



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

WINTER 2015

EVERGREEN

MAGAZINE

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In Honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami, lessons learned are reflected upon - Pg. 16

The 10th Civil Support Team protects Seahawk fans from weapons of mass destruction - Pg. 18

1st Lt. Aaron Clancy, assigned to Washington National Guard's Medical Command, holds the US flag aloft as he leads the Seattle Seahawks onto the field before the Veteran's Day weekend game against the New York Giants. (photo courtesy of the Seattle Seahawks)

WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT
EVERGREEN
MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER



Graduates from the Washington Youth Academy celebrate at Bremerton High School after commencement. (Washington National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)



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THE TAG LINE

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Major General Bret Daugherty



A Look back... A Step Forward

As they say – there's no rest for the weary.

The past year will no doubt be remembered as one of the Washington Military Department's most challenging – and rightfully so. For 132 days (nearly 40 percent of the year!), we were tirelessly supporting the State Emergency Operations Center at an elevated activation level. From the SR 530 Landslide, to the Central Washington wildfires and the countless search and rescue missions that often go unnoticed – our department pulled together to meet the needs of our neighbors and communities.

While 2014 was challenging, we face another uphill battle in the coming year.

In 2015, both state and federal lawmakers have significant budget holes to fill. That puts at risk many of the department's resources and critical programs – and ultimately, the citizens of our state and nation that rely on our assistance following crises and emergencies.

We understand that lawmakers will be forced to make difficult decisions and reductions. Until then, the Washington Military Department will continue to advocate for resources that enhance our state's disaster preparedness and our ability to respond when needed.

We're pleased Gov. Inslee included in his budget funding for two key positions – a state Continuity of Operations Planning program manager, who will help ensure vital state services continue following a major disaster; and a state catastrophic planner, who will help identify and analyze potential catastrophic hazards and work with stakeholders to plan a response. These are important investments that will have an incredible payoff. The United Nations suggests that for every dollar invested into disaster preparedness, it saves seven dollars in disaster aftermath costs.

Additionally, the Military Department proposed and the governor supported a \$5 million investment in our state's Next Generation 911 system. It's critical that our outdated 911 system aligns with today's technology – allowing our state's residents to send texts, images, video and data to local 911 centers, assisting first responders.

We'll also work to secure the governor's proposal to fund important capital projects – including the construction of additional dorm space at the Washington Youth Academy that will allow additional students to complete the program, the construction of a new Thurston County Readiness Center, and several maintenance projects to ensure our armories and facilities are adequate for training and use during emergencies.

Given the current economic climate – we know funding is not available to support every proposal. But given the Washington Military Department's 2014 performance, I'm optimistic 2015 will be even better.

Thanks!

Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty
The Adjutant General
Washington National Guard





Senior Master Sergeant Wilbert "Tre" Norton III

Story by: Allegra Antwine

Members of the United States Military are revered by society for their honor, dedication, and commitment to serving and protecting our country. A very tight-knit community, soldiers and airmen formulate an unbreakable bond harnessed by comradery and mutual respect; when a fellow compatriot falls, the loss they leave behind reverberates through the bonded kinship and abdicates an emptiness that echoes in the hearts of everyone left to mourn them.

On the 28th of August, this reverberation was felt when Senior Master Sergeant Wilbert [Tre] Norton III passed away from medical complications after his annual fitness test. Only 37 years old, his death was an unexpected shock to those that knew him.

Senior Master Sgt. Norton was the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent for the Washington Air National Guard. With nearly 20 years of service spent dedicated to the Armed Forces, Norton amassed several recruiting awards and was considered by his supervisors to be an exceptional military leader. He was an instrumental member of the National Guard Association of Washington and subsequently helped organize and facilitate events and fundraisers catered to military members.

The "Take Back the Track" event held on November 2nd was an honorary tribute to Norton's contribution to the Armed Forces and served as a memorial gathering for his family, friends and colleagues. Held on JBLM's track, the run/walk lasted 37 minutes; each minute equating to one year Norton was alive.

Although the ceremony was in remembrance of a fallen comrade, the overall atmosphere was one of celebration, joviality and appreciation of a man who had touched many lives and hearts in equal measure. Stories were recalled, jokes were told in good humor, and tears of both joy and lingering sadness were shed in reminiscent reflection.

Described as courageous, thoughtful and charismatic, it leaves little wonder why Tre Norton's passing has left so many individuals feeling as though they have suffered a tremendous loss. If there is anything that can be taken away from this tragic experience, it's that life truly is too short. All one can hope for is that they leave their own mark on the world, and impact as many lives as Tre Norton did in his 37 years.



Headquarters Washington Air National Guard hosted a "Take Back the Track" Memorial Run/Walk at the McChord track in honor of SMSgt Wilbert "Tre" Norton who passed in August prior to taking a physical fitness test on the track. Maj. Gen. Daugherty and Brig. Gen. Gruver participated in the event over which Brig. Gen. Tuohy presided. SMSgt Norton's family flew in from Texas to join members of the Washington National Guard to celebrate SMSgt Norton's life and to honor his memory. (courtesy photo)



OPERATION RISING THUNDER

Story and photos by Pfc. Brienne Patterson,
JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG

Yakima Training Center, Wash. - More than 70 years ago, if you found soldiers from these two countries together on the same battlefield, it would have been against each other in a time of war. Japan is now one of our strongest and most loyal allies, and every year, members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force join U.S. military forces at Yakima Training Center (YTC) in September for a joint exercise known as Operation Rising Thunder.

This year marked the 16th anniversary of the joint exercise, where more than 450 U.S. and 300 Japanese forces train together in a wide array of exercises, such as live-fire and air assault missions.

"The focus of this exercise is to train combined arms in conjunction with maneuver and firepower," noted Col. Takashi Goto, a JGSDF Commander.

The exercise did just that, combining Japanese forces

***"I think it really helps to solidify
the bonds of goodwill between
both sides."***

- Sgt. Joseph Ellefson

with U.S. forces, which included soldiers from the Washington National Guard's 66th Theater Aviation Command (TAC) and 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (MI BN), the Army's 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division and Marines with the 6th Air, Naval, Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO).

"I think it was a good collaboration of two countries coming together and working together to get some good training," said Sgt. Joseph Ellefson, a flight engineer with the 66th TAC.

Soldiers from 66th TAC provided aviation support throughout Operation Rising Thunder, while linguists from 341st MI BN worked to lighten the language barrier by translating between Japanese and U.S. forces.

When the JGSDF arrived at the Port of Tacoma on Aug. 26, 66th TAC sent one UH-72 Lakota and one UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to escort members of the JGSDF and their four helicopters to YTC. They also flew officers with the JGSDF, who arrived the following week, to YTC in a Black Hawk.

Ellefson and other soldiers from 66th TAC were tasked with providing support during the final training mission; an air assault exercise. Before conducting the exercise Ellefson gave a

safety brief about the Chinook, while Spc. Joshua Williams, a linguist with the 341st MI BN, translated. Members of the JGSDF then loaded onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter while the other Chinook sling loaded one of the JGSDF's vehicles.

"Today we went to go do an operations mission with the Japanese," said Ellefson. "We did some packs lifts and some sling loads. We took people on-board and transported them from point A to point B and chalk two did a sling load, they picked up a LAV (Light Armored Vehicle) and transported it from point A to point B."

The Chinooks made three trips, transporting two LAVs and more than 50 members of the JGSDF, along with other U.S. military personnel. During their first trip the Chinooks were escorted by two AH-1 Cobra helicopters with the JGSDF, which proved to be an exciting experience for many of the Chinook crew members.

"I liked the Cobras as they were side-by-side on track two and moving forward," said Ellefson. "I thought that was pretty sweet."

For others, like Williams, highlights of the exercise were more about forming bonds and creating memories.

"When we break for lunch, or before training starts, having the soldiers kind of mingle together and swap patches or try and describe how to eat the food or what it is exactly from these MRE's that they're eating, it's a lot of fun," said Williams. "I think it really helps to solidify the bonds of goodwill between both sides."



