

148TH FIGHTER WING

DULUTH, MINNESOTA



ANNUAL REPORT 2011



LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



VISION

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



MISSION

Provide ready Airmen to defeat America's enemies and rapidly respond to state and community needs.



FEDERAL MISSION

Maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances).

STATE MISSION

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



FROM THE COMMANDER

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Theodore Roosevelt



2011 was a memorable year for the Bulldogs. We worked hard, and it was worth it.

Aviation deployments dominated the year. The first trip with our new jets was to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. in January. We shot missiles, strafed moving targets, and employed laser-guided bombs. In April, the Bulldogs traveled to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. for our first step into the Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) mission. Finally, we returned to Nellis again in October for a “full scale” SEAD scenario that included F-15’s, F-22’s, and U.S. Air Force Aggressors.

Inspections were also a large part of 2011, and allowed us to cement our reputation nationally. In April, the Occupational Safety Health Administration inspection team verified our U.S. Air Force leading safety program. The result was that the 148th became the first unit to re-certify our Star status in the Voluntary Protection Program. The 1st Air Force- Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) inspectors returned in June for an Alert Force Evaluation. In July, our Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) experts received yet another certification for their laboratory. And in August, our tremendous airfield management team completed a successful airfield inspection.

In June, a high profile team that included our lieutenant governor, mayor, the adjutant general, civic leaders, and Military Affairs Committee spent three days in Washington, D.C. They advocated for an Active Associate unit with our U.S. senators, representative, and pentagon leadership. Our supporters were so successful, that Sen. Amy Klobuchar wasted no time sending a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force asking to place an Active Associate unit in Duluth.

Many other events defined our 2011 calendar. We flew Congressman Chip Cravaack and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman in one of our two-seater F-16’s in August. We hosted the king and queen of Norway. We marveled as our community erected an F-16 static display with their own funds and manpower.

It was indeed a busy year. Our successes continue to pile on top of one another; our reputation grows in significance. Inspection teams leave our base with a new found respect for how Duluth gets it done. We enjoy phenomenal community support. Our hard work continues to prove the 148th is one of the most dependable, capable fighter units in the Combat Air Forces.

More hard work is in store for 2012. We will declare “Full Capability” in the SEAD mission. The Air Force may send young, inexperienced Airmen to our gate to establish the 148th as an Active Associate unit. We will prepare for that day and teach those young Airmen what it’s like to be a Bulldog!!!

Frank H. Stokes, Colonel, MN ANG
Wing Commander

COMPETENT READY FORCE

We must maintain our role as a full spectrum force. From catastrophic events at home to deployments abroad, the Guard must continue to seamlessly integrate with the broader force. We will be able to leverage our national Department of Defense and interagency relationships built over many successful deployments.

The 148th Fighter Wing flies the Block 50 F-16CM, the newest F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. The Bulldogs perform Aerospace Control Alert (ACA), protecting America's skies 24-hours a day. The 148th Fighter Wing is one of only two Air National Guard wings tasked to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) support for our nation. The Wing continues to actively support overseas Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) taskings in the support of the Global War on Terror.

In 2011, the 148th:

- Completed acceptance inspections of all Block 50 F-16's
- Performed successful Alert Force Evaluation (AFE) from Northern Command Inspector General
- Supported four state active duty missions
- Deployed 209 personnel to 11 countries

Other Missions:

