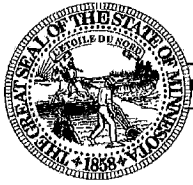


DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

STATE OF MINNESOTA

20 WEST 12TH STREET

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2098

January 30th, 2017

The Adjutant General

Honorable Julie Rosen
Senate Finance Committee
3235 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Sarah Anderson
House State Government Finance
Committee
583 State Office Building

Honorable Richard Cohen
Senate Finance Committee
2301 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Sheldon Johnson
House State Government Finance
Committee
259 State Office Building

Honorable Bruce Anderson
Senate Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee
3209 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Bob Dettmer
House Veterans Affairs Division
565 State Office Building

Honorable Jerry Newton
Senate Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee
2411 Minnesota Senate Building

Honorable Paul Rosenthal
House Veterans Affairs Division
209 State Office Building

Re: Annual Report on Support Our Troops (SOT) Account Grants

- 1. This annual report is submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs pursuant to Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3.**
- 2. The statute authorizes the use of SOT funds for four purposes:**
 - (a.) Grants directly to eligible individuals.**
 - (b.) Grants to one or more eligible foundations for the purpose of making grants to eligible individuals.**
 - (c.) Veterans' services.**
 - (d.) Grants to family readiness groups chartered by the Adjutant General.**
- 3. No grants were made in 2016 pursuant to purpose 2.(a.) above.**
- 4. The Adjutant General entered into a no-fee grant agreement with the Minnesota Military Family Foundation (MMFF) to administer funds pursuant to purpose 2.(b.) above. The remaining \$72,823 of the grant provided in 2015 was disbursed in 2016, along with \$37,040 of the \$100,000.00 that was disbursed to MMFF 2016. The balance remains available to MMFF to disburse in 2017.**
 - (a.) The MMFF received a total 151 grant requests for financial assistance to individuals during calendar year 2016. Of the 151 requests, 58 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement.**

(b.) The total requested for these 58 eligible grants was \$146,204 but after applying the \$2,000 cap, \$109,863 in Support Our Troops money was distributed. \$36,341 was paid using funds from private donations to MMFF.

(c.) Each request for assistance was validated by the Minnesota National Guard Family Assistance Centers and was approved by board action at the MMFF. Requests generally are directed to the foundation once the local assistance mechanisms have been exhausted.

(d.) Many of the requests cover multiple needs. The requests are categorized by the most serious need. For example, mortgage payments also often include utility payments requests. Those are categorized as mortgage requests. Some requests are for bills while undergoing medical treatment. The grants were used for such emergency purposes as:

Mortgage/Rent	19
Vehicle Repair	12
Emergency Home/Appliance	8
Medical/Dental	3
Utilities	2
Daycare	2
General Bill Paying/Special Needs	12
Total Grants	58

(e.) For comparison, 34 grants totaling 62,173.00 were made in 2015. 52 grants totaling \$95,627.000 were made in 2014. In 2013, 65 grants totaling \$119,942.00 were made. 82 grants were made in 2012 totaling \$149,043.00. In 2011, 75 grants were made totaling \$127,577.00. In 2010, 54 grants were made totaling \$90,286.00.

5. Pursuant to purpose 2.(c.) above:

(a.) Funds totaling \$139,200.95 were expended for wages, fringe, and miscellaneous costs for two licensed alcohol and drug counselors to meet a critical need for these services for service members and their families that is otherwise unsupported.

(b.) A grant in the amount of \$23,072.89 was disbursed to the Armed Services center at Minneapolis/St Paul International Airport to provide food to travelling military members.

(c.) Grants in the amount of \$37,000.00 were disbursed to the Minnesota Military Museum to ensure continued support to maintain, collect, and repair the large volume of military artifacts managed and accepted by the museum. This included funding an assistant curator and to provide additional support for consulting services for the museums library documenting project.

(d.) A grant in the amount of \$24,400.00 was disbursed to the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Charity to fund operating costs for six approved flyovers by privately owned, World War II era aircraft at Veteran events.

(e.) An additional grant in the amount of \$50000.00 was disbursed to the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Charity to fund a portion of the cost of two of the Honor Flight iterations carrying World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. to honor their service.

(f.) A grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 was disbursed to Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp to support camp participation by Minnesota National Guard family members.

(g.) A grant in the amount of \$55,000.00 was disbursed to Minnesota Military Radio Hour to support outreach and expanded coverage in Minnesota to further reach veterans and citizens of Minnesota with service member and veteran-oriented programming, and support travel to deployed locations to produce radio shows.

(h.) A grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 was disbursed to Defending the Blue Line to provide 50 scholarships for hockey equipment, tickets, and hockey camps for children of military families.

(i.) A grant in the amount of \$57,250.00 was disbursed to the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation to fund a contract with a museum archival technician and data entry clerk to inventory and catalogue the museum artifacts and archives.

(j.) A grant in the amount of \$16,467.50 was disbursed to the Serving Our Troops organization to provide meals for Minnesota National Guard soldiers and their families either serving overseas or preparing for deployment.

6. Nineteen grants of \$1,000.00 each were made pursuant to purpose 2.(d.) above.

7. The point of contact for this report is the Executive Director of the Department of Military Affairs, Don Kerr at donald.j.kerr2.nfg@mail.mil or (651) 268-8913.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Nash
Major General, Minnesota Army
National Guard
The Adjutant General