

Evergreen Magazine Summer / Fall 2021 Vol. 7, Issue 2



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COMMANDER IN CHIEF WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR

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Soldiers from the Washington National Guard take part in wildland fire fighter training with the Washington Department of Natural Resources at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on May 25, 2021. The Washington National Guard has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources since 2013 to conduct wildland fire fighter training annual. (U.S. National Guard photo by Joseph Siemandel)

SUMMER//FAEL 2021 WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT 3





TRANCES

training with teams from the of Natural Resources

but building the program up, helping us be more prepared to support when the state needs us."

Similar to previous years, aviation assets from 96th Aviation Troop Command have trained and certified with the Department of Natural Resources as well. In early June, Chinook crew members completed their classroom and drop training preparing for what could be a busy season.

"From all we are hearing from meteorologists with the DNR, this will be an intense fire season," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Schwend, a Chinook pilot with 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation.

Washington isn't the only western state preparing for wildfire season. Guardsmen in Oregon, California and Arizona actively engaged in fire training this spring. Fires devastated the west coast last year with more than 7 million acres destroyed.

"We know that this isn't just a state problem and we all need to be prepared to fight the common enemy," said Daugherty.

As of printing the Washington
National Guard has five hand crews
deployed to the Summit Trail Fire and
a helicopter team deployed out of
Fairchild Air Force Base supporting
multiple fires.

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEOS ABOUT HOW THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD IS PREPPED FOR WILDFIRE SEASON.



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- Story by Joseph Siemandel,

- Photos by Peter Chang and MSgt Mike Stewart



MAPPING THE BLAZE: RC-26 RAMPS UP DURING FIRE SEASON 2021

Given the notably hot and dry summers, most residents living in the Pacific Northwest expect and know fire season all too well. This year has been no exception.

Since 2017, the 141st Operations Group and its Airmen have been able to offer a vital resource in support of firefighting: the RC-26. This aircraft has the unique ability to not only map out wildfires in real time for firefighters and incident commanders on the ground via infrared camera, but it can detect hot spots before a wildfire even starts.

Onboard the RC-26, the mission systems operator gathers information on the fire which is then relayed to joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) who are embedded with firefighters down range -all within a matter of minutes.

Maj. Zachary Wagner, an RC-26 mission systems operator for the 141st OG, has taken command of this year's fire support mission.

"With the drought and weather out here this year, this is probably one of the worst wildland fire seasons that this country has ever seen," Wagner said. "Using assets like us to be a force multiplier and provide intelligence on all these fires helps firefighters to be able to protect communities, property and lives."

A typical day for Wagner during fire season consists of an early morning conference call with his teams and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) liaison, Joel Kerley, along with coordinators from various geographical area coordination centers around the western United States who relay requests for fire support.

"We're basically receiving those taskings and prioritizing them out and seeing what we're able to do on that certain day," Wagner said. "We'll all be up on that call early in the morning and establish what the priority is and figure out what we can do to hopefully meet all of those requests."

The 141st has been tasked to provide this kind of support every summer for the past five years and it's only getting busier which means all hands on deck and reaching out to other units to help fulfill requests.

Airmen from all around the country have traveled to western states to provide their support either tactically on the ground or in the air with the technology from the RC-26.

"The mission runs seven days a week and we're flying more than eight hours a day," said Wagner. "We have pilots from Alabama and Texas flying our planes, aircrew from West Virginia, and JTACs from Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York and Oklahoma."

Kerley, who helped design the program, has been the NIFC liaison since 2014 and has seen the program evolve into what it is today.

"Integration of the program into our world in fire has proven invaluable," Kerley said. "It's a great program and it just gets better every year; the guys get better, the systems get better, and the RC-26 is outfitted with the best equipment."

With the information gathered from the RC-26, fire commanders can plan and make decisions quicker than ever before.

"We've built this program into a spot that I wouldn't say that we depend on it but we're so much better with it," said Kerley. "We don't change how we fight fire with it, what we do is we speed up the decision making and that's huge for us."

The 141st RC-26 aircrew members are slated to be activated through September to assist in firefighting efforts. - Story by 141st ARW PAO

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES - ARE YOU PREPARED?

Being prepared for disasters is everyone's job, including YOU. Be creative as you prepare your family to be 2 Weeks Ready. Together, we can build a disaster resilient Washington.

LEARN YOUR HAZARDS

Learning about the hazards near where you work, play, and live will help you and your family be prepared for disasters that could happen, like earthquakes, floods, and pandemics.

HAVE A PLAN

Having a family disaster plan gives you peace of mind when a disaster happens. Decide as a family where your meeting locations are and who your out-of-area contact is.

BUILD KITS

You and your family may be on your own for at least two weeks when a disaster happens. Build a 2 Weeks Ready kit at home and smaller kits for work, school, and vehicles.

The Washington Emergency
Management Division is happy to
provide many free resources to help you
prepare you and your family for any
potential disasters that could happen.

Take some time and visit our Preparedness website to learn how you can be better prepared.





LEVELS 1 2 3





FIRE

FLOOD

EARTHQUAKE

VOLCANO

ANO STORI















Have your **EMERGENCY KIT**





VEL 3 LEAVE NOW]



LEAVE NOW. You are in immediate danger.



CHECK MEDIA for more information.



WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Learn more at https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival.



COMMUNICATIONS

- Keep your cell phone fully charged.
 Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status.
 Update regularly.
- Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to fridge or inside a front window.
- Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare at first sign of fire.

ON YOUR PERSON

- ☐ Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- ☐ Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection.
- Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie long hair back.
- ☐ Carry a headlamp *and* flashlight (even during the day).
- ☐ Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
- ☐ Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- ☐ Put "Go Kits" (reverse) in your vehicle.

PETS & ANIMALS

- ☐ Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won't be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- ☐ Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- ☐ Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them unlocked.
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- ☐ Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures (optional: place in a pool).
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- Connect garden hoses with squeezegrip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use
 by firefighters.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- ☐ Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house.
- ☐ Back your car into driveway, loaded, with doors and windows closed.
- Prop open fence and side gates.
- ☐ Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- Seal attic and ground vents with precut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave if spot fires ignite or conditions change.

Leave immediately if ordered.

- Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.
- ☐ Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic.
- Take only essential vehicles with adequate fuel.
- In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC, tune to local radio.
- Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest *paved* route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible.
- Proceed downhill, away from the fire if possible. Know at least two routes.
- ☐ If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an outside turn if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.
- If trapped, you are better protected inside a building or vehicle.
- Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.
- Evacuate on foot only as a last resort.
- Don't evacuate by fire road, uphill, or into open-space areas with unburned vegetation.
- ☐ Remain calm panic is deadly.

WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY "GO KIT"

Put together an emergency supply kit in advance for each family member and keep it easily accessible. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have their own Go Kit. Store kits in backpacks.

- Bandana, N95 respirator, goggles, leather gloves, long shirt and pants (cotton or wool), boots, hat
- ☐ Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries
- ☐ Extra car keys, credit cards, cash

- ☐ Map marked with two evacuation routes (if possible)
- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Copies of important docs (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc.)
- Pet food and water, leashes, pet supplies and medications

- ☐ Water bottles and food
- Sanitation suppliesChange of clothing
- Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Items to take only if time allows:

- ☐ Easily carried valuables
- Family photos, small heirlooms, and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer data and digital information backups on hard drives and/or disks



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECEIVES FULL ACCREDITATION

On July 23, the Washington Emergency Management Division received full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), a national organization that ensures emergency management organizations do their jobs well.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment that the agency meets a standard created and honed by experts within the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Emergency management programs nationwide use accreditation to prove the capabilities of their disaster preparedness and response systems.

"The state of Washington is commended for the work accomplished to achieve compliance with industry standards. To achieve accreditation, your program, which includes many agencies and individuals within the program, took steps to document compliance with 64 industry-recognized standards and a peer-review on-site assessment by a team of EMAP trained assessors," wrote Nicholas Crossley, the chair of the EMAP Commission.

Crossley noted that accreditation recognizes the ability of programs to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to a disaster of any may type.

Washington state started the process in 2017 and received conditional accreditation in December 2019. Conditional accreditation was awarded because there were a few areas that needed to be adjusted to receive full accreditation.

Washington Emergency Management Division Director Robert Ezelle noted that the full accreditation was achieved with everything else going on, including activation of the state Emergency Operations Center for the longest time in state history because of COVID-19.

"This is the culmination of several years of hard work by our statewide team to document that we are in full compliance with the Emergency Management Standard," Ezelle told staff in an email. "This is truly a team effort. You should be proud of your accomplishment and the fact that we now number among the states that claim full accreditation."

"Congratulations to all!" added Maj. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty. "I'm really proud of everyone who played a role in this accreditation. This is a major, professional accomplishment."

Daugherty also awarded a special award for the quarter to Assessment & Exercise Supervisor Robert Sabarese for his efforts to guide the agency from conditional to full accreditation, helping Washington become the 29th state to complete this program.

"We applaud the state of Washington's leadership and congratulate you on your commitment to achieve accreditation," Crossley with the EMAP commission added. "More importantly, we recognize the dedication to the safety and security of the residents that it represents." - Story by Steven Friederich

FILLING THE GAPS: STATE ADDS 50 NEW SIRENS

Fifty new tsunami sirens installed by the Washington Emergency Management Division have completed the statewide tsunami siren network and will help make the coast a safer place.

The new All-Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens are filling critical gaps in the tsunami warning infrastructure. Without the funding from the Washington state Legislature and the hard work and dedication of partners across Western Washington, completing the siren network could have taken another 20 years.

There are now 122 sirens on the Washington coast, which are run and maintained by the state. The state installed the first siren in 2005, and over the next 15 years, brought that number to 72. The last 50 sirens took about two years to install, which is an unprecedented achievement. View a map of the sirens at this link.

In July, more than 100 stakeholders will conduct a seminar and workshop exercise looking at the threat a tsunami could have on Washington state. The sirens will not be activated during the exercise. It will take place virtually with assistance from federal, state, tribal and local government leaders, as well as emergency management, the private sector and other key coastal partners discussing tsunami alerting and response.

The AHAB tsunami sirens are intended to act as an outdoor tsunami alerting method for people and communities on or near the beach who may not otherwise have access to other official alerting methods via radio, TV or their smartphones. This is especially helpful for "distant" tsunami events from places like Alaska, Japan or Southeast Asia. The tsunami sirens are NOT meant to be heard inside. Residents should invest in NOAA Weather Radios to hear tsunami alerts while inside their homes.

The Washington Emergency Management Division coordinated with state, tribal and local partners to identify and fill the tsunami siren gaps for high risk communities. Local partners may decide on their own to add more sirens as the years progress.

"This life-saving project brought together state agencies, tribal, county and city emergency management as well as other important stakeholders to ensure Washington's coastal communities can be alerted in the event of a tsunami warning," said Maximilian Dixon, the geologic hazards supervisor for the state Emergency Management Division.

Dixon also highlighted the work of Robert Purdom of the Washington Emergency Management Division. Purdom has been directly in charge of the maintenance and installation of the sirens for many years and did unprecedented work to ensure the siren network was completed, choosing to delay retirement until he was able to see his job finished.

Dixon says the state's attention now will be to improve tsunami evacuation route signage, as well as working with local officials on vertical tsunami evacuation structures. - Story By Steven Friederich

TO STATEWIDE TSUNAMI SIREN NETWORK

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

The Pacific Coast, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and large lakes are at risk from tsunamis, which are a series of extremely long waves that threaten people and property along shorelines. Sudden raising or lowering of the earth's crust during earthquakes are usually the main cause of a tsunami, although landslides and underwater volcanic eruptions also can generate them. Movements of the sea floor or lakebed, or rock fall into an enclosed body of water, displace the water column, setting off a series of waves that radiate outward like pond ripples.

In the deep ocean, tsunami waves are relatively harmless. Only as a tsunami approaches land does it become a hazard; in shallow water, it gains height as its waves slow and compress. Tsunamis do not resemble their usual icon, a towering wave with a breaking crest. Instead, they come onshore resembling a series of quickly rising tides, and they withdraw with currents much like those of a river. Swift currents commonly cause most of the damage from tsunamis. A Pacific Ocean tsunami can affect the entire Pacific basin, while a tsunami in inland waters can affect many miles of shoreline.