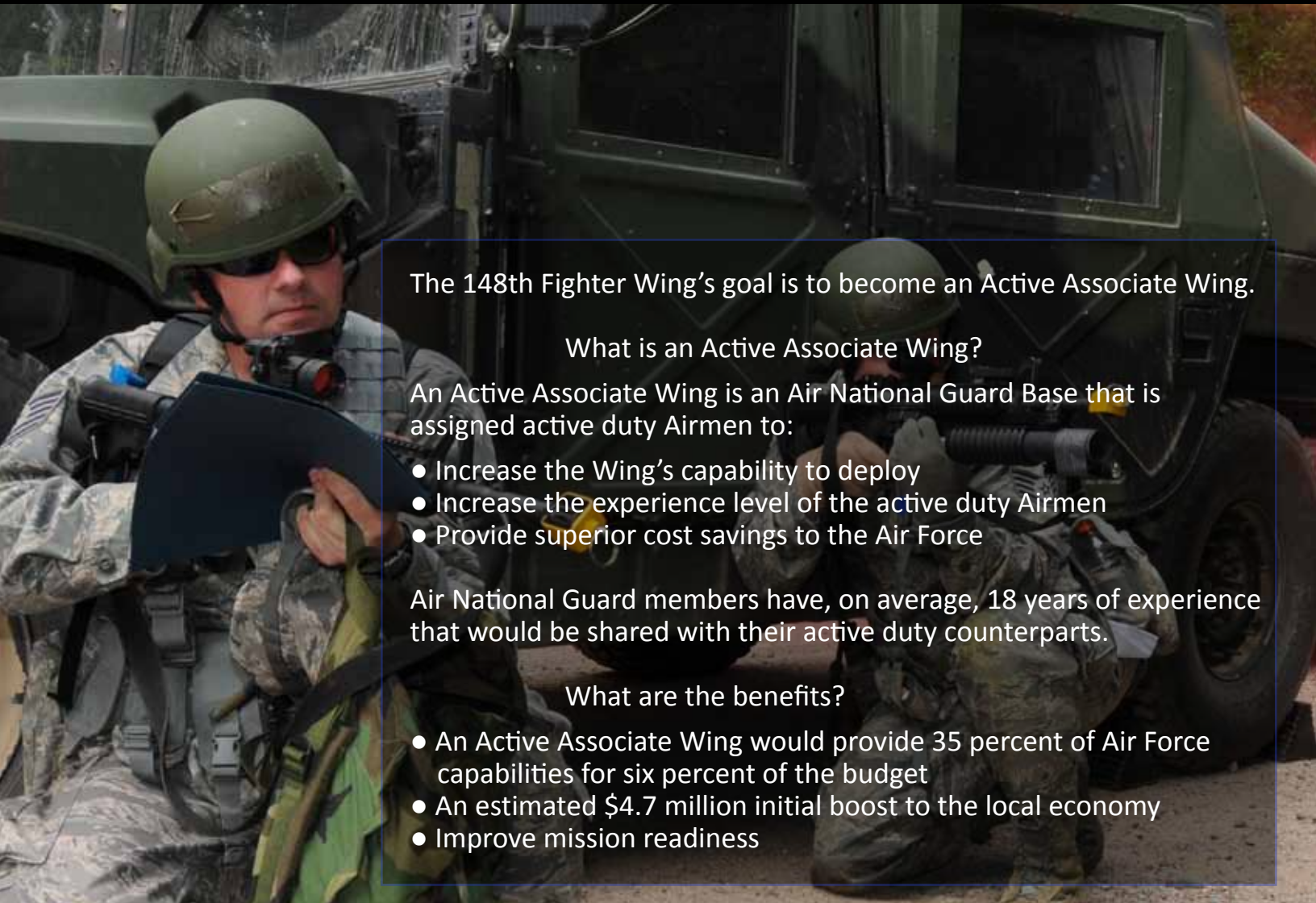
- The 148th Fire Department provides 24-hour operations as the sole crash and rescue force for the Duluth International Airport.
- The 148th Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) identifies and disposes of explosives found within the local area, providing the only source with this capability in the region.



Minnesota National Guard Priority 2

OPTIMAL FORCE STRUCTURE

We must continue to work toward an optimal force structure. We'll do this by striving to maintain the significant investment in readiness made over the last seven years. Guard units must be trained, equipped and ready for deployments.



The 148th Fighter Wing's goal is to become an Active Associate Wing.

What is an Active Associate Wing?

An Active Associate Wing is an Air National Guard Base that is assigned active duty Airmen to:

- Increase the Wing's capability to deploy
- Increase the experience level of the active duty Airmen
- Provide superior cost savings to the Air Force

Air National Guard members have, on average, 18 years of experience that would be shared with their active duty counterparts.

What are the benefits?

- An Active Associate Wing would provide 35 percent of Air Force capabilities for six percent of the budget
- An estimated \$4.7 million initial boost to the local economy
- Improve mission readiness



