

Minnesota National Guard and Air Force Reserve to Conduct Flyovers Honoring those on COVID-19 Frontlines

May 13, 2020 (ST. PAUL, Minn.) – The Minnesota National Guard along with the 934th Air Wing of the Air Force Reserve will be conducting additional statewide flyovers in recognition of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic response as part of Operation American Resolve.

"Last week's flyovers were an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight," said Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. "We chose several hospitals as flyover points, but it is truly only a symbolic gesture, as the intent isn't to honor only those facilities, but all the essential workers statewide. Whether you are a medical provider or a meat packing employee; a teacher or gas station attendant; an emergency responder or a garbage collector, your work and the care you provide have kept our state safe and functioning. Thank you for your service and your sacrifice."

"We are proud to extend our gratitude across Minnesota and honor those who have been working non-stop to keep our community safe by thanking them with this series of flyovers," said Col. Chris Lay, 934th Airlift Wing commander. "Together with our Air National Guard partners, we want Minnesotans to know that this American Resolve is a tribute to the spirit instilled within our Nation and we will prevail beyond this difficult time."

The flights scheduled for Wednesday are the second and likely final part of a statewide effort to recognize health care workers, emergency responders, food industry and other essential workers throughout the state that have done their part to keep the state functioning during the stay at home order. The aircraft flying these missions will be combinations of F-16 Fighting Falcon and C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Minnesota National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing out of Duluth, and the 133rd Airlift Wing out of Fort Snelling in Saint Paul, as well as from the Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing.

"Our crews must fly regularly to maintain their proficiency," said Col. James Cleet, 133rd Airlift Wing Commander, "This is an outstanding way to both train our aircrew and to recognize those in our community that are on the frontline working hard for the citizens of Minnesota."

The flight path for Wednesday will reach the following communities: Aitken, Albert Lea, Alexandria, Baudette, Bemidji, Big Fork, Blue Earth, Burnsville, Cloquet, Cook, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Edina, Ely, Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hermantown, Hibbing, International Falls, Jackson, Luverne, Mankato, Marshall, Moorhead, New Prague, New Ulm, Northfield, Redwood Falls, Rochester, Roseau, Shakopee, Silver Bay, Thief River Falls, Two Harbors, Virginia, and Worthington in Minnesota and Ashland, Bayfield, Eagle River Florence, and Superior in Wisconsin, and Crystal Falls, Ironwood, and Ontonagon in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Flyovers are set to fly near local medical facilities in each community if possible.

“Our Guardsmen live and work in these cities. The Minnesota National Guard has units and facilities in 58 communities throughout the state. They have always supported us, this is a small way we can show that we support them too,” said Col. Christopher Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing Commander, “thank you for your service.”

These flyovers are incorporated into previously scheduled training missions. There is potential for the times to flex based on the training missions, weather and/or airspace availability. A variance of a few minutes either side of the scheduled time may be unavoidable. If there is a weather delay or cancellation an update to the advisory will be provided.

All times are subject to change. The flyover will also be visible to areas surrounding the flight path, we recommend rooftops and open areas adjacent to buildings for best view. Please reference #OperationAmericanResolveMN , #AirForceSalutes and #ThankYouMN as you post regarding the flyovers.

For more information, contact the Minnesota National Guard public affairs office at 282-4410 or mn.ng.web@mail.mil.

– About the Minnesota National Guard –

Established in 1856 and headquartered in St. Paul, the Minnesota National Guard has more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen who serve in 61 communities across the state. The citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Minnesota National Guard are ‘Always Ready’ to fight the nation’s wars, protect the country, respond to state emergencies and contribute to local communities. For more information about the Minnesota National Guard, visit <https://MinnesotaNationalGuard.ng.mil>.

Air Force Salutes Flyby – 13 May 2020 –

Northwestern Minnesota Route				
Two F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter				
	City	Location	Direction	Time Window
1	International Falls, MN	Rainy Lake Medical Center	SE to NW	11:10-11:25
2	Baudette, MN	LakeWood Health Center	SE to NW	11:10-11:25
3	Roseau, MN	LifeCare Medical Center	SE to NW	11:25-11:40
4	Thief River Falls, MN	Sanford Thief River Falls Medical Center	N to S	11:25-11:40
5	Moorhead, MN	Sanford Moorhead	W to E	11:40-11:55
6	Detroit Lakes, MN	Essentia St. Mary's Detroit Lakes	W to E	11:50-12:05
7	Fergus Falls, MN	Minnesota Veterans Home	N to S	12:00-12:15
8	Fergus Falls, MN	Lake Region Health Care	N to S	12:00-12:15
9	Alexandria, MN	Alomere Health/Dougland County Hosp	NW to SE	12:05-12:20
10	Crosby, MN	Cuyuna Regional Medical Center	W to E	12:20-12:35
11	Aitkin, MN	Riverwood Healthcare Center Hospital	W to E	12:20-12:35
12	Return to Duluth Airport			