Chief Warrant Officer Jameson Peters, a Black Hawk pilot with the 66th Theater Aviation Command, exchanges patches with Captain Sato of the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Peters, and several other soldiers from 66th TAC, escorted Japanese soldiers and their aircraft from the Port of Tacoma to the Yakima Training Center, Wash. to conduct training. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Brienne Patterson)





WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

THE NCO PERSPECTIVE

Engage Your Peers

While the New Year often brings a renewed sense of hope and commitment, for some, it can also lead to worry and stress as we develop goals and attempt to achieve them. Whether it's to change your physical appearance, better your financial situation or achieve a job promotion, an individual with support will have more success than those that are forced to go it alone.

This year we look to all of our employees and members, not just those in uniform, to stand next to one another and engage in one another's lives. You can learn so much about a person just by asking a few simple questions – and show that individual that they are cared about, and valued. Take a moment to consider what you know about your co-workers.

Are they married?

Do they have children?

What are their professional and personal goals?

Good relationship building begins with engagement, and constantly demonstrating that trait shows good leadership. It's not always easy to start the conversation. Below are some helpful tips:

1. Engagement is a two-way street. Listening is just as important as opening yourself up. Being a sounding board as well as opening up about yourself can help build trust and really put you on the road to getting to know each other.
2. Being new is hard, and at some point in our lives, we have been the new person. Initiate the conversation with a new employee or member, and ask them to join you for a coffee or lunch. Bring a group, because the more people they know, the more welcomed the new person will feel.
3. Don't stop communicating. It sounds simple, but it can be one of the hardest things to do. Build a routine of talking with your co-workers and bridge the gaps between the two of you. This will help you identify those days they may need some assistance with a project or simply a good conversation.

By engaging and being open, you demonstrate not only good relationship building, but the start to becoming a good leader.

The Washington Military Department is committed to providing support for our staff, and will be providing additional resources to assist in engagement.

CMSgt. Timothy Tyvan
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Washington National Guard





SUBJECT

IS ON THE MOVE

*Story and photos by: Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess,
JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG*

Tacoma, Wash. - “Team six has the eye,” squawked a voice through an iPhone set on loud speaker. “Thirty-five miles per hour, zero for cover, continuing northbound on College Avenue.”

A non-descript Dodge Caravan was following a black Nissan Sentra through the streets of Lacey, Washington as it pulls into the parking lot of a city park. Two individuals get out of the Nissan and make their way to a park bench. After about 15 minutes, they are joined by another person with a backpack slung over one shoulder. He sets down the bag and begins to chat for a few minutes. After another few minutes he leaves his bag on the ground and makes his way back to his car.



Targeted subjects under surveillance entering the vehicle to move out unaware, they are under a watchful eye. (Washington National Guard photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)



Targeted subjects under surveillance wait for time to pass after receiving the package before moving out. (Washington National Guard photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)

Back in the Dodge, six National Guard students were intently watching the events unfold through binoculars; noting every detail and taking photographs. They are all going through the Ground Reconnaissance Specialist course administered by the Washington National Guard's Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center (WRCTC) based at Camp Murray, Washington.

WRCTC's mission is to provide counterdrug support to law enforcement agencies in an effort to help rid the Western United States of illicit drugs and the transnational criminal organizations that are responsible for the majority of drugs entering into the United States. The Ground Reconnaissance Specialist course is one of many classes they offer at the school including Intelligence Driven Operations, Cell Phone Forensics and “Attack the Network” investigation methodologies. These classes teach many of the key elements that comprise a well-rounded law enforcement officer.



One of the many uses of the Counterdrug Program is assisting state and federal law enforcement with analyzing intelligence as well as surveilling suspected drug traffickers. The Ground Reconnaissance Specialist course is a comprehensive two-week class that teaches students the many aspects of undercover surveillance.

"I have all the military grade navigation and comms equipment that we could possibly need and make it look like an iPod," Dillon said. "It's like Star Trek times, and not to mention everybody and their cousin has one so you can totally blend in."

The unique experiences and training of the National Guard members are vital to the law enforcement agencies that they will work hand-in-hand with when they return to their respective states.

All of the training offered at the WRCTC is tuition free for law enforcement and military personnel.

"I could be at a park jogging and doing surveillance with ear buds in and I got full comms with my team,"

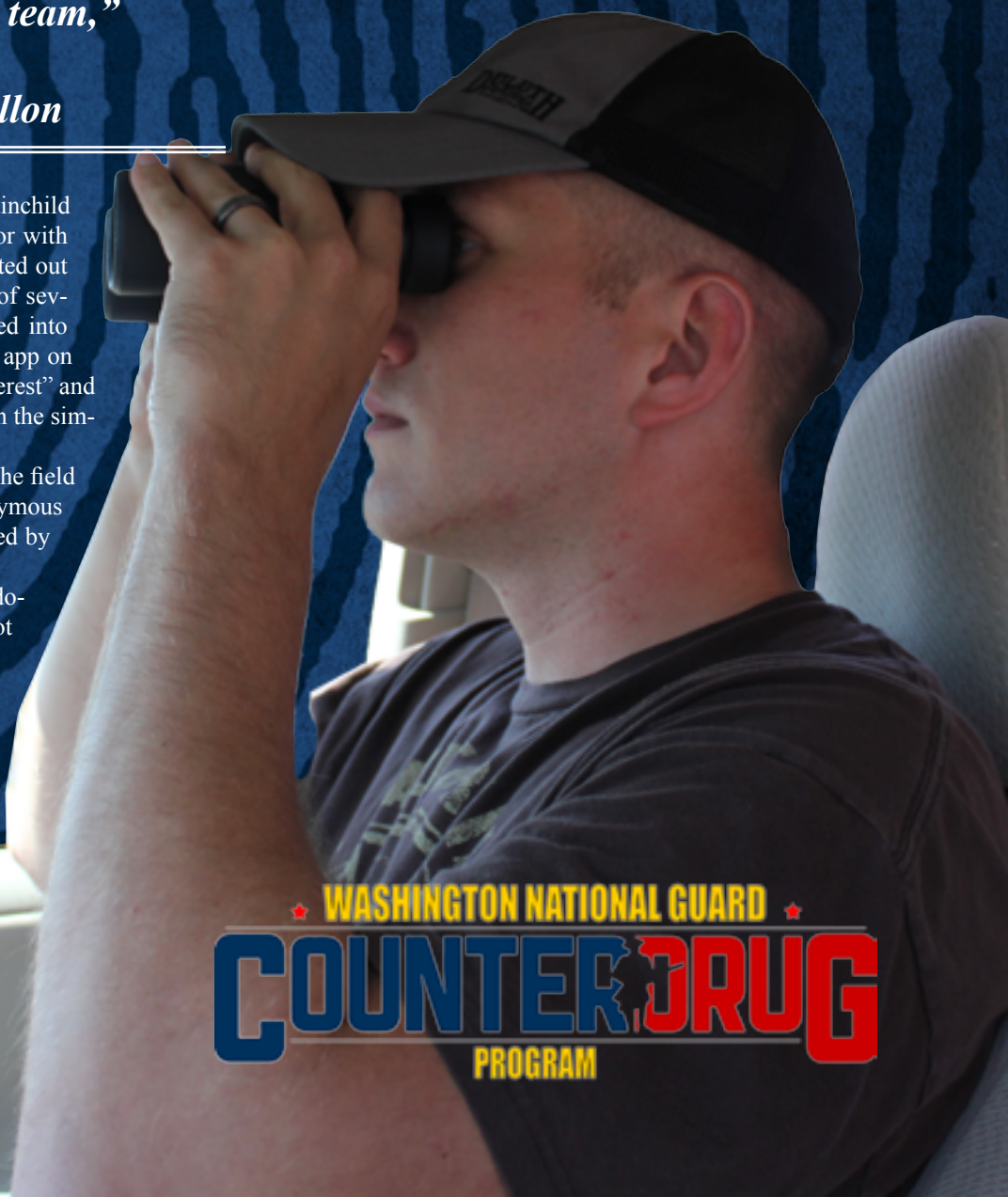
-Staff Sgt. Joe Dillon

The training scenario is the brainchild of Staff Sgt. Joe Dillon who is an instructor with WRCTC. The story is an intricate yarn acted out by instructors at the school over a period of several days of training. The students, formed into six teams, communicate via a push-to-talk app on smart phones as they follow "persons of interest" and document every movement of the suspect in the simulated case that they are presented with.