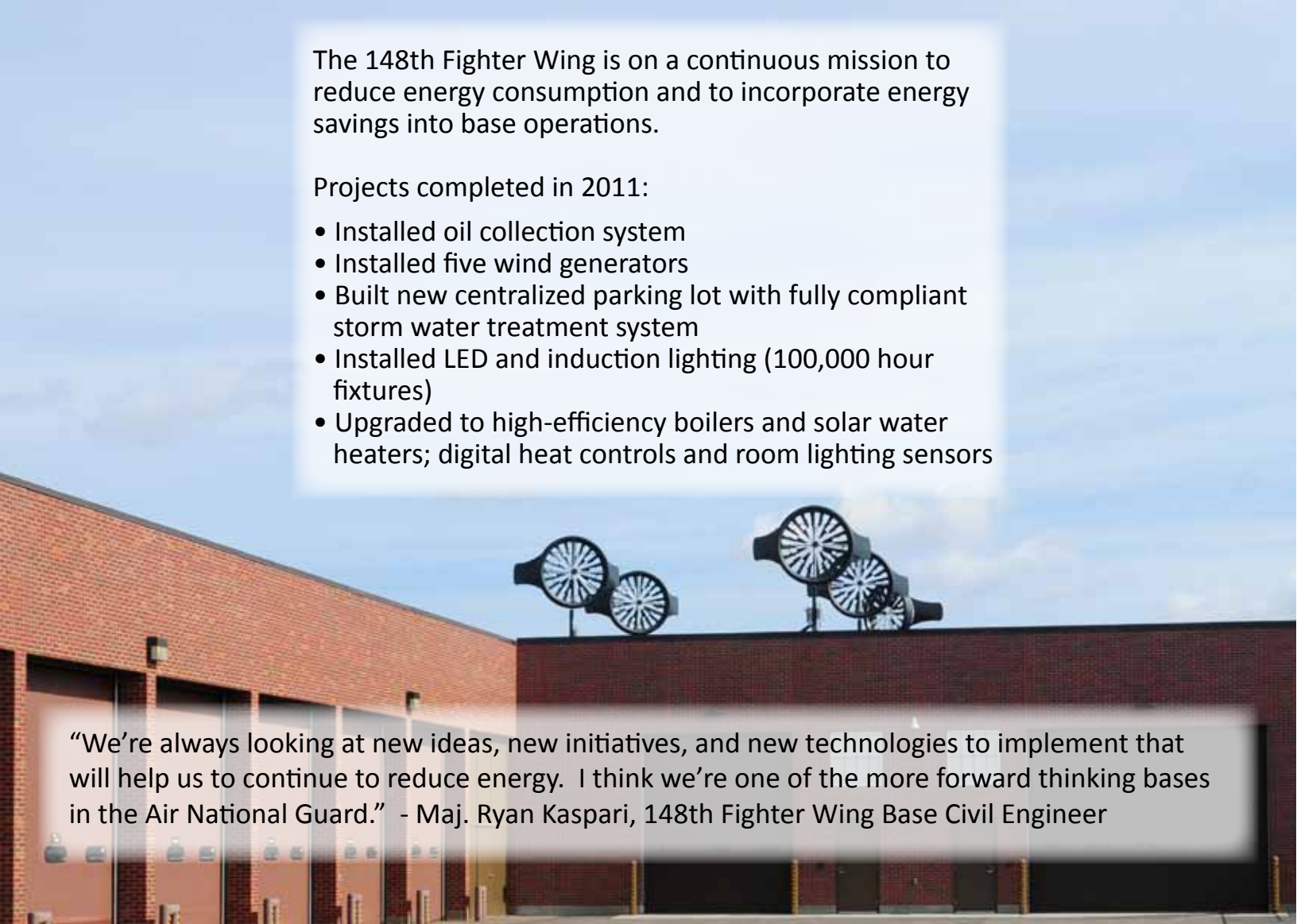
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

We must advance our environmentally sustainable infrastructure with regards to our facilities and equipment statewide. Continue to set the standard with our environmental initiatives and be stewards of our cultural resources.

The 148th Fighter Wing is on a continuous mission to reduce energy consumption and to incorporate energy savings into base operations.

Projects completed in 2011:

- Installed oil collection system
- Installed five wind generators
- Built new centralized parking lot with fully compliant storm water treatment system
- Installed LED and induction lighting (100,000 hour fixtures)
- Upgraded to high-efficiency boilers and solar water heaters; digital heat controls and room lighting sensors



“We’re always looking at new ideas, new initiatives, and new technologies to implement that will help us to continue to reduce energy. I think we’re one of the more forward thinking bases in the Air National Guard.” - Maj. Ryan Kaspari, 148th Fighter Wing Base Civil Engineer



Minnesota National Guard Priority 4
BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

When Guard units deploy, we continue to take care of their families. Spouses of deployed Guard members are often far from a community of other families who share in the burden of protecting our nation. Serving these geographically dispersed families is our first priority.



AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS

The 148th family includes all 148th members, retirees, family members, significant others, and friends.


Family programs include:

- Inter Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC)
- Strong Bonds weekends for military couples
- National Guard youth and teen camps
- Military child care in your neighborhood
- Key readiness volunteers

REINTEGRATION

The goal of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is to prepare Airmen and families for deployment, sustain families during deployment, and reintegrate Airmen with their families, communities, and employers upon return from deployment.

The 148th Fighter Wing participates in continuous reintegration programs and activities.



“Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is one of the most significant policy implementations for our modern ‘warriors’ well being.”
-Bill Maloney, 148th Fighter Wing Director of Psychological Health



DIVERSIFY THE FORCE

The Minnesota National Guard must continue to diversify our military force. We are committed to fostering an environment that truly represents the demographics of the communities in which we serve. We must have leaders that reflect those who we lead and serve.