Northern Minnesota Route				
Two F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter				
	City	Location	Direction	Time Window
1	Two Harbors	Lakeview Hospital	W to E	10:55-11:10
2	Silver Bay	Silver Bay Veterans Home	W to E	11:00-11:15
3	Grand Marais	Cook County North Shore Hospital	W to E	11:05-11:20
4	Ely	Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital	E to W	11:20-11:35
5	Cook	Cook Hospital	E to W	11:25-11:40
6	Virginia	Essentia Health	N to S	11:35-11:50
7	Virginia	Veterans Memorial Park	E to W	11:35-11:50
8	Hibbing	Fairview Range Medical Center	NE to SW	11:40-11:55
9	Grand Rapids	Grand Itasca Hospital	NE to SW	11:45-12:00
10	Big Fork	Big Fork Valley Hospital	S to N	11:50-12:05
10	Bemidji	Sanford Bemidji Medical Center	NE to SW	12:05-12:20
11	Cloquet	Cloquet Memorial Hospital	NW to SE	12:20-12:35
12	Return to Duluth Airport			

Northeastern Wisconsin / Upper Peninsula or Michigan Route				
Two F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter *Yellow highlighted rows indicates four F-16s				
	City	Location	Direction	Time Window
1	Ontonagon, MI	Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital	NE to SW	11:20-11:35
2	Ironwood, MI	Aspirus Ironwood Hospital	NE to SW	11:25-11:40
3	Ashland	Ashland Memorial Medical Center	SE to NW	11:40-11:55
4	Bayfield	Lake Superior Shoreline	S to N	11:40-11:55
5	Superior	Essentia Health / Twin Ports VA Clinic	SE to NW	11:45-12:00
6	Duluth	Following shoreline East to West	E to W	11:48-12:03
7	Hermantown	Miller Creek, Essentia, Gov Services Bldg	E to W	11:48-12:03
8	Return to Duluth Airport			

Northwestern Minnesota Route				
Two F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter *Yellow highlighted rows indicates four F-16s				
	City	Location	Direction	Time Window
1	Crystal Falls, MI	Iron County Medical Care Center	N to S	11:10-11:25
2	Florence, WI	Florence County Govt Bldg	NW to SE	11:20-11:35
3	Eagle River, WI	Ascension Eagle River Hospital	SE - to NW	11:25-11:40
4	Ashland	Ashland Memorial Medical Center	SE to NW	11:40-11:55
5	Bayfield	Lake Superior Shoreline	S to N	11:40-11:55
6	Superior	Essentia Health / Twin Ports VA Clinic	SE to NW	11:45-12:00
7	Duluth	Following shoreline East to West	E to W	11:48-12:03
8	Hermantown	Miller Creek, Essentia, Gov Services Bldg	E to W	11:48-12:03
9	Return to Duluth Airport			

Southern Minnesota Route13 May C-130 - 133AW / 934AW Flyovers

Two C-130s, 1 each from the Saint Paul Based 133rd Air Wing (MNNG) and the 934th Air Wing (Air Force Reserve)

	City	Medical Facility	Direction	Time Window
1	Edina	M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital	N to S	1200-1220
2	Burnsville	M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital	N to S	1210-1230
3	Shakopee	St Francis Regional Medical Center	SE to NW	1210-1230
4	New Prague	Queen of Peace Hospital	NE to SW	1215-1230
5	Mankato	Mayo Clinic Mankato	NE to SW	1215-1235
6	New Ulm	New Ulm Medical Center	SE to NW	1225-1245
7	Redwood Falls	Redwood Hospital	SE to W	1230-1250
8	Marshall	Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center	NE to SW	1235-1255
9	Luverne	Veteran's Home	N to S	1250-1310
10	Worthington	Sanford Worthington Medical Center	W to E	1300-1320
11	Jackson	Sanford Jackson Medical Center	W to E	1305-1325
12	Blue Earth	United Hospital District	W to E	1315-1335
13	Albert Lea	Mayo Clinic Albert Lea	W to NE	1325-1345
14	Rochester	Mayo Clinic St.Mary's and Mayo Clinic	SW to E	1335-1355
15	Northfield	Northfield Hospital	S to N	1410-1425