Tsunamis typically cause the most severe damage and casualties near their source. There, waves are highest because they have not yet lost much energy. The nearby coastal population often has little time to react before the tsunami arrives. Persons caught in the path of a tsunami often have little chance to survive - debris may crush them or they may drown. Children and the elderly are particularly at risk, as they have less mobility, strength and endurance.

WHY SIRENS?

All 3,000 miles of Washington's coastline are at risk of tsunamis. For local tsunamis, those caused by nearby earthquakes, the groundshaking is your warning that a tsunami could be on the way. However, for distant tsunamis, those caused by earthquakes in other parts of the world, there is no groundshaking to warn you about the approaching danger. Tsunami sirens therefore play an integral role in ensuring Washington's public receives ample warning for distant events. The sirens have an audible range of approximately 1 mile, though this varies depending on environmental factors like topography, wind direction and physical barriers. The pole-mounted voice/tone sirens are also topped with a blue light for the hard of hearing. The sirens are not intended to be heard indoors.

SIREN TESTING

The siren system is tested on the first Monday of every month at noon. The sirens play the Westminster Chimes followed by an audio message in English and Spanish. The sirens are also tested once a year with the actual tsunami warning wail sound on the third Thursday in October in conjunction with the Great Washington ShakeOut earthquake and tsunami drill.

KNOW YOUR TSUNAMI WARNING SIGNS

If you hear the siren wailing sound, or you receive a tsunami warning through your smartphone, TV, radio, or other alerting method, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. This is your warning that a tsunami is approaching and you need to evacuate the inundation zone as soon as possible.

If you are on the coast and you feel ground shaking, drop, cover and hold on to protect yourself. When the shaking stops, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. Do not wait to hear a tsunami siren or to receive an official tsunami alert – the shaking is your warning that a tsunami may be on its way.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TSUNAMIS AND HOW YOU CAN BE BETTER PREPARED.



CHANGING HER STORY

3,000TH GRADUATE FOUND A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE AT YOUTH ACADEMY

Cadet CaraMia Wright struggled with her decision to come to guidelines that helped keep the teens and staff safe. the Washington Youth Academy. She also struggled to stay, at one time running away, only to come back. But she and members of the Youth Academy staff say her struggle was one with some bad choices that she overcame to become a standout member of Cycle 21-1.

"I went up to people in town and said, 'I need to get out of here. I need to get back to Tacoma.' They just looked at me and said please go back to the academy," Wright said.

Washington Youth Academy Director Amy Steinhilber says she chose Cadet Wright to be the 3,000th graduate of the Academy after hearing her story and seeing how much growth she had achieved over the past six months.

"She is a young person who was able to recognize she needed to do something different," Steinhilber said. "And she gradually took ownership and took part in the change she needed to make in her life."

Wright, who grew up in Tacoma, but will now head back to Spanaway Lake High School, believes that the Washington Youth Academy not only set her on a better path but also saved her life.

"This was a last resort for me," Wright said. "Before coming to the Youth Academy, life wasn't going good for me. I was homeless off and on for three years, I was not attending, failing and dropping out of school, and I was just going nowhere. At the shelter one night, a lady came and talked with me about the Washington Youth Academy, and I decided this was the change in life I needed."

Wright was one of the cadets that were selected for the first in-person class following the shutdown of the in-person instruction on campus in March 2020 due to COVID-19. In January, the Youth Academy welcomed cadets back after the previous class was forced into a remote learning model. There was a reduced number of cadets and health and safety

"We have had to get creative with how we maintain social distancing protocols and still provide the structure and educational needs of the cadets," said Steinhilber. "It truly has been a credit to the staff and teachers that they worked through it."

There are 80 cadets who graduated from the academy this cycle. To comply with safety guidelines, there were three in-person graduations conducted at the Historic Roxy Theatre in Bremerton on June 19. Lt. Gov. Denny Heck was the featured speaker.

The occasion marks a milestone for the Washington Youth Academy and Steinhilber believes that Wright is the perfect representation of how the academy can help.

"She is why this program exists," Steinhilber said. "She needed to find that amazing person inside of her that was being shoved down and hiding. When she finally made that commitment, that person started to appear."

Steinhilber also believes that Wright will continue to succeed because she has a key support network that just wouldn't give up on her.

"She has overcome a wealth of obstacles in her life and struggled to become a confident and hopeful person," Steinhilber said. "You know, she did give up, but she overcame that and used it as fuel to grow. She was able to listen and use that as fuel to propel herself to success."

Following graduation, Wright plans to finish high school, earning her diploma and then wants to travel the world.

"I want to be a flight attendant or join the military. I just want to get away," Wright said. "For so long I thought that it was just Tacoma, then just Washington and now I know there is a huge world out there to see and be a part of."

SCAN TO LEARN HOW THE **WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY HAS CHANGED** CADET WRIGHT'S LIFE.





MESSAGE FROM THE TOP: RECOGNITION AND EDUCATION TAKE CENTER STAGE DURING NATIONAL GUARD LEADERS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

An exceptional year, which included responses to a global pandemic, multiple civil disturbances, cyber attacks and catastrophic wildfires, earned the Washington National Guard a visit from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"When I get asked about what is the greatest part of being on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I always say it is because I get to share the stories of our National Guard," said Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau during a visit to Camp Murray on July 20, 2021. "All of these types of missions are what makes the National Guard so special."

Hokanson, along with his wife Kelly and Chief Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, made a stop at Camp Murray during a trip through the Pacific Northwest that included stops in Idaho and Oregon.

"I get to tell our nation's leaders about all the great things the National Guard is doing every day," said Hokanson. "After this past year, if folks didn't know what the National Guard was all about, they sure do now."

In Washington, more than 2,200 Guard personnel have been activated since March 2020 in support of the state's COVID-19 response, doing everything from working at food banks, supporting the state's vaccination effort, assembling and administering COVID-19 test kits, transporting hospital equipment and ensuring Washingtonians receive unemployment benefits. At the high point, more than 50,000 Guardsmen were activated nationally in support of the COVID-19 response mission.