“The Army, Air Force, and Minnesota National Guard are values-based organizations. These values, however, aren’t specific to creed, color, or background. They can only be originated by the individual and cultivated in the kind of close training that every Soldier and Airmen goes through during their time in the military.

As the Minnesota National Guard continues to train, prepare, and deploy, we must ensure that the experience and opportunity to serve as a citizen and representative of our whole community, is open to all who undertake the challenge.” - Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, Minnesota Adjutant General

148th Fighter Wing 2011 Diversity Initiatives:

- Established multiple diversity contacts at local universities and colleges
- Participated in Diversity Champions course
- Participated in “Honoring the Hero’s” program
- Established 4 Lenses training program



“IT IS TIME FOR PARENTS TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE EARLY ON THAT IN DIVERSITY THERE IS BEAUTY AND THERE IS STRENGTH.”

- MAYA ANGELOU

CYBER SECURITY AND RESPONSE

We must Develop the capacity to combat the emerging cyber warfare threat and ensure the Minnesota National Guard is prepared to defend our nation against the next threat.



In 2011, the 148th Fighter Wing exercised cyber security in an effort to remain a step ahead of the nation's virtual enemies.

- Attained full certification and accreditation of the computer networks
- Constructed five new "secure" communication rooms
- Established the Joint Communications Platform (JCP) as an alternate communications suite
- Established redundant off site network storage facility

In addition, the 148th Communications Squadron operates one of two JCP's in the state, providing military and civilian personnel with Internet, radio, telephone, voice and data transfer and power.

