

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

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# COMMANDER'S COLUMN

The year 2025 has been a source of immense pride for the 148th Fighter Wing. We have not only successfully achieved our stated objectives for the year, but our Airmen have also demonstrated exceptional dedication in exceeding all established standards. Our state and international partnerships have remained robust throughout the year, and we look forward to continuing our strong and mutually beneficial relationships with our allies, including state partners Norway and Croatia.

At home, we maintained our steadfast commitment to the 24/7 homeland defense alert mission while continuing to be an integral, supportive part of the Northern Minnesota community. Abroad, our readiness to project combat power was prominently displayed during our critical deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility, where our deployed Airmen proudly led expeditionary operations on the world stage. As we look to the future, the Bulldogs of the 148th Fighter Wing remain a trusted, resilient, and highly capable force prepared for the demands of 2026 and beyond.



*Col. Nathan Aysta*  
Commander, 148th Fighter Wing

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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

## VALUES

Positive attitude, customer focused, transparency, continuous improvement, and loyalty.

# 148th FIGHTER WING HISTORY

As the 148th Fighter Wing completed its 77th year, we built upon a distinguished legacy of service, resilience, and adaptation. From our origins as the 393rd Fighter Squadron in World War II to our current role as a premier F-16 wing, we have consistently evolved to meet the nation's call.

What began as a small squadron has grown into a highly capable force, a testament to the enduring commitment that defines our Airmen. Today, we stand as one of only two F-16 Fighter Wings in the Air National Guard specializing in the critical mission of Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD).

While executing our federal and state missions, we remain focused on our strategic priorities: our people, modernization, and our partnerships.

*We are deeply proud of our 'Bulldog' team and their unwavering dedication to excellence.*



## PRIORITIES

People · Modernization · Partnerships

# 148th FIGHTER WING MISSIONS



## STATE MISSION

When not mobilized or under federal control, the wing reports to the Governor of Minnesota, supervised by the adjutant general. Under state law, the MN Air National Guard provides protection of life and property and preserves peace, order, and public safety.

## FEDERAL MISSION

Maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies.

## ADDITIONAL MISSIONS

- ▶ Suppression & Destruction of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD)
- ▶ NORAD Aerospace Control Alert: 24/7 airspace defense
- ▶ Explosive Ordnance Disposal: Local explosive hazards & authority support
- ▶ Fire Department: Supporting Duluth Airport & local partners
- ▶ Communication Squadron: Emergency radio, cellular, and internet

# BY THE NUMBERS

*People. Modernization. Partnerships.*

**1,000+**

**AIRMEN**

*Dedicated personnel supporting mission readiness at home and abroad*

**2,800+**

**FLIGHT HOURS**

*Sustaining operational excellence across training and real-world missions*

**\$107.5M**

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

*Major contributor to state and local economy*

**1,800+**

**SORTIES FLOWN**

*Projecting airpower globally to ensure mission success*

**5,000+**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

*Strengthening relationships and serving Northern Minnesota*

**20+**

**LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS**

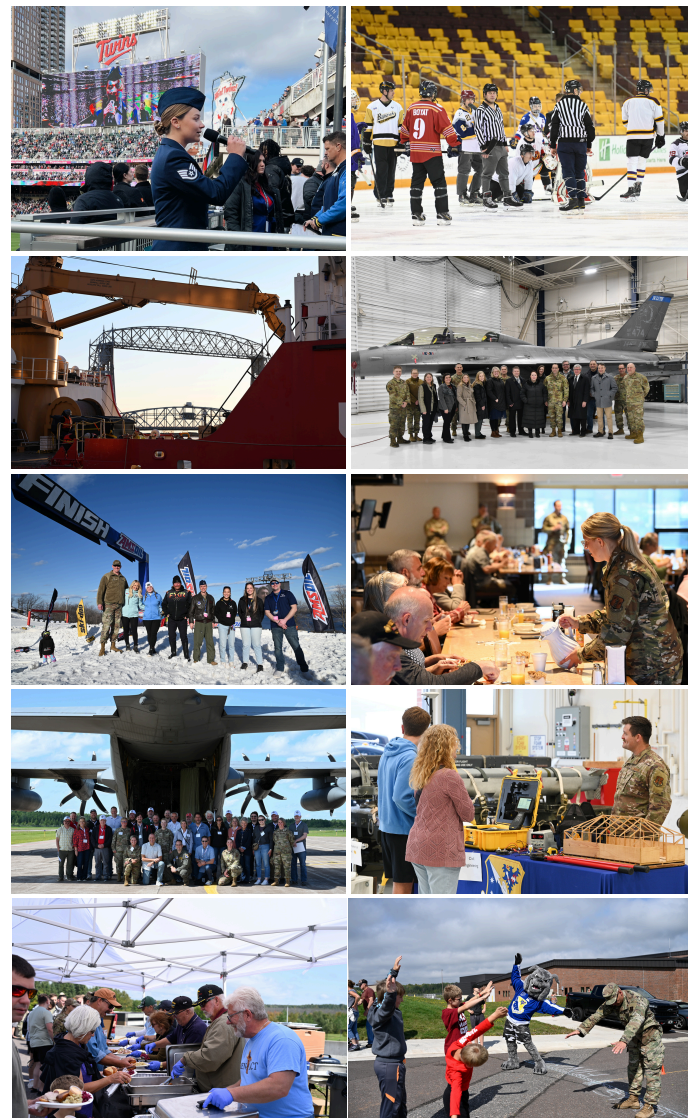
*Working alongside local and community organizations*