"The things you got to do here are truly phenomenal, getting to work with your communities directly," said Hokanson. "It was your flexibility and professionalism that made what we have done possible."

After receiving briefings about the wildfires burning across Washington and last year's civil unrest support, Hokanson observed Cyber Shield 2021, the largest cyber exercise in the U.S. Army. For the last decade Washington has been considered a leader for the country in terms of the National Guard's support to cyber security operations.

"I often use Washington as an example when I am in meetings," said Hokanson. "Before I can finish I am often stopped and told, 'We get it. Washington is setting the standard.' But that is a credit to what you all are doing."

During the briefing, Hokanson spoke with public and private sector partners that also took part in Cyber Shield 2021. The group ranged from multiple Public Utility Districts and universities to the Coast Guard and Guardsmen who work full-time at Amazon.

"The beauty about the Guard is we mix that experience and education into everything that we do, and it is so critical that we continue to work with all of you (our partners)," said Hokanson.

Whitehead spent the majority of his visit talking with both senior and junior enlisted leaders from the Washington Army and Air National Guard during an engagement breakout.

"We need our enlisted leaders to provide feedback to what is working and what isn't working in our ranks," said Whitehead. "I want to provide your feedback to our leaders in Washington D.C. so we can continue to support you better."

The engagement covered a number of topics, including how Guardsmen train for the new physical fitness tests when not on duty, promotion and manning issues as well as the orders process.

"The chance to talk directly with the senior enlisted advisor of the National Guard is an amazing opportunity," said Command Sgt. Major Bruce Ecclestone, Washington National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader. "I know each person that was in that room got something out of that experience that they can take back to their units."

Mrs. Hokanson, who often travels with her husband, received a briefing and conducted a breakout session with the Washington National Guard's Joint Service Support. She learned about the programs offered in Washington as well as the family issues that the JSS often assists with.

"Having the ability to talk directly with Mrs. Hokanson, who is an amazing advocate for our National Guard families, was important for our staff," said Carl Steele, director of the Washington National Guard's JSS. "We appreciated the time we got with her and ability to share what we see as important issues here in our state."





A LOOK BACK ON 9/11 - ONE GUARDSMAN'S SERVICE ON THAT DAY

As Robert Ezelle prepared to go home after the horrendous events of 9/11, he took a last look out over the operations floor in the Western Air Defense Sector (WADS) building at McChord Field.

"We had those old green radar screens, and those scopes were never blank," he recalled.

"But on that night, there was not a single blip. It was surreal, and that feeling continued as I drove home. I knew that what we had experienced had changed us profoundly."

Normalcy for him began as the son of a foreign service officer who served both in Hong Kong and Europe. Returning to the United States at age 17, he enrolled at Occidental College. He graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1977.

After a couple of years of work, he decided to join the Air Force. He earned his commission in 1980.

"Growing up I had read everything I could on military history and aviation," he continued, "and after I was commissioned, I began my career as a pilot."

Ezelle went on to say that by nature he is calm, deliberative, analytical and driven to accomplish what he sets out to do.

While on active duty, he flew F-4s, F-15s and F-16s. In 1993 he joined the Washington Air National Guard where he flew Vipers. Serving until 2010, he retired as a colonel.

Currently, Ezelle serves as the director of the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department.

"A lot of people invested in me, from my wife to my parents to my instructor pilots to Maj. Gen. Daugherty," he said.

Daugherty is The Adjutant General of the State of Washington

Everything from his deliberative nature to the lessons Ezelle had learned from the important people in his life was put to the test on the morning of 9/11.

"I was driving to work, and I was listening to the radio when I heard the announcer begin to talk about the World Trade Center (WTC) as a target," began the former Guardsman who at the time was director of operations.

"I began to wonder why the WTC was important to terrorists, and then I began to think that something must have happened."

As he drove down Bridgeport Avenue in Lakewood, WA on his way to McChord Field, Ezelle then heard that another airliner had struck the WTC.

"My pager went off, and it was clear to me what was happening," he continued.

Running into the building and up to his office, Ezelle told his flight scheduler to contact every fighter base up and down the west coast.

"I told her to call them all; to generate jets with whatever ordnance they could and get them ready to launch."

In setting up the air defense posture, Ezelle's scheduler at that moment knew nothing about the attack.

"The confusion of the events had to be sorted through," he explained. "We were clearly under attack; we knew that airliners were weapons; we had to establish situational awareness."

And that was a problem.

"Our radar looked out for incoming aircraft. We had no picture on the inside, we could not identify airliners operating in our air space," he explained.

"We worked with the FAA (Federal Aviation Agency) in order to bring airliners in as we initiated combat air patrols."

As Ezelle and his staff continued to labor, they wondered what else was out there. As the morning wore on, they learned that four planes had been involved in the attack.

At some point, First Air Force called and told Ezelle that he was to be the commander in charge of ensuring that Air Force One with President George W. Bush on board return safely to Washington DC.

When the attack on the WTC occurred, the President had been reading to a group of 2nd graders at an elementary school in Sarasota, Florida. Soon after, a third plane struck the Pentagon, and a fourth plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

"We managed the chaos; we worked very well as a team; we got President Bush back to Washington safely," concluded Ezelle.

But the world – a<mark>nd Americ</mark>a – has changed as the threats introduced that day have evolved.

"But I do have a heartfelt 'thank you' to each and every one of you today who keep us safe." - Story by John Simpson





A recently hired curator at the Washington National Guard museum hopes to bring new life to old objects that are critical to understanding the organization's past.

"I am fascinated with how we connect humans to objects," said Dr. Stephanie Carter, who moved here from Florida to accept this newly created position. "You and I can both look at the same object and have different connections based on our background. I think that is important in telling stories in museums."

Carter brings a wealth of knowledge to the Washington National Guard museum, with a background in anthropology and museum studies. She recently completed her doctorate on material culture, which is the study of how humans view and attach value to objects.

Carter will spend her days at the "Arsenal," as it is often referred to. It's the oldest building on Camp Murray, which volunteers from the Washington National Guard State Historical Society transformed into a working museum approximately 30 years ago. Many of these volunteers served in the Washington National Guard and spent countless hours archiving and preserving artifacts for display. As the volunteer numbers have dwindled due to retirements and other commitments, the need for a full-time museum curator became clear.