Surveillance experts operating in the field need to make extra efforts to remain anonymous and low-key in order to avoid being detected by the people they are following.

"I could be at a park jogging and doing surveillance with ear buds in and I got full comms with my team," Dillon said.

By using inexpensive navigation and push-to-talk smart phone applications, the students are able to move and communicate with devices already in their pockets.



★ WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD ★
COUNTERDRUG
 PROGRAM

BACK TO SCHOOL

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD HOMELAND RESPONSE FORCE CONDUCTS A BACK TO BASICS CERTIFICATION COURSE

Story by Pvt. 1st Class Brianne Patterson, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG

Camp Murray, Wash.- Washington National Guard's Homeland Response Force (HRF) FEMA Region X held their HRF University at Camp Murray, Washington from December 1-5, 2014. The week-long course trains and certifies participants in four of FEMA's Incident Command System (ICS) courses as well as in HAZMAT Awareness and HAZMAT Operations

All HRF personnel are required to complete FEMA ICS course 100, 200, 700 and 800, while only members within the HRF who would respond to disasters with potentially hazardous materials are required to complete the HAZMAT Awareness and HAZMAT Operations portions.

"HRF University is specifically designed for people in the [CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package] and the [CBRNE Assistance Support Element] or anyone who has to suit-up and go into a hazardous area," said 1st Lt. Allen Hale, Knowledge Management Officer for WANG HRF Region X.

The HAZMAT Awareness and HAZMAT Operations portion of HRF University teaches students all the proper procedures to follow when entering a hazardous area. Guardsmen learn how to recognize hazardous materials, what protective equipment to use for which chemical and how to contain hazardous materials properly while maintaining a high level of safety standards.

"They learn how to wear the suits, they learn what the hazards are and they learn all the safety measures that they



Guardsmen with the Washington National Guard's Homeland Response Force (HRF) evaluate the source of a simulated chemical spill during an exercise as part of the HRF University course held from December 1-5, 2014 at Camp Murray, Wash. (Washington National Guard photo by: Pvt. 1st Class Brianne Patterson, 122D Public Affairs Operations Center, WAARNG)

have to follow going into contaminated areas," said Hale.

Guardsmen attending HRF University spend the first three days in a classroom setting before putting on the decontamination suit and participating in a simulated HAZMAT disaster. During the simulated exercise guardsmen had to locate and contain a chemical spill. Once the spill was contained, guardsmen went through a decontamination trailer to remove any residual contaminants on themselves. Guardsmen must also go through all the proper steps to safely remove and decontaminate or dispose of any equipment that entered the contaminated area.

Training responders in HAZMAT awareness and operations is critical to ensure the highest level of safety for responders, those that they would assist in the event of a disaster and anyone they may come into contact with during and after support of the disaster.

"I think the training is valuable," said Shriner. "I think that we should probably figure out how to incorporate more elements within the National Guard into these types of [trainings]."

Although HRF University is specifically for members of the CERFP and CASE elements within the HRF, guardsmen outside of those elements are still eligible to participate and can request to attend HRF University if they would like to further their knowledge in HAZMAT operations.



Guardsmen with the Washington National Guard's Homeland Response Force (HRF) go through a decontamination trailer as part of the HRF University course that was held from Dec. 1-5, 2014 at Camp Murray, Wash. After exiting the DECON trailer, guardsmen are scanned by Sgt. Christopher Garcia, a DECON Supply Sergeant with the 792nd Chemical Company, to verify all contaminants have been removed. (Washington National Guard photo by: Pvt. 1st Class Brianne Patterson, 122D Public Affairs Operations Center, WAARNG)

EYES IN THE SKIES

Story and photos by: Pvt. 1st Class Brianne Patterson, JFHQ Public Affairs Office WANG

Camp Murray, Wash. -- The Washington National Guard's Homeland Response Force (HRF) FEMA Region X is continuously training and preparing to respond in the event of a local, state or regional emergency. The Homeland Response Force responds to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats, as well as large scale natural and man-made disasters.

The HRF remains ready to respond in the event of a disaster by continuously training within the HRF and with other agencies. The HRF conducted a joint training exercise with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) on November 1, 2014 in Seattle.

"The ASPECT is the nation's only 24/7/365 [sic] airborne asset that can do chemical, radiological and situational awareness in one single aircraft," said Captain John Cardarelli, U.S. Public Health Service Officer, liaison to the U.S. EPA.

"The whole doctrine behind the ASPECT program is to collect airborne remote sensed chemical, radiological and situational awareness information and data," said Mark Thomas, the ASPECT Program Manager. "Then to put that data into a format that can be rapidly provided to the first responders."

The ASPECT program can detect more than 75 compounds within a matter of seconds and, with a little more time, can detect 500 additional compounds. The ASPECT is designed to assist first responders, such as the HRF, by detecting, locating and identifying hazardous contaminants and relaying that information back to responders on the ground within five minutes of initial detection.

"We simulated lost industrial radioactive sources in the Spokane area," said Thomas. "We flew a flight pattern over that area, located the sources and then were able to give the position information and isotope identification of the sources to the HRF."

"This [the ASPECT] gives us a lot of information prior to getting there for picking where we want our staging area and how we want to approach this so that we're minimizing our exposure," said Cpt. Wesley Watson, a Nuclear Medical Science Officer with the 10th Civil Support Team. "Not only that but it gives us an image overlay."

The ASPECT can give first responders several images including a base map, an aerial image, an infrared plume image, a radiological map and a chemical identification/concentration graph. These images can be very useful for first responders to plan their approach to a situation in the safest and most effective way possible.

"I was able to plug into the Defense Connect Online [DCO] where [HRF] assets opened up a guest account. I could share my screen with anybody who had access to that DCO account," exclaimed Cardarelli. "Anyone anywhere that has access to DCO would be able to actually observe what is being collected on the aircraft near real-time while the exercise is going on."

The ability to relay information between agencies is critical

to the success of first responders. In order to be most successful in relaying information between agencies, there must be a common, easily understood language between agencies.

"As a civilian agency it's critical and important that in times of need that I know how to deal with the uniformed services, like the National Guard, and I think, likewise, they know how to deal with me," said Thomas.

"The biggest challenge that we have is being able to speak a common language to each other," said Sgt. Maj. Shawn Powell, HRF Region X Senior Enlisted Advisor "Whenever you're working with first responders on an incident site there has to be a commonality in language and communication."

The HRF and the ASPECT team were able to establish a common language during the exercise making communication between both agencies very simple, which ended the day with a very successful training exercise.

"I was very impressed with the way the HRF operated," said Thomas. "They were able to pull our data in and put it into their status reports to satisfy their needs."

"I think they were incorporated very well and based on what they brought to the table for this exercise we'd like to incorporate them into future exercises," said Powell.

The EPA and members of the ASPECT team look forward to the opportunity to work with the Washington National Guard's HRF again, said Cardarelli, while the HRF looks forward to the possibility of incorporating them into future training exercises and if the HRF ever needs the ASPECT's assistance in a real world response an activation is simply a phone call away from the EPA's Emergency Operations Center.



The Environmental Protection Agency's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) visits Seattle. on Nov. 1, 2014 to conduct joint training with the Washington National Guard's Homeland Response Force (HRF) FEMA Region X. The ASPECT team gives members of the HRF a tour of the ASPECT and shows them the various technology used on the airplane. (Washington National Guard photo by: Pvt. 1st Class Brianne Patterson, 122D Public Affairs Operations Center, WAARNG)



THE TURNING POINT

Story by Steven Friederich, Washington Military Department

Bremerton - Teacher Todd Hall picks up a guitar and sits at the front of English class. Then, he starts singing. A soulful voice emerges about the impacts the Washington Youth Academy has had on his life and his students' lives.