*Legacy of Excellence*

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

The 148th Fighter Wing is one of Duluth's largest employers, with 1,028 members actively contributing to the unit and community. In 2025, the wing generated an economic impact of \$107.5M, underscoring its role as a cornerstone of local stability and growth.

- ▶ People remain our greatest resource — highly skilled, disciplined, and deeply committed to service.
- ▶ Beyond their military duties, our Airmen engaged in more than 5,000 volunteer hours.
- ▶ The wing regularly hosts schools, teams, businesses, and community groups, strengthening partnerships and reinforcing our commitment to the communities we serve.



# PEOPLE

*Our Airmen are the foundation of everything we do. From training to community service, they bring dedication, skill, and pride to every mission.*



# PEOPLE



## TRAINING & READINESS

Our Airmen consistently demonstrate excellence in training. From professional military education to flight line exercises, the 148th Fighter Wing invests in the whole-person readiness of every member.

## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

In 2025, dozens of Airmen received recognition at the wing, state, and national levels. Their achievements reflect the high standards that define the Bulldog team.

## COMMUNITY & SERVICE

Beyond the flight line, our Airmen volunteered over 5,000 hours serving Northern Minnesota — from food drives and youth mentorship to supporting numerous events around the community.

# PARTNERSHIPS

The 148th Fighter Wing's readiness is strengthened by the partnerships we maintain across all levels. These relationships enhance interoperability, expand capabilities, and ensure we can respond as part of a coordinated team. Notable examples from 2025 include:

## STATE & FEDERAL EMERGENCY AGENCIES

- ▶ Supported national hurricane response through state-to-state cooperation.
- ▶ Assisted the U.S. Forest Service and Incident Management Teams during the Brimson Complex wildfires by restoring critical communications and supporting joint force operations.

## JOINT & ALLIED FORCES

- ▶ Participated in Sentry North, improving USAF and DoW readiness in contested air-to-air environments.
- ▶ Supported global mission requirements through the deployment of members assigned to XAB 26.1.
- ▶ Participated in the Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange (NOREX), strengthening interoperability with our long-standing allied partner.

## CIVIC & GOVERNMENT LEADERS

- ▶ Regularly partnered with Minnesota leaders for events such as remote communications for the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon and others.
- ▶ Continually hosted engagements with state leadership and civic partners to discuss mission priorities and strengthen organizational ties.

*Together with our partners, the 148th Fighter Wing advances a shared commitment to readiness.*



# ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS

## 2025 Accomplishments

The 148th Fighter Wing trained, deployed, and met all recruiting and retention goals. More than 150 Airmen deployed as the lead XAB 26.1 Wing to CENTCOM's area of responsibility, participating in two major joint exercises alongside multiple partner nations.

The wing also executed its first F-16 Agile Combat Employment exercise in Norway and hosted a home-station integration event with Norwegian F-35s.

At home, the wing continued supporting NORAD's 24/7 aerospace control alert mission, including a duty location transition coordinated with the Air Force Reserve. Security Forces planned and led the National Guard's Cold Weather Operations Course at Camp Ripley, training 72 Airmen from 15 states, reinforcing the wing's role as a leader in readiness, interoperability, and mission execution across the force.

# 93%

Retention Rate

# 102%

End-Strength

## 2026 Goals

The 148th Fighter Wing will prepare for an aviation tasking supporting national strategic priorities while continuing to modernize facilities, airspace, and critical infrastructure. The wing will further strengthen key community partnerships and remain ready to meet current and emerging threats.

## Mission Execution Targets

Maintain combat mission-ready Airmen, aircraft, and equipment.

Execute greater than 100% of flying hour allocation.

Meet all Airspace Control Authority taskings.



# Looking Forward

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As we look forward, the 148th Fighter Wing will continue to advance, strengthen, and modernize to meet the demands of a complex global environment. Our Airmen stand ready to answer the call, ensuring the wing remains a trusted and capable force for Minnesota and the nation.

We will remain focused on sustaining mission readiness, investing in our people, and building the partnerships that enable us to operate effectively across every domain. With a clear direction and an unwavering commitment to excellence, the wing is prepared for whatever lies ahead.

*“Legacy of Excellence” — 148th Fighter Wing*



CONNECT. FOLLOW. JOIN.



148th Fighter Wing

Duluth, MN

Minnesota Air National Guard



*Created by: 148th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

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Recruiting

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