"If you look around, the hard work and the passion that the historical society put in is incredible," said Carter. "I came in and it was just incredible. You can see the blood, sweat and tears and passion for the Guard."

One of Carter's goals is to move the museum forward while also honoring the past.

"One of my favorite history quotes is from Teddy Roosevelt. He said you have to understand history to understand your future," Carter said. "I think it is important to tell our story, the story of the Guard through objects and stories. It shows the important work the National Guard has done."

Due to staffing, the Camp Murray Museum is open on Wednesdays when volunteers are available and open by appointment on other days. - Story by Joseph Siemandel, Photo by Peter Chang



When asked about what makes the 420th Chemical Battalion special, Lt. Col. Marco Brettmann doesn't hesitate with his answer.

"I don't believe there is anything our units can't accomplish. We can deploy worldwide and accomplish our federal mission but also get utilized stateside for wild land fires, law enforcement support, or CBRN events like the pandemic over the last year and a half," said Brettmann. "We do all that while having multiple units that do not share the same skill sets."

One of the most unique units in the Washington National Guard, the 420th Chemical Battalion, stationed at the Yakima Readiness Center, is made up of the 176th Engineer Company, 506th Military Police Company, 792nd Chemical Company and 1041st Transportation Company.

They are also a key contributor to the Washington National Guard's FEMA Region X Homeland Response Force, providing support to the state's COVID-19 response for much of the last two years.

"At one point we had nearly 50 percent of the battalion supporting the state's COVID mission," said Brettmann. "Training for our other missions took a back seat until this spring."

One unit's training that was affected by the activation was the 792nd Chemical Company out of Grandview.

Given its mission, the 792nd Chemical Company is trained to be prepared for a wide variety of unexpected situations. However, the last year presented unimaginable challenges that placed its training on hold.

"I have been here three years," said Capt. Brandon Cheney, commander of the 792nd Chemical Battalion, based out of Grandview. "The first year of my command we supported a National Training Center rotation. Last year we were supporting the state's COVID-19 response. This year is our first year we were able to train on our specialization skills. Our soldiers were eager to gear up and start training again."

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As part of its annual training plan, the unit contracted with the HAMMER Federal Training Center, which provides realistic, hands-on, up-to-date training on a number of different roles a Chemical, Biological, Radiological And Nuclear specialist would conduct.

"Our soldiers are able to get training in both a realistic field environment and in the classroom, so the facility is a great resource," said Cheney.

While much of the unit was part of the COVID-19 response the past 15 months, 40 Guard personnel took part in a number of different drills, including a man-down and chemical sampling exercise.

"The man down exercise puts our teams in a high stress, low light environment where they have to find and extract an injured team member in a contaminated environment," said Cheney. "We pump fog into the obstacle lane and create a sense of stress for our soldiers."

Staff Sgt. Darin Munhall, the unit's training non-commissioned officer, used to be with the 10th Civil Support Team and says his years on the 22-man CST brings knowledge to the team's exercises.

"We are taking things we did with the CST and providing it to our traditional Guardsmen," said Munhall.

In the chemical sampling exercise Guardsmen are gathering samples from a suspected domestic terrorist work area. The exercise includes lab equipment, photos of targets, hit lists and mysterious powder.

"It is similar to what you might have done in science class, except you are helping the authorities paint a picture," said Cheney. "Overall this is invaluable training and I'm glad our soldiers got the chance to do this."

Another unit that took advantage of their renewed training time this year was the 506th Military Police Company. This

year's annual training was a chance to return to collective unit training, as well as develop the skills of new soldiers in the formation.

"As a large percentage of the formation comprised of new soldiers, we utilized the first week of annual training to conduct training centered on the fundamentals of police and patrol work," said Capt. Daniel Lamothe, commander, 506th Military Police Detachment. "We have a wide range of experience in both the military and civilian sectors. We utilized this experience to conduct a comprehensive week-long training."

During the first week soldiers received classroom instruction on the elements of a crime, report writing, search and seizure, patrol tactics and use of force policy. The unit also trained on fundamental skills through a series of demonstrations and applied skills practice stations, centered around compliant and high risk suspect contact, traffic stops and high risk traffic stops and structure clearing.

"Applied skills practice stations are designed to provide soldiers with multiple repetitions on basic, yet crucial fundamental skills and are limited in scope so that soldiers focus on one piece of the larger task per station," said Lamothe.

Following the applied skills training, the unit took part in multiple exercises on routine traffic stops that led to high risk situations and structure clearing while locating and apprehending suspects. The unit then began a two-day law enforcement exercise which was designed to fully simulate a patrol shift to include opposing force role players and scenarios. These scenarios were designed to test a soldier's ability to be problem solvers and think critically while identifying and responding to calls for service.



"The focus of this training was to immerse soldiers into thinking and responding as Military Police officers," said Lamothe.

Following the completion of the training week, the 506th moved to Joint Base Lewis McChord where they conducted law enforcement operations with the base Directorate of Emergency Services. Soldiers worked alongside active duty military police from the 42nd Military Police Brigade conducting 24-hour patrol operations. Soldiers also worked within their area of specialty shadowing soldiers with the desk section handling and processing of reports and documentation, as well as investigations.

"Our soldiers performed exemplary during this time period, conducting traffic enforcement emphasis, responding to domestic violence calls and assaults and multiple other calls for service," said Lamothe.

After eight months of planning and preparing, the transportation specialists from the 1041st Transportation Company took to the road during it's annual training, heading to Fort Harrison, Montana to conduct the unit's largest training exercise in two years.

"This was a huge undertaking after Covid-19 forced units to conduct virtual drills," said Capt. Luis Torres, commander of the 1041st Transportation Company. "As a unit we rolled the dice and began planning last October on a challenging and engaging annual training to get our soldiers pumped up and ready to get back to training."

Annual training for the Montesano and Spokane based unit started out with a 670-mile drive from Fairchild Air Force Base to Fort Harrison.

