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# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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**NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT**

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**NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD**

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**NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**



*‘Prepare and deliver combat ready forces in defense of our nation and stand ready to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our state.’*

— Nebraska Military Department Mission Statement

## STATE MISSION

The state mission of the Nebraska National Guard is to provide trained and equipped organizations to protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order and public safety. Nebraska National Guard troops are called to state active duty to execute missions within the State when authorized by the Governor.

The Adjutant General of Nebraska serves as both the Senior Military Officer in Charge of the Nebraska National Guard as well as the State Emergency Management Director. To assist the Adjutant General with the day-to-day operations of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), an Assistant Director is appointed.

In the event of a disaster or emergency, local government responds using local resources.

When these resources are deemed inadequate and state resources are required to cope with the situation, local officials can contact NEMA day or night. NEMA assesses the disaster and makes a recommendation to the Governor on whether a state declaration is needed. If the Governor declares a state emergency, state resources – to include the Nebraska National Guard – can be used within certain restrictions to provide assistance.

NEMA also supports other State agencies and local governments with training and education programs, public information, disaster recovery assistance and disaster planning. In addition, NEMA coordinates State and Federal emergency planning and disaster recovery, and Homeland Security operations in support of the State’s Homeland Security Director.

## FEDERAL MISSION

The Federal mission of the Nebraska National Guard is to provide United States combatant and geographical commanders with trained and equipped units ready for a national emergency or war, in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense plans. Troops are called to Federal service for national defense missions, either in the United States or abroad, when authorized by the President.

The Nebraska National Guard is made up of the Nebraska Army National Guard, which consists of more than 3,300 Soldiers in units located in 23 communities across Nebraska, while the Nebraska Air National Guard is made up of slightly less than 1,000 Airmen located at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base in Lincoln, Nebraska, or with the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base.



**Helping Hand:** Nebraska Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Luke Katz (right) helps his partner, Pennsylvania Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Troy Conrad, as they exit Victory Pond during the 2018 David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition, April 13, at Fort Benning, Ga. The two Army Guard Soldiers would finish ninth overall in the prestigious national competition.



U.S. Army photo by Patrick A. Albright

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### 2018 Nebraska Military Department Annual Report

The 2018 Nebraska Military Department Annual Report was produced by the staff of the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office with significant support from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Public Information Office, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, 155th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office, 92nd Troop Command, 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), 155th Air Refueling Wing, 170th Group, the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office and the State Support Services Division. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the Nebraska Military Department and not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. For additional information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at nenationalguard@gmail.com or 402-309-8390.

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# Nebraska Military Department staff tackles 2018's numerous challenges

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*'I cannot be prouder of the work that our military service members and civilians do on a daily basis. Their dedication to their missions, as well as the support we receive from our families, civilian employers and communities, is something that the entire state of Nebraska can be extremely proud of.'*

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On behalf of the dedicated men and women who serve in our Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, I present to you the 2018 Annual Report.

2018 was a year of many changes, challenges and opportunities. Through it all, the men and women of this amazing organization were more than up to the tasks.

That success was due, in no small part, to the investments and support made by our families, communities, civilian employers and our local, State and Federal elected leaders. And for that support, we thank you from the bottom of our collective heart.

This year's edition of our Annual Report takes up where last year's left off, chiefly in continuing to examine our three interrelated functional tenets that were first coined by Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the current National Guard Bureau Chief, several years ago: "Fighting America's Wars," "Securing the Homeland" and "Building Partnerships." These three tenets accurately describe not only our Nebraska National Guard's efforts, but also those of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the entire Nebraska Military Department.

For example, we began the year by welcoming home Soldiers from our Omaha-based 402nd Military Police Battalion from their yearlong mission to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and members of a Lincoln-based Army National Guard aviation unit from their lengthy deployment to the Horn of Africa. We ended the year by deploying around 200 Airmen from our 155th Air Refueling Wing into the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

In between, Nebraska Guard units continued to prepare for a wide array of combat and domestic emergency missions during their Annual Training exercises and weekend drill assemblies. This training was conducted with one goal in mind: ensuring that our Soldiers and Airmen will be ready if and when our nation calls upon them.

But these deployments and military



training exercises are only part of our story. Since the founding of the first militia units in December 1637, or the founding of the first Nebraska territorial militia units in December 1854, the National Guard has possessed incredibly important State and Federal responsibilities. Members of the National Guard men and women not only train to support the United States during times of national emergency, they also stand ready to support their local communities during periods of State emergencies.

In recent years – including in 2017 when we sent historic numbers of Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist in hurricane recovery operations – our responsibilities have increasingly taken us outside of our State's borders when disasters struck.

These efforts, conducted most often through the NEMA-managed interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) framework, is part of our ongoing directive from Governor Pete Ricketts to help our fellow states whenever possible because we never know when, where or how disaster will strike here in Nebraska requiring us to be recipients of support from outside of our State.

In 2018, that commitment was once





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Marching Tall:** Soldiers and Airmen from the Nebraska and Texas National Guard carry the U.S. colors during the Czech Republic's Centennial Military Parade. The Oct. 28 Parade in Prague, Czech Republic, was one of several events that occurred in 2018 through the State Partnership Program, which marked its 25th anniversary in July.

again on full display. In March, several Nebraska Army National Guard helicopter crews deployed south to central Kansas when a series of wildfires overwhelmed our neighbor's emergency resources. Later in the year, Nebraska Army National Guard helicopter crews were once again deployed, this time to North Carolina when Hurricane Harvey unleashed monumental flooding.

In 2018 members of the Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued work with local, State, regional and national partners to develop the plans and training needed to combat a major natural or man-made emergency should it suddenly strike here within our State's borders.

And finally, we continued to work throughout the year to build the partnerships we need to ensure that we're not only prepared for success today, but also into the future.

These partnerships have taken many forms. For example, NEMA staff members continue to work with a broad array of local, state, regional and national partners to ensure that we have the equipment, resources and training we need to respond to emergencies.

It also came in the form of our ongoing work with the Czech Republic's Armed Forces through the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary

this year and saw a team of Nebraska and Texas Soldiers and Airmen marching proudly while carrying U.S. colors in Prague this October during the Czech Republic's centennial celebration.

These are just a few of the many ways your Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Military Department and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency lived up to their commitments to our State and nation last year. These efforts also demonstrate the amazing capability the Nebraska Military Department offers to our local, State and national elected leaders and uniformed combatant commanders.

As the Adjutant General, I cannot be prouder of the work that our military service members and civilians do on a daily basis. Their dedication to their missions, as well as the support we receive from our families, civilian employers and communities, is something that the entire state of Nebraska can be extremely proud of.

With that, I present you the 2018 Nebraska Military Department Annual Report...

**Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**  
Nebraska Adjutant General and

Director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Honors:** Members of the University of Nebraska Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, wearing vintage World War I uniforms donated by the Nebraska National Guard Museum, render a salute as three C-47 Chinook Helicopters from Company B, 2-135th General Support Battalion, fly over Memorial Stadium on Nov. 10. This year's annual Veterans Day game also served as a memorial to those Nebraskans who fought in World War I 100 years earlier.





## Section I.

# 2018 In Review



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Warm Embrace:** With pillow in-hand, Staff Sgt. Georgia Allen embraces a family member, March 1, after stepping off a plane at Eppley Airfield in Omaha after returning to Nebraska following a nine-month deployment in support of the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Task Force Guantanamo.



2018 State Excellence in Leadership Awardees



**2018 State Excellence in Leadership Awardee**  
 Polly Putney  
 Nebraska Military Department  
 Human Resources Office



**2018 State Excellence in Leadership Awardee**  
 John Vantine  
 Nebraska Air National Guard  
 Base Fire Department

2018 Outstanding Airmen of the Year



**Enlisted Airman of the Year**  
 Senior Airman Zachary J. Sagstetter  
 155th Force Support Squadron



**NCO of the Year**  
 Tech. Sgt. Eric J. Streeter  
 238th Combat Training Squadron



**First Sergeant of the Year**  
 Master Sgt. James L. Daberkow  
 155th Logistics Readiness Squadron



**Senior NCO of the Year**  
 Master Sgt. Rene A. Arriola  
 155th Civil Engineer Squadron

2018 Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



**Soldier of the Year**  
 Spc. Devon Thompson  
 Troop C, 1-134th Cavalry



**NCO of the Year**  
 Staff Sgt. Dustin Knoell  
 209th Regiment  
 (Regional Training Institute)



# Nebraska National Guardsmen continue award-winning ways throughout 2018



## 2018 Best Warriors

Pfc. Devon Thompson, Troop C, 1-134th Cavalry, and Staff Sgt. Dustin Knoell, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), were the winners of the Nebraska Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition, held April 12-14 at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb. Thompson would go on to win the regional Best Warrior competition before competing at the Army National Guard's national Best Warrior Competition, July 23-27.

## Medical Battalion Soldiers Earn Rare Trifecta

The Nebraska Army National Guard's 110th Multifunction Medical Battalion earned an unheard of trifecta when it won the Army National Guard's Supply Excellence Award, Award for Maintenance Excellence and finally the Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service. The awards were the results of rigorous inspections conducted at the state, regional and finally national levels.



## Nebraska Guard Journalists Win National Awards

Photojournalists Spc. Lisa Crawford and Sgt. Anna Pongo of the Nebraska Army National Guard were awarded top journalism awards during the 2018 National Guard Bureau Media Contest. Pongo earned first place in the Operational Photo Series, while Crawford earned second place in the Commentary division, first in Picture Story and was the James P. Hunter awardee for Outstanding New Journalist.

## Nebraska Soldiers Compete at Best Ranger Competition

Staff Sgt. Luke Katz and Staff Sgt. Joe Torres from the Nebraska Army National Guard's Company E, 134th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance), were selected to represent the Army National Guard in the Army's prestigious David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., in April. Katz — who was matched with 1st Sgt. Troy Conrad of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard — would go on to place ninth overall.



## Nebraska Command Sergeant Major Honored by Nebraska High School Wrestling Coaches



Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Reicks, 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, was honored during the Feb. 14 Nebraska High School State Wrestling Meet for his decades-long commitment to wrestling.



## Communications Specialists Win International Radio Contest

A team of 11 radio operators from Company E, 134th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance), won the national Low-Power, High-Frequency Communications Exercise and Competition. The contest, which pitched active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers from the U.S. and Canada, was designed to test the competitors' knowledge of antenna theory and utilization. The Nebraskans earned the most points for establishing contacts with other radio stations located across vast distances.



## Quick-Thinking Nebraska Airmen, Soldier Save Fellow Guardsman's Life

Four members of the Nebraska Air National Guard and a Soldier from the Nebraska Army National Guard were credited with saving the life of a fellow Air Guardsman undergoing a heart attack while playing basketball at the Spirit of 1776 Armory in Lincoln. The Guardsmen began CPR and initiated an automated external defibrillator on the stricken Airman in January, thereby saving his life.

## Nebraska Paratroopers Place Well at National Meet

Four teams of Nebraska Soldiers assigned to the 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne), 195th Quartermaster Detachment (Rigger Support Team) and Company E, 134th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance), placed in the top 20 during the 2018 Leapfest International Airborne Competition, Aug. 5, in West Kingston, Rhode Island.



## Auditing Team Named Best In National Guard

Members of the Joint Force Headquarters' U.S. Property and Fiscal Office Internal Review Team were named the winners of the 2018 National Guard Bureau Internal Review Office of the Year in July.



# Nebraska Military Department works together to meet 2018's challenges

## JANUARY

**20:** Five Nebraska Guardsmen save an Airman's life after he suffered a heart attack during a basketball game at Spirit of '76 Armory in Lincoln.

## FEBRUARY



**2:** Six Soldiers from Detachment 1, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment, welcomed home from deployment to the Horn of Africa.

**4:** Brig. Gen. Keith A. Schell, Nebraska Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, retires after 37 years of military service.



## MARCH



**1-2:** Approximately 50 Soldiers from Omaha's 402nd Military Police Battalion welcomed home from deployment in support of the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

## MARCH

**17:** Eight Nebraska Soldiers and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters deploy to Kansas to help fight grass fires.

**17:** Soldiers from Lincoln's 110th Multi-functional Medical Battalion com-



pete in the 50th Annual Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition for Excellence in Army Food Service at the Mead Training Site – ultimately winning first place.

**25:** Eleven Soldiers from Company E, 134th Infantry, win the national championship in Low-Power, High Frequency Communication Exercise and Competition (QRPX) after setting up a radio communications shop in the Titan and Atlas readiness centers at the Mead Training Site.

## APRIL

**7:** The Nebraska Army National Guard welcomes seven new second lieutenants into its ranks during the Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony at the State Capitol.



**12-14:** Sixteen Nebraska Soldiers compete in the 2018 Nebraska Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Greenleaf Training Site.



## APRIL



**13-15:** Staff Sgt. Joe Torres and Staff Sgt. Luke Katz compete in the Army's prestigious Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia.



**15:** Tech. Sgt. Michael Wellman, 155th Air Refueling Wing aircrew flight equipment technician, helps in the recovery and repatriation of three American service members who died during the Vietnam War

## MAY

The 155th Operations Group deployed to U.S. Pacific Command as a part of a 122-member 506th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron Theater Support Pack- age in May.



UH-72 Lakota helicopter crews from Nebraska's 1-376th Aviation Battalion, support Task Force Resolute Lakota with multiple rotations to Germany where they provide aeromedical evacuation support at the Hohenfels and the Grafenwoehr training areas. The operation lasts until August.



MAY



**5-25:** Soldiers assigned to the 1075th Transportation Company (North Platte, Sidney, McCook and Broken Bow) conduct a consolidated Annual Training exercise at the Greenleaf Training Site.

**6:** National Guard runners, from District of Columbia, Florida and Indiana, take top team honors during the 41st Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon, supported by the Nebraska National Guard. The race attracted the National Guard's top distance runners from across the United States.



**8-24:** More than 150 Soldiers from the Nebraska Army National Guard's

1-376th Aviation Regiment travel to Camp Wainwright in Alberta, Canada, for Exercise Maple Resolve 2018, the Canadian Army's most comprehensive Annual Training event designed for any contingency operation.

**10:** Chief Warrant Officer 5 Theresa Domeier is selected by Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy to become the Army National Guard's eighth Command Chief Warrant Officer, and the first female to hold the position.



MAY

**11:** Nineteen Soldiers from the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron participates in Operation Screener – a multinational exercise held in the Czech Republic.



**16:** Ashland Elementary School students travel to Camp Ashland to view eagle's nests, an ongoing conservation effort called "Operation Bald Eagle."



**23:** Members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, and the Czech Air Force – with some help from the active U.S. Air Force — record their latest State Partnership Program achievement when they come together in Lincoln to develop procedures for loading a Czech Mi-171 helicopter onto a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane and then actually test those procedures by loading a Nebraska Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter onto the cargo jet.

**28:** The crew of a Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker conduct a Memorial Day flyover salute at the Omaha National Cemetery. The flyover marked the first time in several years that the Nebraska Air National Guard has conducted such an operation.



JUNE



**2:** Brig. Gen. Wendy Johnson becomes the first woman to command the Nebraska Air National Guard as the Nebraska Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General.

**2-16:** Soldiers from the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron repeat rare gunnery and individual squad-level exercises during Annual Training at Fort Riley, Kansas.



**2-16:** Mortar-men from the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron conduct live fire exercises at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.