Some days, Hall stands in front of his class and teaches about sentence structure, verbs, nouns and the other assortment of knowledge required by state law. On this recent day in December, he has added a bit of music in his students' lives - teaching about the structure of poetry and how words in song can be just as impactful as words on paper, if not more so.

And it's working. His students, many of whom were on the verge of dropping out or had disciplinary issues before enrolling in the National Guard-run Washington Youth Academy, sit there enraptured.

Some go before the class and try a bit of their own songs - rapping or just singing acapella. Each have taken turns writing their own lyrics on how the Youth Academy has changed their lives - just days before they are set to graduate.

As Hall finishes one verse, his students call for him to do more.

"No, no," Hall said. "This will have to wait another time."

There's no arguing. As the clock strikes on the hour, each of the uniformed students quickly prepare their belongings,



A cadet quartet sings the national anthem acapella to a very proud audience. (Washington National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)

stand at attention, move to the door and proceed in a clear and orderly fashion.

At graduation on Dec. 20, the most students to ever graduate in a single class were celebrated. There were 144 graduates in all coming from every corner of the state.

Some will return home to their old school. Some will find new schools. Others will just get their GED. Cadet Gregory

Brychta said that he was going to give Running Start a try - a program that allows him to take college classes and earn both high school credit and college credit at the same time.

"I had a bad environment," said Brychta, an 18-year-old from Silverdale. "And I have no plans on returning to that environment. I've made changes in my life and I don't think I would have gotten as far as I have without the Washington Youth Academy."

The Washington Youth Academy is a quasi-military training and mentoring program for at-risk youth. The goal of the program is to give youth a second chance to become responsible and productive citizens by helping them improve their life skills, education levels and employment potential.

"I don't think I would have gotten as far as I have without the Washington Youth Academy."
- Cadet Gregory Brychta

The free program places cadets in a 22-week intensive residential phase. For the following year, the youth receive intense mentoring and placement follow-up. The school is in Bremerton, but anyone from around the state can apply.

The program incorporates a highly structured format, with an emphasis on student discipline and personal responsibility to provide a positive, safe, and secure learning environment.

The Academy staff are state employees of the Washington Military Department plus a principal and six teachers under contract from the Bremerton School District. The staff is trained to work with at-risk youth in a residential setting and employs a "hands-off" approach that is tough and disciplined, yet caring and respectful.



The Washington Youth Academy Instructor Todd Hall plays guitar for his class.
(Photo by: Steven Friederich, Washington Military Department)



Washington Youth Academy Director Larry Pierce said he's optimistic future years will have even larger classes. A capital budget provision by Gov. Jay Inslee includes \$3 million for a new dormitory to house an additional 50 students. If approved by the state legislature, construction would begin in 2017.

Cadets Danielle Drake and Hector Gonzalez Maceda, both from Bellingham, were chosen to speak for their class at the commencement ceremonies.

"Since the day I was born, my parents and family have been trying to teach me to be a responsible, young adult," Drake said during the graduation ceremonies. "However, as a teenager, I found ways to push them out and not listen to what they say. I was rebelling constantly and was stubborn. I skipped school consistently because I just really didn't want to go."

A survey of students showed that only one out of 10 students usually or always accepted responsibility for their mistakes, when first enrolled in the program. By graduation in December, nearly nine out of 10 students usually or always accepted responsibility for their actions.

In her junior year, Drake said she found out she wouldn't

graduate on time. She described her enrollment in the Washington Youth Academy as a "miracle" that will now let her graduate on time.

"A lot of us thought we wouldn't make it," added Gonzalez Maceda. "Six months ago, we were looked at differently - kids with no future, but we've all grown."

This year's cadets donated more than 11,000 hours of service to the community with an estimated value of \$273,000 to the community.

A Test of Adult Basic Education found that cadet skill levels increased an average of 2.3 grade levels by the end of the 22-week program

compared to when the cadets entered the program. Remarkably, 132 of the 144 cadets achieved the maximum eight credits students could receive from their stay at the academy. Only 29 of the cadets who entered the program had enough credits to be classified as seniors. Today, 108 graduates of the program have the credits needed to be classified as seniors.

***"Six months ago, we were
looked at differently - kids with
no future, but we've all grown."
- Cadet Hector Gonzalez Maceda***



Washington Youth Academy graduates listen to The Adjutant General of the Washington Military Department, Brigadier Gen. Bret Daugherty as he delivers his keynote address during commencement. (Washington National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)



ANSWERING THE CALL

Story by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office WANG

Bremerton, Wash. – The troopers of C Troop, 1-303d Cavalry Regiment, 81st Brigade Combat Team were deeply focused on their gunnery training in the late morning when their Family Assistance Specialist (FAS), James “Goody” Goodman, stopped by to drop off snacks. Bringing food to soldiers during drill is one of many things an FAS might do during a drill weekend, but Goody had another motive, when he stopped into the office of Cpt. Don Arnold, the commander of C Troop.

Goody told Arnold of a 13-year-old boy, Hayden Werdal, who lived a mile away, and who was currently an in-patient at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Initially admitted to Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital in Tacoma, Hayden’s parents Jeffery and Heather Werdal thought he was suffering from a simple cold. That morning, his hands were slightly numb, but by the time his mother finished putting his coat onto him, most of his body had become numb.

They rushed the boy to the hospital, where it was discovered that he had contracted an enterovirus. Hayden now has only limited movement of his hands, as the virus had attacked his spinal cord, causing him to be paralyzed.

Goody had received a personal request to help find volunteers willing to help renovate the Wardel’s home with installation of a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant wheelchair access ramp in time for Hayden’s return home. At first getting help was hard, but soon many people answered the call and got started on renovating the home’s exterior.

Hayden was scheduled for release from Seattle Children’s Hospital on January 13 and the renovated ramp was still not ready.

On Saturday, January 10, something truly amazing happened. Goody approached Cpt. Arnold, and shared the details of the project, the looming deadline, and the sincere need of help. Without hesitation, Cpt. Arnold assembled his men and explained Hayden’s story and the desperate need to complete the wheelchair ramp. He told his soldiers that helping would be considered a strictly volunteer mission, and would have to be done during their one-hour lunch break. Every hand in the room shot up like a rocket. Every soldier volunteered.

A short time later, several personally owned vehicles arrived at the Werdal residence with about two dozen National Guard soldiers. Quickly and without questioning, the Washington Guardsmen took action. They began moving lumber, nail-gunning railings and footboards, placing roof-support beams, and clearing the remaining debris from around the new ramp. The crew, which had been working on the house before the soldiers of C Troop ar-

rived, was so amazed and so inspired by these young soldiers they simply let them work.

It is estimated that in the one hour C Troop helped equalled what would have taken the small crew 16 hours to complete. This allowed the scheduled concrete to arrive as planned for Monday, without delay.

As the soldiers departed, Jeffery and Hayden’s grandfather, Wayne, were so impressed, they were at a loss for words. Tears of joy and gratitude could be seen welling up in their eyes. “They fight our wars, fight our wild fires, our mud slides, and still take the time to help us out,” said one crew member. “How awesome is that?”

Later that afternoon, Goody went back to the Bremerton Readiness Center to once again express his thankfulness on behalf of the family and the small work crew. The response from each soldier was commonly unified.

“Thank you for allowing us to help,” replied the Troopers.

“I expected no less from my men, I knew they would help,” said Arnold. “I didn’t even have to ask.”



Flashing a smile that beams with gratitude, Jeffrey Werdal (center, right) stands amongst the volunteers from C Troop, 1-303d Cavalry Regiment after completing the ramp renovation to Werdal’s home in preparation for his son, Hayden, to return. (courtesy photo)



TSUNAMI WARNING

On the tenth anniversary of the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami, we look at the lessons we have learned and how we can be prepared.