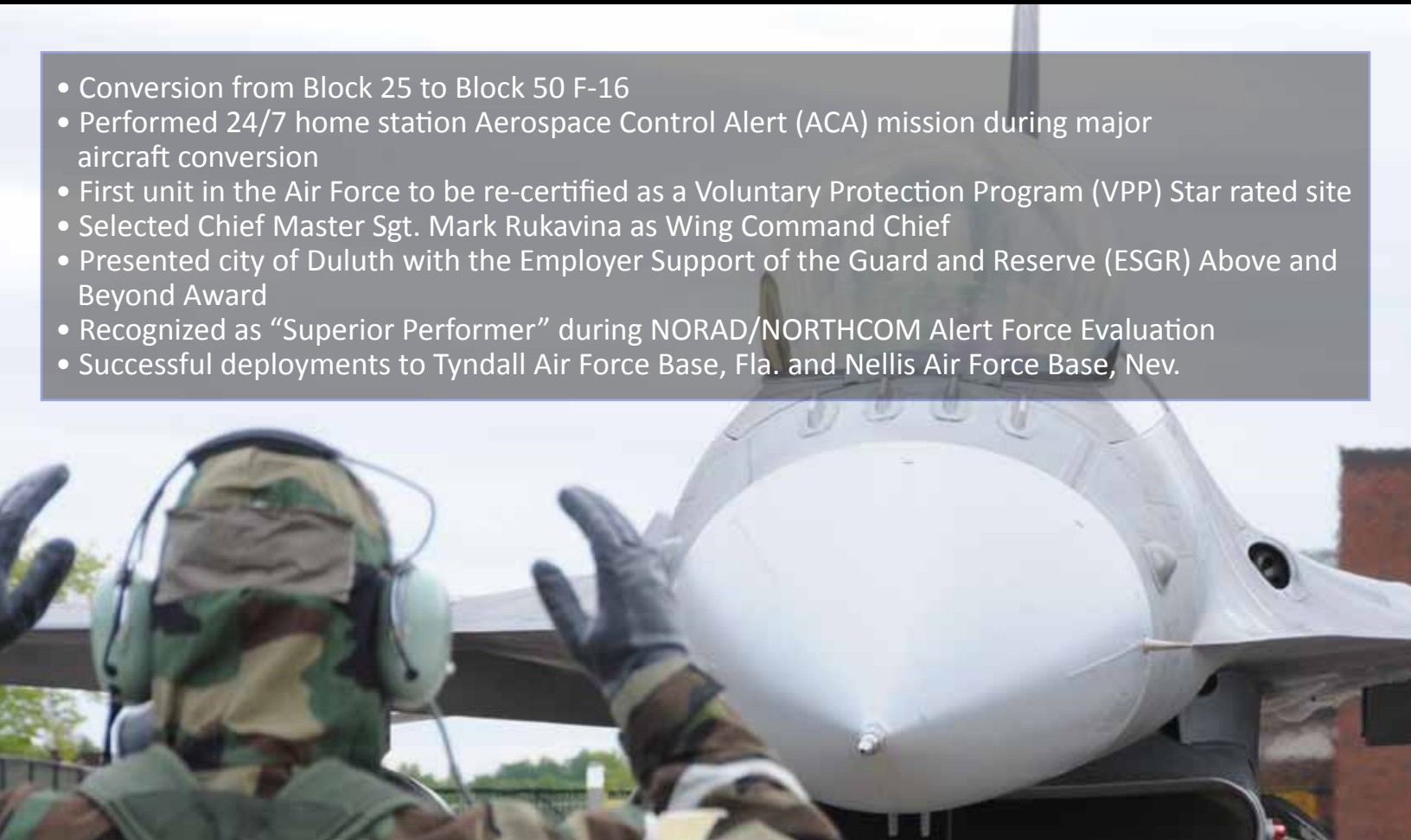
SOCIAL MEDIA

The 148th Fighter Wing strives to keeps its members, the public, and the media informed through a proactive, professional online presence. Traditional journalism is shifting, and uses the Web as a primary resource for information. The 148th Fighter Wing is committed to presenting a truthful online representation of the Air National Guard.



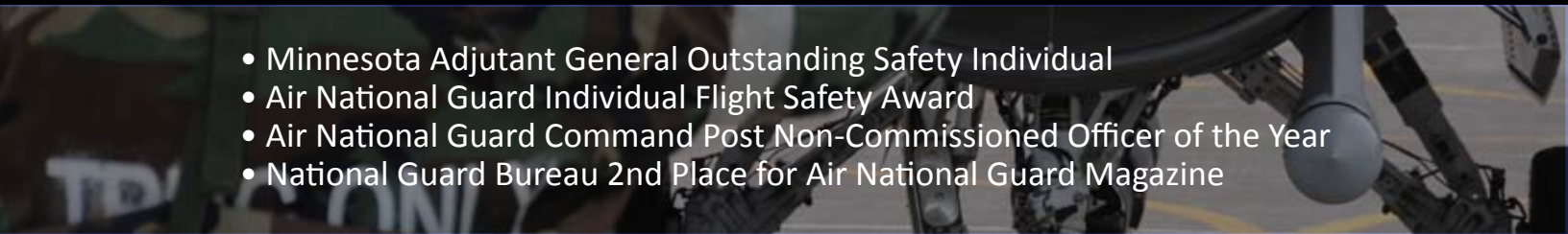
2011 HIGHLIGHTS

- Conversion from Block 25 to Block 50 F-16
- Performed 24/7 home station Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission during major aircraft conversion
- First unit in the Air Force to be re-certified as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star rated site
- Selected Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina as Wing Command Chief
- Presented city of Duluth with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Above and Beyond Award
- Recognized as “Superior Performer” during NORAD/NORTHCOM Alert Force Evaluation
- Successful deployments to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. and Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