**9-23:** Soldiers from both Company E (Long Range Surveillance), 134th Infantry Regiment, and 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) travel to Fort Harrison, Montana, to conduct Annual Training amongst the rugged mountain ranges.

**10:** Lt. Col. Steve Collins takes command of the 402nd Military Police Battalion from Lt. Col. Eric Hunsberger.



**16:** The Nebraska National Guard's 43rd Army Band celebrates its 70th anniversary with a free community concert in Lincoln.

**16-30:** The 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade headquarters staff conduct Major Response Exercise during Annual Training in Nebraska.



JUNE



**29:** Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac travels to the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Czech-Slovak Army, which occurred on June 30, 1918.

JULY

**3:** Members of 155th Air Refueling Wing complete a 60-day deployment to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

**3:** Nebraska National Guard and Army Reserve Transportation Specialists selected to participate in National Transportation Pilot Program designed to test if military drivers under the age of 21 can be licensed to drive large trucks across state borders.



**4:** The Nebraska National Guard Museum unveils three new exhibits, including the

new \$100,000 "I Am The Guard" room in Seward.

**9:** Nebraska National Guard Warrant Officers celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Warrant Officer Cohort.

**12:** Members of the 155th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team help Omaha Police Department



officers dispose of military ordnance dropped off during Omaha's fireworks amnesty day.

JULY

**12-20:** Seventeen Airmen from the 155th Services Flight train alongside 30 other Airmen from Hawaii, Illinois, North Dakota, Illinois and Missouri during the Silver Flag exercise at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

**14:** The Nebraska National Guard and the Texas National Guard celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the State Partnership Program with the Czech Republic.



**22:** Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth Henderson becomes the Nebraska Army Guard's sixth state Command Chief Warrant Officer.

**23-27:** After placing first in State and regional levels, Spc. Devon Thompson, 1-134th Cavalry, competes in the national 2018 Army National Guard Best Warrior competition.

**27:** The Columbus-based 128th Engineer Battalion headquarters begin Annual Training at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming.

**28:** Soldiers from Norfolk's 181st and 317th Engineer Detachments (Fire-fighter Teams) participate in a live burn exercise in South Dakota.



AUGUST

Capt. Travis Wahlmeier wins the NRA Butch Powell award for High Guardsman in the National Guard All Guard Service Pistol Team winners in the 2018 National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program National Pistol Championships.

**1-2:** Nebraska hosts National Guard Marksmanship Advisory Council Region V competition at the Greenleaf Training Site.

AUGUST

**3-4:** More than 100 Soldiers participate in the 2018 Nebraska Adjutant General's Marksmanship Sustainment Exercise at the Greenleaf Training Site.



Kingston, Rhode Island.

**9:** Senator Ben Sasse participates in an early morning physical training session with members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard at Camp Ashland.

**11:** Soldiers from Mead's Company E, 134th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance), Nebraska Army National Guard, complete their last Airborne jump prior to the unit's inactivation.

**12:** Company E, 134th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance) cases its colors during an inactivation ceremony at the Titan Readiness Center, Mead Training Site.



**16:** Nebraska Army National Guard paratroopers and the Nebraska National Guard Museum celebrate National Airborne Day 2018, in Seward.



**AUGUST**

**18:** The Nebraska National Guard Historical Society – in concert with the Nebraska National Guard – develops and unveils a new exhibit titled, “Gage County Citizen Soldiers: All Hell Can’t Stop Them,” at the Gage County Museum in Beatrice, Nebraska.



**27:** Sgt. 1st Class Lillie Chambers named 2017-2018 Servicewoman of the Year for the U.S. Army at the annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**SEPTEMBER**

**9:** Col. Gary Ropers takes command of 92nd Troop Command during a Change of Command Ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 1 in Lincoln.



**10:** Maj. Gen. Michael Navrkal retires after 39 years of military service during a ceremony at Lincoln’s Joint Force Headquarters.



**13:** Thirteen Soldiers from Lincoln’s Company G, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters deploy to North Carolina in support of Hurricane Florence.



**21:** Richard Dahlman is promoted to the rank of Major General.

**SEPTEMBER**

**23:** Six candidates from Warrant Officer Class 18-001 graduate from the Camp Ashland-based Warrant Officer Candidate School.



**OCTOBER**

Members of the 155th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) begin their deployments to the U.S. Central Command area of Operations. The 200 Airmen are part of the largest single deployment of members of the 155th ARW in recent history.



**13:** Lt. Col. Spencer Hansen assumes command of the 155th Mission Support Group from Col. AnnMarie Anthony.

**27:** Col. Craig Strong relinquishes command of the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade to Col. Todd Stevens at the Spirit of ’76 Armory in Lincoln.



**28:** Soldiers and Airmen representing the Nebraska and Texas National Guard form a joint Color Guard and carry the United States flag during the Czech Republic Military Parade, in Prague, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

**NOVEMBER**

**3:** Michael Callahan, former Nebraska National Guard State Judge Advocate, promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and installed as the director of the Nebraska National Guard Joint Staff.



**10:** Hundreds of current and past Nebraska military men and women honored during the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s annual Veterans Appreciation Day football game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.



**11:** On the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the Nebraska National Guard helps dedicate two new plaques at the University of Nebraska Memorial Stadium honoring more than 100 alumni, faculty and athletes killed during the conflict.

**14:** Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, National Guard Bureau chief, visits members of the Nebraska Air National Guard serving in Afghanistan.

**28:** Around 350 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and families ride on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Holiday Express train.

**DECEMBER**

**11:** Lincoln Southwest High School baseball team and CHI Health, St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, support deployed Airmen from the 155th Air Refueling Wing during a “stocking stuffers” outreach activity.

**14:** Governor Pete Ricketts and more than 100 members of the Nebraska National Guard celebrate the National Guard’s 382nd Birthday.





U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rana Franklin

**Mid-Air Ballet:** An F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft from the 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, is refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard, over the Czech Republic during Exercise Ample Strike 2018.



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Welcome Home Dad:** Lt. Col. Eric Hunsberger, Commander of Omaha's 402nd Military Police Battalion headquarters, greets his son after arriving at Omaha's Eppley Airfield, March 1, after a nine-month deployment to Cuba.

## Nebraska Airmen and Soldiers continue to shine while supporting global operations

One of the strengths of the National Guard is that it provides a trained, ready and relevant reserve force structure that can be utilized by United States Combatant Commanders during national emergencies or combat operations. In fact, since the mobilization of two Nebraska Army National Guard aeromedical helicopter units for Operation Desert Shield/Storm in late 1990, members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard have been supporting overseas deployments in support of U.S. strategic interests and combat operations nearly non-stop.

2018 was no different. The year began with the return of two Nebraska Army National Guard units back from important overseas missions.

The first to arrive were six Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Detachment 1, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment, a C-12 unit based in Lincoln. The Soldiers returned home in early

February after serving nearly a year in the Horn of Africa in support of U.S. Africa Command. While in Africa, the Soldiers were responsible for transporting personnel and cargo in and out of nine different African countries.

The second to arrive were nearly 50 Soldiers assigned to the Omaha-based 402nd Military Police Battalion in early March. The unit served in Cuba for approximately nine months where the Nebraska Soldiers supported U.S. Southern Command's Joint Task Force Guantanamo. According to the unit's Commander, Lt. Col. Eric Hunsberger, the Soldiers' mission was unlike anything they'd been tasked with up until then. "We knew we were under the microscope," said Hunsberger, referring to the high-profile nature of the mission.

The unit's top Noncommissioned Officer echoed that sentiment, saying the Nebraska Soldiers left significant positive impressions

upon the active military units and commanders they worked with. "We were given very specific tasks to do there... and across the board every one of our sections exceeded expectations," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Cruickshank.

The year ended when nearly 200 Nebraska Air National Guard Airmen deployed to multiple locations within Afghanistan and the Middle East in support of U.S. Central Command. The Air Guard deployments, which occurred over the holiday season, affected nearly every section of the Lincoln-based 155th Air Refueling Wing, including aerial refueling flight operations, maintenance support, logistical support and medical treatment personnel.

The Airmen's deployments vary in lengths from one to six months. According to Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General. The Airmen – all volunteers – willingly sacrificed time with their families and friends during the holiday



season to support the vitally important missions.

“They are willingly sacrificing important time at home with their families during the holidays and personal/professional pursuits to serve in all-important missions... missions that keep our enemies at bay and prevent them from striking us here in our homeland,” Bohac wrote in an editorial for the *Lincoln Journal Star* newspaper.

“They have answered a call that all-too-few answer.”

The deployments were just a few of the missions that Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen conducted in 2018; missions that were either in direct support of U.S. combatant commanders, or were training exercises designed to help them prepare for future missions.

For example, members of the Nebraska Army National Guard 1-376th Aviation (Security and Support) Battalion and Company G, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) traveled to Alberta, Canada, in May to participate in Maple Resolve 2018, the Canadian military’s largest annual exercise designed to help prepare them and their coalition partners to support contingency operations. Members of the Guard’s 1-376th Aviation also spent much of their summer providing UH-72 Lakota helicopter support to U.S. Army officials in Germany, part of the first-ever deployment of UH-72 helicopters into Europe.

Additionally, the Nebraska Air National Guard’s 170th Group continued to provide a wide array of support to the Offutt-based 55th Wing, while other members of the organization from Lincoln’s 155th Air Refueling Wing, with support from the Iowa Air National Guard, sent an Air Refueling Detachment to the Czech Republic in support of Texas Air National Guard F-16 crews participating in the Czech Republic’s multinational Sky Avenger exercise.

The 155th ARW was also tapped by U.S. Air Forces Europe to provide aerial refueling support to U.S. F-16s, B-52s and C-17s participating in Ample Strike 2018, central Europe’s largest multinational terminal attack exercise. The unit also deployed in May to the U.S. Pacific Command region where it flew 74 missions and offloaded 20 million pounds of fuel to U.S. and coalition aircraft, while an additional 13 members of the unit volunteered to deploy to RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom,



Courtesy photo

**Husker Pride:** Air transportation specialists from the Nebraska Air National Guard’s 155th Air Refueling Wing pose with their U.S. and Husker flags in November at their base in northern Iraq. The Airmen were among 200 Guardsmen deployed over the holiday season in 2018.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Joe Bush

**German Air Support:** Nebraska and Iowa National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1-376th Aviation Battalion conduct a hoist and lift demonstration from their UH72-A Lakota helicopter, June 21, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. The units were part of a four-month rotational deployment to Germany where they assumed the aeromedical evacuation mission for Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr.

to support active Air Force manpower shortfalls.

According to Bohac, the operational tempo, while not as high as it has been in recent years, shows the Nebraska National Guard is a respected organization that continues to prepare its members and units well for many different types of missions. It also shows that members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, despite numerous missions over the past three decades, are still willing to raise their hands and volunteer for overseas missions.

“The Nebraska National Guard has never failed to meet a mission,” said Bohac.

He added how the organization accomplishes this matters significantly. As members of the Nebraska National Guard deploy overseas or take time away from families and civilian jobs for training, it places significant burdens upon those left behind. “It becomes all the more important that we’re effectively communicating with families, employers and communities where our Soldiers and Airmen come from.”

*“(Nebraska National Guardsmen) are willingly sacrificing important time at home with their families during the holidays and personal/professional pursuits to serve in all-important missions... missions that keep our enemies at bay and prevent them from striking us here in our homeland.”*

— Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac  
Dec. 25, 2018, *Lincoln Journal Star*  
newspaper editorial





Photo by Staff Sgt. Herschel Talley

**Life-Saving Escort:** Spc. Connor Deines (center) and Sgt. First Class Christopher Morehouse (right) help guide a patient onto a gurney at the Monroe Medical Center in Monroe, North Carolina, as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven Helmandollar (left) looks on.



Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Titus

**Careful Examination:** Senior Airman Isaac Maytum and Senior Airman Micha Buscher, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians with the 155th Civil Engineer Squadron, assess an 8-inch projectile that was brought in to the Omaha Police Department during their firework amnesty day. EOD is responsible to dispose of any military ordnance from cradle to grave.

## Helping neighbors in need still primary focus of Nebraska Military Department



Photo by Staff Sgt. Herschel Talley

**Helping Hands:** Spc. Connor Deines (left), Company G, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, hands supplies to waiting Soldiers at the Fairmont Hurricane Relief Center in North Carolina. Deines was one of 13 Nebraska Soldiers who assisted in the relief effort.

Ever since the Nebraska National Guard was first formed in December 1854 – more than a decade before Nebraska became a state – the idea of protecting the homeland has served as a foundational mission for the organization. In fact, the basic principle of mutual defense, or “Neighbor’s helping Neighbors,” flowed from the pen of acting Territorial Governor Thomas Cuming as he issued his Dec. 23, 1854 proclamation urging the citizens of the Nebraska Territory “organize, in their respective neighborhoods, into volunteer companies.... (so that) our territorial volunteers may prove themselves a capable defense of those who come among us as emigrants or actual settlers.”

Since that proclamation 164 years ago, members of the Nebraska National Guard – now consisting of an Army and an Air National Guard – and their partners within the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, have stood ready to protect their homeland and help their neighbors during emergencies. It’s a mission that is central to everything the Nebraska Military Department does.

“I think we are very much a dedi-

ated force. We bring capability and we bring people who want to go and do things to help.... not just to be there when disaster strikes, but to make a difference,” Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac said recently following a year when members of the Nebraska Military Department responded to a wide array of domestic emergency missions, both in Nebraska as well as away from its borders. These missions included helping fight fires in Kansas as well as supporting hurricane relief operations in North Carolina following Hurricane Florence.

Bohac said the out-of-state deployments of Nebraska Army National Guard helicopter crews is part of a continuing direction by Governor Pete Ricketts to help other states when possible.

“His clear direction to us has been, year in and year out through his tenure, ‘I want you to help when you can,’” Bohac said. “Part of that is driven by his acknowledging that there may come a time in Nebraska where we need outside help. So, he every much wants us to be a team player.”

“That clarity from the Governor’s office enables us to be much more agile





Photo by Staff Sgt. Herschel Talley

**Florence Flooding:** Nebraska Army National Guard Spc. Matthew Reidy surveys flooding from the air on Sept. 19 in Bladen County, North Carolina.

and responsive,” Bohac added.

That agility and responsiveness were on display throughout 2018. Along with the March deployments of Nebraska Army National Guard helicopters to central Kansas and the September deployment of Army Guard helicopter crews to support the hurricane relief operations in North Carolina, members of the Nebraska Military Department continued to both prepare for and respond to a wide array of man-made and natural disasters and emergencies.

These Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency operations included:

- ◆Deploying a team of Nebraska National Guard Cyber Defense Specialists to Beatrice in September to assist city officials in assessing damage caused by a malware attack on the community’s computer network.
- ◆Participating in a major CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) validation exercise near Columbia, Missouri.
- ◆Coordinating support to communities affected by power outages caused by significant winter storms in April that broke hun-

dreds of power poles and downed power lines.

- ◆Supporting the Boy Scout Jubilee at Mahoney State Park in October with a variety of static displays as well as administrative and logistical support.

- ◆Developing preliminary partnership plans and efforts to support Hawaii in the event of a major disaster, particularly those involving tropical storms.

- ◆Deploying roughly 60 members of the Nebraska National Guard to the southwest border in Texas and Arizona as part of Operation Guardian Support.

- ◆Conducting numerous training classes and programs designed to help local Emergency Management officials and private citizens better prepare for disasters.