"Fort Harrison is the home of Special Forces for the Montana National Guard and is a great location for training. The staff and training available is world class," said Torres. "It was a very busy time of the year with many units from across the nation simultaneously training here, so it was good for us to get in early and schedule our training."

While in Montana the unit underwent three days of intensive counter improvised explosive device training, conducted combat logistics patrols, reacted to direct and indirect fire, called up nine line unexploded ordnance and nine line MEDEVAC requests. The training included real simulated explosions and casualties with simunition rounds added for effect.

"This was an excellent annual training; everyone did excellent and we had no injuries," said Sgt. Kelsey Lehto, a motor vehicle transportation specialist from Pasco. "We trained every day."

When not on the training lane Guardsmen took to the class room to learn on the virtual convoy trainer, the engagement skills trainer with the new qualification tables and an individual readiness trainer, a crew-served weapons simulator that allowed Soldiers to familiarize with the M240B Machine Gun, the M2 50-caliber and the MK19 grenade launcher. Soldiers also received and practiced basic warriors' skills such as learning to read maps and plot grids, culminating in a practical land navigation course. Soldiers also received night vision goggle training and executed night vision driver's training.

"We were fortunate enough to have two mechanic attachments that supported our training and kept our equipment running as well as a medic that supported our needs and participated in the training with us," said Torres.

Sgt. Bradley Collar, the medical non-commissioned officer from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 420th Chemical Battalion was instrumental during the improvised explosive device lanes when the unit sustained simulated casualties, teaching the younger soldiers basic first aid and casualty care.

"It was something I had not done before, being in a long convoy. I wanted to support this training so I could experience things I had not done before that I could use to build my medical skills," said Collar. "This was a great experience. I was learning new things every day."

Along with the military specialty training the unit also conducted an Army Combat Fitness Test to familiarize the unit with the new requirements.

"After a year of not drilling, I felt the sense of unit identity had been lost," Torres said. "This was my opportunity to regain that. Waking up early to do physical fitness training and long days of training kept the soldiers engaged. This was a very successful annual training that soldiers really enjoyed and this is why they joined the National Guard to learn new things, explore new places and have fun and be engaged."

GUARD ENGINEERS CONSTRUCT PARK FOR ROGUE RIVER PROJECT BRINGS NEW LIFE TO AGING COMMUNITY PARK IN SOUTHERN OREGON

Small towns in the U.S. typically have something the community rallies behind. Something to give them an identity – to make them stand out. For the city of Rogue River in Southern Oregon that "thing" is rooster crowing.

Every year since the 1950s, people gather in the summertime for a weekend of fun, boat races, car shows and rooster crowing – from both human and fowl alike. Seriously, look it up. This year, though, the city's park is getting a much needed upgrade, courtesy of the 176th Engineer Company out of Snohomish, Washington.

The park that was once a bare lot of less than one acre in size, has now been turned into an epicenter of heavy equipment, mounds of earth and trenches for drainage and electricity.

The new Rooster Park is designed to accommodate the annual Rooster Crow Festival held at the end of June. It will soon have a pavilion, a bathroom, a walking path as well as a splash pad for those hot summer days. The park will also have space for vendors to set up their booths in addition to electrical outlets to help with power.

The engineers were chosen to tackle the project through the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program. This is a unique program that matches military units from various backgrounds — like medical, civil engineering and cyber-se-

curity – with training opportunities in the Homeland which provide key services for American communities.

Sgt. Tanya Russell, a heavy equipment operator, said that only recently has the 176th been able to undergo projects in the community like this.

Most of their annual training projects consisted of building roads and shoot houses at Yakima Training Center near Yakima, Washington or building a cookie-cutter type school in rural Thailand as part of exercise Cobra Gold. Mostly doing the same thing year after year.

"To be able to do something that is great training for our entire crew and being able to help the community and give the people something to be excited about is neat," Russell said. "This is hands down the best annual training that I have ever done."

The project has not been met without several hindrances, though. City administrator Mark Reagles said there have been delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding delays and difficulties in the supply chain forced the engineers and the city to sit down and talk through options and courses of action to keep the project moving forward.

"But in meeting with the 176th leadership, we were able to deal with stuff that is out of our control," Reagles said. "[The city] is frustrated. We want them to be able to accomplish everything they wanted to, but we can't. Because we can't control it."

By the time the 176th leaves from this project the key components will be completed. "The restrooms, the splash pad, the pavilion pad and part of the walking path will be done," Reagles said. The rest of the project will be picked up by the city.

But despite these obstacles, the 176th is getting the training they set out to get, and then some. Soldiers are learning new techniques in their craft and they're getting cross-training from other specialties. Some soldiers brought their civilian construction expertise to the park project.

"We have Sgt. William Baty who has worked with concrete for years and we may be lost without him," said Russell. "He's just so knowledgeable and helping keep the project moving along."

For Staff Sgt. Alex Stockner, a land surveyor, this project is an opportunity to come back home.

"I think it's super enjoyable. It's a beautiful area. I grew up in Oregon, I mean, my dog's name is 'Rogue,'" Stockner said. "I've learned in the last ten and a half years of Army service that I enjoy serving. It gives you a greater purpose. And this is a prime example of that."



With more than 110 years of combined service, three newly minted Chief Warrant Officer Fives may have made history for the Washington Army National Guard.

"The entire warrant officer corps of the Army is just two percent of the force. Of that, only one-tenth of one percent make it to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five," said Chief Warrant Officer Five Tim Gorden, Command Chief Warrant Officer for the Washington National Guard. "Seeing one promotion to five is rare. Seeing three get promoted at the same time is historic."

On July 15, 2021, the Washington National Guard witnessed what many consider one of the most unique events in the organization's history, as Chief Warrant Officer Fours David Dean, Jim Johnson and Valerie Mariano pinned Chief Warrant Officer Five in a ceremony at the Pierce County Readiness Center on Camp Murray.

"During my career working with each of you, I know that I am getting a top level professional, who put soldiers first, thinks about the mission and provides me with the absolute best guidance," said Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, commanding general of the Washington Army National Guard. "Your outstanding work has been invaluable to our soldiers and our Guard."

Each chief paved their own path to the Guard differently, but found themselves serving together at different times in their careers, including a deployment together in Iraq in 2004.