Story by Steven Friederich, Washington Military Department

Camp Murray, Wash.- Ten years ago, the thought of a vertical evacuation center to gather in the face of an impending tsunami seemed like an impossible dream. But state and local emergency management officials have worked hand-in-hand with the Ocosta School District to help guide the process - and the innovative approach now under construction near Westport is receiving global attention.

The nation's first vertical evacuation center is under construction today and will open in 2015. It's just one of the many ways the state of Washington is better prepared for a tsunami today compared to 10 years ago, when we were reminded how fragile our coast could be following the devastating "Boxing Day" earthquake on Dec. 26, 2004 that struck off the coast of Indonesia, sending a massive tsunami that devastated the island and damaged areas more than 3,000 miles away. The largest wave hit Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka, and reached as far as the shores of Eastern Africa. The earthquake and tsunami claimed between 230,000 and 280,000 lives and caused billions of dollars in damage.

John D. Schelling, the Interim Mitigation & Recovery Section Manager for the Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division, notes that in 2004, there were absolutely no tsunami warning sirens along the coast of Washington state. Today, there are now 58 sirens located along the coast and the Strait of Juan de Fuca with plans to install another 40 in future years, if funding is identified and available. The system is now tested by local emergency management officials on a monthly basis using redundant communi-

cation pathways.

In 2004, few tsunami hazard zone or tsunami evacuation route signs were in place, and those that were installed were frequently stolen or taken down. Few evacuation routes and brochures existed. The number of signs and published evacuation routes now numbers in the hundreds. The city of Aberdeen, for instance, has established a "yellow brick road" - where yellow markers have been placed showing residents how to get to a higher path by walking, acknowledging that in the face of a tsunami or major earthquake, many roads may be impassable. Small yellow reflective rectangles on roadway edge markers around the city help lead pedestrians to assembly areas. Aberdeen was the first in the nation to adopt the system, which has since been replicated in other communities.

Emergency Management has also worked in conjunction with the state Department of Natural Resources to develop tsunami inundation maps so the public can see the real dangers of how far a tsunami wave could impact their neighborhoods.

Before the 2004 tsunami, many coastal schools and community facilities did not have a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio to receive tsunami warnings. By 2010, every school and essential facility along the Pacific Ocean and Strait of Juan de Fuca coasts have a NOAA Weather Radio and have been trained on tsunami alerts and the appropriate actions for the varying alert levels.

"The 10th commemoration of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami reminds us of the progress we have made as a state and a nation to become better prepared for earthquake and tsunami emergencies," Schelling said. "However, this commemoration

falls a month before the 315th anniversary of the last Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami on Jan. 27, 1700. The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a fault located off the coast of Washington State, which is capable of producing a Magnitude 9-plus earthquake and a large tsunami, not unlike the one that impacted countries around the Indian Ocean."

Schelling says he's optimistic that things are better today than a decade ago, but notes that residents should still make sure they have the needed supplies - including a 72-hour kit, a NOAA Weather radio and make sure to at least know the closest evacuation routes around their community if the word comes and they need to get to higher ground. At a worst case scenario, there may be just a 15- to 30-minute warning of an impending tsunami following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake for some of those who live along the coast. However, depending on where the earthquake originates, there may be a few hours' notice, as well.

That's one of the reasons the vertical evacuation center is under construction at the Ocosta School District near Westport, which was approved in a bond by the local school district voters in April of 2013. The project utilizes the principles designed in Project Safe Haven, a Washington Emergency Management Division project that looked at methods to create artificial high ground through buildings. Plans are now in the works for additional structures and locations around the coast should funding be identified.

For Project Safe Haven information and Tsunami Fact Sheets for your local area visit:

What is a Seismic Scenario Catalog?

Story by Mark Stewart, Washington Military Department

The Military Department's Emergency Management Division is among seven organizations sharing a national award for excellence for the online Washington State Seismic Scenario Catalog.

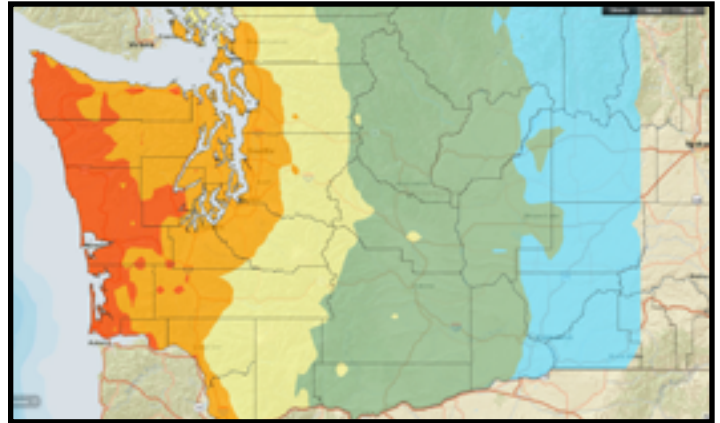
The scenario catalog – published at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/seismicscenarios/> - provides data and information to help emergency managers around the state better understand the impacts from 20 different earthquake scenarios.

The Western States Seismic Policy Council granted the Overall Award in Excellence to this project as part of its 2014 awards. The council annually honors exemplary programs, projects and products that significantly contribute to addressing earthquake risk reduction. One of the awarded projects receives the council's Overall Award in Excellence.

The 2014 award is the sixth time the Emergency Management Division has received or shared in the overall excellence award since 2002.

The catalog's earthquake scenarios represent reasonable estimates of the most serious earthquake hazards in Washington. The website allows users to customize information in a way that is relevant to them and easy for a non-technical user to understand. Plans call for adding hazards, such as a tsunami or volcanic eruption in the future.

"The catalog is designed to help emergency planners better understand and visualize potential consequences of seismic



events that could occur across the state, and help them employ more effective risk-reduction strategies," said John Schelling, interim Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager, who directed EMD efforts on this project. "The success of our collaboration demonstrates how scientists, academicians and practitioners can work together to enhance public safety and community resiliency."

Organizations sharing the award with the Emergency Management Division are the Department of Natural Resources' Geology and Earth Sciences Division, U.S. Geological Survey's Pacific Northwest team, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Regions 8 and 10, Western Washington University's Resilience Institute and the URS Corporation.

The Western States Seismic Policy Council develops seismic policies and shares information to promote programs intended to reduce earthquake-related losses. Its members include 13 western states, one Canadian province and one territory, and three U.S. territories.

On the Road to a Greener Guard

Story by Cpt. Joseph Siemandel, WANG

It's one of Gov. Jay Inslee's top priorities – creating a cleaner environ-

ment to be enjoyed by future generations. The Washington Military Department shares that commitment and was recently recognized for its work to restore our environment.

In October, the Washington National Guard's Environmental Program was recognized as winner of the 2014 National Guard Bureau's Environmental Security Award with special emphasis on Environmental Restoration at an Installation. The award highlights the unusually fast and cost effective restoration work to clean up the former Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) site on Camp Murray.

"Getting the site cleaned to a 'No Further Action' (NFA) level, as certified by the State Department of Ecology, allowed for the site to be reused for the future Pierce County Readiness Center," said Tom Skjervold, Environmental Programs Manager for the Washington Military Department.

In May of 2013, the Washington National Guard opened the new CSMS on Joint Base Lewis McChord, which replaced the 60-year-old shop that was on Camp Murray. Vacating the old CSMS meant that the land under it was potentially available as the site for the new Pierce County Readiness Center, but only if the old buildings were demolished, and legacy contamination in that

area could be cleaned up to the satisfaction of NGB and the state Department of Ecology.

In early 2014, demolition began on the old CSMS. At the same time, sampling continued to find "areas of concern." Working closely with a contractor to investigate the site, the demolition crews to clear areas requiring investigation, and the regulator to assure all suspected areas of contamination were fully investigated. The Camp Murray Environmental section was able to get the site cleared years faster, and for much less money than was originally estimated for the remediation project.

That approach resulted in the Military Department getting the needed NFA in September of 2014, which in turn allowed NGB to fund a Design-Build contract for the PCRC construction the same month. As a result, crews will break ground on the new Pierce County Readiness Center in early 2015.