- ◆Assisting the coordination of support to local and county officials in mid-June through early July when severe storms struck significant parts of the state. The support also included conducting helicopter support to Governor Pete Ricketts who surveyed the damage caused by those storms.

- ◆Providing periodic explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) support to local, county, state and Offutt Air Force Base.

- ◆Coordinating 34 Single Engine



Photo courtesy of the Missouri National Guard

**On The Move:** Nebraska Air National Guard medics assigned to the Nebraska National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-Explosive (CBRNE) Enhance Response Force Package (CERFP) prepare to take their shift during a regional training exercise in Missouri.

Air Tanker (SEAT) flights that dropped nearly 10,286 gallons of retardant on seven separate fires.

- ◆Conducting cyber protection briefings to election officials prior to the 2018 general elections.

- ◆Continuing to build plans for the upcoming 2020 Vigilant Guard exercise that will be conducted in Nebraska.

It was a record year of accomplishments that had the members of the Nebraska Military Department feeling that they were indeed living up to their motto: “Always Ready, Always There” by supporting those in need.

“It’s always good to do your job when you can go back and help somebody,” said Chief 4 Steven Helmandollar, a Nebraska Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot who returned to his home state of North Carolina in September as a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard Hurricane Florence relief effort.

“I was definitely proud to be a part of (the hurricane relief effort,)” added Maj. Thomas Traylor, who commanded the Nebraska mission.

“There isn’t any place in the world that I wouldn’t go with any of these units from Nebraska.”





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Parachute 101:** Sgt. Daniel Krawczyk, 195th Rigger Support Team, talks to a group of Boy Scouts about how he and other members of his team pack parachutes. Krawczyk was one of dozens of Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen who supported the Oct. 13 Boy Scout Jubilee.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Noncommissioned Officer Pride:** Nebraska's Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Horne and Texas' Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Castle present a special display to Sgt. Maj. Petr Seifert, Sergeant Major of the Czech Armed Forces, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program during an October visit to the Czech Republic.

# Nebraska Military Department focuses on developing enduring partnerships



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rana Franklin

**Building Lasting Friendships:** Staff Sgt. Matthew Parker, in-flight refueling specialist, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard, thanks a ground service technician assigned to Pardubice Air Base, Czech Republic, after completing a refueling flight during Exercise Ample Strike 2018. Ample Strike is a Czech Republic-led exercise to improve NATO allies and partner nation interoperability.

In a continuously evolving strategic and operational environment, where risks and threats grow ever more complicated, the roles that enduring partnerships play has become even more important.

Simply put, no one organization can hope to effectively meet all of its challenges alone. Instead, organizations like the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency must work with like-minded partners during challenging situations, both here in Nebraska, the United States or overseas.

That's why the organization has placed such significant emphasis on building the partnerships it needs today and in the future.

In 2018, the building of partnerships continued. In fact, this past year marked a major milestone for one particular effort – Nebraska's continuing relationship with the Czech Republic through the National Guard-sponsored State Partnership Program – which marked its 25th anniversary on July 23.

The Nebraska and Texas National Guard were first matched with the Czech Republic in 1993 to help the Czechs prepare for membership in the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization after decades of domination by the Soviet Union. During the nearly 25 years of this relationship, the partnership between Nebraska/Texas and the Czech Republic has matured and evolved, moving from a purely mentorship role during the initial years, to a true multinational partnership that continues to reap important international, national and State benefits.

In recent years, the Nebraska/Texas National Guard teamed with the Czech Republic to develop a new Noncommissioned Officer Academy course of instruction, which has helped the Czech Republic develop new approaches to training a professional military NCO Corps. This summer, three senior Czech NCOs visited Camp Ashland, Nebraska, to learn more about the work that Nebraska Army National Guard instructors do to prepare U.S. NCOs for the challenges of the modern battlefield and operational environment.

"The goal was to share information about our educational program with the instructors here at Camp Ashland," said Sgt. Maj. Vladimir Blazek, commandant of the Vyskov-based Czech NCO Academy during the visit. "We





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Practice Makes Perfect:** Staff Sgt. Dustin Knoell, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) Czech Armed Forces OR2 (Cpl.) Lukas Mrocek and OR5 (Sgt. 1st Class) Radek Kulhanek practice their land navigation skills at Camp Ashland, Neb., while preparing for the April Best Warrior Competition.

would like to bring the same standards of instruction to our NCOs, so we talked about a variety of topics including how we can deliver information in better ways to the students.”

“If we keep the same standards, it will (help us work together) on the battlefield better because we both know what a Sergeant is able to do,” Blazek said. “If we are on the same page and have the same decision-making processes, we will know each other better and we will know what each other can do.”

The Nebraska National Guard also hosted members of the Czech Armed Forces in April, who participated in the Nebraska National Guard’s Best Warrior Competition for the second-straight year. This year, OR2 (Cpl.) Lucas Mrocek of the Czech Air Force finished unofficially in second place in the Enlisted Category of the competition.

“Every part of this was quite hard,” said Mrocek following the three-day contest at the Greenlief Training Site near Hastings. “There wasn’t a single task that was easy. You are under pressure and stress... It wasn’t so easy, but I enjoyed the whole competition.”

Additionally, 24 members of the Czech Armed Forces trained with members of the Nebraska Army National

Guard’s 1-134th Cavalry Squadron at Fort Riley, Kansas, in May, focusing on mounted and dismounted gunnery training and reconnaissance.

This year also saw numerous engagements between Nebraska Army National Guard and Czech military police organizations to help prepare these Czech MP units for corrections and detention operations.

The Nebraska Air National Guard’s 155th Air Refueling Wing also actively conducted several engagements with the Czechs this year, following up on recent efforts designed to help the Czech Air Force continue developing its air refueling capability to support out-of-area deployments of its SAAB JAS-39 Gripen aircraft. This year, through the partnership, the Czech Air Force was able to requalify all of its pilots and add two air refueling qualified instructors.

The Nebraska Air National Guard also helped facilitate a major air-loading exercise conducted between members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard and the Czech Air Force in Lincoln, Nebraska, which culminated in the validation of the Czechs’ ability to load out an Mi-17 Hip helicopter in the Czech Republic. The goal was to help the Czechs prove they can success-



**Celebration:** The State Partnership Program relationship between the Czech Republic and the Nebraska and Texas National Guard marked its 25th anniversary in 2018 with a number of celebrations both in the United States and the Czech Republic. Established on July 14, 1993, The Czech-Nebraska-Texas partnership is still the only SPP involving two states and a single nation.



fully load their helicopters onto a cargo plane and deploy them into a trouble spot, thus making them a stronger contributor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

“This is what the State Partnership Program was designed to do...help build capacity with our partners,” said Col. John Williams, Commander of the Nebraska Air Guard’s 155th Operations Group, after the conclusion of the May 23 exercise in Lincoln, where teams of Nebraska, Czech and active Air Force service members carefully loaded the Blackhawk helicopter – which has some similarities to the Czech Mi-171 – onto a C-17.

According to Czech Col. Jaroslav Falta, Commander of the Prague-based 24th Transport Wing, the exercise helped his team learn more about C-17 loading procedures and gain invaluable hands-on experience in actually loading a helicopter onto the aircraft.

“This gives us the ability to learn from each other, to learn how to operate together and to build up each other’s capabilities,” he said.

The year culminated in October when the Czech military invited the Nebraska and Texas National Guard to form a joint Color Guard to represent the United States during its Oct. 28 Centennial Military Parade through the streets of Prague.

Selected to represent the United States from Nebraska were Tech. Sgt. Darren Davlin, 170th Group, Nebraska Air National Guard; Senior Airman Avery Prai, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard; and Pfc. Alexa Nelson, 128th Engineer Battalion, Nebraska Army National Guard.

“I felt a huge pride marching in the parade. I got the chills,” Nelson said later, adding that despite trying to focus on marching through chilling drizzle, she couldn’t help noticing the huge throngs of Czechs who crowded the two-mile parade route. “I just felt so good to have had an opportunity to be a part of this. It was just...overwhelming.”

Along with the organization’s work with the Czechs, 2018 also saw many other efforts as well. For example, members of the Nebraska National Guard continue to work



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Greetings Among Old Friends:** Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general, greets Czech Lt. Gen. Jiri Baloun, first deputy chief of the Czech General Staff, during a visit to the Czech Ministry of Defense on Oct. 26 in Prague, Czech Republic. Also pictured is Maj. Gen. John Nichols, Texas adjutant general.



Nebraska National Guard photo

**Innovation:** Leaders from the Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) and university representatives met at NIC, June 26, to launch a partnership focused on innovation, between the three organizations. Greenlighted by new Air Force funding to accelerate implementation of the National Defense Strategy, the vision is to leverage one of the country’s premier research campuses to fuel Citizen Airman-led innovations to increase readiness, reduce cost, and enhance the lethality of the force.

with civilian officials and organizations – both within the State and regionally – to prepare for both man-made and natural disasters.

This included major exercises within Canada, Wisconsin and Missouri to name but a few.

Additionally, the Nebraska National Guard continued to build strong alliances with the U.S. Strategic Command and the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and the University of Nebraska and others to develop and refine a wide array of capacities, particularly within the fields of cyber defense and intelligence gathering.

Other efforts included a partnership with the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Innovation Campus, to utilize innovation to increase the Air Force’s readiness, reduce costs and enhance the lethality of the force.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency also continued to build a strong network of regional and state-wide partnerships with such organizations as the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program, the Medical Reserve Corps and many other local, State and regional organizations and individuals to increase the State’s preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.



## Section II.

# 2018 Economic Impact



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Walking Tall:** A Soldier from Company E (Long Range Surveillance), 134th Infantry Regiment, secures ammo and proceeds to the training area to run team battle drills, June 14, during Annual Training at Fort Harrison, Mont.





## Personnel

Traditional National Guard.....	3,560
<i>Includes 478 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32 .....	567
Active Duty Title 10 .....	20

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Total Military Personnel            4,147

Federal Civil Service Technicians Title V ..... 92

State Personnel Serving Either Army or Air National Guard ..... 126

State Personnel Serving Both Army & Air National Guard..... 16

State Personnel Serving NEMA ..... 41

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**Military Department Total Personnel..... 4,422**

## Payroll

Annual Federally Funded Payroll..... \$141,060,121\*

Annual State Funded Payroll ..... \$1,709,497

*\* Portion of State Salaries federally funded through Cooperative Agreements: \$5,731,220*

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**Military Department Total Payroll..... \$142,769,618**

## Operations and Maintenance Funding

Federally Funded.....\$76,292,566\*

*\* Federal portion of Operational State Funds funded through Cooperative Agreements: \$41,627,503*

State Funded.....\$2,794,051

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**Military Department Total Operational Funds..... \$ 79,086,617**

## Property and Equipment

Equipment and Assets .....\$1,337,392,632

Real Property .....\$1,285,368,502

## Other

Estimated Value of Indirect Jobs

Created.....\$55,035,820



**Payroll by Nebraska Cities (Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017)**

Lincoln.....	\$ 29,622,758	Aurora.....	\$ 604,982
Omaha.....	\$ 10,443,475	Beatrice.....	\$ 581,047
Grand Island.....	\$ 2,491,693	Louisville.....	\$ 541,788
Kearney.....	\$ 2,340,290	Wayne.....	\$ 528,398
Gretna.....	\$ 1,749,140	Ashland.....	\$ 490,008
Bellevue.....	\$ 1,345,760	Gering.....	\$ 485,739
Seward.....	\$ 1,268,164	Scottsbluff.....	\$ 481,115
Wahoo.....	\$ 1,252,189	La Vista.....	\$ 471,911
Elkhorn.....	\$ 1,234,723	Hallam.....	\$ 415,521
Hastings.....	\$ 1,226,994	Raymond.....	\$ 413,980
Papillion.....	\$ 1,220,500	Roca.....	\$ 398,710
Norfolk.....	\$ 1,143,522	Bennet.....	\$ 391,497
Waverly.....	\$ 1,127,635		
Hickman.....	\$ 932,214	<b>Total Top 30 Nebraska Cities.....</b>	<b>\$ 66,206,434</b>
North Platte.....	\$ 819,600	<b>Total Remaining Nebraska Cities.....</b>	<b>\$ 17,391,340</b>
Fremont.....	\$ 804,479	<b>Total Other States/Not Assigned.....</b>	<b>\$ 3,956,025</b>
Columbus.....	\$ 754,918		
Firth.....	\$ 623,682	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 87,553,799</b>

**Appropriated Resources**

**Gross Annual Payroll**

Traditional Guard.....	\$ 30,070,546
Active Guard Reserve Title 32.....	\$ 30,256,096
Federal Civilian.....	\$ 27,227,157

**Total Payroll \$ 87,553,798**

**Cooperative Agreements**

Facilities Programs.....	\$ 15,079,729
Environmental.....	\$ 837,255
Training System Support.....	\$ 522,000
Telecommunications.....	\$ 1,157,227
Security Guards.....	\$ 780,000
Electronic Security System.....	\$ 249,400
Distributive Learning.....	\$ 222,800
Antiterrorism.....	\$ 88,000

**Total \$18,936,411**

**Operations and Maintenance**

Maintenance, Services, Repair Parts..	\$ 4,205,033
Equipment and Supplies.....	\$ 3,454,205
Information Technology.....	\$ 2,304,086
POL.....	\$ 2,279,521
Local Purchase - GPC.....	\$ 1,263,312
Cooperative Agreement.....	\$ 984,589
Travel, Training and GSA Vehicles....	\$ 630,567
GSA.....	\$ 377,456
Printing and Postal.....	\$ 278,388
Food.....	\$ 204,761
Medical Supplies.....	\$ 133,844
Utility/Other.....	\$ 15,912
Other.....	\$ 200

**Total..... \$ 16,131,920**

**Total Appropriated Resources  
\$ 103,072,322**





Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Medics On The Move:** Spc. John Faughn, a medic with the 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne), carries a litter with other unit members as part of a training exercise, June 15, during Annual Training in the rugged mountain ranges of Fort Harrison, Mont.

### Real Property

Land Managed ..... 6,384 Acres  
 Facilities ..... 2,307,327 Square Feet

### Summary of Personnel

Traditional National Guard.....	2,726
<i>Includes 348 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32 .....	404
Active Duty Title 10 .....	20
<b>Total Army National Guard Strength.....</b>	<b>3,150</b>
Federal Civil Service Technicians (Title V) .....	62
State Employees .....	59
<i>37 Employees are 100% Federally funded</i>	
<i>22 Employees are Federal/State combined funded</i>	
<b>Total Personnel .....</b>	<b>3,271</b>

### Equipment and Assets

Ground Vehicles .....	\$ 270,418,717
Aircraft.....	\$ 306,317,150
Communication Equipment.....	\$ 73,534,271
Firefighting, Rescue, Safety & Support Equipment .....	\$ 122,451,011
Information Technology Equipment .....	\$ 50,917,522
Clothing and Equipment.....	\$ 19,296,948
Weapons .....	\$ 16,411,598
Furniture.....	\$ 945,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 860,292,624</b>

### Estimated Value of Indirect Jobs

TYPE OF PERSONNEL	# OF BASE JOBS	MULTIPLIER*	INDIRECT JOBS
Traditional Guard	2,726	0.16	436
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	404	0.41	166
Active Duty Title 10	20	0.41	8
Federal Civilian	410	0.55	226
State Employees	59	0.55	32

**Total Indirect Jobs 868**

**Estimated Dollar Value of Jobs\*\* \$ 38,338,560**  
**Annual Mean Wage, Lincoln, NE \$ 44,170**

\*Source AFMAN 65-506

\*\*Total Indirect Jobs multiplied by average Lincoln, Nebraska salary as reported by the United States Department of Labor, [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_30700.htm#00-0000](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_30700.htm#00-0000).



