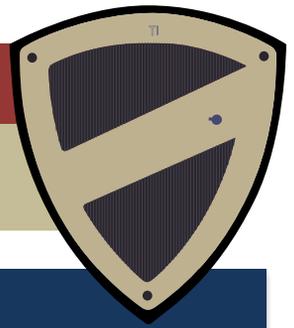


# Vigilant Guard 2015 Fact Sheet



## Joint Operations Center

### WHAT IT IS

The Minnesota National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC) monitors situational awareness of the operational environment, maintains operational status of subordinate units and resources; assesses the impact of current operations on future plans and operations; and prepares orders and reports. On order, the JOC coordinates, plans and supports the operations of units providing support to civil authorities.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

The Joint Operations Center provides situational awareness on current events with the ability to anticipate the needs of supported State and Federal agencies. When needed, the JOC can increase its activation level to facilitate communications with supported agencies as well as mission command of subordinate units.

### CAPABILITIES

The Watch Station is a sub-component of the JOC staffed to operate continuously 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The role of the Watch Station is to ensure continuous secure communications connectivity between JFHQ-MN and the National Guard Bureau JOC in Washington, D.C., as well as the U.S. Northern Command's Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Co.

### STAFFING

At full activation, the JOC has representatives from operations, intelligence, weather, geographic information systems, logistics, personnel, public affairs, communications, medical, aviation and legal, and other specialties as needed. A liaison is also sent to the State EOC as required.

### REQUEST PROCESS

A county sheriff or mayor of a city of the first class can request National Guard assistance from the Minnesota Duty Officer who contacts the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to process the request. HSEM coordinates with the National Guard and the Governor on all requests. The Governor approves/disapproves requests for National Guard support.