"This historic project was able to utilize a special funding mechanism known as 10 USC 2854 to fund the replacement of the old Tacoma Armory which was 102 years old and literally falling apart," said John Wunsch, Chief of Plans & Programming for the Washington National Guard's Construction and Facilities Maintenance Office. "Because of water and earthquake damage, we were able to qualify for this funding and have started construction planning and design for the new Pierce County Readiness Center to be built on Camp Murray."

WHEN THE WOLF GROWLS AT THE DOOR

Story and photos by:
Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess

Seattle, Wash. - Long before the vendors fire up their grills, before the seats of CenturyLink Field begin to fill up with screaming fans or before the Seahawks take the field on Sunday in Seattle, two Washington National Guardsmen are busy preparing to keep the crowd of more than 67,000 fans safe.

The two guardsmen are with the 10th Civil Support Team (CST) located at Camp Murray. At every Seahawk home game their mission is to augment the Seattle Police Department (SPD) in their effort to detect any trace or evidence of chemical

weapons and hazards, essentially weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Army Sergeant Daniel Jones and Air Force Staff Sergeant Logan In-

"We have been building the relationship long before that but the Boston Marathon (bombing) was probably the thing that made this have as much momentum as it has now."

- Sgt. Daniel Jones

gersoll left Camp Murray at 7:00 A.M. in their survey truck, a blue box truck equipped with shelves and cubbyholes



Air Force Staff Sgt. Logan Ingersoll (left) and Army Sergeant Daniel Jones, 10th Civil Support Team, inspect a monitor mounted on a fence outside of CenturyLink Field in Seattle, Wash. on December 14, 2014 before the start of a Seattle Seahawks home game. (Washington National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess)

filled with chemical detection hardware and personal protective equipment.

They met up with their SPD counterparts and immediately began to place monitors around the stadium at key locations. The monitors are a medium sized black box equipped with a three foot antenna that extends from the top. The monitors are placed out of view in areas that circle the stadium.

"What we're looking for is different chemical compounds and even radiological isotopes," said Jones. "If we get an alarm we will send what we call an adjudication team. If we ever got any positive hit from the team, we would notify our chain of command for follow-on resources for higher degrees of threat identification."

The monitors also sense oxygen levels, volatile organic compounds and are also capable of detecting most types of explosive gases.

The CST has been doing various venue protection missions in a limited capacity since the team's inception in 1999. Thankfully no WMDs have been detected by the CST during a venue protection mission to date, however, the threat is all too real.

"But this mission at CenturyLink has been happening, in the capacity that it's happening now, since about 2012," said Jones. "We have been building the relationship long before that but the Boston Marathon (bombing) was probably the thing that made this have as much momentum as it has now."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Logan Ingersoll and Army Sergeant Daniel Jones, 10th Civil Support Team, observe the locations of monitors placed throughout CenturyLink Field in Seattle, Wash. on December 14, 2014 before the start of a Seattle Seahawks home game. The monitors are mounted at various points in and around the stadium and are capable of detecting many different kinds of chemical compounds used to make weapons of mass destruction. (Washington National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess)

He said that they used to only perform this mission in Seattle during large scale games and events such as a playoff game or a game which would draw an abnormally large number of people. But since the Boston Marathon bombing, authorities realized that every Seahawk game is a potential target.

Even though no WMDs or smaller scale weapons have been detected yet, there are circumstances where the alarm may be tripped and a little bit of detective work is required to solve. Medical patients who have recently undergone treatment with radiological imaging will often times set off the monitors.

"Some of the local kitchens will vent off in areas and they set off the [carbon monoxide] alarm," Jones said.

"We've gotten a lot of carbon monoxide hits, few oxygen hits. But nothing malicious."

The more the 10th CST takes a proactive stance on missions like these, as opposed to reacting to an event that has already happened, the better prepared they will be when an actual incident does happen.

"That's why we have people already on the ground," he said. "People that know the area; that know the threat."



SPREADING CHEER

When children and veterans of Washington State are unable to get out to hear a holiday performance, the 133d Army Band brings it to them.

*Story by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian
JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG*



A member of the 133d Army Band invites a child to play an instrument during Operation Holiday Heroes at the Seattle Childrens Hospital. (Washington National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)

to bring Operation Holiday Heroes to them.

There is a very simple message the band wants to get out there.

“You have service members who live amongst you, who are there to serve you and want you to know we owe you a big thanks,” said Little. “The population of Washington State are [sic] the ones that support the Washington National Guard. It’s a great relationship, and we want to make sure that everyone knows that it exists, and that it is going to continue.”



Members of the Washington National Guard’s 133d Army Band perform for patients and their families during Operation Holiday Heroes at the Seattle Childrens Hospital. (Washington National Guard photo by: Staff Sgt. Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG)

Seattle – **T**he Seattle Children’s Hospital is a very well structured and friendly environment that is set up in a manner to make its residents feel as at home as possible. There are bright colors and artwork everywhere that aim to capture the children’s attention and imagination. Around the holiday season, these little heroes don’t always get to spend time with their families doing the things most other children do, like building snowmen, making cookies or watching a holiday concert.

The Washington National Guard’s 133d Army Band conducted a tour in December they called “Operation Holiday Heroes.” The tour came to be as a collective approach by the band to try to reach Washington residents who may not be able to get out and see a holiday concert.

“We’re fortunate to represent the men and women of the Washington National Guard to the great people of Washington State,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Little, a senior instrumentalist for the 133d Army Band. “There is a special part of that population... our children and our veterans, and they sometimes can’t go see a concert at a concert hall or an auditorium.”

The band decided that this year, instead of having them come to the performance, they would bring the performance to them. They feel that the children and veterans are an indelible part of the population that keeps the rest of us going, so they are excited

Pilot For a Day

Story by Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown, 141st Air Refueling Wing, WAANG

Fairchild AFB, Wash. - Sam Diaz, an 8-year-old boy from Spokane, Wash., recently earned his honorary pilot's wings over the course of a single work day. His wings earn him a spot as an honorary pilot in the 116th Air Refueling Wing; but it is outside the aircraft that really matters to Sam.

The weather-loving third-grader has been diagnosed with epidermolysis bullosa, a rare genetic skin disorder that causes wounds all over the body due to extremely fragile skin. That doesn't stop Sam from living life. Sam's interests include playing soccer, learning about science and he loves tornados and hurricanes. "He checks weather radar daily," said his mother, Allison. "He really hopes to see a tornado someday."

It wasn't a surprise when Sam's face lit up at the weather shop, during his visit with the Air Force meteorologists. When he saw the 3-D weather radar a big smile crept across his face. The weather shop explained to Sam why monitoring and producing weather reports are important to the Air Force and how weather affects flight operations. Sam learned how to use a handheld weather meter and a lensatic compass. Sam also visited the Aircrew Flight Equipment shop, the Flight Safety Simulator, the Fairchild Fire Department and toured a KC-135 Stratotanker and a UH-72A Lakota



(L-R) Maj. Jeremy Higgins 141st Operations Group, Julio Diaz, Allison Diaz, Sam Diaz, Capt. Russell Leinart, 116th Aerial Refueling Squadron, and Col. Daniel Swain, 141st Air Refueling Wing commander pose for a picture following Sam's "pinning on" ceremony (Washington Air National Guard photo by: Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown, 141st ARW)

Helicopter.

At the end of the day he was brought back to the 116th Air Refueling Squadron for the official "pinning on" ceremony presided over by the 141st Air Refueling Wing Commander Col. Daniel J. Swain.

Governor Inslee Honors SR 530 Responders

Story by Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown,
141st Air Refueling Wing, WAANG

Olympia, Wash. - Signs of recognition and thanks from Washington Gov. Jay Inslee now decorate facilities at Camp Murray to honor those within the Washington Military Department that helped respond following the SR 530 Landslide in Snohomish County.