**Payroll by Nebraska Cities (Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)**

Lincoln .....	\$21,543,176	Beatrice .....	\$270,903
Omaha .....	\$7,269,014	Prague .....	\$241,843
Papillion.....	\$4,463,189	Herman.....	\$217,930
Bellevue.....	\$2,544,260	Davey.....	\$206,612
Gretna .....	\$950,147	David City.....	\$199,899
Plattsmouth .....	\$901,574	Denton .....	\$198,947
Raymond .....	\$773,306	Cedar Creek .....	\$194,402
Waverly .....	\$770,206	North Bend.....	\$184,457
Seward.....	\$617,770	Blair .....	\$176,245
Milford .....	\$617,538	Kearney .....	\$175,222
Elkhorn .....	\$600,497	Ralston .....	\$165,639
La Vista .....	\$536,730	Hastings .....	\$156,920
Malcolm.....	\$390,573	Springfield.....	\$151,340
Sterling.....	\$389,507	Other Cities (less than \$150,000) .....	\$3,855,272
Hickman .....	\$367,421		
Fremont .....	\$351,323	<i>Total Nebraska Cities .....</i>	<i>\$50,648,513</i>
Firth.....	\$304,052	Other States.....	\$2,857,809
Ashland.....	\$300,508		
Roca.....	\$284,919	<b>Total Payroll .....</b>	<b>\$53,506,323</b>
Bennington.....	\$277,156		

**Appropriated Resources**

**Gross Annual Payroll**

Traditional Guard.....	\$23,288,251
Active Guard Reserve Title 32 .....	\$17,004,799
Federal Civilian.....	\$13,213,273

**Total Payroll ..... \$53,506,323**

**Cooperative Agreements**

Fire Protection .....	\$2,792,015
Facilities Operations and Maintenance .....	\$1,036,439
Security Guards .....	\$698,170
Environmental .....	\$54,462

**Total.....\$4,581,086**

**Other Appropriated Resources**

Flying Program .....	\$44,827
Supplies and Equipment.....	\$624,611
Operational Travel .....	\$1,470,888
Education & Training Travel.....	\$686,621
Other Services.....	\$265,452
Base Repairs & Maintenance .....	\$4,101,559
Communications.....	\$76,994
Environmental .....	\$17,679
Recruiting & Advertising .....	\$217,147

**Total.....\$7,505,778**

**Total Appropriated Resources  
\$ 65,593,187**





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Looking For New Teammates:** Staff Sgt. Adam Keske, a Nebraska Air National Guard production recruiter, talks about the Nebraska Air National Guard to a pair of interested high school students during an April 22 open house at Southeastern Community College in Lincoln, Neb.

### Equipment and Assets

Aircraft.....	\$414,900,000
Support Equipment.....	\$21,279,157
Vehicles.....	\$6,896,906
Aircraft Spare Parts.....	\$7,816,856
Mobility Equipment.....	\$18,712,732
Warehouse Inventory.....	\$12,354,722
Mobility Assets.....	\$2,649,960
Information Technology Assets.....	\$4,494,850
Munitions.....	\$349,547
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$477,100,008</b>

### Summary of Personnel

Traditional National Guard.....	834
<i>Includes 130 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32.....	163
Active Duty Title 10.....	0
<b>Total Air National Guard Strength.....</b>	
Federal Civil Service Technicians (Title 5).....	30
State Employees.....	67
<i>53 Employees are 100% Federally funded</i>	
<i>14 Employees are 75% Federal/25% State combined funded</i>	
<b>Total Personnel.....</b>	<b>1,094</b>

### Benefits & Incentives

Montgomery GI Bill (eligible benefits)	\$1,069,056
Montgomery GI Bill Kicker (eligible benefits).....	\$774,000
State of Nebraska Tuition Assistance.....	\$239,582
Bonuses.....	\$1,436,500
Student Loan Repayment Program.....	\$15,500
<b>Total Benefits &amp; Incentives.....</b>	<b>\$3,534,638</b>

### Real Property

Land	
Owned.....	97 Acres
Leased.....	32 Acres
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>129 Acres</b>
Facilities.....	356,811 Square Feet
<b>Total Land &amp; Facilities Value... \$408,778,000</b>	

### Estimated Value of Indirect Jobs

TYPE OF PERSONNEL	# OF BASE JOBS	MULTIPLIER*	INDIRECT JOBS
Traditional Guard	834	0.16	133
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	163	0.41	67
Active Duty Title 10	0	0.41	0
Federal Civilian	225	0.55	124
State Employees	67	0.55	37
Federal Civil Service Title 5	28	0.55	15
Contractors	4	0.55	2

**Total Indirect Jobs 378**

**Estimated Dollar Value of Jobs\*\* \$16,696,260**

*\*Source AFMAN 65-506*

*\*\*Total Indirect Jobs multiplied by average Lancaster County, Nebraska, salary as reported by the United States Department of Labor.*



## State Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

### 544 NATIONAL AND STATE GUARD

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Salary .....	\$ 1,097,300	\$ 4,362	\$ 5,731,220	\$ 6,832,962
Benefits .....	\$ 375,017	\$ -0-	\$ 1,862,236	\$ 2,237,253
SOS Temp Services-Personnel.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 49,026	\$ 49,026
Utilities.....	\$ 476,757	\$ 15,705	\$ 1,972,171	\$ 2,464,633
Repair & Maintenance-Real Property.....	\$ 615,698	\$ 138,431	\$ 3,302,817	\$ 4,056,946
Supplies.....	\$ 38,753	\$ 12,095	\$ 818,133	\$ 868,981
Equipment - Non-Capitalized .....	\$ 1,400	\$ 12,000	\$ 20,900	\$ 34,300
Contract Services .....	\$ 19,190	\$ 101,708	\$ 8,093,872	\$ 8,214,770
Miscellaneous Operations Expense .....	\$ 384,967	\$ 162,356	\$ 4,002,233	\$ 4,549,556
Travel Expenses .....	\$ 5,412	\$ -0-	\$ 55,730	\$ 61,142
Machinery & Equipment.....	\$ 21,481	\$ -0-	\$ 247,198	\$ 268,679
Vehicles (Supplies/Equipment).....	\$ 7,161	\$ 239	\$ 84,148	\$ 91,548
Miscellaneous Capital Outlay/Fixed Assets.....	\$ 16,080	\$ -0-	\$ 41,775	\$ 57,855
	<b>\$ 3,059,296</b>	<b>\$ 446,896</b>	<b>\$ 26,281,459</b>	<b>\$ 29,787,651</b>

### 548 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Government Aid .....	\$ 614,849	-0-	-0-	\$ 614,849

### 545 NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Salary .....	\$ 612,067	\$ 212,095	\$ 1,151,124	\$ 1,975,286
Benefits .....	\$ 194,042	\$ 79,215	\$ 322,373	\$ 595,630
SOS Temp Services-Personnel .....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Utilities .....	\$ 5,000	\$ -0-	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000
Repair & Maintenance-Real Property.....	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 14,500
Supplies.....	\$ 18,873	\$ 77,218	\$ 16,900	\$ 112,991
Equipment - Non-Capitalized .....	\$ 5,200	\$ 7,199	\$ 8,704	\$ 21,103
Contract Services.....	\$ 385,080	\$ 1,977	\$ 18,300	\$ 38,700
Miscellaneous Operations Expense .....	\$ 152,389	\$ 62,600	\$ 2,026,509	\$ 2,413,566
Travel Expenses .....	\$ 36,561	\$ 29,800	\$ 37,161	\$ 103,522
Machinery & Equipment.....	\$ -0-	\$ 5,000	\$ -0-	\$ 5,000
Vehicles (Supplies/Equipment).....	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,427,012
Miscellaneous Capital Outlay/Fixed Assets.....	\$ 9,000	\$ -0-	\$ 19,000	\$ 28,000
Government Aid .....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 6,984,260	\$ 6,984,260
	<b>\$ 1,423,412</b>	<b>\$ 52,319</b>	<b>\$ 10,765,948</b>	<b>\$ 4,183,891</b>

### 192 GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Sub-Recipient Payments - SEFA* .....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000
Government Aid .....	\$ 250,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 250,000
	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>\$ 4,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,750,000</b>

\*Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards



## Section III.

# Organizational Recaps

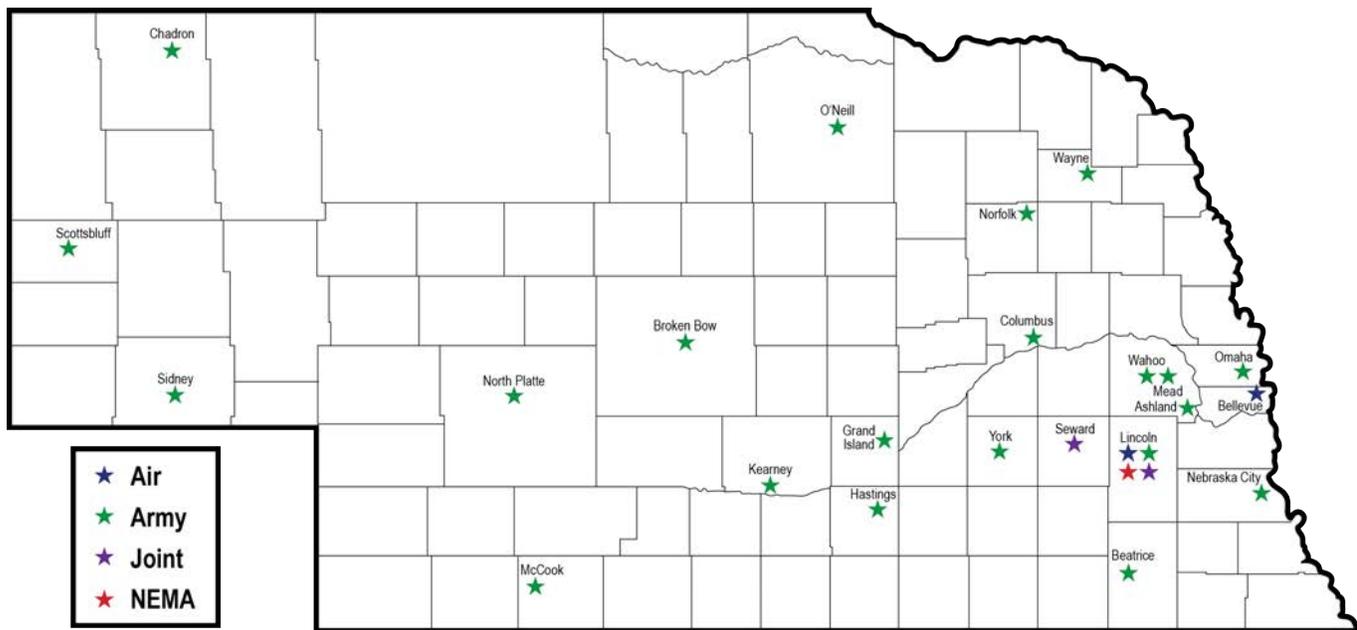
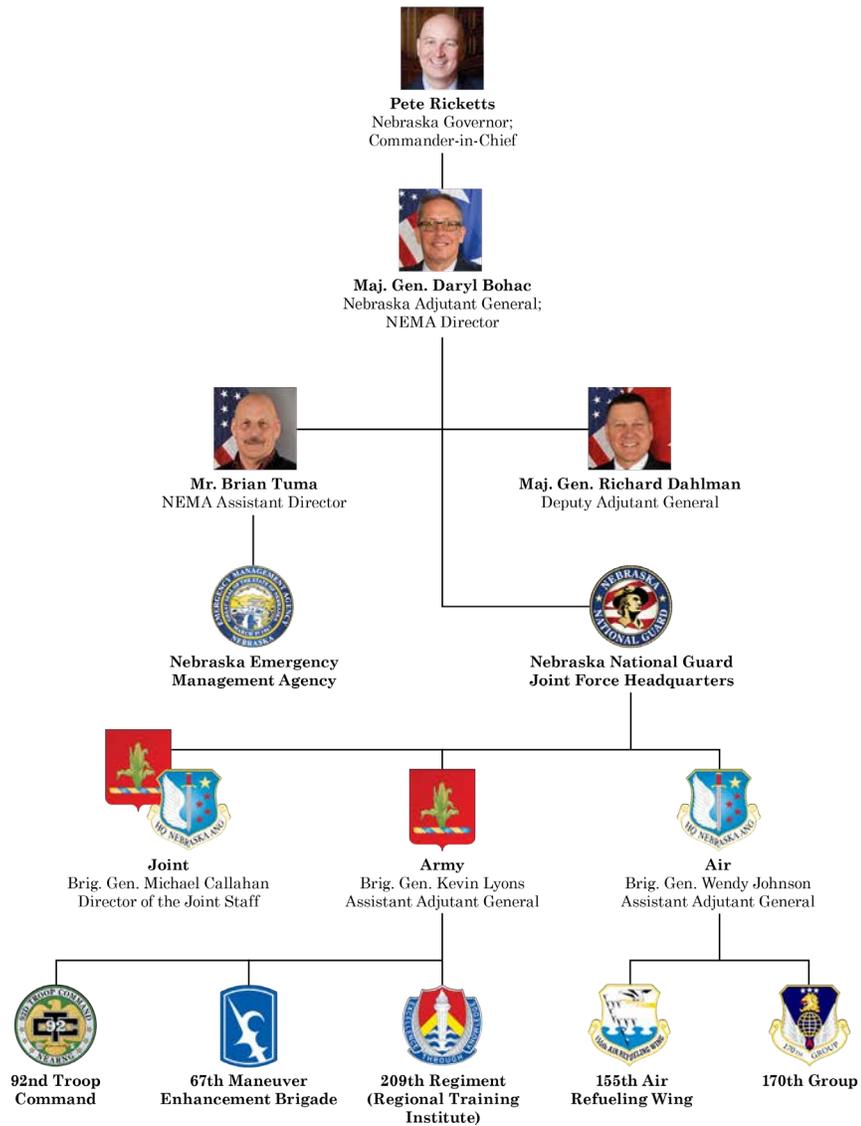


Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Titus

**Nighttime Operations:** A member of the 155th Security Forces Squadron fires the M240B machine gun at night as part of their annual weapons qualification Aug. 7, at the Army National Guard's Greenlief Training Site near Hastings, Neb.









Brig. Gen. Kevin Lyons  
Army National Guard  
Assistant Adjutant General

**Nebraska Army National Guard**

**FAST FACTS**

Traditional Army National Guard Soldiers: 2,562

Total Army National Guard Strength: 2,988

Total Army National Guard Personnel: 3,113

Total Payroll: \$87,553,798

25 Total Army National Guard Readiness Centers in 21 Nebraska Communities

Total Amount of Appropriated Resources: \$103,072,322



Photo by Spc. Chris Sheen

**Chinook Belly View:** Soldiers from Company B, 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion, practice sling load operations aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 2 in Grand Island, Neb.

# Culture of Change remains constant for Army National Guard Soldiers during 2018

If a person were to use one word to describe the history of the Nebraska Army National Guard, that word would undoubtedly be “change.”

