



*Giving MANG **THE POWER TO COMMUNICATE***

**Client:** **Montana Army National Guard**

**Project Description:** Partner with the Montana Army National Guard to help implement a new plan for a state-wide, centralized communications network. The multi phased objective will enable new levels of networking and staff collaboration through out a diversified multi branch operation... voice, data and video conferencing on demand; all under a common design and infrastructure. The three year project , now nearing completion will enhance the Guard's ability to fulfill its mission to serve proudly and honorably when called upon.

**Project Challenge:** Provide network design advice and direction while submitting cost projections under a standard competitive bidding process. Add value to products through consultative services and research links. Coordinate government contracting details to achieve national account status for the client.

The Montana Army National Guard has a common military mission among the uncommon surroundings within this sparsely populated state. The varied topography of Montana provides unique logistics requirements for an organization that must be prepared for the call to service. As with any multi-branch business operating in Montana, the physical distances often present extraordinary challenges for communications issues. New cutting edge technologies will collapse some of those limitations, especially for their distance learning objectives that are nearing reality. In 1999, the Guard set a 3 year network plan into motion that will make on-demand training available to all active members anywhere in the state. Aside from the cost savings that are expected from a reduction in travel expenses, the Guard is anticipating the next level of collaborative interaction among its members through their wide area network and video conferencing capabilities.

The Connect Group has been valuable partner to the Montana Army National Guard through the entire 3 year process. Reliable, rock solid technical support from a Montana based company have been significant elements of this working relationship. The Guard has developed a high level of confidence with the responsive service attitude that has come to define who the Connect Group is. Connect is a forward thinking organization with a great vision for the future and has been a valuable partner for the Montana Army National Guard.



**Montana Army National Guard**