Dean enlisted into the active Army in 1986 as a personnel management specialist and later enlisted into the Washington Army National Guard in 1990. He was appointed as a Warrant Officer in December 2002 and assigned to the

81st Brigade Combat Team as a military personnel technician prior to mobilizing in 2004.

Johnson also enlisted in the Army in 1986, joining the Washington Army National Guard as a radar operator organizational repairman. After attending Warrant Officer Candidate School, he pinned Warrant Officer One in October 1992 as a radar technician. After 10 years of performing a number of different roles within the field artillery, he was hired as a military technician with the Guard's maintenance community, switched branches to ordnance, and reclassified as a ground maintenance ordnance officer. When the 81st Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq in 2004, Johnson leaned on his experience as a radar technician supporting operations in Balad, Iraq.

Mariano joined the Hawaii National Guard in 1979 when she graduated from high school. After completing her first contract with the Hawaii Guard, she moved to the active Army, serving four years in Korea before coming to Fort Lewis. She joined the Washington Army National Guard in January 1990 as a traditional Guardsman before transitioning to full-time in 1993. Over the next nine years, Mariano would rise to the rank of Master Sgt. before completing Warrant Officer Candidate School in December 2002. In 2004 she deployed to Balad, Iraq with the 81st Brigade Combat Team as a property book team chief.

"It is so rare that you have three warrants, all serve together in the same organization, deploy together, grow up together and reach the top of their profession together," said Gorden. "We are truly a lucky organization to have the level of expertise we do in the organization."

- Story and Photo By Joseph Siemandel







HISTORIC EXCHANGE

The Washington National Guard welcomed six members of the Royal Thai Army Aviation Division back to Washington State to conduct a week long aviation subject matter exchange at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Fairchild Air Force Base. The focus of the exchange was aviation operations, maintenance and support to domestic response operations.

Since the COVID quarantine began early last year, all State Partnership Program engagements with Thailand and Malaysia have been conducted via virtual platforms. This is the first in-person exchange since the pandemic started.

"We're excited to begin in-person exchanges with our partners again. During quarantine we learned to operate on virtual platforms which will continue to be valuable going forward, but there is no substitute for face-to-face communication," said Major Keith Kosik, SPP Director.

Next year, the Washington National Guard and the Kingdom of Thailand will celebrate 20 years of friendship and collaboration within the State Partnership Program. The program is designed to strengthen relationships, share best practices and build capacity. The aviation subject matter expert exchange has been one of the longest standing continual engagements within the program.

During the week-long exchange, the Thai soldiers travelled across the state to learn about the LH-72a "Lakota" helicopters located at the Army Aviation Sustainment Facility #2 at Fairchild Air Force Base. The group learned about the mission of the Lakota and how to maintain the platform. On their way back from Fairchild, the group made a stop in Lincoln County to learn how the Guard aviation crews are supporting the wildfire fighting mission.

"The Royal Thai Army uses their aviation assets to support domestic response operations – just as we do. To give them a close look at our use of aviation to support a real world disaster response mission was invaluable," said Kosik.

During the rest of the engagement, Thai aviators joined their Washington counterparts in the flight simulator on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, refining flight skills in the UH-60 "Blackhawk" and CH-47 "Chinook."

In addition, Thai aviation maintainers were able to exchange ideas and learn maintenance best practices from their counterparts in the Washington National Guard.

"The Blackhawk simulator was similar to what we have in Thailand but the Chinook simulator was very different than anything I have done. This was an all-new experience," said Maj. Wichian Korkan, Royal Thai Army.

As international travel begins to return, the Washington National Guard's State Partnership Program will begin to conduct more in-person engagements. Next month members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force will be taking part in a three week engagement with members of the Washington Air National Guard. - Story by Joseph Siemandel, Photo by Peter Chang

SCAN TO VIEW THE TRAINING THAT THE ROYAL THAI ARMY **AVIATORS TOOK PART IN DURING THEIR VISIT.**



State employees have until October 18 to be fully vaccinated.

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PROGRAM













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Reaching Her Goals...

...Crown or Not

In brief conversations with Maria Hoyt, you can tell she has a goal and mission in life and she plans to find a way to accomplish it.

'I was a student in the running start program," said Hoyt. "I knew that could get two years of college paid for through the program right

The Running Start program provides 11th and 12th grade students the option of attending certain institutions of higher education and simultaneously earning both high school and college credits.

"I was able to graduate high school and earn my associate's degree at the same time and mature faster than many of my peers," said Hoyt, who graduated with degrees from South Kitsap High School and Olympic College.

While in her last year of running start, Hoyt knew she wanted to continue her educational goals but did not know how she was going to pay for it. After looking through options, talking with peers and adults she found her way to the Washington Army National Guard recruiting office.

"I wanted to leave college with as little debt as possible, and between running start and the National Guard it has made the whole cost very little," said Hoyt. "I am now enrolled in Washington State University and also am a member of the simultaneous membership program with the Reserve Officer Training Corp."

If enlisting in the National Guard, attending classes at two schools and being a teenager wasn't enough, Hoyt decided to throw her name in the ring for the Miss Pierce County competition in February 2020.

I had been doing pageants since I was 12 and it sounded like a fun thing to do right before leaving for college," said Hoyt.

Hoyt took the honors of Miss Pierce County in March 2020.

"It has been exciting and such an honor," said Hoyt.

Her accomplishments came as she managed the Covid-19 pandemic and waited for a date to leave for basic training and advanced individual training. Feeling overwhelmed, Hoyt put on her graduation cap a simple quote, 'I can and I will,' to remind herself to take one thing at a time.

"There were so many things going on and I just needed that reminder" that I can and will fulfill all the goals I have planned for myself," said

Hoyt. "It was more of a self-reminder, that I can and will accomplish

She now has a goal to complete her bachelor's degree in finance and accounting and earn her commission as a Military Intelligence officer

Ultimately, she hopes to educate future high school students on personal financial readiness.

"I would like to see this be a requirement for all high school students," Hoyt said. "Currently personal financial readiness is a requirement in just seventeen states and Washington isn't on that list. When you leave high school you are impacted by all these really adult decisions that you're not informed on, so I want to see that as part of my social impact initiative."

