



Minnesota National Guard

Norwegian Troop Reciprocal Exchange

Program Overview

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The 37th Annual Troop Reciprocal Exchange between the Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard will take place 9-22 February, 2010.

The Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange began in 1974 and is the longest-running military exchange partnership between any two nations. The annual exchange promotes good will, sharpens military readiness and provides opportunities for cultural understanding and military diversity.

During the exchange, approximately 100 Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard traded places with 100 members of Norway's Home Guard. Minnesota Soldiers and Airmen conduct training exercises with the Norwegian Home Guard at Camp Vaernes and the Haltdalen Training Center in Norway. Concurrently, Norwegian Home Guard Soldiers participate in similar training with the Minnesota National Guard at Camp Ripley.

Military training conducted during the Norwegian Exchange includes: Cultural awareness, host nation familiarization in military tactics, techniques, procedures, rifle marksmanship, land navigation, winter survival, fire power demonstrations and an end of tour three-day, two-night collective training exercise.

The Norwegians have been well received in Minnesota where they experience a wide range of events in addition to their military training at Camp Ripley. The Norwegians spend a "Buddy Weekend" with a Minnesota family, an experience which helps them become familiar with the American way of life. This weekend arrangement is extremely popular among Minnesota families who offer themselves up as weekend hosts for Norwegian Home Guard Soldiers.

For more information on the Norwegian Exchange visit www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org and "click" on the 37th Annual Norwegian Exchange Special Feature.

For more information on the Minnesota National Guard visit us at www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Minnesota National Guard Public Affairs at public.affairs@mn.ngb.army.mil or call 651-282-4410.