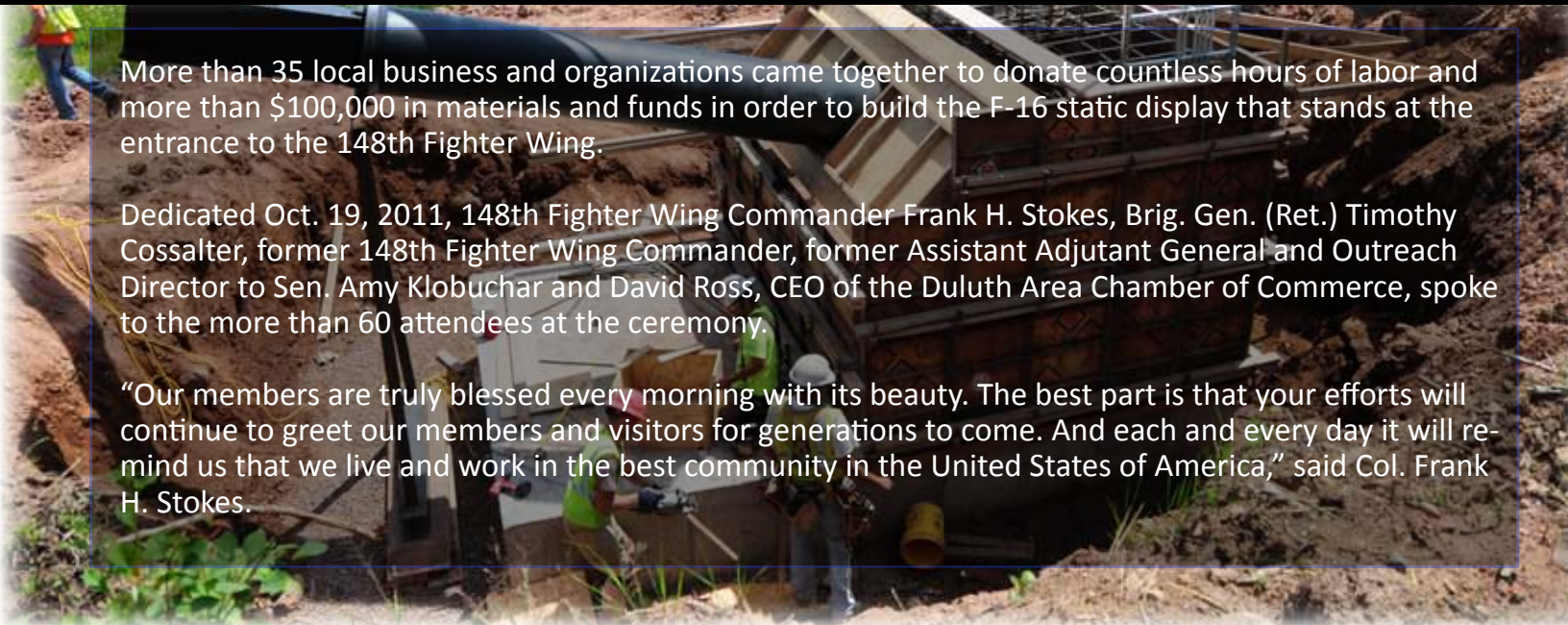


AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Minnesota Adjutant General Outstanding Safety Individual
- Air National Guard Individual Flight Safety Award
- Air National Guard Command Post Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- National Guard Bureau 2nd Place for Air National Guard Magazine



F-16 STATIC DISPLAY




More than 35 local business and organizations came together to donate countless hours of labor and more than \$100,000 in materials and funds in order to build the F-16 static display that stands at the entrance to the 148th Fighter Wing.

Dedicated Oct. 19, 2011, 148th Fighter Wing Commander Frank H. Stokes, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Timothy Cossalter, former 148th Fighter Wing Commander, former Assistant Adjutant General and Outreach Director to Sen. Amy Klobuchar and David Ross, CEO of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the more than 60 attendees at the ceremony.

“Our members are truly blessed every morning with its beauty. The best part is that your efforts will continue to greet our members and visitors for generations to come. And each and every day it will remind us that we live and work in the best community in the United States of America,” said Col. Frank H. Stokes.



LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT





The 148th Fighter Wing continues to receive support from local, state, and national officials as it forges its legacy of excellence.

“Active Association would strengthen the long term future of the 148th.”
- U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar

“It was my privilege to visit the men and women of the 148th Fighter Wing earlier today. These brave individuals run a first-class facility that keeps our citizens safe from those who wish to do us harm. I stand ready to support them now, and throughout the 112th Congress.”
- U.S. Congressman Chip Cravaack

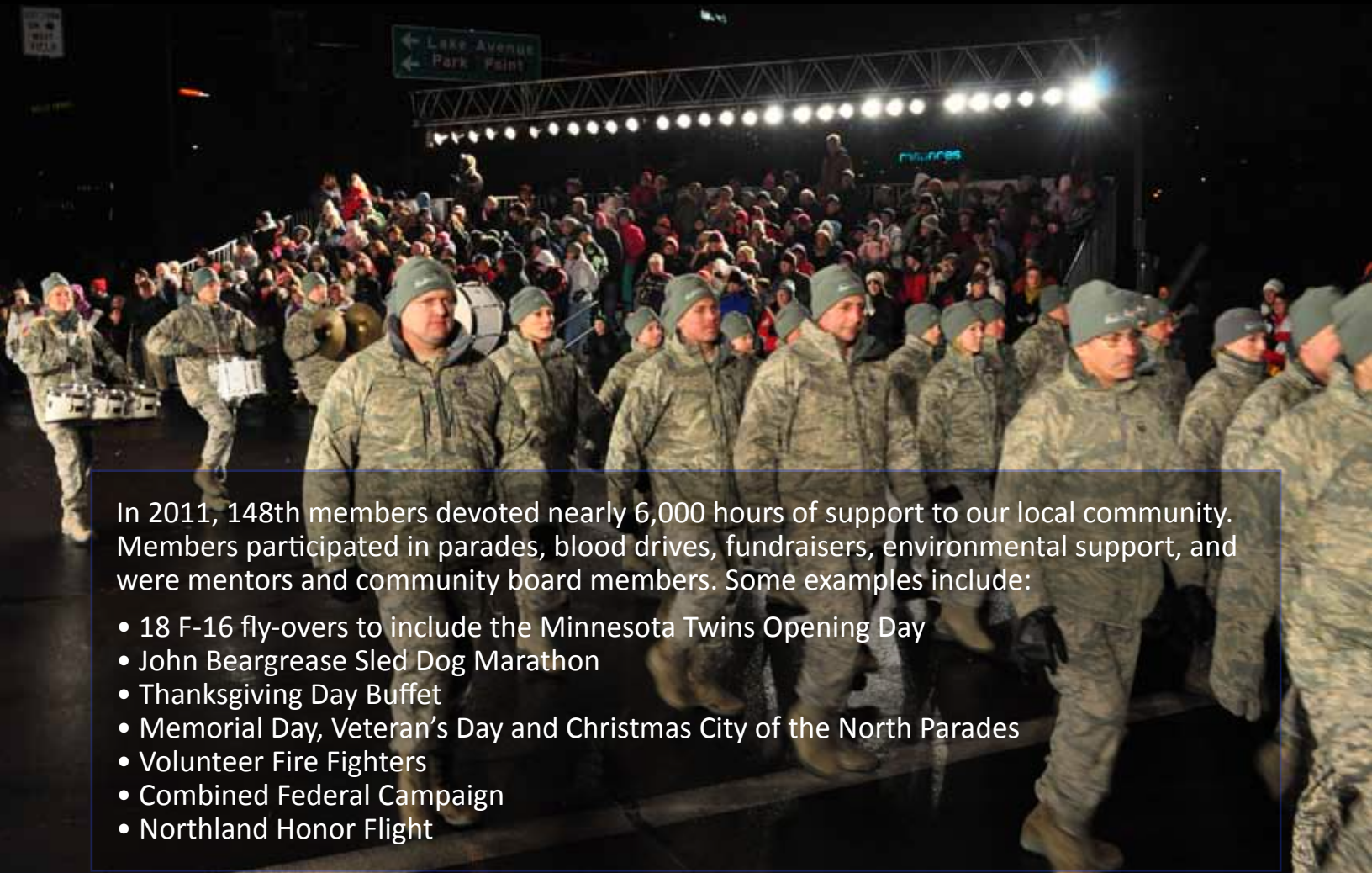
“We are committed to supporting our military employees and community members before, during, and after deployment.”
- Duluth Mayor Don Ness