In July Maria took part in the Miss Washington pageant, and although she did not place first she still feels like she walked away successful.

"I was able to leave the competition with \$1,000 of scholarship money," said Hoyt. "As for the organization, they provided over \$35,000 of scholarship money to the 24 candidates who competed this year."

As the youngest candidate competing in this year's event, Hoyt gained a lot of insight about herself and how she can improve if she decide to compete again.

"Many don't recognize the amount of work it takes to compete in competitions like these. It is much more than just standing and looking pretty. Every candidate who competed is bright, well spoken, educated, talented and the list goes on," said Hoyt. "This is one of the many reasons why the women in this organization, crown or not, are valuable assets to their communities."

SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT HOW PFC MARIA HOYT IS TRYING TO HELP **OTHERS AS MISS PIERCE COUNTY.**





AROUND THE DEPARTMENT: News and Events

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING YOUR LEAN SIX SIGMA YELLOW OR GREEN BELT? Lean Six Sigma 2-Day Yellow Belt Training **Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Training**

Day 1: Thursday, September 23, 2021 Day 2: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Day 1: Thursday, September 30, 2021 Day 2: Thursday, October 28, 2021

Day 1: Thursday, November 18, 2021 Day 2: Thursday, December 9, 2021

The requirements for Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training and certification include the following:

- Prerequisite: Intro to Lean, White or Yellow Belt Training
- Supervisor approval
- An approved process improvement project
- Attendance at all Green Belt class trainings:
 - Friday, October 8, 2021
 - Friday, October 15, 2021
 - Friday, October 22, 2021
 - Friday, October 29, 2021
- Pass test (minimum score 70%)

CALL BERNADETTE PETRUSKA AT 253-512-8108 FOR MORE INFORMATION



Camp Murray Security Efforts: Soon anyone with a need to access Camp Murray will have to meet federal security requirements and be in compliance with the REAL ID act. This will increase security for our employees and missions. As soon as we receive an installation date from the contractors, the provost marshal office will send out regular communications to all employees on what to expect.

UPDATE: New Federal Telework Agreement

Federal HRO, in accordance with the existing "Federal Telework Agreement COVID19 - Terms of Agreement," provided written notice on 6 Aug 2021 that the current policy (Federal Telework Participant Continuity of Operations (COVID19)) was terminated on 12 Sep 2021. This policy is replaced by "Telework Policy for Full-time Personnel TAGI 1101.02." For more information contact your technician or AGR chain of command.

CAMP MURRAY SOUTH GATE UPDATE

The Camp Murray South Gate will be open Tues-Fri from 1530-1730 to exit Camp Murray. There will be no in-coming JBLM traffic allowed. Only DOD ID card holders will be allowed through the gate. This is to allow Camp Murray employees with DOD ID cards to exit onto JBLM. The 'South Gate Closed' sign at the front gate will remain in place.

Gate will also be open during upcoming drill weekends.

Drill Weekend Hours:

Inbound from JBLM to Camp Murray -- 0530 to 0730 Outbound from Camp Murray to JBLM -- 1530 to 1730

Drill Weekend Dates:

Oct 2-3, 2021 Nov 6-7, 2021

Dec 4-5, 2021

Jan 8-9, 2022 Feb 5-6, 2022

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION EXERCISE

On October 26th employees from the Washington Emergency Management Division will take part in a federally mandated exercise to test the state's capability to respond to an emergency at the nuclear power plant facility in Benton County.

Employee from EMD, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Transportation and others will join Energy Northwest for this exercise, which takes place both on Camp Murray and the Tri-Cities.



UPCOMING RAINIER RECEPTIONS

15-17 October 06-07 November 04-05 December

INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM - ARMY IPPS-A Release 3 Blackout – 22 Nov – 22 December IPPS-A Release 3 Training (Yakima) – 06-10 December IPPS-A Release 3 Training (CPM) – 13-17 December



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MESSAGE FROM CARL STEELE - DIRECTOR, JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT, WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT BACKPACK EVENTS HELP GUARD CHILDREN GET READY FOR SCHOOL

Back to school season often brings the added stress of shopping for new clothes, new shoes and the needed school supplies that help make all students successful.

"We wanted to streamline this process to take some of the stress off the families," said Deb Discolo, lead soldie and family readiness specialist with Joint Service Support. "One thing we figured out due to COVID restrictions is how to support more families at our events."

Volunteers from countless organizations traveled to Camp Murray, Spokane and Vancouver, as well as to the Yakima Readiness Center, the Marysville Armed Forces Reserve Center and the Kent Armory to provide children in grades kindergarten through 12th with supplies and resources to help get them set for the upcoming school year. Due to concerns over COVID, participants were able to remain in their car and sign in while a volunteer placed backpacks into the trunk of the vehicle.

Joint Service Support and volunteers handed out more than 1,600 backpacks to Guard families across the state.

"We have a lot of families take advantage of the resources. Even the units with deployed soldiers," said Discolo.

Staff Sgt. Chris Manibog, a technician at the Field Maintenance Shop in Montesano, ensured her fellow Guardsmen were taken care of. She picked up backpacks and supplies for families of soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, Fox and India Company 181st Brigade Support Battalion and Echo Company 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation. Guardsmen from these units are currently deployed to Poland and Kuwait.

"It is about taking care of our Guardsmen and their families," said Manibog.

JOINT SERVICE SUPPORT - UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 30, 2021, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Camp Murray

Join us for the 2021 Trunk or Treat. Open to all Military youth and families. This is a safe place to trick or





TURKEY DROP 2021 - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM, CAMP MURRAY







HOLIDAY MAGIC 2021 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, CAMP MURRAY

Holiday Magic is an event to provide a holiday meal and gifts to families in need. No children will be allowed at the event. The event is a drive-thru style again, where you remain in your vehicle and volunteers will assist! The event is open for kids 0-18 years old (NO EXCEPTIONS), and must be registered in DEERS at the ime of the event. Each child must be listed on the ticket in order to recieve a gift. Scan code to register fo



SUMMER//FAUL-2021 | WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT



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October 21, 2021

Shake

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