Inslee hosted a recognition ceremony and reception to celebrate the Military Department, where he expressed his appreciation for the tireless efforts of WMD employees and Guardsmen that assisted in the response and recovery efforts. During his speech, Inslee recognized several personnel by name, including Robert Ezelle of the Emergency Management Division, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Barton, 141st Civil Engineering Squadron and Col. Michael Weitzel, 81st Brigade commander. All were given a certificate of appreciation from Inslee for their personal contributions to the slide.

"One of the things that stood out was that the governor remembered the names and faces of some of our members that assisted in the slide cleanup," said Senior Airman Charlotte Gibson, 141st Civil Engineer squadron search and extraction technician. "The fact that he remembered specific people and the actions they did was pretty cool."

Seeing the support for the Washington National Guard meant a lot to Gibson. "I always look forward to getting out there



Washington State Governor Jay Inslee presents certificates of appreciation to members of the Washington Military department. (Left to right) Director Robert Ezelle, Col. Michael Weitzel and Senior Master Sgt. Jay Barton (Courtesy photo)

and meeting the citizens we serve, showing them that this is why the guard exists and their tax dollars are being put to good use," she said.

In a similar fashion Inslee said, "Washington State is getting their money's worth with our Guard personnel."

Gibson summed up the experience with this, "I believe we have shown Washington State our capabilities over the course of the last year and how this mission is important for our state."

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

If you would like to submit anything for the "ATD" section send us an email to: pao@washingtonguard.org

MONTESANO READINESS CENTER



(Photo courtesy of: Tom Frederikson)

Montesano, Wash. - Two National Guard detachments from transportation companies in Grays Harbor will be in a prime position to help in local emergencies throughout the region.

1041st and 1161st Transportation Companies both include local detachments located out of the Montesano Readiness Center. In November, the facility opened its doors for an open house and welcomed the community to take a look around. The 1041st main body is located out of Spokane, while the 1161st main body is located out of Ephrata.

Aberdeen Mayor Bill Simpson said he had been part of the community for decades, but never set foot in the old Armory, which has been rebranded into the Montesano Readiness Center. He lauded the transparency of the National Guard.

"I've always supported our men in uniform and to take a look at what's inside here has really been amazing" Simpson said.

The largest National Guard response in recent years in Grays Harbor County was during the December 2007 wind storms, which knocked out power to the region for days and flooded the area. On nearby Interstate 5, the Lewis County area was hard-hit by flooding, including the closure of Interstate 5.

A capital budget provision by Gov. Jay Inslee includes \$5.25 million to replace

the existing roof at the Montesano Readiness Center as well as perform tenant improvements and to increase the facility's compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and to extend the service life of the existing facility.

1-161st INFANTRY DELIVERS THE GOODS



Deer Park, Wash. - Guardsmen from HHC and Bold Company 1-161st Infantry Battalion and the Washington Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion took some time out of their day in December to support the Deer Park High School Food drive and Vanessa Behan Crisis nursery baby goods drive in the Deer Park area.

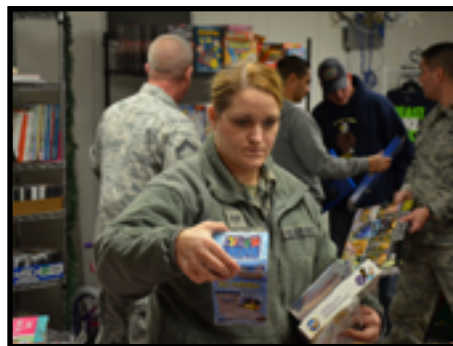
Guardsmen assisted the high school with the delivering of goods that had been collected at the high school. The administration for the school credited the National Guard's support, saying this sort of event helps get our kids personally invested in the community.

WASHINGTON STATE GUARD HONORS VETERANS



Seattle - Members of the Washington State Guard helped honor veterans by partaking in a memorial at the Evergreen Washelli Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Seattle on Veterans Day weekend.

WASHINGTON AIRMEN DELIVER HOLIDAY CHEER



Spanaway, Wash. - Airmen from the Western Air Defense Sector and the 194th Regional Support Wing joined forces and helped deliver and organize toy donations to the 8th Annual Mom & Pop Shop holiday toy drive sponsored in part by the Bethel School District. The airmen delivered toys, sorted them by age group and helped to set up the store before they opened to qualifying families.

141ST AIR REFUELING WING RECOGNIZED BY COMMUNITY



Fairchild AFB, Wash. - In November, the 141st Air Refueling Wing and members of the Homeland Response Force received the 2014 Community Partner Hero award from the American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter for their outstanding work in the days after the devastating State Route 530 landslide.

Upon receipt of an emergency declaration from Governor Jay Inslee, 78 Guardsmen from the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base rapidly responded and provided specialized Search & Extraction and Fatality Search & Recovery Team operations in the most austere conditions imaginable.

Air Guardsmen from the Spokane area volunteered to mobilize across the state, working tirelessly for more than two weeks as an integral part of the overall recovery operation.

Military Department Recognizes Outstanding Service Members

Camp Murray, Wash. - On Dec. 18th, the Washington Military Department held an awards luncheon to honor members of the department for their efforts during 2014. These members were recognized for going above and beyond and sometimes at great risk to serve the State of Washington. They include:

- **Mike Brower**, EMD-MRR-Public Assistance (PA) Program
- **Christine Dill**, EMD Director's Office
- **John Gadley**, CFMO, Maintenance
- **Tonya Benien**, Air Guard Maintenance West
- **Bernadette Petruska**, Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Office
- **Senior Amn. Nicole Holland**, 141st Medical Group
- **Technical Sgt. Jason Markin**, Western Air Defense Sector
- **Staff Sgt. Chase Warford**, 176th Engineer Company
- **Sgt. 1st Class Kelvin Gaut**, HHC 420th Chemical Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Richard Little**, 133d Army Band

Each awardee was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the Washington Military Department Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty.

New Leadership for Many WANG Units

The past three months have seen a slew of new commanders take charge of time honored units within the Washington National Guard. Here is a snapshot of some of those ceremonies:

In October, the 81st Brigade Combat Team saw the change of command between Col. Mike Weitzel and Col. Bryan Grenon; the 2-205th Leadership Regt. welcomed Lt. Col. Damon Hunt as he took over for Lt. Col. Yong Lee; and the 420th Chemical Battalion said goodbye to Lt. Col. James Bridgman as he passed command to Lt. Col. Zara Walters.

December 9th, the 741st Ordnance Battalion conducted a change of command between Lt. Col. Peter Hudspeth (outgoing) and Lt. Col. Derek Johnson (incoming).

The Washington Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion also held a change of command ceremony December 13th to hail the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Doug Palmer and honor the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Lieggi.

Digital Content Awareness



Story by Chris Barnes

We all work hard, and many of us look for ways to do even more. It may be tempting to use our personal phone or computer to allow us to work at home or on the road. There is a danger in this though: you are exposing everything on your personal device to public scrutiny.

In the recent court decision, *Nissen v. Pierce County et al.*, the Court of Appeals verified that any public business done on a personal device is subject to disclosure under the state Public Records Act. In this case, a county official used his personal cell phone to conduct official business. A public records request was made for the text messages and call logs of that phone. The text messages and call logs related to official business were released, and those related to personal business were blacked out (though it is still not decided if the personal portions of the records can be blacked out).

By using a personal device to do our work, we run the risk of having a similar thing happen to us. The state Public Records Act has protections built in to keep our private information from public view. By keeping a close eye on the separation between our public and personal lives we can keep serving the people of Washington State while also maintaining our own privacy. Don't let a well-meaning attempt to get more done result in this unintended consequence.

If you are interested in ways to access your work while out of the office, please talk with your supervisor. You can discuss the options and find out if they are right for you. If you have any questions about public disclosure, please feel free to contact me at:

Chris Barnes
Public Records Officer
(253) 512-8110
chris.barnes@mil.wa.gov



Seattle Seahawks Salute Washington Veterans



Story by Cpt. Joseph Siemandel, Public Affairs Officer, WANG

Seattle - Sgt. Joey Becker can't believe what he just did.

The UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief with 1-140th Aviation Regiment leans out the side window of the Black Hawk as he monitors the side and clearance over CenturyLink Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks.