That’s because change has been an integral and ever-present part of the organization since its first units were organized following acting Territorial Governor Thomas Cuming’s December 1854 proclamation encouraging the settlers of the territory to organize into community militia units to provide a common defense in the face of possible local Native American tribal unrests. In fact, since the Nebraska National Guard’s beginning, a total of 109 different communities have at one time hosted a Nebraska unit, which themselves have changed dramatically

over the years to reflect the ever-changing needs of the State and Nation.

So, if that same person were tasked to find a single word to describe the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2018, it’s understandable that the word – once again – would be change.

“Change was definitely a big theme this year,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Lyons, who became the Nebraska Army National Guard Assistant Adjutant General on Sept. 21 after previously serving as the organization’s Land Component Commander. According to Lyons, these changes included finding ways to recruit new members into the organization, putting the final touches on the transformation of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade into the 67th Maneuver



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Team Effort:** Two Soldiers with the 128th Engineer Battalion tie detonation cords together on a Camp Guernsey, Wyo, range.





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Providing Careful Instructions:** A Soldier from the Lincoln-based 267th Ordnance Company provides directions to a truck driver during annual training at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb., May 14.

Enhancement Brigade. It also involved ensuring those Soldiers assigned to the new Brigade received important training in their new specialties, as well as supporting multiple overseas and domestic operational deployments.

“In some ways, it felt like we were simply trying to survive 2018, which was really an important transitional year,” Lyons said. “But when you look at it from the perspective of time, we really did get some important things accomplished this year, to include completing the final steps of the multi-year transformation of the 67th BfSB into the new 67th MEB.”

“Probably the most important part, though, was the fact that our Soldiers, our families, employers and community partners, continued to work together to get these activities accomplished while also maintaining high levels of readiness in the event that our State or Nation needed them,” Lyons said. “Our Soldiers and our partners are really adaptable to change, which makes it that much easier for the organization to look for those opportunities that are out there to remain relevant.”

Lyons said that recruiting and retention are a good examples of this adaptability.

“One of the biggest challenges the Nebraska Army National Guard has faced in recent months is in recruiting the next generation of Soldiers to fill



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Serving In Green:** Spc. Jonathan Perkins serves food to Basic Leadership Course Soldiers at the dining facility at the Camp Ashland Training Site after the dining facility transitioned to use all Army culinary specialists instead of civilian contractors.

our ranks,” he said, adding there are many factors that contribute to this problem, including the fact the nation has been at war for nearly two decades, young Nebraskans seem less inclined to join the military than in the past, and the Nebraska Army National Guard faces significant competition with the private sector for those Nebraskans who are interested and qualified for military service.

“We spent a big part of this year discussing this challenge and making changes to our approaches to recruiting and retention. Additionally, there has been some significant changes to the



**Nebraska Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters**

**Location:** Lincoln

**Subordinate Units:**  
1969th Contingency Contracting Team  
105th Military History Detachment

**Senior Enlisted Leader:**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Marty Baker



**92nd Troop Command**

**Location:** Lincoln

**Commander:**  
Col. Gary Ropers

**Command Sergeant Major:**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert West

**Subordinate Units:**  
110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion  
1-376th Aviation Battalion (Security and Support)  
1-134th Cavalry Squadron  
1075th Transportation Company  
189th Transportation Company  
195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne)  
313th Medical Company Medical Detachment  
43rd Army Band  
72nd Civil Support Team  
111th Public Affairs Detachment



types of bonuses and other financial incentives we can offer these potential recruits,” Lyons said. “By the fourth quarter of 2018, we really started to see some significant gains in our recruiting efforts. And by all indications, those gains seem to be continuing into 2019.”

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General, agrees.

“In the last three or four months of the calendar year 2018, that trend line was moving in the right direction... maybe not dramatically, but moving in the right direction in terms of accessions each month in comparison to what we saw a year ago,” said Bohac, adding that a major credit to this change was the dramatic reorganization of the State’s recruiting force. “So, maybe we’ve turned a corner.”

Both Lyons and Bohac agree that the changes aren’t going to be over soon. Probably the biggest potential change, they say, is the possibility of activating a new Infantry Battalion... something the Nebraska Army National Guard hasn’t had since the turn of the century. They add that this Battalion – while important to the overall health of the Nebraska Army National Guard and to the capabilities of the U.S. Army – may bring with them the likelihood of some continued changes to the organization’s force structure.

“In one way, it is exciting to be talking about the possibility of adding an Infantry organization to our State, which will give us another opportunity to attract those Nebraskans interested in being in combat arms units,” Lyons said. “At the same time, it will be bittersweet because it will probably mean some continued divestiture of units that have been with the state a long time.”

“But ultimately, it is about making sure that we have the type of force structure in the State that is not only relevant to the State and the U.S. Army as a whole, but also one that people in Nebraska are interested in being a part of,” Lyons added.

Here is an example of some of the Nebraska Army National



Photo by Spc. Lily Baines

**Leading The Way:** Pfc. Devon Thompson leads a pack of runners after the first lap of the 2-mile run of the Army Physical Fitness Test event, April 12, during the 2018 Best Warrior Competition at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings, Neb.

Guard’s activities in 2018:

- ◆Members of the Omaha-based 402nd Military Police Battalion, fresh off their nine-month deployment to Cuba, provided support to the Boy Scouts during their Jubilee celebration in October at Mahoney State Park.

- ◆The 126th Chemical Battalion and 754th Chemical Company from Omaha, the 128th Engineer Battalion from Columbus and the 623rd Engineer Company from Wahoo and York completed important validation training in Columbia, Missouri, as a part of the Nebraska National Guard’s (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive) Enhance Force Package (CERPF) in October.

- ◆Members of the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade also participated in several major field training exercises and simulations, including the 1st and 25th Infantry Division’s Warfighter exercises and Unified Challenge.

- ◆The Norfolk-based 181st and 317th Tactical Firefighting Teams conducted a structural live burn exercise at the Mead Training Site while

other members of the 67th MEB conducted the first high capacity line of sight (HCLOS) transmission over a distance of 11 kilometers.

- ◆All three Battalions of the Camp Ashland-based 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) passed multiple U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command external accreditations, with the 1st Battalion (Basic Leaders Course) being acknowledged as having developed several “best practices,” while the 2nd Battalion (Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School) received multiple scores that exceeded similar active Army schools.

- ◆The 209th RTI stood up an all “green” dining facility staffed and run solely by Army National Guard Soldiers.

- ◆The 209th RTI conducted the first OCS program that successfully trimmed the overall course of instruction from 18 to 12 months, making it easier for newly-commissioned second lieutenants to attend their Basic Officer courses in a timely manner.

- ◆The 209th RTI conducted two





Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Ready Position:** A Soldier from Company E (Long Range Surveillance), 134th Infantry Regiment, stands ready to return fire during a June 14 annual training exercise at Fort Harrison, Mont.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Waiting His Turn:** Staff Sgt. Robert "Blake" Thompson prepares to take his turn jumping from a Nebraska Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter, Aug. 16, in Seward, Nebraska.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**I, Do Solemnly Swear:** Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's newest class of second lieutenants take their commissioning oath from Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac during the April 7 graduation ceremony at the State Capitol.

"Fit for Life" Annual Training courses for 58 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers that showed a 42 percent increase in established Army physical fitness standards.

- ♦The 92nd Troop Command conducted four command post exercises, four communications exercises, two field training exercises and three staff exercises in 2018. Additionally the 92nd Troop Command saw its Soldiers conducting significant crew-served weapons qualifications and Airborne operations throughout the year. Soldiers also conducted mortar training and C-4 breaching operations during the year.

- ♦One Soldier from the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron and one Soldier from the Long Range Surveillance unit were selected by the Army National Guard to participate in the prestigious U.S. Army Best Ranger competition.

- ♦The 1-134th Cavalry Squadron hosted a regional Cavalry Leaders Course at Camp Ashland in conjunction with instructors from Fort Benning, Georgia.

- ♦Four members of the 1-134th Cavalry competed in the International Sniper Championships in the Czech Republic in April, with one of the Soldiers

finishing second overall. The 1-134th Cavalry Squadron also participated in the Operation Screener exercise in the Czech Republic in May, while hosting 24 members of the Czech Army in June during the Squadron's Annual Training at Fort Riley, Kansas.

- ♦160 Soldiers and 14 helicopters from the Grand Island and Lincoln-based 1-376th Aviation (Security and Support) conducted aero-medical evacuation, air movement and air reconnaissance training in Alberta, Canada, in May, part of a major Canadian-led international exercise.

- ♦The 1-376th Aviation (Security and Support) deployed two rotations of helicopters and Soldiers to Hohenfels and Grafenwohr, Germany, in support of U.S. Army-Europe during European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) Resolute Lakota. While in Germany, the Nebraska Soldiers conducted 13 medevacs, 27 air missions and trained over 240 multinational service members in basic MEDEVAC operations.

- ♦Members of Grand Island's Company B, 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion, conducted a successful Annual Training Operation Double Eagle in New Mexico and Operation Northern Strike at Camp Grayling,



**209th Regiment  
(Regional Training Institute)**

**Location:** Camp Ashland

**Commander:**

Col. Shane Martin

**Command Sergeant Major:**

Command Sgt. Maj. Bradly Anderson

**Subordinate Units:**

1/209th (Noncommissioned Officer Academy)

2/209th (Warrant Officer Candidate School)

3/209th (88M Military Occupational Specialty School)



**67th Maneuver  
Enhancement Brigade**

**Location:** Lincoln

**Commander:**

Col. Todd Stevens

**Command Sergeant Major:**

Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Reicks

**Subordinate Units:**

Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company

67th Maneuver Enhancement  
Brigade

734th Brigade Support  
Battalion

267th Ordnance Company  
402nd Military Police Battalion

128th Engineer Battalion

126th Chemical Battalion

1st Infantry Division Main  
Command Post - Operational  
Detachment (MCPOD)

234th Brigade Signal Company



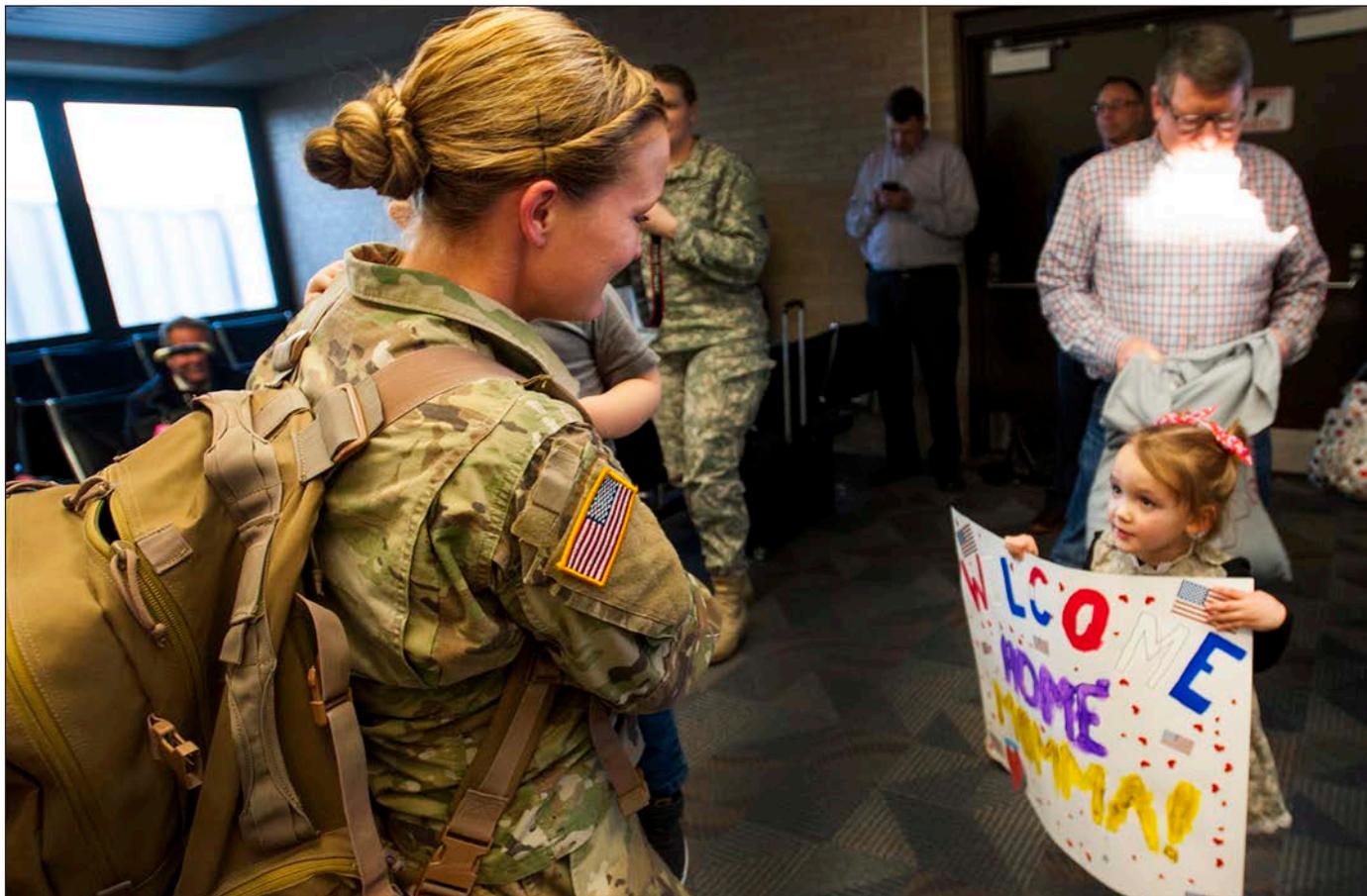


Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Welcome Home Mom:** Staff Sgt. KyAnn Sheets, 402nd Military Police Battalion headquarters, is welcomed home from a deployment to Cuba with a handmade sign made by her husband, Preston, and the couple's two children.

*“Ultimately, it is about making sure that we have the type of force structure in the State that is not only relevant to the State and the U.S. Army as a whole, but also one that people in Nebraska are interested in being a part of.”*

— **Brig. Gen. Kevin Lyons**  
on the possibility of adding future units to the Nebraska Army National Guard

Michigan. The CH-47 Chinook helicopter unit was responsible for providing medium-lift and troop movement missions in support of the multinational exercises.

◆Soldiers from Lincoln’s 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion conducted multiple medical exercises, both in Nebraska in April and September, and at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, in August when they participated in the Global Medical Exercise.

◆Soldiers from the 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion scored an extremely rare “three-peat” by winning national titles in cooking (Connelly Competition), supply management and maintenance excellence.

◆The 189th (Norfolk, Wayne and Columbus) and 1075th (North Platte, Broken Bow, McCook and Sidney) conducted multiple joint training exercises throughout the year.

◆Members of the Mead-based Company E, Long Range Surveillance, won the 2018 Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Low Power HF QRPX Competition. This marked the second



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Conducting History:** The 43rd Army Band celebrated the unit’s 70th anniversary with a concert in Lincoln.

time in three years that the 11-person team won the Army-wide radio communications competition.

◆Soldiers from Omaha’s 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) conducted annual training at Fort Harrison, Montana, successfully completing a 2,200-mile round trip convoy in June.

◆Airborne Soldiers representing multiple Nebraska Army National Guard units competed in the 2018 National Leapfest Competition in Rhode Island.





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Dawn Over The Atlantic Ocean:** Col. John Williams and Lt. Col. Chris Shannon pilot a Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker over the Atlantic Ocean while enroute to the Czech Republic in late October.

