOREX 51

Approximately 100 Minnesota National Guard service members participated in the 51st annual Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange (NOREX) from January 31 through February 14, 2024.

Over the two weeks in Norway, participants conducted winter survival training and cultural immersion with the Norwegian Home Guard. This training provides a unique opportunity for participants to learn and conduct extreme cold-weather survival tactics while strengthening partnerships with our NATO allies.



## CHAPLAIN BRINGS CONNECTION TO ANTARCTICA, ENHANCES COMMUNITY AT MCMURDO

By Master Sgt. Megan Shaner

U.S. Air Force chaplains support the spiritual resilience of Airmen all over the world. The Air National Guard Chaplain Corps has been supporting Operation Deep Freeze, an annual joint mission to Antarctica, since 1994.

Last year, Chaplain (Maj.) Ben Buchanan from the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota National Guard, was one of three chaplains selected to support Operation Deep Freeze. He was the first chaplain to “drop in” for the season, arriving in October and leaving in December 2023.

According to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Drury, Division Chief, Plans & Programs, National Guard Bureau, there are about 100 military personnel and 750 civilian personnel at McMurdo Station, alone. The cold weather training and mission at ODF fits and supports the needs of the ANG to be worldwide trained and ready.

“There was definitely no ‘average’ week while I was there,” Buchanan explained. “The first task when I arrived was to open up the Chapel of the Snows; and yes, that involved a shovel!”

“The chapel was in need of a deep clean, so I spent the first couple of weeks cleaning it from top to bottom,” Buchanan said. “It was a great way to meet others on station as I tried to locate cleaning supplies, carpet cleaners and waste containers. I really was just a custodian for the first part of my tour – with the goal to create a clean space for all to enjoy.”

At McMurdo, there are services and activities held at the Chapel of the Snows throughout each week. The chaplains who deploy for ODF are called to come along side and support the diverse community.

“When I started, Jewish Shabbat was on Friday evenings; Buddhist, Mormon, and Christian services were on Sunday mornings; and there was an Open Recovery Group and a Bible study on Tuesday evenings,” Buchanan said. “But there were also a lot of people who would come into the chapel: people looking to get a brief, quiet moment away from others; musicians looking to play a piano or guitar; or someone looking to come in to get a break from the cold.”



“After establishing the chapel as an open space for volunteers to utilize, I turned my attention to preparing for and supporting a Mass Casualty Incident exercise, planning the Turkey Trot 5K with the station’s recreation department, and visiting as much as I could around the station,” Buchanan said. “I played basketball and volleyball and helped belay at the climbing wall in the gym to meet people.”

The chapel hosted 5k Turkey Trots on Thanksgiving. Two races were held, one in the morning and one in the evening, to accommodate different shifts and also to allow the Kiwis to join from Scott Base. There were about 140 runners in the morning and another 30 (including the chaplain!) in the evening.

“Running in subzero was no joke,” Buchanan explained. “Everything had to be covered and sunglasses weren’t even adequate as they’d fog up. I ran in my ski goggles!”

“I have my ‘Antarctic Racing Series’ bib – number 310 – with a time of 30:58,” Buchanan said proudly. “Not bad given the conditions!”

“I helped groups load and transport equipment as they were going out to or coming back from their field projects. At one point, we organized a group of volunteers to go out to Phoenix Airfield and shovel out a dozer that had broken down and was sinking into the ice. It really was an amazing experience to get to know and support the community at McMurdo in any way I could help out.”

“Antarctica was definitely a sight to behold. It was amazing to explore an other-worldly landscape and to see a land that very few get a chance to see at all. But my favorite memories will always be about the community at McMurdo and the people there,” Buchanan said. “They were an incredible group of individuals from all walks of life who were there for a variety of reasons and all incredibly talented in their own right. They worked hard and played hard together, and relied on each other to accomplish tasks with fairly limited resources in a remote environment.”

# HOCKEY DAY

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN TYLIN RUST



## 148TH FIGHTER WING AIRMAN REDEFINES HIS LIMITS AND EMBRACES UNKNOWNNS

BY CAPT. NATASHA HILSGEN

Frank Talarico, a budget officer with the 148th Fighter Wing, joined the Air National Guard in 2001. After more than 20 years of service, he made a change and was commissioned as a second lieutenant with the 148th Fighter Wing.

Talarico was commissioned at a later stage in life than most, putting him well above the average second lieutenant age range of 23 to 26 years old.

Talarico's journey began when he enlisted as a crew chief in maintenance. In 2018 he took on a new role within maintenance as quality assurance. Then two years later he transitioned to the fabrication element supervisor, managing 30 people. Climbing the ranks of the enlisted force to the rank of senior master sergeant.

Talarico said he thought about becoming an officer early on in his career, but that thought faded away through his years of service. He was having fun, and he liked the people he worked with, so it didn't really matter.

"When you are a Senior Master Sgt., I don't know how many people would care about commissioning at that point," said Talarico.

During this period of service, Talarico deployed five times to three different countries: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

"I am an all-in kind of person," said Talarico. "I don't want to just do some of the stuff, so I was going on every deployment, every TDY."

While Talarico was working his way through his military career he was thinking about that next step in his career. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting



and fast forward a couple of years, the budget officer position at the 148th opened up. Talarico applied for the position while deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and was selected as the new budget officer.

One of the requirements to become an officer in the Air Force is to attend Officer Training School which is an intense and rigorous training program teaching Airmen to be leaders. Talarico thought

OTS that was an interesting experience. He expected to be the only older person there, but he wasn't.

"These changes are happening across the Air National Guard and Air Force," said Talarico. "There were quite a few of people older than 35 in my class, we called ourselves the geezer flight."

Talarico joked that there was a mutual consensus between everyone in the geezer flight that they were there not to get hurt since they were not as young as some of the other officer trainees.

Talarico describes how valuable his many years of enlisted service and experiences were in shaping his career, but even with that experience he is still learning something new as an officer.

Talarico said, "You just have to figure it out along the way what it means to be commissioned."

As Talarico charts a new course as a second lieutenant, his story stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of service and the transformative power of embracing change. In the ever-evolving landscape of the Air National Guard and the Air Force, his journey serves as a beacon of inspiration for those who dare to redefine their limits and embrace the unknown.

## 148TH, MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTER PARTNER AGAIN IN 2024

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ADDIE PETERSON

On a frosty February morning, airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn. had the opportunity to save lives by donating blood.

148th Inspector General, Lt. Col. Gina Keppeler, said she saw the bloodmobile in the parking lot when she got to work, so she figured she would donate. “I’m trying to be better about doing it [donating blood] more often.” she said. Keppeler has been on assignments out of the state/country for the last few years, and she hasn’t been around for the quarterly blood drives. She credited some of her fellow airmen for being dedicated regulars.

Master Sgt. Mike Panula takes the blood drive seriously, having donated 30 times for 3.63 gallons. “Just about every time the bloodmobile is here, I donate.” he said. Panula had filled over three vials and was still getting blood drawn when photographed.



Master Sgt. Kent Price is another airman who donates blood almost every time the truck comes to the base. “And I don’t like it.” he said. Price understands the need for blood donors because he has people in his family who work as medical professionals; he knows it’s the right thing to do.

Memorial Blood Center, a nonprofit community-based blood center, comes to the base every few months. People are eligible to donate every 56 days, according to Memorial Blood Center Registration Host, Leonard Haapanen. Airmen can sign up in advance or decide last minute by visiting Haapanen at the registration desk outside the dining facility. During the February blood drive, 13 donors signed up in advance, but by the end of the day, 26 airmen made the selfless decision to donate blood.

In 2023, 148th Fighter Wing airmen donated 123 units of blood which reached 369 patients in Northland hospitals.



## 148TH FW PARTICIPATES IN WSEP 24.04

### By 325 FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, participated in the latest iteration of the Weapons System Evaluation Program, WSEP-East 24.04 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Jan. 16-19, 2024. WSEP is a joint program designed to evaluate air-to-air and air-to-ground live fire weapons employment for combat aviators.

The 148th FW is a North American Aerospace Defense Command Aerospace Control Alert-trained flying unit that conducts air sovereignty missions, as tasked, throughout North America. In this capacity, the unit's F-16 Fighting Falcons are ready to detect, deter, deny, or if necessary, defeat any airborne threats to the U.S. and Canadian airspaces.

"Being an alert [trained] unit, we provide [air] defense to multiple locations throughout the U.S.," said Senior Master Sgt. Mitchele LaCoursiere, 148th FW alert chief enlisted manager. He explained that, at a moment's notice, the pilots need to be ready to jump into their jets and go, and that they are constantly training to ensure they maintain a high level of readiness.

WSEP training complements the 148th FW's commitment to readiness as Tyndall's location provides easy access to 180,000 square miles of training airspace over the Gulf of Mexico, where live munitions can be fired.

"WSEP is a huge learning experience for us. Participating in the live-fire events for the first time in over 10 years is beneficial to not only our pilots, but our maintainers as well," said LaCoursiere. "Practicing like this in a controlled [environment] gives us the chance to receive feedback and identify areas of improvement from our engineers."

WSEP provides a unique training experience within the Department of Defense that benefits a multitude of mission sets as WSEP is one of the only chances for the 148th FW to practice with live fire.



"I hope we get more opportunities to train in live firing conditions because it gives us more confidence in our capabilities," explained Senior Airman Jacqueline Busch, 148th FW weapons technician. "Pound for pound, it's one of the best aircraft around and we're proud to have it protecting our delegated airspace."

LaCoursiere found this training to be extremely valuable, as it was the first WSEP for the 148th FW in more than 10 years. The unit was able to complete their objectives in less than a week and build connections within the fighter community they may not normally get at home station.

"Networking with other units motivates us and improves the camaraderie of getting other wings together for exercises like this," LaCoursiere said. "In the [ANG], we all come from our communities and aren't all full-time members of the military. Seeing us bring out a group for an exercise where we can do more than what is [typically] available to us at our base is fulfilling."



# PROMOTIONS

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2024

## CHIEF MASTER SGT.

GLEN FLANAGAN  
RYAN KRASTINS

## SENIOR MASTER SGT.

SEAN OCONNOR  
JEFFREY HUBBARD  
DENISE OWEN  
CORY LICKISS  
CHRISTOPHER YANTOS

## MASTER SGT.

ANDREW LADZINSKI  
JOEL WATERS  
JOSHUA FISH  
NICHOLAS BENEDICT  
NATHAN HALLGREN  
NICHOLAS STAACK  
BRIANA AHLBERG  
CHRISTOPHER COLVIN

## TECH. SGT.

MAKAYLA NORDEAN  
CODY FARRELL  
DEVIN LENZ  
RAYMOND SKOGLUND  
KAMILLE KORPELA  
HANNAH DEHAAN

## STAFF SGT.

KATIE MCNELIS  
KAITLYN TUCKER  
JACOB RUZYNSKI  
JOSIAH SMITH  
BRADEN HUPPERT  
TODD BAKER  
KADEN SMITH  
DEREK HORVATH  
DYLAN HOM  
JACK FITZGERALD  
MIKAYLA ACHMAN  
LYDIA BENNIS  
SOLOMON SEYMOUR  
CONNOR BRAATEN  
CHLOE DANIELSON  
BREN ELLESON

## SENIOR AIRMAN

CAITLIN NORTON  
GABRIEL JOHNSON  
AARON MOORE  
DANIEL PAYNE  
BROCK HOUSE  
MADISON RAMBOW  
JULIA SVEEN  
BRADY SCHMITT  
CRESSA LOOFT  
RYLIE ERICKSON  
DAWSON WOJCIUK  
BRAXTON FARRELL

## AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

SYDNEY VAN DONSEL

## AIRMAN

QUINTANA WALKER  
ALEC PETERSON  
RAEGEN OLSON  
CADEN ARTEMAN  
KAELEY SPIERING



Chief Master Sgt. Glen Flanagan receives a proclamation from Duluth Mayor Roger Reinert declaring Jan. 6, 2024 Chief Master Sgt. Glen Flanagan day.



Ryan Krastins from the Medical Group was promoted to Chief Master Sgt. on Feb. 4, 2024 at a ceremony in the Great Lakes Inn.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS



*Minnesota Governor Tim Walz visits with Col. Nathan Aysta, Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Jozef Miketin, Wing Command Chief, outside the new indoor firing range Jan. 23, 2024.*



*148th Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Nathan Aysta and Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jozef Miketin, greet the President of the United States, Joe Biden upon arriving for a local event on Jan. 25, 2024.*



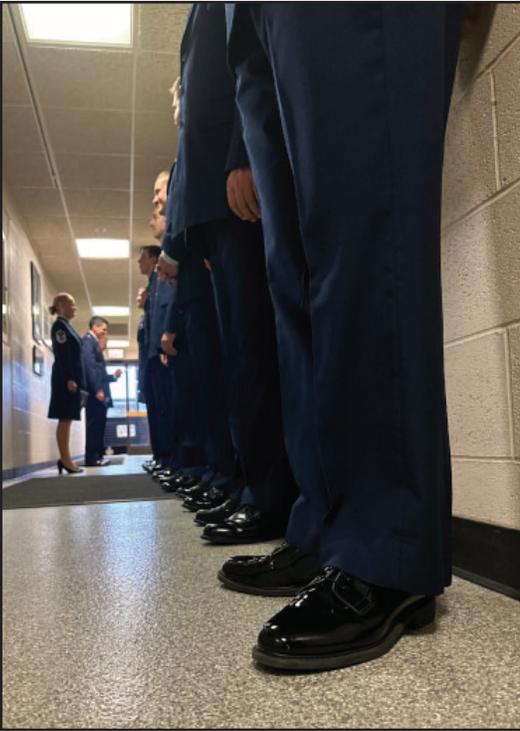
*148th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Nathan Aysta presents Brig. Gen. Daniel Gabrielli a 148th Fighter Wing litho at a retirement ceremony Feb 3, 2024.*



*On Friday, March 1, 2024, the 148th Fighter Wing, alongside our community partners, celebrated the official opening of our 12,000 square foot, 12-lane, indoor firing range.*



*Duluth Mayor, Roger Reinert, poses for a photo with 148th Fighter Wing and MN JFHQ personnel at Duluth and St. Louis County Days on March 6, 2024.*



*Leadership from the Communications Squadron inspects service dress uniforms during an Open Ranks formation March RSD, March 3, 2024.*



*Airmen conduct period firing qualification in the 148th Fighter Wing's new indoor range on Feb. 13, 2024.*



# 148FW

## MN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### RECRUITING LIST

CURRENT AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Command Post  
 Munitions Systems **FY24 BONUS**  
 Security Forces **FY24 BONUS**  
 Financial Management  
 Aerospace Ground Equipment **FY24 BONUS**  
 Network Systems  
 Cyber Security  
 Client Systems

Vehicle and Vehicular Equipment Maintenance  
 Services/Fatality Search and Recovery **FY24 BONUS**  
 Maintenance Management Production **FY24 BONUS**  
 Weather **FY24 BONUS**  
 Traffic Management  
 Emergency Management  
 Administration  
 Fuels **FY24 BONUS**

### WING TOURS



*The Superior High School wrestling team toured the 148th Fighter Wing on Jan. 29, 2024*



*Students from Lake Superior College's Aviation Maintenance Technology program toured the 148th Fighter Wing March 13, 2024. Students received an F-16 familiarization and a tour of the Engine Shop and Test Facility.*



*148th Aircraft Armament Specialist, Senior Airman Jacqueline Busch, hosted the University of Minnesota – Duluth Rocketry Club for a tour on March 12, 2024.*

#### CONTACT THE RECRUITING TEAM

218-788-7818 OR

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