"This could be one of the coolest things I have ever done in my Guard career," he says with a grin. "I hope someone got some good photos!"

On Nov. 9th, the Super Bowl Champion Seattle Seahawks in partnership with the National Football League and United Services Automobile Association (USAA), conducted their annual "Salute to Service" game against the New York Giants in front of nearly 70,000 fanatical fans, known as "12's," which also gave the team a chance to show their sup-

ties that they will never forget.

Weeks prior to the game, the Seahawks put a call out to the uniformed services to find that one special "12" that would lead the team out of the tunnel. That is when 1st Lt. Aaron Clancy answered the call.

"I am a lifelong Seahawks fan, so when I saw the announcement, I was just hopeful I would get picked," said Clancy. "I can't believe it was me that received this honor out of so many."

Clancy is a former member of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment stationed on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He's an Oregon native and commissioned into the Washington Army National Guard as a medical services corps officer. He currently serves in the Medical Command on Camp Murray.

"It was so fast paced, I stood waiting and then was told to go, and it was just amazing," Clancy added.

As Clancy ran out onto the field, a reenlistment ceremony on the other end of the field saw 10 guardsmen take the oath of service administered by Maj. Chris Blanco,

"As we walked through the promenade, it was a really heartwarming experience because everyone was standing and cheering,"

-Staff Sgt. Koleen Elsberry

port to the men and women of the Armed Forces. One of the calls the team made while planning was to their hometown partners, the Washington National Guard.

"Anytime we have needed someone to step up and help, the Guard has been there," said Seattle Seahawks' Fan Development Assistant Director Armando Meija. "The relationship between the team and the Washington National Guard has been fantastic."

Through that relationship, more than 100 guardsmen participated in the pre-game and halftime festivities for the NFL's annual celebration of the United States military. Some of the Guardsmen had once-in-a-lifetime opportuni-



Staff Sgt. Koleen Elsberry (center) from the 122d Public Affairs Operations Center, stands at attention after customized "veteran's seating" is revealed during halftime. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Brianne Patterson)

Washington National Guard Deputy Human Resources Officer.

“When I was in recruiting, I always saw others conducting the ceremony on the field in photos, so I was excited to be able to be the one selected for this,” said Maj. Blanco.

More than 50 Guardsmen joined 150 other service members to unfold a 100 foot long, 1,000 lb. U.S. flag across the field as the national anthem was sung.

122d Public Affairs Operation Center Readiness NCO, Staff Sgt. Koleen Elsberry was one of the 50 guardsmen that helped with the flag.

“As we walked through the promenade, it was a really heartwarming experience because everyone was standing and cheering,” said Elsberry. “It made me very proud to serve.”

But it was Sgt. Becker and the unannounced surprise that had fans standing up to cheer.

In September, only one week into the season, the Seahawks staff approached the Washington National Guard Public Affairs Office about a special flyover for the game, as a way to honor all service members and bring more excitement to the nationally-televised game. The day of execution finally arrived after months of quiet planning and coordinating.

“This wasn’t the first flyover I [have] conducted over a stadium, but this was pretty awesome,” said Cpt. Jonathan Uran, a CH-47 Chinook Pilot assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 66th Theater Aviation Command. “I know the fans

enjoyed it and our guys were excited to be chosen for this mission.”

As cell phone videos and photos of the flyover went viral across social media channels, with an estimated 4 million people seeing and sharing the moment, the mission continued on for the Guard.

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In September, only one week into the season, the Seahawks staff approached the Washington National Guard Public Affairs Office about a special flyover for the game, as a way to honor all service members and bring more excitement to the nationally-televised game. The day of execution finally arrived after months of quiet planning and coordinating.

“This wasn’t the first flyover I [have] conducted over a stadium, but this was pretty awesome,” said Cpt. Jonathan Uran, a CH-47 Chinook Pilot assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 66th Theater Aviation Command. “I know the fans

Story by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian
JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG



There is always the 5th Annual Flag Football game, Army Guard...keep up the hard work.

STAYING LEAN

Story by: Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG

Camp Murray, Wash. - The Washington Military Department has a trained Lean Black Belt instructor which gives us the ability to train Green Belt facilitators within the organization.

Six students from each branch of the department recently went through the inaugural Lean Green Belt course designed to turn them into a facilitator in order to help solve problems within the organization and make us more efficient in what we do. This new week-long course gives us the ability to train Green Belts within our state at an extremely reduced cost as opposed to sending them to the Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“Green belt training is an advanced form of teaching Soldiers, Airmen and state employees about Lean practices and Lean principles,” said Ron Kapral, State Lean Continuous Process Improvement Director.

Lean was originally developed as a way for manufactur-

ers to eliminate waste within their production process and to improve the customer’s overall experience.

“We’re not necessarily in manufacturing where we’re saving money,” Kapral said. “But we do have a customer and we do have efficiencies we can gain.”

The students were trained in how to develop working groups, to find the root cause of problems and how to improve those problems.

The students must now complete a project where they identify a current problem within the organization and provide possible solutions as their final assignment prior to being awarded their Green Belt. After which they will be given an Additional Skill Identifier which will be in their permanent records.



The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty addresses the six new Green Belt facilitators within the Washington Military Department.

The Great ShakeOut

Story by Mark Stewart,
Washington Military Department

Camp Murray, Wash. - More than 1 million Washingtonians participated in this year’s “drop, cover and hold on” drill this past October. This number beat 2013’s event by more than 210,000 people.

Participation came from every county in the state, with half from King and Pierce counties, which have among the most significant earthquake hazards in the state.

The majority of participants – more than 681,000 – came from schools. The next largest category of participants was colleges and universities.

“We continue to focus our outreach to our school and university partners across Washington State,” said John Schelling, interim Mitigation and Recovery Manager for the Department’s Emergency Management Division. “We’ve found that we can immediately improve community preparedness by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to practice earthquake and tsunami safety one day per year and sharing at home. It also helps the next generation to be more ready and resilient.”

Beyond participating in the drop, cover and hold on drill, the ShakeOut campaign encourages participants to do one more thing to prepare for earthquakes. The Department’s preparedness web site (mil.wa.gov/preparedness) has a variety of materials and



how-to videos that people can use to make their homes, pets, businesses, and themselves safer from earthquakes and other hazards. Many preparedness activities take a few minutes and cost little to complete.

Washington once again will participate in the 2015 Great ShakeOut. Save the date – 10:15 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2015!

WANG Biathlon Team Prepares to Take the Gold



Story by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian
JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG

Six soldiers from the Washington National Guard Biathlon Team partnered with the Utah National Guard Biathlon team to conduct biathlon training at Camp Williams, Utah, over a weekend in December. This included training on ski waxing, endurance skiing and biathlon rifle marksmanship. The focus of the training was to give new team members ski training, to build on weapon marksmanship skills and implement new equipment.

Teamwork during the training was exceptional. The

training presented a unique opportunity to train with Olympian Staff Sgt. Jeremy Teela who took time out of his personal schedule to provide specialized marksmanship training to the participants.

The team also recently received new competition equipment, such as wheeled training skis, boots and eye protection, but most visibly notable this year will be the colorful new uniforms emblazoned with the new team logo.

The team continues training in January at the Nordic Center at Stevens Pass, with skiing and shooting clinics that aims to sharpen their skills for races on the 24th and 25th, ultimately leading to the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship competition in March.





Members of the Washington Army National Guard 1-19th Special Forces Group perform High-Altitude, Low-Opening (HALO) jumps over western Washington. The special operations troops were ferried to their jump location by Washington's own 66th Theater Aviation Command. (Washington National Guard photo by: Spc. Matthew Sissel, 122nd PAOC, WAARNG)

The Arsenal wants YOU!

The Washington National Guard Museum at Building 2 "The Arsenal" located at Camp Murray is looking for volunteers. We are welcoming any skillset! Carpenters, model builders, automotive repair, computers, etc...



If you would like to volunteer at "The Arsenal" call 253-512-7834 or stop by. Volunteer staff are on hand in the Museum on Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm