

Minnesota's Military Family & Community Covenant

June 16, 2008

The Department of the Army, National Guard Bureau and State of Minnesota Recognize:

- The commitment and increasing sacrifices that our military families are making every day.
- The strength of our Service Members comes from the strength of their families.

The Department of the Army & National Guard Bureau are committed to:

- Sustaining and improving Family Assistance Centers for Families from all military services.
- Expanding our services to assist Wounded Warriors and Families in transitioning back to society.
- Providing financial support to continue "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" training programs.
- Providing full-time manning for the National Guard to plan and execute training to support Families and Service Members throughout the deployment cycle.

The Governor of Minnesota is committed to:

- Establishing a Minnesota Director of Military Reintegration to coordinate the state's efforts in training and supporting Service Members and Families.
- Sustaining the Governor's Yellow Ribbon Task Force.
- Support legislation to improve transition services.
- Enhancing Service Member and Veteran access to higher education.
- Establishing a "Yellow Ribbon Community" campaign to train key community leaders across Minnesota.

The Commissioners of Minnesota State Agencies are committed to:

- Sustain reintegration and "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" training programs throughout the entire deployment cycle (before, during, and after).
- Providing active participants and resources to work groups and training programs.
- Creating new initiatives and partnerships to expand our services and support to Minnesota's Service Members and Families.
- Revising policy to ease access to Minnesota's assistance programs for Service Members and Families.
- Supporting legislation to improve transition services to Service Members and Families in Minnesota.

Minnesota's Legislative Leaders are committed to:

- Creating veteran friendly legislation that recognizes the sacrifice and needs of Service Members and their Families.
- Building "Yellow Ribbon Communities" in their district.
- Enhancing Service Member and veteran access to higher education.
- Sustaining and improving state-based services for all Service Members.
- Extending employment protection and employer recognition to families.
- Removing barriers to military families in accessing state and local services and resources.

Honorable Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota

Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

Maj. Gen. (Bvt.) Harry Sieben
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

LTG H. Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau

MG Larry Shellito
The Adjutant General

MG Richard Nash
Commander, 34th Infantry Division

MG Robert Pollmann
*Commander, 88th Regional
Readiness Command*

Col. Tim Tarchick
934th Airlift Wing Commander

Lt. Evan Stanley
U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Center

CPT Kristen Auge'
Soldier

CSM Scott Mills
State Command Sergeant Major

Honorable Mark Richie
Secretary of State

Honorable Clark Dyrud
Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

Honorable Susan Heegaard
*Director, Minnesota Office
of Higher Education*

Derrick Thingvold
Family Member

Sara Thingvold
Spouse