# Year-end deployments put exclamation point on busy year for Nebraska Air Guard



Courtesy photo taken with patient's permission

**Hawaiian Training:** Staff Sgt. Bret Frohner assists Dr. (Lt. Col.) Michael Burbach during patient treatment by curing composite filling material during a restorative dental procedure while training at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in June.

To say that 2018 was a busy year for the Airmen of the Nebraska Air National Guard would be an understatement. In fact, it may have been one of the busiest years in the organization's recent history.

"In a lot of ways, 2018 was about persisting through what was an extremely busy year throughout the organization," said Brig. Gen. Wendy Johnson, who became the Nebraska Air National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General on June 2, assuming the position from Brig. Gen. James Stevenson who moved on to assume a position at U.S. Strategic Command. "The fact that we were extremely busy is really a sign of what the entire Air Force was doing last year. The Nebraska Air National Guard was busy because the Air Force itself is extremely busy."

To put the year in perspective, members of the Lincoln-based 155th Air Refueling Wing not only participated in two major nuclear support compliance inspections, they also supported multiple State Partnership Program (SPP)



Brig. Gen. Wendy Johnson  
Air National Guard  
Assistant Adjutant General

## Nebraska Air National Guard FAST FACTS

Traditional Air National Guard Airmen: 875

Traditional Air National Guard Strength: 1,024

Traditional Air National Guard Personnel: 1,121

Total Payroll: \$53,506,323

Three Air National Guard Major Units on Two Bases (Lincoln, Offutt)

Total Amount of Appropriated Resources: \$86,467,130

Total Amount of Benefits and Incentives: \$3,534,638





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Mommens

**Important Training:** Members from the 155th Air Refueling Wing Fire Department train on several requirements of fire fighting safety at the Nebraska Air National Guard Base War Skills Building, July 13, in Lincoln.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Sharing Information:** Master Sgt. Clashaud Robbins shares information on Nebraska Air National Guard benefits to a prospective recruit during an open house at Southeastern Community College in Lincoln.



Nebraska Air National Guard  
Joint Force Headquarters

Location: Lincoln

Senior Enlisted Leader:  
Chief Master Sgt.  
Tyrone Bingham

exercises in the Czech Republic while also deploying for multiple missions in support of the U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command. In fact, the year ended with the single-largest deployment of Nebraska Airmen – roughly one-third of the entire 155th ARW – in recent history, to a variety of locations in Afghanistan and the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

The 155th ARW also continued a major reconstruction effort in Lincoln involving the unit's main hangar and operations building, which are being renovated to replace aging infrastructure that will in turn enable the unit to be better able to support operations into the future.

"It was a pretty amazing feat for the 155th ARW," said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General. "They have validated throughout the year that they are able to do their mission and do it well."

Along with the 155th ARW's efforts, the Nebraska Air Guard's other major organization – the 170th Group – also had a significant year in 2019.

The Offutt Air Force Base unit – which provides support to the active Air Force's 55th Wing – supported Exercises Neptune Falcon and Neptune Hawk, an active Air Force large force employment exercise that saw

members of the Nebraska Air National Guard group serving as the detachment commander and director of operations while also providing significant staff and aircrew planning support for the exercises that involved 59 active and Air National Guard Airmen.

The group also recorded a whopping 4,751 military personnel appropriation (MPA) days in support of 55th Wing and U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command requirements.

Probably the biggest event for the 170th Group involved the Air Combat Command's approval of a plan to expand the 170th Group's footprint at Offutt AFB, to include the establishment of a new Maintenance Support Squadron. That proposal has now moved on to higher levels of the Air Force.

"That's a pretty significant milestone for the 170th Group," Johnson said. "The Total Force Initiative at Offutt has been in the works for about four-to-five years. This shows that the support the 170th is providing there is valued by the 55th Wing, is valued by Air Combat Command and is valued by the Air Force as a whole."

Here are some more examples of the accomplishments the Nebraska Air National Guard made in 2018:

- ◆Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard's Joint Force Headquar-





Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Titus

**Keeping The Planes Ready:** Staff Sgt. Eric Miksch, an Aerospace Ground Equipment Journeyman with the 155th Maintenance Group, attaches an auxiliary power unit to a Bobtall Flight Line Tow Tractor, June 15, at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base in Lincoln.

ters staff continued to provide support to the 155th Air Refueling Wing during its periods of high activity due to the ongoing inspections and deployment cycles.

◆Despite being staffed to support two Air National Guard general officers, the JFHQ staff provided support to six general officers assigned within the JFHQ, U.S. Strategic Command and National Guard Bureau.

◆Members of the JFHQ also supported the deployment of Nebraska National Guard aviation units to North Carolina following Hurricane Florence, part of the JFHQ's Joint Operations Center.

◆Airmen from the 155th Medical Group completed 900-plus physical health assessments for the 155th Air Refueling Wing and other supported organizations. The Airmen also provided medical support to the 300-plus Airmen who deployed in 2018, while also providing Self Aid Buddy Care training for 150 personnel.

◆35 members of the 155th Medical Group conducted Military Facility Annual Training (MFAT) at Tripler Army Hospital and Hickam Air Force Base Hospital. The unit also deployed two medics to the U.S. Pacific Command and one medic, two flight doctors and a First Sergeant to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

◆The Lincoln-based 155th Operations Group deployed 37 aircrew and

ground personnel in support of combat operations in Afghanistan as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The group also led an air refueling detachment that included 16 personnel and two KC-135 aircraft from the Nebraska and Iowa Air National Guard in support of Texas ANG F-16s deployed to Czech Republic's multinational Sky Avenger exercise.

◆Airmen from the 155th Operations Group were tapped by U.S. Air Forces in Europe to lead eight F-16s, two B-52s, two KC-135s and a C-17 deployed to Czech Republic in support of Ample Strike 2018, central Europe's largest multinational terminal attack exercise.

◆The 155th Operations Group also deployed to U.S. Pacific Command as a part of a 122-member 506th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron Theater Support Package in May. The mission saw the unit Airmen fly 74 KC-135R Stratotanker missions, offloading 20 million pounds of fuel to 104 receiver aircraft.

◆The 155th Operations Group supported 12 Strategic Reconnaissance Operations, 13 Continuous Bomber Presence missions, 37 CORONET missions, and 10 bomber support training sorties.

◆Members of Lincoln's 155th Maintenance Group served as the lead wing for multiple KC-135R aircraft systems including Boom, BLK40 Avionics, Communication and Navigation, Guidance and Control and FSAS/FMS.

◆The 155th Maintenance Group hosted and participated in multiple critical KC-135R fleet testing exercises including the Form/Fit/Function testing for the KC135 SPO regarding the replacement Multi-Function Display and hosting and supporting BLK40.6.2 software testing, which included both ground and flight testing.

◆Airmen from the Maintenance Unit also conducted eight major aircraft inspections despite having one of two hangar facilities unavailable due to base construction while also managing other scheduled and unscheduled maintenance items in preparation of two major aircraft deployments.

◆The Maintenance Group also deployed 13 people to the United Kingdom to support active duty manpower shortfalls at RAF Mildenhall.

◆The Lincoln-based 155th Mission Support Group deployed 70 Airmen



**155th Air Refueling Wing**

**Location:** Lincoln

**Commander:**

Col. Robert Hargens

**Senior Enlisted Leader:**

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Horne

**Major Subordinate Units:**

- 155th Operations Group
- 173rd Air Refueling Squadron
- 155th Operations Support Squadron
- 155th Maintenance Group
- 155th Maintenance Squadron
- 155th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- 155th Mission Support Group
- 155th Civil Engineer Squadron
- 155th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- 155th Security Forces Squadron
- 155th Force Support Squadron
- 155th Medical Group



**170th Operations Group**

**Location:**

Offutt Air Force Base

**Commander:**

Col. David Preisman

**Senior Enlisted Leader:**

Chief Master Sgt. Ron Polivka

**Subordinate Units:**

- 170th Operations Support Squadron
- 238th Combat Training Squadron





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Melton

**Big Moment:** David Preisman, Commander of the 170th Group, receives some help as he prepares to be promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Nebraska Air National Guard during a Feb. 3 ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln.

to U.S. Central Command to directly support U.S. Central Command missions supporting warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- ◆The support group also supported multiple State Partnership Program efforts including a major air loading training exercise with six Czech Air Force members, providing explosive ordnance disposal training to Czech soldiers during a two-week joint training exercise at Volk Field, Wisconsin, and helping train seven Czech firefighters in high angle rescue and urban search and rescue procedures.

- ◆Nine members of the 155th Security Forces Squadron deployed to South Korea in support of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

- ◆Members of the 155th Civil Engineering Squadron directed contracting and civil engineer oversight of a \$16 million and \$7 million building modernizing effort at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base in Lincoln.

- ◆155th Mission Support Group Airmen processed 429,739 gallons of jet fuel valued at \$1,168,890 for inflight refueling.

- ◆Members of the 170th Group from Offutt Air Force Base maintained 105-plus percent



Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill

**Visit From The Top National Guard Officer:** Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Chief, National Guard Bureau, talks with Nebraska National Air Guard members assigned to the 451st Air Expeditionary Group at Kandahar, Afghanistan, Nov. 23.

overall manning and achieved 95-plus percent effective manning for the first time.

- ◆The 170th Group deployed 12 Airmen in support of Exercises Neptune Falcon and Neptune Hawk, two combatant command-sponsored Large Force Employment exercises. 170th Group members served as Detachment Commander and Director of Operations, while group support staff and aircrew were lead agents and planners for a contingent of 59 total personnel (active Air Force and Air

National Guard).

- ◆Airmen assigned to the 170th Group executed 4,751 days of military personnel appropriation supporting 55th Wing and Combatant Command requirements.

- ◆Members of the 170th Group created and implemented an Electronic Flight Bag for all 55th Wing aircraft. The EFB is now the Air Combat Command standard, while the Air Mobility Command is now exploring implementing the new EFB across their command.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Robots In Action:** A member of the Nebraska Air National Guard's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team shows a pair of Boy Scouts how to operate a robot during the Oct 13 Boy Scout Jubilee.





Photo courtesy of the Missouri National Guard

**Taking Their Turn:** Members of the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) move out to look for people trapped in wreckage during a validation exercise in Missouri.

## Nebraska Guard provides domestic emergency support in 2018; Focus turns to 2020 Vigilant Guard exercise

**W**hile 2018 may not have had as many out-of-state domestic emergency response missions as 2017 when nearly 300 Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen supported hurricane relief efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the year was significant nonetheless.

“When you look back on 2018, we accomplished a lot of things ranging from emergency response to conducting exercises to beginning to prepare for the upcoming Vigilant Guard exercise in 2020,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Callahan, who became the Nebraska National Guard director of the Joint Staff on Nov. 3.

Col. Jan Behn, Nebraska National Guard Joint Operations Officer, agreed. “It really was a big year for us. While we may not have had the sheer number of Soldiers and Airmen deploying out of state for hurricanes like we did in 2017, we were still extremely busy this year supporting wild fire response missions in Kansas, sending roughly 50 Soldiers to the southwest border in Texas in support of Operation Guardian Support, to sending helicopters and crews

to North Carolina to help officials there respond to the widespread flooding caused by Hurricane Florence.”

“On top of that, the members of our CERFP conducted validation training in Missouri while we also began some preliminary planning with the Hawaii National Guard to provide support to them should they be struck by a major natural disaster,” Behn said.

According to Behn, the Nebraska Guard also provided cyber protection support to the city of Beatrice following a cyber-attack on the city network, while the Nebraska Air Guard provided explosive ordnance disposal support throughout the year to local and State law enforcement agencies. The Guard also provided significant command and control, and community outreach support to the Boy Scouts during the Jubilee celebration at Mahoney State Park in October.

Both Callahan and Behn agreed that along with being prepared to respond to requests for National Guard support, one of the biggest focus areas for 2019 will be preparing for an upcoming Vigilant Guard exercise in 2020.



Brig. Gen. Michael Callahan  
Nebraska National Guard  
Director of the Joint Staff

### Nebraska National Guard Joint Operations

#### FAST FACTS

Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen have been activated for State emergencies since 1880, including natural disasters, civil strife and medical emergencies. Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have also supported multiple out-of-state emergencies.

Nebraska National Guard capabilities for domestic operations have been categorized into ten core capabilities to ensure adequate responses to requests for National Guard Civil Support. These core capabilities are:

1. Aviation/Airlift
2. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) response
3. Command and Control; 4. Communications
5. Engineering
6. Logistics
7. Maintenance
8. Medical
9. Security
10. Transportation





Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes



Photo by Jodie Fawl

**Disaster Planning:** Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff work in the Emergency Operations Facility during a Cooper Nuclear Station exercise.

(Left) **Setting Up Shop In A Birthday Party Room:** Members of the Omaha-based 402nd Military Police Battalion headquarters set up their tactical operations center in the Mahoney State Park Party Room while supporting the Boy Scout Jubilee in October.



**Nebraska Specific Joint Operations Capabilities:**

72nd Civil Support Team  
Chemical, Biological,  
Radiological, Nuclear  
and high-yield Explosive  
(CBRNE) Enhanced  
Response Force Package  
(CERFP)

State Partnership  
Program (SPP)

*Established July 14,  
1993, between the  
Czech Republic and the  
Nebraska and Texas  
National Guard. It is still  
the only SPP involving two  
states and a single nation.*



Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Zachary Sagstetter 1

**All Together:** Members of 155th Services Flight and the Hawaii Air National Guard assemble the frame of a small shelter system, July 18.

Vigilant Guard is a major National Guard and U.S. Northern Command civil support exercise that is designed to test the ability of local, state and federal agencies to coordinate relief operations following a man-made or natural disaster.

“2019 is going to be ‘go time’ for the National Guard as we ramp up our preparations for this exercise,” said Callahan. “In fact the Vigilant Guard exercise is going to become the dominate area that we will be focusing on throughout this coming year as we prepare to conduct this important emergency response exercise.”

“It’s a big challenge,” Callahan added, saying that officials realize they have to balance their preparations with the fact that the Soldiers and Airmen who will be involved in the exercise also have a number of other competing responsibilities including continuing to

prepare for their Federal warfighting missions, while also balancing their commitments to their families, employers and communities.

Callahan said the work that the Nebraska National Guard will do in 2019 will undoubtedly be worth the investments as Vigilant Guard will serve as an important measuring stick as to whether the Nebraska National Guard is truly trained and ready to serve its neighbors should disaster suddenly strike.

“We’re going to give it our best effort and measure ourselves,” he said. “And we’re going to learn from the experience.”

Here are a few of the Nebraska National Guard’s joint domestic support highlights from 2018:

- ♦ Eight Nebraska Soldiers and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters deployed to Kansas in March to help fight grass fires during two separate missions.

- ♦ The Nebraska National Guard hosted multiple Czech Armed Forces Soldiers and Airmen during several major State Partnership Program exchange events, both in Nebraska and the United States, and within the Czech Republic. 2018 also marked the 25th anniversary of the SPP relationship between the Czech Republic and the Texas and Nebraska National Guard, which is still the only SPP involving two states and a single international partner.

- ♦ Members of the 155th Civil Engineer Squadron’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal team helped the Omaha



# National Guard's emergency response focuses on community-based approach

Under the provisions of State and Federal law, members of the Nebraska National Guard and their equipment are available to be utilized by Nebraska's governor in response to State emergencies and in support of civil authorities when deemed necessary.

Broadly speaking, National Guard domestic support operations fall into three major categories:

♦ **Homeland Defense** – for which the Defense Department serves as the primary Federal agency with military forces to conduct military operations in defense of the homeland.

♦ **National Guard Civil Support** – for which the National Guard normally serves in a supporting role to other primary State or Federal agencies by providing assistance to U.S. civil authorities at the Federal, State, Tribal and local levels.

♦ **National Guard Baseline Operating Posture** – in which the National Guard conducts required planning, training and exercises as well as some ongoing mandated domestic operations such as National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), Counter Drug (CD), Civil Support Team (CST), and the Chemical Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

In order to accomplish these missions, the Nebraska National Guard's domestic operations capabilities have been categorized into 10 core capabilities to ensure adequate responses to requests. These capabilities are: Aviation/Airlift; Chemical,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Herschel Talley

**Preparing A Mission:** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Galen Kreifels (center) discusses a flight path with Bradley Kinlaw, (left) Bladen County Emergency Manager, and members of the 20th Group Special Forces out of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina as they prepare for a Sept. 19. damage reconnaissance flight.

Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response; Command and Control (C2); Communications; Engineering; Logistics; Maintenance; Medical; Security; and Transportation.

As a part of the National Response Framework (NRF) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Nebraska National Guard has been assigned as the primary agency responsible for Emergency Support Function 15 (Military Support) while the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has been assigned as the primary agency responsible for Emergency Support Functions 5 (Emergency Management), 9 (Urban Search and

Rescue) and 14 (Community Recovery and Mitigation).

Nebraska National Guard civil support missions may be performed in a State Active Duty or Title 32 (Federal) duty status under the control of the Nebraska Governor. These missions are conducted to assist in:

- ♦ Supporting civil authorities whose capabilities or capacity is insufficient to meet current requirements with general purpose, specialized, or unique Guard forces or capabilities;
- ♦ Protecting the life, property and safety of U.S. Citizens and U.S. persons.
- ♦ Protecting critical infrastructure.
- ♦ Providing humanitarian assistance during disaster response and domestic emergencies.
- ♦ Providing support to designated law enforcement activities and operations.
- ♦ Providing support to designated events, programs and other activities.

Police Department officers dispose of military ordnance dropped off during a city fireworks amnesty day.

♦ Approximately 50 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers deployed to the Southwest Border in support of the Texas and Arizona National Guard as part of Operation Guardian Support.

♦ Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) conducted a major

validation exercise near Columbia, Missouri, in October.

♦ Nebraska National Guard Cyber Defense Specialists assisted Beatrice officials in September in assessing damage caused by a malware attack on the community's computer network.

♦ The Nebraska National Guard began preliminary discussions with the Hawaii National Guard on how Nebraska could help the Hawaiian Islands following a natural disaster.

♦ Members of the Nebraska National Guard helped coordinate

Guard support to local and county officials in mid-June through early July when severe storms struck significant parts of the State. The support included conducting helicopter support to Governor Pete Ricketts who surveyed damage caused by the storms.

♦ Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard, led by the 402nd Military Police Battalion headquarters in Omaha, supported the Boy Scout Jubilee at Mahoney State Park in October with a variety of static displays as well as administrative and logistical support.



# Nebraska National Guard's 10 Core Capabilities

## AVIATION/AIRLIFT

Aviation/Airlift capabilities include eight Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotankers, the Army National Guard's C-12 aircraft and 22 helicopters spread across three aircraft types.



KC-135R Stratotanker

## COMMAND AND CONTROL

Command and Control capabilities include the Mobile Operations Center, and the Incident Command Post Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter Tent System.



Incident Command Post

## ENGINEERING

Engineering capabilities include Debris Clearance Package, Helicopter "Bambi" Buckets, and Air Guard Civil Engineering Firefighter Emergency Response Team.



Engineering Support

## MAINTENANCE

Maintenance capabilities include Maintenance Contact Trucks and Wreckers.



Maintenance Contact Truck

## SECURITY

Security capabilities include Non-Lethal Equipment Sets, Armored Knight support vehicles, and the Contingency Ammunition Stock.



Non-Lethal Capabilities Equipment Sets

## CBRNE RESPONSE



CERFP Extraction Team

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response include the Lightweight Inflatable Decontamination System, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, and the Chemical Operations and Survey Team.

## COMMUNICATIONS



Joint Network Node/Command Post Network

Communications capabilities include the Joint Incident Communications Capability, portable hand-held radios and the Joint Network Node/Command Post Network.

## LOGISTICS



Mobile Kitchen Trailer

Logistics capabilities include the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, Water Purification, Generators, Water Storage, and Emergency Shelter Support.

## MEDICAL



Medical Section, CERFP

Medical capabilities include Ambulances, the Helibasket External Load Transport System, the Medical Element of the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package.

## TRANSPORTATION



High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle

Transportation capabilities include the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, HumVees, Semi-Tractors and Trailers, Buses and All-Terrain Vehicles.



**Working Together To Help Nebraskans:** Emergency Support Function representatives work together in the State Emergency Operations Center to respond to disasters in Nebraska.



Photos by Jodie Fawl



Bryan Tuma  
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency  
Assistant Director

## Storms keep Nebraska Emergency Management Agency busy in 2018

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is part of the Nebraska Military Department, with the Adjutant General serving as its Director. Bryan Tuma, Assistant Director, handles the day-to-day direction of the agency.

NEMA is charged by state statute with reducing the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from damage, injury and loss of life or property resulting from natural, technological and man-made disasters.

During 2018, two weather events resulted in Federal disaster declarations and necessitated NEMA support of local response efforts.

In April, a severe late winter storm impacted much of the state during a five-day period. That storm left hundreds of broken power poles, downed power lines and many communities and residents without power in its wake.

Then, from June 17 through July 1, severe storms impacted the State producing several tornadoes, high wind, heavy rain and flooding. Significant flooding impacted many areas of the State, with areas in and around Thurston County receiving the most severe flooding.

In addition, several other storm events caused damages across the State that, while significant, did not rise to the level of requesting Federal disaster declarations. The NEMA Watch Center maintains situational



**Flooding:** A presidential disaster declaration was approved for recovery efforts for severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding in 10 counties including flooding in Pender.

awareness of all potential events that could adversely affect the state.

Nebraska has a proud history of assisting other states during disasters through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and those efforts continued in 2018. As the coordinating agency for EMAC in Nebraska, NEMA arranged for four deployments of Nebraska Military Department helicopters and crews to assist Kansas on three occasions with wildland fires and North Carolina following Hurricane Florence.

**For more information on NEMA check out their annual report at <https://nema.nebraska.gov/press/annual-report-2018>**



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

### FAST FACTS

Total Staff: 40

Total Salary: \$1,975,286

### State Homeland Security Grant Program

\$3,980,000

Total received from the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program

### Emergency Management Performance Grant

\$4,848,963 total grant  
Local Emergency Management Agencies receive 65.8 percent of the EMPG or \$2,534,300





**Nebraska Air National Guard Command Staff Building Renovation Project**



**Bridge Work on the Columbus National Army Guard Readiness Center Sustainment Project**

## Nebraska National Guard focuses on upgrading facilities to ensure future mission effectiveness

**C**onstruction and maintenance of Nebraska National Guard buildings and infrastructure was a major subject again in 2018, as both the Army and Air National Guard made important strides in ensuring that Soldiers and Airmen have modernized buildings and training areas in which to build and maintain their operational readiness.

It's an ongoing effort that is extremely important to the future viability of the Nebraska National Guard.

"With the Air National Guard in Lincoln, the two main remodeling projects that are currently underway are really aimed at improving efficiencies in executing the missions," said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General, about the 100 percent Federally-funded \$30 million remodeling project involving the 155th Air Refueling Wing's former operations building – which is being remodeled into a new command staff building – and the unit's main hangar.

"On the Army National Guard side, we have some aging infrastructure," Bohac said, referring to the organization's remaining 1950s-era armories, "that present challenges in terms of having enough sustainment money to keep them well-maintained. This is not a unique challenge to Nebraska. It's about best use of resources across the State, so we have to continue to look at that in terms of the number of readiness centers that we strive to keep up with and that we're doing the best things with the resources we have been given."

Following are some of the major projects that took place in 2018.

### **Nebraska Air National Guard**

"The 2018 and 2019 Fiscal Years have been extremely challenging," said Capt. Kyle Linden, 155th Air Refueling Wing Base Civil Engineer. "Over 70 percent of our civil engineers have deployed and the unit has had a substantial increase in workload."

"Currently, the Civil Engineer Squadron is overseeing \$30 million in active construction and another \$12 million in design projects."

Linden said the main hangar

project was significantly complex. "We have replaced the building's entire mechanical system, electrical system, constructed new office areas, a new compressor system, installed a crane, and will be replacing the hanger doors in the next few months."

"On our Command Staff Building Project, it is an entire renovation with a major improvement to our Command Post, its communication platform, and our Crisis Action Team (CAT) areas," he said. "These projects will greatly improve the capability of the 155th Air Refueling Wing in our efforts to support the Federal and State missions."

Like all major projects conducted while still maintaining a high operational tempo, Linden said there were some growing pains. "We have displaced our operations and maintenance groups by putting them up in temporary trailers during the construction," Linden said. "The military truly is an amazing team environment. With all of the pains, everyone constantly supports the construction and knows that in the end the mission will improve with





**New Framing on the Greenleaf Training Site Building 670 Sustainment Project**



**Nebraska Air National Guard Main Hangar Renovation Project**

the improved facilities.”

**Nebraska Army National Guard**

While the Nebraska Air National Guard focused on two major remodeling projects in 2018, the Nebraska Army National Guard’s Construction and Facilities Management Office staff worked on a number of smaller but equally important projects at multiple locations in Nebraska.

“The (CFMO) placed a focus on sustaining existing facilities,” said Capt. David Sandoz, Nebraska Army National Guard CFMO Administrative Officer, adding this involved repairing and improving several readiness centers, maintenance facilities and training sites.

These included such efforts as:

♦**Columbus Readiness Center Sustainment Project:** The Columbus Readiness Center is a relatively recent addition to the Nebraska Army National Guard, but even newer facilities must be maintained in order to ensure they continue to meet the demands of the organization. This \$496,000 project included exterior concrete repairs and sealing, grading, seeding, electrical repairs and various interior repairs.

♦**Camp Ashland Buildings 501 and 502 Window Replacement Project:** Camp Ashland’s 500 series buildings, which sit on stilts, are an iconic representation of Camp Ashland. The first of these buildings were built approximate-



**Nebraska Air National Guard Command Staff Building Renovation Project**

ly 30 years ago and still have the original windows. The 501 and 502 Window Replacement Project was the first of a series of projects that will ultimately upgrade the windows in each of the 500 series. This \$122,000 project will decrease long term heating and cooling costs, and will enable these building to provide comfortable lodging for students and Soldiers training at Camp Ashland.

♦**3rd Street Paving Project:** The gravel road from Nebraska Highway 6 to the Atlas and Titan Readiness Centers on the Mead Training Site was notorious for potholes and washboards in dry weather, and mud in wet weather.

The \$551,000 project paved the remaining gravel stretch of 3rd Street with two lanes of concrete. Additionally, this provides a paved connection between the training sites and the supporting UTES #2 maintenance shop.

♦**1776 Readiness Center Roof Repair:** The roof of this facility in Lincoln was badly damaged in a wind storm during autumn 2017. This project leveraged partnerships between the Nebraska Military Department and the State of Nebraska Task Force for Building Renewal for a \$547,000 total roof replacement.

♦**Field Maintenance Shop #1 Wash Bay Repair:** The wash bay in the maintenance shop was significantly out-of-date. This \$311,000 project brought it up to modern standards and makes the facility more usable for the shop staff. It included structural changes, new overhead doors, wall and floor repair, ventilation, plumbing improvements and new surfaces that will reduce clean up and maintenance requirements.

♦**Greenleaf Training Site Building 670 Sustainment Project:** The old tanks simulator building at the Greenleaf Training Site near Hastings has undergone several transitions. The most recent being a \$320,000 remodel of the classrooms, latrines, offices and a conversion of the tank bays into vehicle storage and maintenance bays.



*State Tuition Assistance for Fiscal Year 2018*

School	Students	Credit Hours	Total Paid
University of Nebraska-Lincoln.....	78	1,441.0	\$ 251,985.49
University of Nebraska-Omaha.....	45	727.0	\$ 114,799.48
University of Nebraska Medical Center.....	2	41.0	\$ 7,303.14
Peru State College.....	1	12.0	\$ 1,248.00
University of Nebraska-Kearney.....	21	348.0	\$ 49,438.90
Wayne State College.....	8	151.0	\$ 19,479.00
Chadron State College.....	2	60.0	\$ 7,740.00
Southeast Community College-Beatrice.....	1	44.5	\$ 2,186.06
Southeast Community College-Lincoln.....	17	392.0	\$ 19,208.26
Southeast Community College-Milford.....	6	208.5	\$ 9,943.54
Metropolitan Community College.....	7	79.0	\$ 3,614.32
Northeast Community College-Norfolk.....	6	103.0	\$ 7,261.50
Central Community College-Grand Island.....	2	14.0	\$ 924.00
Central Community College-Hastings.....	4	54.0	\$ 3,564.00
Mid-Plains Community College.....	2	14.0	\$ 934.50
Bellevue University.....	5	83.0	\$ 14,639.44
Clarkson College.....	1	42.0	\$ 7,481.29
Concordia University.....	4	87.5	\$ 15,586.02
Creighton University.....	1	27.0	\$ 4,809.42
Midland University.....	3	56.0	\$ 9,975.04
Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing.....	1	9.0	\$ 1,603.14
Nebraska Wesleyan University.....	5	79.0	\$ 14,071.92
Union College.....	1	14.0	\$ 2,493.76
York College.....	1	6.0	\$ 1,068.76
Doane University-Lincoln.....	1	18.0	\$ 1,728.76
Bryan LGH Nursing.....	2	28.0	\$ 4,987.54
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>4,138.5</b>	<b>\$ 578,075.28</b>

## Nebraska State Tuition Assistance Program continues to pay significant longterm dividends

As many Nebraskans know, obtaining a college degree is expensive. In fact, a 2017 report by the Student Loan Hero Project found that while Nebraska ranks eighth nationally in the amount of student loan debt that an average student incurs while going to college, an average student loan balance is still \$25,311.\*

That is why the Nebraska National Guard’s State Tuition Assistance program continues to be one of its most popular and important benefits. Under this program, members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard pursuing a Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree at a State col-

lege or university have 75 percent of their tuition covered. The program also covers those Soldiers and Airmen pursuing a Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree at private colleges or universities in Nebraska, however their benefits are capped at 75 percent of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s tuition rates.

It’s a program that has put higher educational dreams into reach for generations of Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen, who later give back to their State and communities through higher salaries and a propensity for community service.

“The Student Tuition Assistance Program is a huge benefit for both

our Soldiers and Airmen as well as the entire state of Nebraska,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Dahlman, Nebraska National Guard deputy adjutant general. “It allows us to attract men and women into our ranks who are interested in going to college and pursuing their professional goals who might otherwise leave the state or join the active military. In a lot of ways, this program is helping us keep our state’s talent local.”

In 2018, a total of 227 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen attending 26 Nebraska colleges or universities received a total of \$578,075.28 of educational assistance through the program.

\*Source: <https://studentloanhero.com/featured/best-states-to-live-in-paying-student-debt/>



# Nebraska Military Department commits to maintaining ties with community, citizens

The Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency have long considered the support of Nebraska to be one its most priceless resources. With that in mind, the Nebraska National Guard and NEMA place considerable importance on remaining engaged with their fellow citizens.