 @alfranken
Al Franken ✓
Al supports expanding personnel at Duluth's 148th fighter wing
<http://bit.ly/dV5pqr>



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



In 2011, 148th members devoted nearly 6,000 hours of support to our local community. Members participated in parades, blood drives, fundraisers, environmental support, and were mentors and community board members. Some examples include:

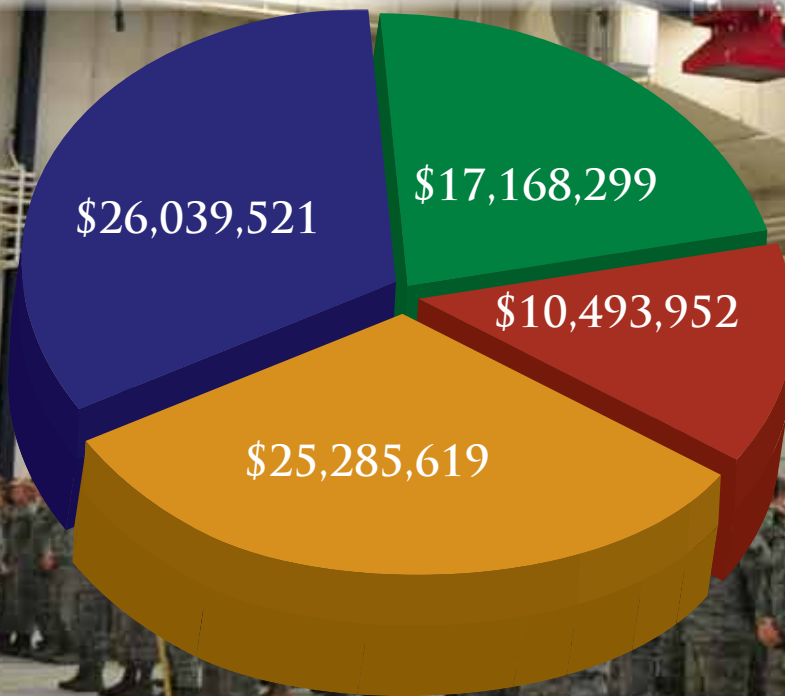
- 18 F-16 fly-overs to include the Minnesota Twins Opening Day
- John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon
- Thanksgiving Day Buffet
- Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and Christmas City of the North Parades
- Volunteer Fire Fighters
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Northland Honor Flight



ECONOMIC IMPACT

The 148th Fighter Wing has approximately 1,000 members (more than 450 are full-time) and is the seventh largest Duluth area employer. The Wing's 2011 fiscal year economic impact is over \$79 million. Personnel wages, totaling more than \$51.3 million, translates into home, vehicle and other item purchases. These purchases often occur through local businesses and people. Ongoing base construction projects also boost the local economy. Community impact is also an important indicator of how the 148th Fighter Wing enhances the Duluth area.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 ECONOMIC IMPACT - \$79 MILLION



- MILITARY PAY
- OPERATING EXPENDITURES
- INDIRECT JOBS CREATED
- CIVILIAN PAY

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Declare full operational capability in the SEAD mission
- Maintain 24/7 Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) coverage
- Welcome an Active Associate mission
- Upgrade to 18 primary assigned aircraft
- Prepare for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter
- Continue to upgrade & improve main campus
 - Fuel storage facility
 - Weapons load training facility
 - F-16CM simulator training facility

The 148th Fighter Wing was established Sept. 17, 1948 and has grown from 50 members to approximately 1,000 members. The unit has changed aircraft several times over six decades - from the propeller-driven P-51D Mustang, to the supersonic F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft flow today. From the Cold War to the War on Terror, the 148th Fighter Wing continues its Legacy of Excellence.

148TH RECRUITING TEAM

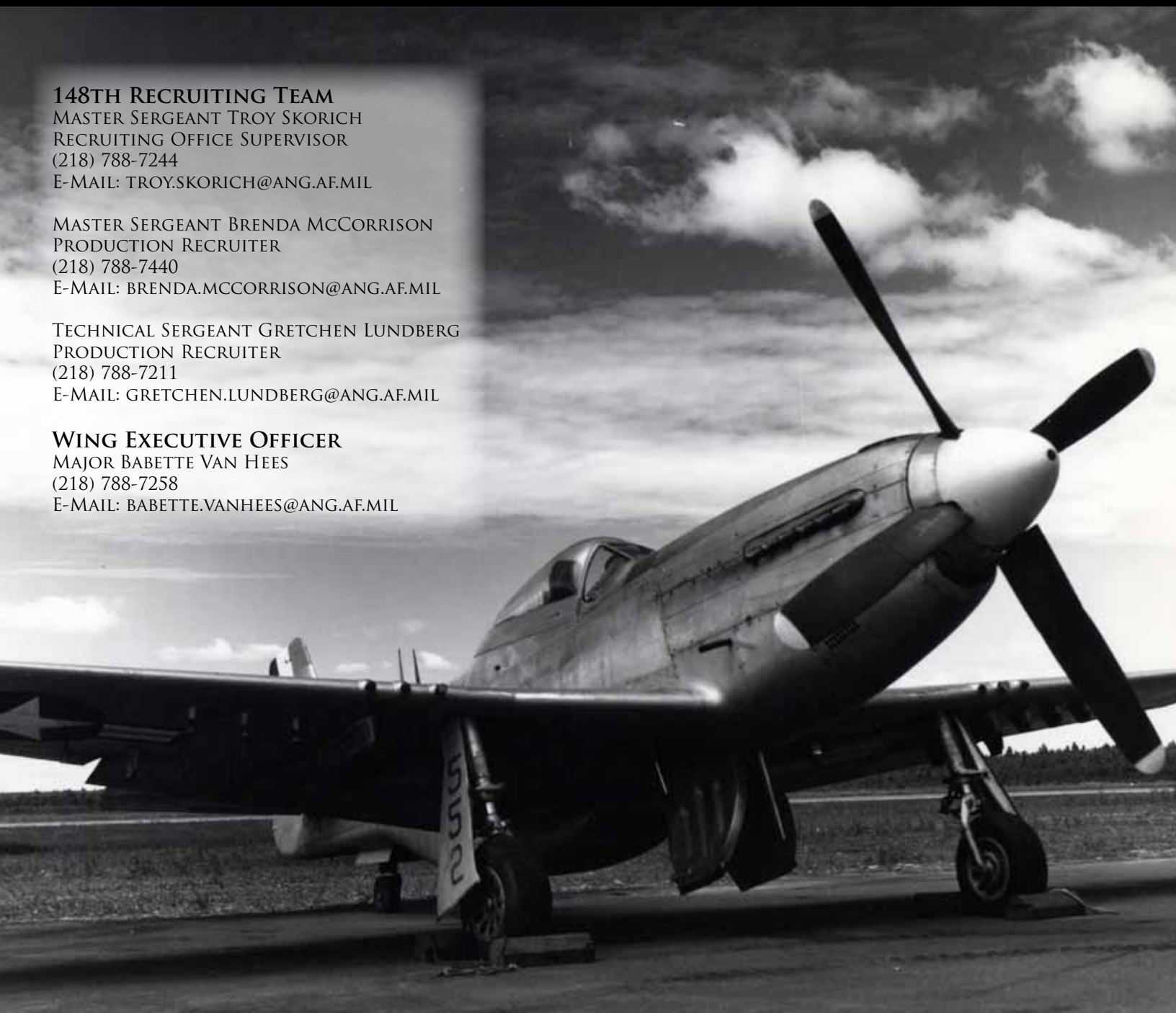
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