“It’s a mutually beneficial association,” said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General, adding this connection is vital in maintaining an Army and Air National Guard that are always trained and ready to do whatever they’re tasked with. “It’s about creating the grassroots connection between the Armed Forces of the United States – particularly the Army and the Air Force – and the people of Nebraska. For many people in Nebraska, if they know anyone in the military, it’s likely to be someone in the National Guard.”

“So few of us wear the uniform, so it is the National Guard and the Reserves who are really the connection to our communities and our citizens,” he added. “That connection is vital to our nation’s success.”

Probably the most visible examples of this importance are the many public outreach activities that the organizations conduct on an annual basis.

Along with dozens of speaking engagements, particularly during the Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day holiday observances, the Nebraska National Guard also flew 14 civic leader or educational leader flights, conducted 20 Army National Guard aviation static displays, and participated in numerous other community activities and parades.

The organization also conducted a Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker flyover salute before the Memorial Day ceremony at the new Omaha Veterans Cemetery while the Nebraska Army National Guard flew an impressive CH-47 Chinook helicopter flyover salute before the start of the University of Nebraska’s Nov. 10 football game with Illinois. The game marked the University’s annual Veterans Day observance as well as its



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**On The March:** Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard color guard march onto the field of Seacrest Field in Lincoln during the Cornhusker State Games Opening Ceremony in July.

centennial commemoration of the end of World War I.

Other community outreach activities included:

- ♦The Boy Scout Jubilee at Mahoney State Park in October as well as the annual Cornhusker State Games Torch Run and Opening Ceremonies.

- ♦The University of Nebraska’s World War I Commemoration planning group, which included the dedication of a plaque noting University of Nebraska students, faculty and alumni who served during World War I on Nov. 11.

- ♦Operation Santa Claus that helps needy children receive presents at Christmas.

- ♦The annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon in May as well as the Nebraska High School State Volleyball, Wrestling and Basketball Tournaments and the annual State Track and Field Meet.

- ♦The fourth annual Operation Bald Eagle competition and field trip to Camp Ashland with the Ashland Elementary School.

The efforts also included numerous Emergency Management Training Workshops, Table Top Exercises and Field Exercises conducted by the NEMA staff, as well as its annual statewide “Severe Weather Awareness poster contest.

*“It’s about creating the grassroots connection between the Armed Forces of the United States – particularly the Army and the Air Force — and the people of Nebraska. For many people in Nebraska, if they know anyone in the military, it’s likely to be someone in the National Guard.”*

— **Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**  
on the importance of community outreach programs



# New exhibits help new Nebraska National Guard Museum attract record visitors in 2018



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Thanks For Your Service:** Staff Sgt. Chris Martin shakes the hand of a World War II veteran at the Nebraska National Guard Museum, Aug. 16.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Leadership Views:** Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Tim Kadavy, speaks to Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen about the importance of leadership, July 3.



Photo by Jerry Meyer

**Educating The Next Generation:** Master Sgt. Maren Stewart, Nebraska Army National Guard Recruiter, poses with a group of students from Bennington High School during a December visit to the Nebraska National Guard Museum.

For the third straight year, the Nebraska National Guard's new museum in Seward, Nebraska, broke attendance records in 2018. A total of 18,830 patrons visited the museum, an increase of 1,067 people over 2017's record-breaking year of 17,723.

According to retired Col. Gerald Meyer, Nebraska National Guard State Historian, the number increase is due to a combination of factors such as the installation of five new displays, including a massive \$100,000 "I Am The Guard" interactive exhibit that was unveiled on July 4.

"The 'I Am The Guard' room has been a significant addition to the facility in 2018 and we've seen a spike in interest," said Meyer, adding visitors are staying longer in the room to experience the new state-of-the-art touch screen technology that allows them to learn and hear from past Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, including Omaha's Warren Buffett, who served as a Nebraska Army National Guard Pay Clerk in the mid-1950s.

The display is designed to help educate people through a series of physical and digital displays.

Meyer said the displays, which were developed by a collaborative team of Nebraska Army and Air National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, and members of the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society, are designed to immerse visitors into what it takes to serve in the Nebraska National Guard before they enter the main museum.

The "I Am The Guard" exhibit was sponsored by the family of the late Duane Acklie.

Along with the "I Am The Guard" exhibit, the museum also unveiled exhibits that explore such areas as the Nebraska Army National Guard's "Lost Battalion" of World War II, a wall of telegrams depicting the costs of World War II to the Nebraska National Guard, a replica of the 1854 proclamation that formed the first Nebraska National Guard units, as well as several displays dedicated to past leaders of the organization.

Meyer said the introduction of mul-

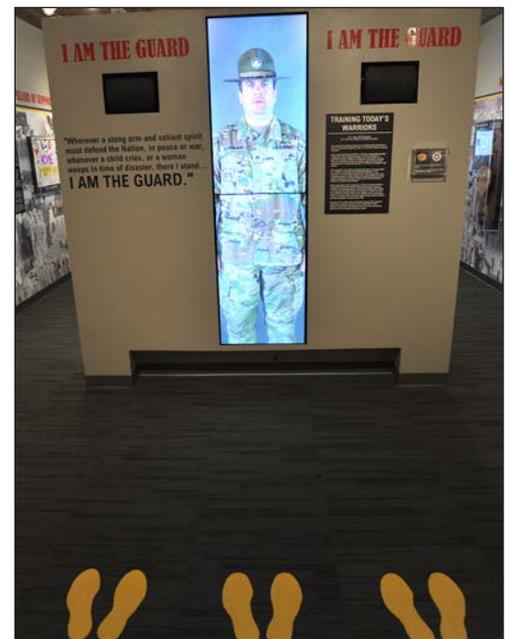


Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

**Get Into Your Footprints:** Visitors to the Nebraska National Guard Museum's new "I Am The Guard" room are greeted by a Nebraska Army National Guard Drill Sergeant, one of several multimedia "experiences" designed to help patrons learn more about what it means to help serve in the Nebraska National Guard.

multiple new exhibits has helped increase interest in the museum, particularly by school and teacher's groups.

"One of the best events for educators was the Medal of Honor Character Development Workshop for teachers in the Seward Public Schools," Meyer said. "The event was a 'no cost' workshop (that was) paid for by the Medal of Honor Foundation and was free to the teachers."

Other activities in 2018 included retiree meetings, Seward County Government Day, Nebraska National Guard Officers Book Club meetings, the Run to St. Lo Memorial 5-Kilometer run, the July 4 Vaudeville/Bob Hope Show, historical reenactors presentations, National Airborne Day, POW/MIA Day, Military Appreciation Day with Concordia University, and the "Christmas in the Military" and Nebraska National Guard Birthday commemorations at the end of the year.



# A Proud History

## Nebraska National Guard's 164-year story continues today in communities across state

The Nebraska National Guard draws its lineage back to Dec. 23, 1854, when acting Territorial Governor Thomas Cuming issued a proclamation encouraging the settlers to organize into militia units, with one regiment being formed south of the Platte River and one to the north. These two regiments were then organized into a Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer.

During its 164-year history, 109 Nebraska communities have hosted Nebraska militia or National Guard units.

The Nebraska Guard's first major combat deployment occurred during the Civil War when more than 3,300 Nebraska militiamen saw action as part of seven different Union Army units. Nebraska National Guard Soldiers later saw action during the Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Dispute, World War I and World War II where Nebraskans fought in the European Theater during the Battles of St. Lo, Mortain and several others.

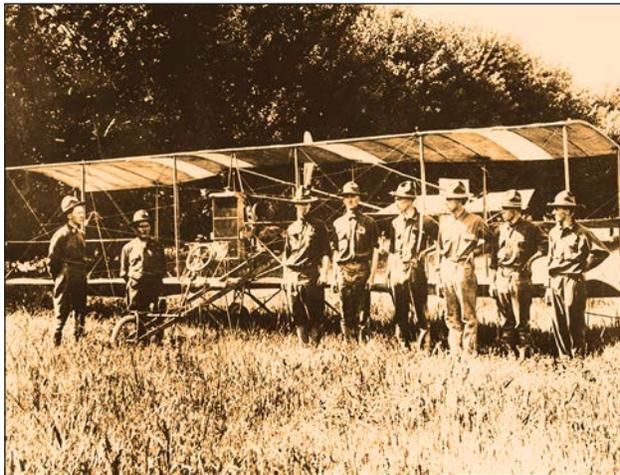
Nebraska Army National Guard units mobilized for the Korean War, Berlin Crisis, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, peacekeeping in Kuwait, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, as well as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and numerous other locations around the globe and the United States since Sept. 11, 2001.

The Nebraska Air National Guard is the second oldest Air National Guard unit in the nation. The 173rd Fighter Squadron was activated on July 26, 1946. The unit was mobilized for the Korean War in April 1951 and initially put into service as a part of the 132nd Fighter-Bomber Wing at Dow Air Force Base, Maine. Following the Korean War, the Nebraska Air National Guard flew the P-51 Mustang, the F-80 Shooting Star, the F-86D Sabre, the RF-84 Thunderflash and the RF-4C Phantom II. On July 1, 1960, the 173rd became part of the 155th Fighter Group.

In April, 1992, the 155th transitioned to the KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft and was redesignated as the 155th Air Refueling Wing on Oct. 1, 1995. Since then, it has conducted flying and other support missions around the world including Operation Allied Force, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Freedom Sentinel and a host of others.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has been a part of the Nebraska Military Department since 1951, with the Adjutant General serving as the agency's Director and an Assistant Director conducting day-to-day operations. Initially called the Nebraska Civil Defense Agency, it was officially renamed in 1996.

NEMA is the primary State agency charged with responding to state emergencies such as floods, blizzards, tornadoes, droughts and range fires. Since 1996, NEMA has provided emergency management support to a number of major emergencies including the October Surprise Blizzard of 1997, coordinating support following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike during the mid-2000s, flooding on the Platte and Missouri Rivers in 2011, wildfires near Chadron in 2012 and most recently Nebraska support to hurricane relief operations in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and North Carolina.



Photos courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society

**Nebraska's First Air Force:** Soldiers from Fremont's Signal Corps stand with the Model D Curtiss "Pusher" aircraft they purchased and assembled in 1913, the first time the Nebraska National Guard incorporated an aviation element into its organization. The plane was destroyed in an accident a little over a year later.



**Nebraska's Own:** A member of Company A, 1st Nebraska Infantry Regiment, from York, Neb., stands at attention shortly before the Spanish-American War.



# Uneasy strategic environment requires focused Nebraska Military Department

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*‘As we march into 2019 and the decade that awaits us soon after, we know we will continue to be called upon to serve and contribute to the betterment of our communities. It is a legacy of service that we are honored to continue, while also recognizing that we could not hope to accomplish it without the support of our families, our civilian employers, our communities and our civilian leaders.’*

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**A**s we begin a new year, we enter it knowing that 2019 will undoubtedly bring us new challenges and new opportunities... and that these challenges and opportunities will take many foreseeable and unforeseeable forms. In order to prepare for what we know will be an active year, the Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency must continue to be focused, adaptable and ready for whatever comes.

That is our mission. That is our commitment.

If the past 17 years, since Sept. 11, 2001, have taught us anything, it is that America and Nebraska needs our organization more than ever before. One only has to look at the ever-changing strategic environment, both here at home and around the world, to know just how true this is.

Russia and China continue to be significant challenges and potential adversaries, each in their own unique way.

Just as during the height of the Cold War, Russia continues to challenge U.S. interests around the globe, creating situations where the likelihood of future conflict has grown. Further, as the Russian economy and populations continue to decline, the chances of conflict has increased and will continue to increase into the future.

Conversely, China is a different matter. As China continues to aspire to gain and exercise more economic, political, informational and military influence in Asia and around the globe, friction between China and the United States will most likely continue to grow. For example, China’s recent far-side moon landings required enormous technological advances and capital investments to occur. This amazing scientific feat underlines the fact that China’s capacity is increasing rapidly, a capacity we should take care not to underestimate.

Additionally, the situations in North Korea and Iran remain unsettled, while the ongoing battle in Afghanistan against the Taliban and al Qaida, and



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Tight Squeeze:** Members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, and the Czech Air Force – with some help from the active U.S. Air Force – came together in Lincoln, May 23, to develop procedures loading a Czech Mi-171.

the fight to defeat the final remnants of ISIS continue to require U.S. military power and capabilities.

These are just a few of the known strategic risks facing the United States. There are many others that are unknown at this time.

Taken together, it is clear that America’s National Guard is needed now more than ever before. It’s why we continue to send Soldiers and Airmen into troubled spots around the globe. It’s why we’re proud to be significant contributing partners to America’s operational reserve.

The risks aren’t just overseas, however. Terrorists continue to look for ways to strike us here in the homeland, either physically or within the cyber realms. To combat this, members of the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continue to train with our local, State and national partners to develop the plans and the skills needed to confront these threats and respond to





Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Electronic Evaluation:** A Soldier with the 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) reviews results after completing a mission with a battlefield simulator.

them should they manifest themselves.

Further, as the hurricanes of 2017 and 2018 have shown, natural and manmade disasters can strike with little or no notice, instantaneously transforming once tranquil communities into chaos. Once again, this risk makes it incumbent upon the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to be ready and able to jump into action with little notice. When the lives of our neighbors and fellow Nebraskans or Americans are hanging in the balance, there is no excuse for doing anything less.

I am proud to say that for decades your Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, your Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and your Nebraska Military Department have continually lived up to these lofty goals and performed their unique State and Federal missions with impressive expertise and commitment. This didn't happen by chance, though. It was the result of rigorous training, continuous planning and well thought out investments.

Today's Nebraska National Guard, NEMA and Nebraska Military Department are the most experienced and highly trained organizations in our history.

We have been called upon numerous times to assist in a wide array of missions. These committed men and women constantly make a significant positive mark wherever their duties take them, often leading to additional requests based upon the positive relationships made during these important missions. Their success is due in no small part to the investments that have been made in their pay, their training,

their equipment, their readiness centers

and in their families' well-being. It is also the result of the continuing partnerships we have made here in Nebraska, throughout the United States and around the globe.

As we march into 2019 and the decade that awaits us soon after, we know we will continue to be called upon to serve and contribute to the betterment of our communities. It is a legacy of service that we are honored to continue, while also recognizing that we could not hope to accomplish it without the support of our families, our civilian employers, our communities and our civilian leaders.

No matter what the future holds, I take great pride in knowing that our Nebraska Military Department team – National Guard, NEMA and civilian employees – will not rest upon the laurels of our past success, but rather will continue to face our unpredictable future with the vision and unrelenting commitment to service for which we have been long known.

On behalf of the men and women of this organization, thank you for your support in helping us continue to live up to our motto: Always Ready, Always There.

**Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**  
Nebraska Adjutant General and

Director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Prague

**Proudly Representing The United States:** Members of the Nebraska and Texas National Guard pose with Defense Secretary James Mattis in Prague, Czech Republic, shortly after attending a ceremony honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Nebraska's Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac and Texas' Maj. Gen. John Nichols were the two senior American military officers and the Czechs' invited guests during their Oct. 27-28 celebration.



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**Nebraska Strong:** Soldiers attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's annual Veterans Appreciation Day football game Nov. 10 pose for a photo with Herbie Husker.



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

**All Smiles:** Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nick Gruber receives a hug after a ceremony welcoming him and five others home from a 10-month deployment.







# NEBRASKA

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NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT

