

WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT SUMMER 2015



EVERGREEN

MAGAZINE

**How the Washington Military Department is
preparing for the**

'BIG ONE'

Page 6

Commander in Chief
Washington State Governor
The Honorable Jay Inslee

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty

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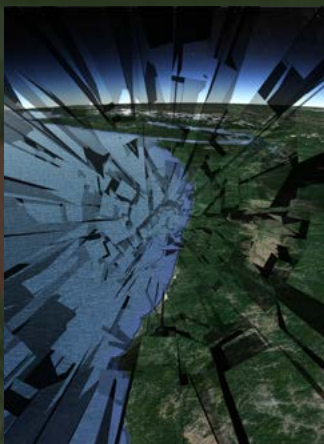
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ON THE COVER



A satellite image of the Pacific Northwest and the Cascadia Subduction Zone is a stirring composite that raises awareness to the startling reality of a subduction zone event that may involve an earthquake exceeding magnitude 9.0 and devastating tsunamis that affect three states as well as Canada. (Washington National Guard image composited by Staff Sgt.

Peter Christian, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, WANG).

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Tactical unmanned aerial system (TUAS) operators with the 898th BEB are getting good—*really good*

Contributions to the *Evergreen Magazine* are always welcome! Send articles, photos, questions and art to Washington National Guard Public Affairs Office at: pao@washingtonguard.org

ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

Scan QR codes and start exploring today!



Senior Airman Sandra Wiley, an airman with the Washington Air National Guard's 194th Regional Support Wing throws a perfect pitch during opening ceremonies at Safeco Field, April 19. The Seattle Mariners Baseball Club invited service members from across Washington to take part in the opening ceremonies for the 2015 Salute to Armed Forces Game. Pre-game events included commemorative plaques awarded to each service as well as a representative from each service throwing out a ceremonial first pitch. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian)

THE
TAG
LINE

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Major General Bret Daugherty



Be Prepared, Not Scared

Colleagues,

The Pacific Northwest recently took center stage in a national story that swept social media, and was discussed at length on cable news networks. The New Yorker Magazine wrote an in-depth piece on the expected destruction following a rupture of the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault. And while it was well written (though maybe exaggerative...), it failed to highlight the extensive work underway to prepare for such an event.

I'm proud that the Washington Military Department is leading those preparation efforts. We've pulled together and led a Joint Planning Team, which developed a state Earthquake Response Plan. That plan continues to be tested – most recently during our Evergreen Tremor exercise. We'll put it to the test again next year during Cascadia Rising, and will use feedback to make improvements. (See page 6.)

Our Emergency Management Division has worked tirelessly to promote and facilitate the Great Washington Shakeout, which encourages people to practice their ability to Drop, Cover and Hold On. Last year, more than 1 million people in Washington state participated, and already, nearly 500,000 have signed up for this year's event.

Additionally, EMD has worked closely with the coastal communities to install tsunami warning sirens, and construct the nation's first vertical tsunami evacuation center.

After the State Route 530 landslide, our 66th Theater Aviation Command partnered with the Snohomish County Helicopter Rescue Team to create a more in-depth search and rescue training plan which will be crucial following a CSZ event. The training was beneficial to our state earlier this month when they conducted their first-ever aviation search and rescue mission. (See page 12.)

Earlier this month, we also announced that the 81st Brigade Combat Team would be converting to a Stryker brigade. These vehicles are more versatile and mobile than our heavy tanks and are expected to play a major response role following a disaster.

This is just a short list. With that said – we can't do it all.

That's why it's critical that you're taking steps to prepare yourself at home – and encouraging your friends and family to do the same. It doesn't have to take a lot of time. And it doesn't have to cost a lot of money. There are simple things you can do to increase your readiness – and you can find that information on our website.

Let's prepare – and not panic. Together we can ensure recovery following "The Big One."

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

81st 'Stryker' Brigade!

Washington's Armored Brigade Combat Team to convert to Stryker Brigade

Story by Capt. Joseph Siemandel
Washington National Guard

On July 9, the Washington National Guard received confirmation that its 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team, which currently operates M1A1 Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, will be converted into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

"This is a huge win for Washington state," said Major General Bret Daugherty, the state's adjutant general and commander of the Washington National Guard. "Our tanks and Bradleys are critical for our federal mission, however, they're too heavy to move on our local roads making them almost useless following a state disaster. The Strykers are a more mobile, versatile vehicle that will ensure the Washington National Guard can get out into our communities and perform its mission to save lives and protect property here at home. That ability will be especially important following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. The conversion also aligns us more closely with our partners at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, enabling our soldiers to receive unique training to help prepare for any future overseas deployments."

"This was a huge undertaking that took years of hard work and collaboration," Daugherty continued. "I met personally with every member of our Congressional delegation to stress the importance of this conversion and appreciate their ongoing efforts to make this happen. Governor Inslee was a strong backer of this proposal and

an important advocate on our behalf. And our state Legislature and local elected leaders and civic organizations helped emphasize the benefits to both our state and nation. I truly appreciate everyone's assistance and support, and look forward to working with our partners to ensure a successful conversion."

Washington will become just the second state to have a Stryker Brigade within its National Guard, joining the Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which converted in 2006.

The 81st Brigade, headquartered in Seattle, is the largest brigade-sized element in the Washington National Guard, responsible for more than 3,200 Guardsmen stationed in Washington and 600 in San Bernardino, California. The brigade deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2004-2005, 2008-2009).

The citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Washington National Guard are dedicated to the mission of safeguarding lives and property in Washington state, and serving as sentinels for freedom overseas.



Military and civilian agencies come together to prepare for the

'BIG ONE'

Story by Staff Sgt. Virginia M. Owens
122D Public Affairs Operations Center

At 9:41 a.m. a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurs along the Cascadia Subduction Zone; five minutes of shaking ensues.

Fifteen minutes later, a 40-foot tsunami strikes the Oregon and Washington coastlines; hospitals surge, buildings and bridges collapse, natural gas and petroleum pipelines rupture; fires erupt, the power grid fails and communication infrastructure is heavily damaged.

“Life as we know it has changed,” wrote the WA State Governor in a disaster Proclamation.

There’s a new reality for millions of people who call the Pacific Northwest home—or—there would be in the event of a devastating 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the Pacific Ocean.

For now, this is a just a scenario being played out by more than 1,000 Washington National Guard citizen-soldiers and airmen, as well as local, state and federal emergency response agencies to test their ability to respond to a catastrophic Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake and tsunami.

“We have a series of deliberate actions we say have occurred that force the staff and responders to come together to start working out the solution of how we would respond,” said Lt. Col. Mark Broderick, Deputy Exercise Director for the Washington National Guard.

The week-long exercise kicked off June 17 and tested the Washington National Guard’s ability to bring resources and temporary infrastructure in support of civil authority.

“It’s critically important for us to understand each other,” said Col. Bryan Grenon, Commander, 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team. “The Guard brings unique capabilities ... We have a very distinct and efficient chain of command and mode of operation that allows for greater flexibility, in addition to the equipment that we bring and the expertise that we have in operating those resources.”

With an emphasis on interoperability, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) fully activated to help support the exercise.

When activated, the SEOC, located on Camp Murray, serves as the central location for representatives of state agencies, as well as federal and private organizations with emergency roles, to help coordinate disaster response.

“A lot of the value is just in having conversations to see if the technology works,” said Alisha Griswold, King County Emergency Management Program Manager. “One of the things we’ve tried to do here is normalize the presence of our National Guard assets who live and work in King County... It’s nice to have them here to do a show and tell for our local agencies that could benefit from their resources during an emergency.”

For the National Guard, it was also a test of the Dual Sta-

tus Commander, a relatively new concept in which a preselected, specially trained senior leader assumes operational control over both the active duty forces and the Guard to help support local response efforts.

Under the direction of this Dual Status Commander, activated military personnel would report to designated bases and help facilitate Department of Defense resources, likely out of Eastern Washington, where the earthquake is not expected to be nearly as devastating.

“We largely expect to be victims on this side of the mountain,” Broderick explained, referring to residents across Western Washington. “It creates this problem of how do we build the staff? The leadership may not be around, so how do we pick up the ball and run with the response?”

The 141st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) out of Spokane, Washington took the lead initially, responding to an overload of simulated resource requests from the State and FEMA. After day three, they tested and assessed the handover of responsibility—a built in piece of the Washington National Guard’s CSZ response plan—where the 141st ARW transfers operational responsibility to the Joint Task Force Headquarters on Camp Murray.

The exercise also tested some broader interoperability concepts: communications systems, distribution of supplies and effectiveness of command and control points on various sized bases throughout the state.



A Washington National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk departs Shelton Airfield moments after a Snohomish County Sheriff helicopter lands in support of exercise Evergreen Tremor. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Virginia Owens)



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Greg Mason)



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Greg Mason)

Be Prepared. Not Scared.

Preparedness, training key in riding out the Big One

Story by Washington Military Department
Communications Staff



Preparedness will be key in surviving the next big earthquake to hit the Pacific Northwest. That means families need to have at least three days' worth of supplies and an emergency "go" kit ready and, for those living on the coast, have an understanding of evacuation routes and the warning signs behind tsunamis – including how NOAA Weather Radio works and the coastal sirens.

"Don't be scared of earthquakes and tsunamis. Be informed, educated, prepared and then be confident that you are ready," said John Schelling, the Earthquake/Tsunami/Volcano Programs Manager for the Washington Emergency Management Division.

An [article](#) published in The New Yorker June 20 talks about how a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake could devastate the coast.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone extends from northern California to Vancouver Island. The tectonic plates that make up the Cascadia fault have become wedged together, building energy that will eventually release. When that happens, the coastline could experience a possible magnitude 9.0 earthquake and devastating tsunami. Scientific evidence indicates that a magnitude 8.0-9.0 earthquake occurs along the 800-mile long CSZ fault on average once every 200 to 500 years; the last major earthquake and tsunami along the fault occurred more than 300 years ago in 1700.

John Vidale, the state seismologist at the University of Washington in Seattle with PNSN, says there's a reasonable expectation of some critical failures of

infrastructure and, at worst, a patchwork of building failures with people immobile and relying on their own resources for a period of days (and conceivably weeks), not uniform and serious damage to most buildings. Vidale notes that a tsunami on the coast is likely, but it's safe to say that there will not be a big killer wave on the Puget Sound or Lake Washington except in the unlikely event of a large nearby landslide.

This is not new news.

There's been plenty of media coverage about the potential for a big earthquake to hit our area in recent years, and there's been plenty of preparation underway by government agencies at all levels.

Next year, the nation's first vertical evacuation center will open near Westport, Washington, the culmination of a decade worth of progress in tsunami readiness on the coast since the Indonesian tsunami back in 2004.

The Washington Military Department led a Joint Planning Team to develop a state Earthquake Response Plan which it continues to test, refine and improve. That plan was tested last month by the Washington National Guard and the Washington Emergency Management Division, which worked together on a

multi-day exercise called Evergreen Tremor. The exercise scenario involved training exercises all over the state. The plan will be

tested again next year during the national Cascadia Rising exercise.

"Out of these exercises, our intent is to take the feedback we receive – have they identified problems, have they identified gaps – and develop solutions to address

those problems and gaps," said Lt. Col. Clay Braun, Deputy Director of domestic operations for the Washington National Guard who chaired the Joint Planning Team.

Prior to Evergreen Tremor, the Washington National Guard had begun conducting training exercises specific to missions that could potentially take place after a major earthquake.

Since the devastating State Route 530 Landslide, the 66th Theater Aviation Command shifted their training plans, teaming up with local, county and state partners with the goal of expanding their state mission. Just last month, the unit conducted their first ever Search and Rescue mission, rescuing missing hikers at Rimrock Lake near Yakima. This was possible due to an in-depth joint training program with Snohomish County Helicopter Rescue Team.

The 116th Air Support Operations Squadron, a unit that provides tactical command and control of close air support assets to U.S. Army ground commanders during overseas deployments, has taken those same skill sets and been training on them for use during domestic operations.

"This training is critical to me as a member of the Washington National Guard because it goes beyond our federal mission," Senior Airmen Brant Shaw, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron.

Conducting successful life-saving and life-sustaining response operations in the aftermath of a Cascadia Subduction Zone disaster will hinge on the effective coordination and integration of governments at all levels – cities, counties, state agencies, federal officials, the military, tribal nations – as well as non-government organizations and the private sector. One of the primary goals of Cascadia Rising is to train and test this whole community approach to complex disaster operations together as a joint team.

So, what can you do now?

Schelling says if you haven't yet begun to build an earthquake and tsunami supply kit, start right away. If you can, build the whole kit. If there are financial and time limitations, at least get started by doing one thing every day, every week, maybe every month.

A basic emergency supply kit should include:

- Water- one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food- at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

More individual preparedness tips [here](#).

What else can you do?

Know how to find family after a disaster. Put together a family emergency plan and an out of area contact – especially important because local telephone lines may be down or overwhelmed but an out-of-area contact may be able to receive calls.

- Secure your space by identifying your hazards and securing moveable items
- Create a disaster plan and identify communication needs
- Organize disaster supplies in convenient locations
- Minimize financial hardship by strengthening your property and considering insurance
- Know your neighborhood. Does someone on your block have a generator? Do others know how to use power tools? Figure it out. Work together. [Map your neighborhood](#).

If you live on the coast, learn your evacuation routes. Understand where your meeting points will be. Find out if you are in a tsunami hazard zone and how to reach high ground BEFORE the ground shakes. You might not be able to afterwards.



Join the Statewide Earthquake Drill!

2015 Great ShakeOut
10:15 a.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Sign up today: www.shakeout.org/washington

Practice your plans.

Learn what Drop Cover and Hold means.

DROP down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.

COVER your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, only then should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

HOLD ON to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

It is through actual practicing that we build muscle memory to help us respond correctly when the shaking starts.

Washington National Guard Public Affairs Teams Train to Assist State Agencies



(U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)



(U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

Story by Mark Stewart
Washington Military Department

Members of the 122nd Public Affairs Operations Center (PAOC) took on a new role in June, as part of the external affairs team supporting civilian state emergency response activities during the Washington National Guard's (WANG) recent Evergreen Tremor exercise.

The week-long exercise, using a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake and tsunami scenario, tested the WANG's plan to respond to a catastrophic disaster. The exercise featured training activities at Camp Murray, the Shelton Fairgrounds and Airport, the Satsop Industrial Park, the Seattle Armory, King County, Mason County, and Grays Harbor County Emergency Operations Centers, and Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at Camp Murray activated on June 23 to support the exercise. Staff at the SEOC provided messages on various civilian response activities and made requests for assistance to stimulate coordinated response actions by participating WANG units. The assistance was provided under the WANG's defense support to civilian authorities' responsibility.

The 122nd PAOC participated with members of the civilian Ex-

ternal Affairs team at the SEOC, preparing news releases, talking points for WANG leadership, a frequently-asked-questions paper on the disaster response, and simulated social media messages. The day before the June 23 activities, members of the 122nd PAOC, 194th Regional Support Wing and the public affairs team from the 81st Brigade Combat Team received an orientation on how emergency management is practiced in Washington State, the WANG's role in supporting the state emergency response, and on SEOC processes.

"This was the first time in recent memory that members of the 122nd worked collaboratively with civilian members of the state's External Affairs team in an emergency response setting," said Mark Stewart of the Military Department's communications staff. "The 122nd has unique skills and expertise on guard operations that it can bring to the state's emergency public information response."

"Our unit has really good talent, and this provided meaningful training," said SFC Neal Mitchell, the Operations NCO for the 122nd. "Strengthening ties with our civilian counterparts is important, and participating with them during emergencies goes along with The Adjutant General's intent that the guard get involved in more domestic operations."

"By working together on the same team, we can be more effective in providing information to the media and the public about the activities of all of state government, including the Washington National Guard, protecting public health and safety and getting help to communities and people most in need," said Stewart.

Will there be more collaboration in the future? Absolutely, said both Stewart and Mitchell. Planning for future activities will occur in the next few months.



(U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

STATE EOC FIRES UP

The state Emergency Operations Center activated to Phase III to support wildfires

Story by Steven Friederich
Washington Military Department

The state Emergency Operations Center activated to a Phase III level for the first time this year on June 28 to support the wildfires that took a couple dozen homes and several businesses in the Wenatchee area.

The activation came just days after Gov. Jay Inslee signed a proclamation needed to make National Guard assets available to support wildfire response operations as quickly as possible – and some of the Guard assets, including a couple Blackhawk helicopters, were made available to help the Wenatchee fire known as Sleepy Hollow.

"We recognized early that this summer would bring with it another unprecedented fire season," Inslee said in a press release. "That's why last week we proactively declared a state of emergency and statewide burn ban to last through the summer. This allows state agencies to use resources necessary to respond to the fires and assist those who have been affected."

On Monday, June 29 dozens of employees came into the Emergency Operations Center on what would have typically been their day off under the Military Department's 4-10 schedule. The EOC remained at a Phase III alert until Tuesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. Employees with EMD have continued to work with local emergency management officials on recovery efforts in Wenatchee and, in fact, made trips to Wenatchee in support of those efforts.

The EOC has remained at Phase II off and on since then in support of numerous other wildfires.

Although ESF 15 worked with the Governor's Office on a press release early on, all other information related to the wildfire was sent via social media first before PIOs took to the TV screens to give a press conference. Also, the incident highlighted the importance of social media monitoring. For instance, when an ammonia leak came from an industrial site on fire and a shelter in place order was instituted, we learned of this via social media first. When the all clear order was given, we saw a Facebook post on this before anyone called and told us what was going on.

Important social media posts were inputted into WebEOC and communicated during the Emergency.



EMD Human Services Manager Geno Grandinette updates Gov. Jay Inslee about recovery efforts in Wenatchee. (Courtesy photo)

Meantime, in the spirit of fire prevention, we've teamed with the Fire Marshal's Office to offer the following tips. The goal is to prepare your home for wildfires by reducing the ignition potential before a fire occurs. See below:

Protect Your House

Lean:

- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches – the lowest branches should be at least 6'-10' from the ground and should not overhang any part of your home

Clean:

- Remove dead vegetation, such as leaves and pine needles from gutters, under your deck and within 10' of your home
- Take out ladder fuels – material on or near the ground that will carry fire to the crown of the tree
- Firewood stacks should be at least 30' from the home

Green:

- Plant fire-resistant vegetation

Construction:

- Use Class A, B or C rated roofing material (fire-resistant)
- Use fire-resistant building materials on exterior walls, overhangs and attachments
- Use double-paned or tempered glass in windows, skylights and doors
- Enclose eaves and vents

Teen hikers **rescued** from ledge

Washington National Guard unit performs first-ever aviation search and rescue

Story by Washington National Guard

It is the staple mission of the Washington Military Department – to safeguard the lives and property of Washington state. On July 10, a Blackhawk crew from the 66th Theater Aviation Command, Washington National Guard met that mission in its first aviation search and rescue operation.

At 7 a.m. on Friday, July 10, the Yakima Sheriff's Office called the State Emergency Operations Center on Camp Murray. Three isolated teenaged hikers had been missing since Thursday afternoon in the area of Rimrock Lake near Yakima.

"Once we received the call from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), our flight crew got their Blackhawk prepared and ready to go," said LTC Rueben Hokanson, Commander, Army Aviation

Support Facility.

Within two hours, the Blackhawk crew had taken off from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and were circling above the last known area of the missing hikers. Minutes later, one of the crew members spotted the trio.

"We saw the kids, took a safe approach to them, and then had our rescue crew start their decent down to them," said Chief Warrant Officer Eric Swenson, Pilot, 1-140th Co. Aviation. "Once we got them in the helicopter, we flew them back to Tieton to get treated for their injuries."

The three teenagers were treated for hypothermia and other minor injuries and reunited with their parents.

"It was just a special moment for us to be there to see that reunion between the kids and the families," said Swenson.

This was a first the AFRCC has called the Washington National Guard on a search and rescue mission.

After last year's devastating State Route 530 Landslide in Oso, the Washington National Guard started a Search and Rescue-focused training in collaboration with Snohomish County. Through a relationship with Snohomish County Helicopter Search and Rescue, the pilots and crews trained on live hoists with and without baskets.

"The training we conducted with Snohomish County after Oso was monumental in getting our flight crews better prepared to conduct search and rescue," said Swenson. "It felt great to help out today."

“We saw the kids, took a safe approach to them, and then had our rescue crew start their decent down to them.”



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. William Hust)



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. William Hust)

UP **HILL** BOTH WAYS

Priority legislation supporting Guardsmen approved by Legislature and Governor

Story by Steven Friederich
Washington Military Department

Gov. Jay Inslee recently signed two pieces of legislation allowing Guard members to stay overnight in Armories and mandating all state agencies develop continuity of operation plans, both of which were top priorities of Major General Bret D. Daugherty, The Adjutant General in charge of the Washington Military Department.

The state also approved a Senate Joint Memorial asking President Barack Obama and Pentagon officials to transition the Washington National Guard's 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

On April 21, Inslee signed the Armory bill into law, which takes effect on July 24. There are about 8,200 Washington Air and Army National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, most of which serve part time and participate in one drill weekend per month and two weeks of annual training. The law had allowed a Soldier or Airman to stay overnight in an Armory or Readiness Center during an emergency. But the law dating back to 1895 didn't allow wiggle room if a Guardsman living in Western Washington is required to travel to Eastern Washington to stay overnight. The change allows The Adjutant General to allow Guardsmen to stay overnight for

training purposes, typically through the use of a sleeping bag on the floor.

On April 23, Inslee signed into law requiring state agencies to meet continuity of operations planning requirements. The new law takes effect July 24. Under the new law, each state agency must develop a Continuity of Operations Plan that is updated and exercised annually. It's all part of an internal effort of an organization to assure that the capability exists to continue essential functions and services in response to a comprehensive array of potential emergencies or disasters. More on the legislation in this previous blog post.

The state Senate and state House unanimously approved legislation asking federal officials to transition the Washington National Guard's 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The non-binding resolution follows up on several other requests made by Washington National Guard officials in recent years to convert the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team.

The request was sent to the Washington Secretary of State's Office on April 23 to be distributed from there. Because the measure is a joint memorial, it doesn't need to be signed by the governor. However, last summer, Inslee joined the governors and

The Adjutant Generals of Washington, Oregon, and California in a letter to the Pentagon requesting the Stryker brigade be assigned to the Washington National Guard.

"It is the TAG's number one strategic priority in this state," Brigadier General Wallace Turner told the Senate Government and Operations and Security Committee earlier this year. "It's going to enhance our readiness. It's a resource saver ... and you may or may not be aware that there are seven combat brigades across the nation and there is one Stryker brigade combat team located in the state of Pennsylvania."



(Courtesy photo)

THEY STOP THE



Story and photos by Sgt. Lisa Laughlin
122D Public Affairs Operations Center

BOOM



The ninth iteration of Raven's Challenge was held in June at the site of the abandoned Satsop nuclear power project near Elma, Washington. Raven's Challenge is a training event designed to support the interoperability of military units, local law enforcement teams and federal agencies within the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) community.

Brennan Phillips, an explosives enforcement officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), used his military and public safety experience to help start Raven's Challenge in 2004 as a National Guard training event. "We were thinking about how best to do training, how to pool resources, because we had very minimal resources," said Phillips.

Working together during this event provides both military and public safety groups with some unique training and new information or techniques from their counterparts in other agencies. "Raven's Challenge is an interoperability exercise between public safety bomb squads, both fire and police department based, and military EOD units," said Phillips. "We bring those two groups together, to train, and learn from one another. By having come here and trained and exchanged information, they are better able to do their tasks on a day-to-day basis."

The teams that participated in Raven's Challenge continued to work on interoperability and scenario-based training lanes that aim to prepare the Soldiers and public safety officers for possible real world scenarios. This year's practice scenarios included response to a variety of explosive materials and situations such as a simulated bus attack, a bomber's shack filled with bomb-making chemicals and explosives, and a possible threat in a populated area. This year the training event had a new lane that focused on building basic skills and fluidity of action using remotely-controlled bomb disposal robots in the field.

The newest addition to the training lanes was a portable standardized operator robot training facility, referred to by the operators as the "robot rodeo." Adam Jacoff, an expert in the field of robotics, helped to create the standardized training facility and was present at Raven's Challenge to support the robot rodeo. Originally designed to help create standard mobility and function standards for robots, Jacoff recognized the importance of the training facility for the operators. "The test methods are all agreed upon standard test methods that we have been using for some years now to shepherd through procurements, based on quantifiable capabilities data, but now we are turning that set of standards toward proficiency training to help evaluate, help assess, help focus operator training, both in public safety bomb squads, and the military," said Jacoff.

The robot rodeo course helped the robot operators with the Washington Army National Guard's 319th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company hone their basic and advanced movement skills. "The idea is pretty simple, it is a circuit of basic skills that approach operational significance, but are really intended to be repeatable tasks, to get muscle memory, to get confidence

"We are trying to make ourselves as prepared as possible for what we see as one of the enemy's most likely courses of action..."

in basic capabilities with maneuvering, situational awareness, mobility, and manipulator dexterity," said Jacoff.

First Lt. Jake Jensen, 1st platoon team leader with the 319th EOD Co., 741st Ordnance Battalion, said the robot rodeo provided a more individual-based training experience compared with the team focused training provided on the real-world scenario-based training lanes. Jensen said he is relatively familiar with his robot, but found several of the obstacles to be quite challenging. "I think (the tests) were effective, I think they did a good job of re-creating operational possibilities and operational hazards," said Jensen.

The courses helped Jensen to be more creative with his movements and to push him to try new things. "(The courses) were helpful in getting us over said obstacles in different ways, that we may not have thought of before, such as going up the stairs backwards," said Jensen. "We could try those (techniques) out a little bit, see if they work for us."

Spc. Neil Goss, an EOD specialist with the 319th EOD Co., also practiced his robot maneuvering skills in the robot rodeo. Some of the skills he practiced included climbing stairs, opening doors, moving small and large objects, scanning the area using video cameras, and navigating around corners and other obstacles.

Goss said his experience during his deployment to Afghanistan, where he used a robot to disarm improvised explosive devices had primarily been in outdoor or rural environments but the course at Raven's Challenge helped to prepare him to operate in an urban environment. Goss said the course helped him to be more aware of the visual limitations of the robot. "Sometimes you don't really understand that there is stuff behind you when all of your cameras are facing forward. Some people can get really frustrated, but if you keep an eye on your surroundings, you will do pretty well," said Goss.

Goss said that a well-equipped and well-trained robot operator can save many lives in any dangerous environment. "A good robot operator can keep his team leader from going down range in a bomb suit, that is why I practice this hard," said Goss.

Phillips said the participants in the exercise are what has made Raven's Challenge such a successful training exercise and what keeps them all coming back year after year.

"It is an amazing exercise, because with a little bit of funding and a little bit of enthusiasm, we have all these great people from great agencies, they come together and they really make this thing run. Everybody clearly understands the vision, everybody clearly understands what we are trying to accomplish; we are trying to make ourselves as prepared as possible for what we see as one of the enemy's most likely courses of action (IEDs)."





BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

116th Air Support Operations Squadron trains through tropical storm in the Pacific

Story and photos by Senior Airman Casey Mesler
116th Air Support Operations Squadron

President Eisenhower once said, “The Plan is nothing, but planning is everything,” and for the warriors of the 116th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) of the Washington Air National Guard, their recent training exercise in Guam was further proof of the wisdom of that old adage.

The 116th, based at Camp Murray, has a mission that requires them to deploy forward with ground combat forces and guide airstrikes onto the enemy in close proximity. Many times they are the voice on the radio that saves American and coalition soldiers’ lives with their precise application of air power. They have also demonstrated that flexibility during recent operations in support of Washington State, providing help during the State Route 530 landslide and during wildfires in Washington’s mountains.

This ability to flex was put to the test when, during military exercises on the Pacific Island of Guam, a tropical storm

arose out of season and threatened to savage the island. For a team of warriors living in tents, it posed more than just a training distraction.

After years of participating in combat operations across the globe, forging relationships with foreign allies, and being recognized for their combat excellence, the unit has rapidly shifted to support the growing demand for ‘domestic operations’ support in addition to their wartime mission. The landslide, the wildfires

**“It is often said...
‘experience is something
you get after you need
it.’”**

- Lt. Col. Erik Eliel

of 2014 and current preparations for a massive earthquake in Western Washington have driven the 116th, as part of

the Washington Military Department, to affect a deliberate shift towards domestic operations and a need for more dynamic preparation.

“We have an added need for ‘big picture’ training. We need to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures to integrate domestic operations training into our skill sets. We have a responsibility to be prepared to assist with anything that may threaten our community, and we are not taking this responsibility lightly”, stated SSgt Dustin Woodford of the 116 ASOS.

So the unit went to great lengths to begin planning and resourcing a large scale movement of airmen, soldiers and equipment to a rugged field site in Guam, and train across a broad spectrum of domestic operations and combat skill sets for two weeks.

For the 116th team, this meant integrating both combat operations training with emergency disaster relief operations training, within the same annual budget and timeline as previous years. Their innovative response was the

exercise on Guam this past March: Husky Machete 2015.

With the entire state preparing for large scale exercises and integrated training in 2015 and 2016, the 116th decided to work out the kinks in advance. Husky Machete saw a full mobilization of not only the 116 ASOS, but also members of the entire Guard, Active Duty and foreign military spectrum: 19th Special Forces Group (WA ARNG), 194th Security Forces Squadron (WA ANG), Survival Specialists from the 36TRG (Active Duty SERE/Fairchild AFB), 194 Med Grp (WA ANG), British Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, 56th Theater Information Operations Group (WA ARNG) and aircrews from the Tennessee and Missouri Air National Guard to provide the airlift there and back.

With all of these organizations working together for nearly two weeks in a variety of combat and domestic operation training events, it provided an amazingly difficult and productive test of interoperability for the entire team.

As Tech. Sgt. Travis Justis of the 194th Security Forces Squadron said, “Simply

put, joint training allows for amplified cohesion and provides purpose to your training.”

The training value of an event like Husky Machete is undeniable when everything goes according to plan. But when a tropical storm threatened to derail the year-long plan, it pushed the training challenge to an even higher level. Just like both combat and domestic emergencies, Mother Nature did not follow the plan precisely.

Half way through the exercise, the island was recognized as being in the direct path of an approaching typhoon. This caused an immediate disruption in scheduling, and an opportunity to truly stress the leadership and members to not only continue to provide excellent training but also safeguard their membership from the potentially devastating effects of a Pacific storm.

The 116th core planners swiftly returned to the planning table for a rapidly evolving series of new plans. As the unit’s Director of Operations, Lt Col Erik Eliel put it, “It is often said that, ‘experience is

something you get after you need it.’ We would rather encounter a lack of experience in a training environment, and be better prepared for the real world. Training such as this, especially when we face obstacles, allows us to prepare for a broad spectrum of contingencies. By utilizing integrated training we are afforded the opportunity to draw from the experiences and innovation of our partnering organizations as well as facilitate a unique level of preparation for future exercises and operations.”

In the end, the 116th team was able to quickly modify their elaborate training plan and still complete a high level of training, continue to build relationships with partner organizations, and most importantly ensure the safe return of the entire team involved in Husky Machete 2015.

Ultimately, they also achieved another critical goal: train their team to successfully adapt and overcome any obstacle that may be presented, whether on a foreign battlefield or in support of their neighbors here in Washington.



Members of the Washington Air National Guard’s 116th Air Support Operations Squadron pose with participants from across the globe during Exercise Husky Machete in Guam. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Casey Mesler)

Vietnamese Americans Celebrate 40th Anniversary of Stay at Camp Murray

Story by Steven Friederich & Joseph Siemandel
Washington Military Department

If you walk up to the 50 series of buildings on Camp Murray, you will see a few small office buildings and an old chow hall. Nothing that stands out but as you walk the area you also will see a monument, with the words "Refugee Day" a monument celebrating the Vietnamese refugees that came to Washington.

40 years ago the scene was very different, little green houses lined the hill side; used by Washington National Guardsmen during their drill weekend just a few weekends earlier; would play a significant role in the more than 70,000 Vietnamese Americans that call Washington state home today.

On May 20, 1975, the first of more than 600 Vietnamese refugees arrived on Camp Murray, invited by then Gov. Dan Evans, after fleeing their homes in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War. Their arrival on Camp Murray was not an easy one though, as refugees fled Vietnam, their first stop was Camp Pendleton, California, where they met opposition from California Gov. Jerry Brown.

"Governor Evans asked me to travel to California, after seeing the living conditions, I just couldn't believe it," said Ralph Munro, a then staffer for Governor Evans and later the Secretary of State for Washington. "Thousands and thousands of people in horrible conditions, I knew we had to do something to help."

After talking with Munro, Gov. Evans was ready to assist, but wasn't sure where to put them and how many he could support. It was a call from Gov. Evans to Maj. Gen. Howard McGee, the adjutant general, which put his plan in motion.

After talking with Lt. Col. Jim Kramer, the Washington National Guard's installation officer, MG McGee decided that Camp Murray could house refugees and support the operations of Department of Social and



Lt. Col. Liz Pham, U.S. Marine Corp talks about her family's journey from Vietnam to America during the 40th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Journey to America at Camp Murray on April 26, 2015. Pham was the first Vietnamese American to become a Fixed Wing Naval Aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps; later deployed to Iraq, becoming part of the first all-female F/A-18 aircrew and flying over 130 combat missions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Joseph Siemandel)

Health Services and Enterprise Service as they transitioned from refugees to citizens of Washington.

Squad size barracks were transformed into temporary homes, classrooms became office complex and assistance centers, chow halls ramped up their food service and signs with Vietnamese writing were placed around Camp Murray to inform the refugees.

"It was an impressive set-up for a temporary stop," said Munro. "Much better than the conditions they had come from in California."

Even as a temporary stop, the Guard assisted their new found companions in starting their lives in America.

Washington Army National Guard Aviators assisted former Vietnamese Air Force Pilots in passing their Federal Aviation Administration exams, making them federally licensed pilots. Young Vietnamese women were employed as interpreters assisting the authorities with paper work and breaking down the language barrier. Others only stayed for a short time, as the camp shut down on Oct. 1, 1975 as the last of the refugees passed through on their way to more permanent homes.

"Even though it was a short stay, it helped bring now 70,000 Vietnamese Americans to our state," said Munro.

This leads us to 2015, and the 40th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Journey to America, and their celebration on Camp Murray on April 26, 2015 which was attended by

more than 800 Vietnamese Americans.

"It means so much for us to come back to Camp Murray, where it all began for so many of us," said Kim Long Nguyen, member of the event organizing team. "Gov. Evans' hospitality meant so much to the Vietnamese people."

Along with a number of elected officials both current and retired, the event featured many predominate Vietnamese individuals that credit their move to America as a chance to start their lives.

Liz Pham, a Vietnamese American and U.S. Marine Corp Lt. Col. was one of the keynote speakers for the celebration. Pham graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, and would become the first Vietnamese American to become a Fixed Wing Naval Aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps; later deploying to Iraq and becoming part of the first all-female F/A-18 aircrew and flying over 130 combat missions.

"A memory I have was 17 years ago, meeting a U.S. Army soldier that lost three quarters of his unit in the Vietnam War, he said he was one of the lucky ones, losing vision in one eye and having shrapnel wounds all over his body," Pham said. "As I reached out to shake his hand and thank him for his service, because without his service, me and my family would not be here today, he said something that still resonates with me today, he said that is what it is all about, giving others the chance to have a better life."

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS 2015-1 140 Washington Youth Academy Cadets Graduate

Story and photos by Steven Friederich
Washington Military Department

The Washington Youth Academy celebrated the graduation of 140 students from across Washington state during commencement ceremonies on June 20.

It was the second largest graduation class since the Academy was established in 2009. The students will all return to high school to get their diploma, some enrolling in summer school, or seek an alternative path to finish their high school education, such as a GED or by joining Running Start.

The mission of the Washington Youth Academy is to provide a highly disciplined, safe and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk youth to improve their educational levels and employment potential and become responsible and productive citizens of the State of Washington.

The Washington Youth Academy is a division of the National Guard Youth ChallengeNGe Program. Established under authori-

ty of both federal and state law, the WYA is a state-run residential and post-residential intervention program for youth who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of



Graduating cadets had an average GPA for Academy courses of 3.6, which is a high B+. As a comparison, 52 of the graduating cadets had a grade point average less than a D before coming to the Academy.

Only 14 of the cadets who entered the program had enough credits to be classified as seniors. After commencement, 92 graduates of the program have the credits needed to be classified as seniors.

Students volunteered 7,809 hours of community service to the local community, valued at \$67,000, according to Washington Youth Academy Director Larry Pierce. Service projects consisted of everything from restoring a Sept. 11 Memorial to landscaping and event support.

Each cadet was also trained to be part of a Community Emergency Response Team, the first time all of the cadets in a class received the disaster management training.

"We had 140 cadets of diverse backgrounds and situations come together to become one cohesive unit," Pierce said. "They overcame obstacles and shared both dreams and setbacks, as well. They shared laughter and tears, but they changed together and they prevailed together."

More than 1,500 students have gone through the program since its inception.

For more information, visit <http://mil.wa.gov/youth-academy>.



dropping out.

The free program places cadets in a 22-week intensive residential phase. For the following year, the youth receives intense mentoring and placement follow-up. The school is in Bremerton, but anyone from around the state can apply. Students can earn up to 8 credits.

The average number of credits earned by cadets who completed the program this cycle was 7.9 – achieving a 98.5 percent credit retrieval rate. Comparatively, a full year at a high school is 6 credits. That means students earned more than a year's worth of credits in just 22 weeks.

GETTING A SECOND CHANCE

The story of one cadet's journey to getting back on track

Story by Steven Friederich
Washington Military Department



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kriess)

Shantelle Stewart had given up.

At 17, she was ready to drop out of high school. She didn't care what anyone thought of her. She was coping with depression.

She was into drugs. She was failing school. Then, two of her closest friends died.

And things just went from bad to worse

"It was just a downward spiral ... and I couldn't get out," Stewart said.

"I just kind of plummeted downhill and started doing negative things with my life – smoking weed, skipping school a lot, sneaking out," Stewart added. "I was just doing stuff I wasn't supposed to do. And I knew it. Once I got caught and I saw the pain in my dad and step-mom's eyes, I knew it was time to take action and change the course of my life."

Enter the Washington Youth Academy in Bremerton. The Washington Youth Academy is a division of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, operated by the Washington Military Department. Established under authority of both federal and state law, the Youth Academy is a state-run residential and post-residential intervention for youth who have dropped

out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. Stewart was a perfect fit.

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.

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.

"My biological mom had left me when I was little," Stewart said. "She was into meth and alcohol. My step-mom and dad had their struggles but were able to better their lives to give me a better environment to help me become successful."

Stewart left Mt. View High School in Vancouver back in January to join 171 candidates for the Washington Youth Academy, who underwent a grueling two-week acclimation phase of physical and mental prowess before they had the right to call themselves cadets. Then, each cadet had to maintain strict discipline and maintain good grades. As of today, there are 140 cadets set to graduate on June 20. Stewart will be among the graduates.

"I knew two cadets that went here and they

said it wasn't a nice place," Stewart said, noting there were complaints about the food, the sleeping conditions, all of the exercise and having to live in such close quarters with dozens of other teenagers for nearly six months.

"But that's because they weren't trying to change," Stewart says now. "They were forced to come here. I decided to come here because I knew it would be a positive thing and I would be away from all of the negative influences. That way, even if I was trying to better myself and go back to my old

ways, I would be surrounding myself with other people who were also trying to change their lives."

She didn't always think that way.

She remembers her first couple weeks at the Academy, but what she remembers most is the crying. Not because she was hurt or because anyone had done anything mean to her.

"It was all just too much," Stewart said. "My first day was like hell. I kept trying to convince the cadre to let me go home but Lt. Willis said I see something in you and I won't let you go home. It was 24-7 that I was crying. We'd be towing the line. We'd be going to chow. I wouldn't eat because I was so upset. At the time, I didn't see the positives of what it could be."

Jamila Larson, a Youth Mentor Advocate at the Washington Youth Academy, says she remembers Stewart being moved from a bed to a cot because her crying those first few days kept her fellow cadets awake. It was right in front of Larson's office. "I remembered her very clearly and see how much she has changed into a young woman that we can all respect," Larson said.

"She's an example now for everyone else."

Now, she says, her grades are up and she's on her way to getting all of the credits she needs in order to graduate on time with her class in Vancouver. She says she's also cut ties with bad influences and friends that could put her on the wrong path.

"That's the hardest part," she said. "I've changed, but my friends haven't."

She credits her cadre Ashley Ramshaw with being the biggest influence. Cadre staff are a mix of drill sergeants and quasi-parents responsible for overseeing the welfare of each of the cadets.

"She was there for me when I needed her to be," Stewart said. "She's helped me earn this second chance – and I won't let anyone down."

Stewart said she was always interested in politics and how laws were made, but became particularly excited when she got to meet Secretary of State Kim Wyman. Wyman made a special trip to visit cadets at the Youth Academy and then took more time to visit with them when cadets made a special field trip to Olympia.

"She was just so amazing," Stewart said. "I turn 18 in October and I just can't wait to vote. I can't wait to get my friends to vote. I really think we can all make a difference."

Stewart's thoughts traversed social media and got back to Wyman, who



(Photo by Steven Friederich)

Tweeted out recently, "I am in politics because I am inspired by women like Cadet Stewart!"

Stewart says she's in shock that someone like Wyman would even pay attention to her.

Stewart had a chance recently to hang out during a lunch break with U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert as the congressman took a lengthy tour of the Academy. Reichert told of his roots pulling himself up from his bootstraps when as a young man he was homeless and living out of his car to becoming King County Sheriff and ultimately a congressman.

"He was just so inspirational,"

Stewart said. "He gave me advice for school and how to really get involved. "I have so many people looking out for me now," Stewart said.



Kim Wyman
@KimWyman12

@WaYouthAcademy @secstatewa @davereichert I am in politics because I am inspired by women like Cadet Stewart!

9:30 PM - 1 Jun 2015

3 2

"I'm not alone. I have my parents, my cadre, my counselor – and even Secretary Wyman who care. This has been a dream come true for me. It's going to be sad to graduate, but I won't let anyone down."

Around the Department



The first Air Defense Group in Washington Air National Guard history was activated Saturday May 2, 2015 during a three-part ceremony at French Theater on JBLM. The 225th Air Defense Group was activated by Brig. Gen. John S. Tuohy, Washington state assistant adjutant general - Air. With the new designation, existing WADS leaders were formally placed in new command positions. During the ceremony Tuohy highlighted the incoming commanders and their accomplishments, noting that their total combined experience includes nearly 80 years of Air Battle Manager expertise.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Capt. Kim Burke)

898th Reflagged as a Brigade Engineer Battalion

The Washington National Guard said goodbye to the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion and welcomed back the 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion during a reflagging ceremony at the Marysville Armed Forces Reserve Center. The Engineer Battalion returns after deflagging in 2005 and now includes multiple Engineer Companies, a Signal Company, a Military Intelligence Company, a Forward Support Element and a Headquarters Company.



The colors are cased as the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion is re-flagged as the 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Britnee Grooms)

National Guard Captain to participate in Ms. Veteran America 2015 Finals



Washington Army National Guard Capt. Kerri Turner, 205th Regional Training Institution, will hang up her uniform in exchange for a formal gown and heels as she competes for the title of Ms. Veteran America 2015 this October in Las Vegas. The Ms. Veteran America competition highlights the strength, courage and sacrifice of our nation's military women, according to the competition website. The event's purpose is to showcase the "Woman Beyond the Uniform" and to raise awareness of the 55,000 homeless women veterans in America.

(Courtesy photo by Kerri Turner)

Turner was notified by founder of the event earlier this month that her score at regionals in May had qualified her to advance into the prestigious Top 25 of the competition on a national level. "The day I was notified I was really nervous," said Turner. "I hung up from talking with Jas Boothe, the founder of Final Salute, Inc. and did a silly happy dance and shared the news overly energetic to my family." Back in 2013, Turner placed 2nd runner-up and decided to compete again because there are still homeless female veterans, which is unacceptable to this leader. "As a leader, knowing there is one woman warrior homeless is too many," said Turner. "Until we are all safe and can rest peacefully then the passion won't subside." "No matter the challenge women have found themselves in throughout history, we have always prevailed." Turner said. "From voting, to serving our country, to being working mothers, it is an honor to capture the spirit of progress and continue on the road to end homelessness in our female veterans." The unique competition is not based on appearance or age, and there is no swimsuit category. Instead, candidates are scored based on interview, talent, military history and advocacy. Judges will consider grace, poise, confidence and personality. Women from all five military service branches are represented. Capt. Turner has raised more than \$2,000 to benefit Final Salute Inc., an organization that provides safe and suitable housing for homeless women veterans and their children.

Lifelong dreams realized: Air Guardsman opens family business

Washington Air Guard member and newly minted Technical Sergeant Sarah Maynard-Murray and her husband, Jonathan Murray, have had a dream to own their own business for more than two years. Thanks to both the flexibility and the financial stability of her service in the Air National Guard (ANG), the two recently realized their goal by opening their own small business, Uncharted Waters Float Center, a small business in Tacoma, Washington. "We live in a busy, chaotic world. Many of us carry stress, pain, or anxiety in our bodies," said Maynard-Murray. "By providing a deep reset for both body and mind, floating supports new levels of health, strength, and clarity as stress and old patterns fade away." Maynard-Murray credits her military training with giving her the skills to handle the logistical and financial side of running a business. "It's definitely helped a lot to stay organized," said Maynard-Murray. After joining the Oregon Air National Guard in 2004, Maynard-Murray's next goal was to go to college. Over the course of her career, she's been stationed at the 119 Fighter Wing at Fargo, North Dakota and the 141st Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, where she switched career paths from fuels to Knowledge Operations and Personnel. Along the way she earned a master's degree in education and gave birth to a daughter, Piper Rose. Maynard-Murray loves the schedule flexibility the ANG offers,

and appreciates having stable financial options such as TriCare health insurance, which gives her freedom to dabble in various jobs including teaching, behavior therapy, program management and part-time work as a veteran's outreach program specialist for an aerospace company. "Without all the benefits from being in the Guard, this would have never happened." Sarah acknowledges.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Bettina Knaack)

Around the Department



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lisa Laughlin)

Guardsmen gathered at the Aviation Readiness Center drill floor to witness the 96th Troop Command change of command between Col. Greg Allen (outgoing) and Col. Daniel Dent (incoming). 96th Troop Command is comprised of a Military Intelligence Battalion, Information Operations Group, Chemical Battalion, Ordnance Battalion, Special Forces Group and many other specialty units.

Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty shakes the hand of Chief Finance Officer Dan Swisher during his retirement celebration in June. Although Swisher has retired, he's agreed to come back on a part-time basis. Daugherty notes that Swisher has been a valuable resource for the Washington Military Department, as well as a trusted advisor.



(Photo by Steven Friederich)

Aviators from the Washington National Guard assisted the Washington State University Reserve Officer Training Corp with an Air insertion into Camp Seven Mile near Spokane for their annual Spring field exercise. More than 50 cadets get to ride from Fairchild Air Force Base to Camp Seven Mile in the back of a CH-47 Chinook.



(Courtesy photo)

The Western Air Defense Sector conducted a change of command ceremony at The McChord Theater located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, McChord Field, April 21. Col. Gregor J. Leist assumed command of WADS from outgoing commander Col. Peter D. Stavros who has helped the organization since March 2011.

Students from the TriTech Skills Center in the Tri-Cities visited the Washington National Guard's Maneuver Area Training & Equipment Site (MATES) in May to learn about the mission of the shop and about the operations the mechanics conduct to support the unit at the Yakima Training Center.



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Joseph Siemandel)



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Capt. Kim Burke)



(U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

In May, the 1st Battalion, 205th Regional Training Institute, conducted a change of command ceremony as they saw Lt. Col. David Hamilton (outgoing) pass the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Jesse Basher (incoming).



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Omelina)

The 181st Brigade Support Battalion "Mavericks" conducted a change of command ceremony on Camp Murray in May. The battalion welcomed Lt. Col. Kristen Derda and said good bye to Lt. Col. Adam Iwaszuk.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Zach Rider)

Col. Jeremy Horn took command of the 194th Regional Support Wing of the Washington Air National Guard on Saturday, May 2, 2015, in a ceremony at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, replacing Col. Jill Lannan. Lannan said that Horn is the "right guy at the right time" to lead the 194th, which consists of more than 1,000 citizen-airmen involved in cyberspace operations, air support operations, mission support and medical support. (ANG Photos/SSgt Paul Rider/Released)



April
Sp. Brennan Hamsher
 792nd Chemical Company



**WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD
 GUARDSMEN OF THE MONTH**



May
Sp. Alex Massoth
 A Troop 1-303rd

**Do you know a superb
 guardsman?**

Nominate them for
 Guardsmen of the month on
 our website!

Submit Now



June
Sp. Alya Scott
 E Co. 1-168th General
 Support Aviation Battalion

205th RTI Graduates New Crop of Warrants

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

Let's hear it for our newest Warrant Officers as they pin LWO1 at the National Guard Warrant Officer Training Center!

Washington National Guard WO1s who just completed class 15-001 took four of the five top honors including: Distinguished Honor Graduate, Second Distinguished Honor Graduate, Leadership and Physical Fitness awards!



Chinese Officials Visit Camp Murray

Story courtesy Tacoma News Tribune

Officials from the Chinese military visited Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Camp Murray on Friday for discussions on preparations for natural disasters with Army and National Guard leaders.

The visit focused on humanitarian assistance following emergencies, an issue that is seen as a potential point of collaboration between the U.S. and China. Chinese officials participated in a similar forum last year in Hawaii with Army Pacific.

At Camp Murray, Chinese officials led by Lt. Gen. Li Zuocheng visited the state's Emergency Management Division and received briefings on the National Guard's response to wildfires and the March 2014 State Route 530 landslide, National Guard spokesman Capt. Joe Siemandel said. They also discussed the state's preparations for earthquakes and tsunamis.



Lt. Gen. Li Zuocheng of China's People's Liberation Army makes a point as he visits with Washington National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty during a visit Friday to Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Camp Murray. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Joseph Siemandel)

Military officials from Asian nations visit JBLM about twice a month. I Corps, JBLM's Army headquarters, is an arm of Army Pacific, and it is responsible for nurturing partnerships between the U.S. and allied ground forces.

Gen. Stanley Clarke Tours Washington Military Department

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

The national director of the Air National Guard visited Camp Murray and Joint Base Lewis-McChord April 11 to learn about the Washington Air National Guard's cyber security capabilities. Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III toured the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron at JBLM and was briefed by members of the 143rd Cyber Operations Squadron at Camp Murray, followed by a lunch with airmen.

Squadron officers briefed Clarke on their state and federal missions and described some of their challenges. In turn, Clarke explained the challenges of budgeting for the Air National Guard in the 21st Century.

"We're not facing threats like we did in the Cold War years where we kept throwing in money," he said. At the same time, with limited resources and a constant need to remain relevant, he added, "We're very effective at what we do."



Chief Master Sgt Steven A. Durrance 141st Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant, Col. Mark S. Sweitzer 141st Force Support Squadron commander, Col. David A. Dixon 141st Maintenance Group commander, Brigadier Gen. John S. Tuohy Washington State Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III Director Air National Guard, Col. Daniel J. Swain 141st Air Refueling Wing commander, Col. Matthew R. Yakely 141st Operations Group commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wayne R. Deist (L- R) pose for a picture in front of the wing headquarters building before touring the 141st Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base on April 12, 2015. Lt. Gen Clarke visited the wing while touring the Washington State military department. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown)

JUST KEEP RUNNING

Washington National Guard Marathon Team takes 1st in nation

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Michael White
194th Regional Support Wing

Washington National Guard's Marathon Team finished first in the nation in the 38th annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 3. Four Washington runners qualified for the exclusive "All Guard" Team, with three also winning first place age division awards.

The annual competition brought together teams of the best Army and Air National Guard athletes from all 50 states, and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico. Participants vie to be on the "All Guard" Team, consisting of the top 40 fastest running Guardsmen and the top 15 Guardswomen.

More than 11,000 runners gathered on the first weekend in May for what they imagined would be a run-of-the-mill 26.2-mile race. The participants ran the citywide course that started on the campus of the University of Nebraska, and finished on the 50-yard line of the Cornhuskers Memorial Stadium. Conditions became more of a challenge than the distance as temperatures climbed into the mid-70s, which can feel like the upper 90s in direct sun, running in thermals, coming off the hot Nebraska blacktop.

Rookie Washington marathon team member 2nd Lt. Trevor Harris, 141st Medical Group, led the team with the fastest time of 2:54:28. Harris finished 5th place overall for Guard runners, winning a first place age division award and qualifying for All Guard.

"The best part is by far and away the comraderies that the other states' runners exude," said Harris. "These people see each other once, maybe a couple of times a year but they are incredibly friendly and sincere toward each other. Since it was my first time at Lincoln, and my first time

with the marathon team, I can't speak more highly of my team coordinator and captain [White] for making me feel included, encouraged and welcome."

Capt. Brendan Thompson, HQ 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team, competed here for the fifth time. He finished with a time of 2:55:40, eighth place Guardsmen overall, and capturing first place honors in his age division. Thompson qualified for "All Guard" for his fifth time.

"The heat made the race a challenge but was rewarding to finish," said Thompson. "My time was slower than last year. It's great to bring home 'The Cob.'" The Cob is a traveling trophy that symbolizes camaraderie, teamwork, competition and rivalry.



"We've been just outside of the top three teams for the last few years," said Thompson. "It was awesome to have a new team member who could finally help us bring it home."

Earning a position on All Guard for the second time, 1st Lt. Brien "BDubs" Waldron, 176th Engineer Company, ran his fourth Lincoln in a finish time of 3:05:38, fast enough for 20th place Guardsman overall.

"The best part about this race was finally figuring out my proper fueling plan to avoid cramping and finish pretty strong despite

the conditions," said Waldron. "Overall I was relatively pleased with my time despite my rough training plan due to having a very demanding job and a recent civilian job change which required additional hours of work. The heat definitely impacted me, but due to racing the Yakima Skyline 50k race a few weeks before, it allowed my body to have a little heat training in which prevented a complete shock to my system."

Team Captain Senior Master Sgt. Michael "Whitey" White, 194th Regional Support Wing, returned for his 11th year in Lincoln. White crossed the line in 3:14:33 good for 1st place in his age division, and the 31st place Guard runner overall. He improved from being the team's novice rookie marathoner in 2004, to earning All Guard for his ninth time.

Also earning a position as an alternate on the female All Guard team in only her second year at Lincoln was Staff Sgt. Stephanie Riegler, 141st Information Operations Squadron. Riegler finished in 4:01:09 which earned her third place for her age division.

"The best part of Lincoln is seeing all the 2014 All Guard members and knowing that I get to compete against some outstanding individuals. The heat definitely affected my run time. I would've appreciated rain," said Riegler.

The mission of the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Marathon program is for members of the "All Guard" to promote the Guard, and to enhance and increase its strength. All Guard members encourage and enhance Guard Recruiting and Retention programs by instilling physical fitness, self-discipline, and esprit de corps throughout the Guard. All Guard competes at military and civilian races across America as part of Military Competitions Programs.

TAKE THE KIDS TO WORK

Washington Military Department conducts 2015 Annual "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day"

Story and photos by Kristin Ramos & Karin Johnson

The "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" is a Governor proclaimed annual event held the third Thursday in June, and is sponsored by the Interagency Committee of State Employed Women (ICSEW). This year's Camp Murray event was held on Thursday, June 25th from 8am-Noon. Thirteen youth were registered, along with five parent volunteers. The theme was Emergency Preparedness. The children participated in activities designed to prepare them in an emergency situation. Each participant created an emergency "Go Kit," toured the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), fed the fish at Murray Creek, and made para cord bracelets.

As always, the staff at Camp Murray helped make this event a success by providing promotional items to the participants, which included National Guard cinch sacs, water bottles, lanyards, and challenge coins. Emergency Management Division (EMD) Public Education provided items such as preparedness bags, activity books, flashlights, and pencils. Each child received a personalized

name badge. State HRO provided snacks and activity support. Activity support was also provided by State Environmental, National Guard and EMD.

A very special thank you to the following individuals for their assistance in making this event a tremendous success: State EMD: Robert Ezelle, Director, Rosanne Garrand, Pub Ed, Jaye Compton, Dep. EOC Sup., Shannon MacFarlane, Photos, Kelly VanDrasek, Support, Wanda Tsosie, Support, Franky Ramos, Instruction and Kristin Ramos, Coordinator Joint Services Support: Gary Lott, Marketing Dir. State HRO: Laura Drybread, Susan Miles and Geri Harding State Environmental: Tom Skjervold, Rowena Valencia-Gica and Peggy Ulman Washington National Guard: SFC Travis Bassett, Flags & SFC Duane Cruz, PT



Overnight success?

Shadow Platoon shows rest of the National Guard why patience pays off

Story and photos by Capt. Joseph Siemandel, JFHQ Public Affairs Office

Since 2001, combat operations have adapted to the ever changing environment. The old soft side Humvees gave way to armored personnel carriers. Tanks were gradually replaced with Stryker vehicles, and the concept of intelligence gathering changed dramatically with the introduction of the tactical unmanned aerial system (TUAS); and that is where Det. 1, D Co. 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) joins the fight.

“It is probably one of the coolest jobs in the guard no one knows about,” said CW2 Barry Kerr, Platoon Leader, Det. 1, D Co. 898 BEB. “Our operators and maintainers love what they do. They love being out here and getting the birds in the air.”

The “bird” that Kerr is referring to is the AAI RQ-7B Shadow 200, or just known as Shadow. The smallest of the Shadow family of unmanned aerial systems, it is used to locate, recognize and identify targets up to 125 kilometers away and can send all information back to a brigade tactical operations center (TOC).

“We have the ability to send live feeds from the camera on the Shadow back to the brigade TOC,” said Kerr. “This allows for the intelligence to be analyzed by the commander quickly, and they can make a decision while we are flying.”

Over the past few years, the tight-knit unit located at the Yakima Training Center (YTC) has been rapidly gaining the attention of the National Guard, not just in Washington State but in Washington, D.C. The national standard for TUAS programs is 192 hours. This baseline is what the Guard expects all TUAS units to reach each fiscal year.

“You don’t just build a successful flight program over night,” Kerr said. “We struggled to get over 70 hours our first few years.

“It is probably one of the coolest jobs in the guard no one knows about.”

We have been fortunate that everything has come together over the last few.”

In 2014, the TUAS platoon reached the 200 flight hours milestone, joining only 14 other states to reach the NGB standard.

“Last year was what started it off and we just kept going,” said Kerr.

The platoon reached 180 flight hours in just the first three months of the year.

By the end of the 81st Brigade’s Annual Training in June, the TUAS platoon had flown high above the Guardsmen training

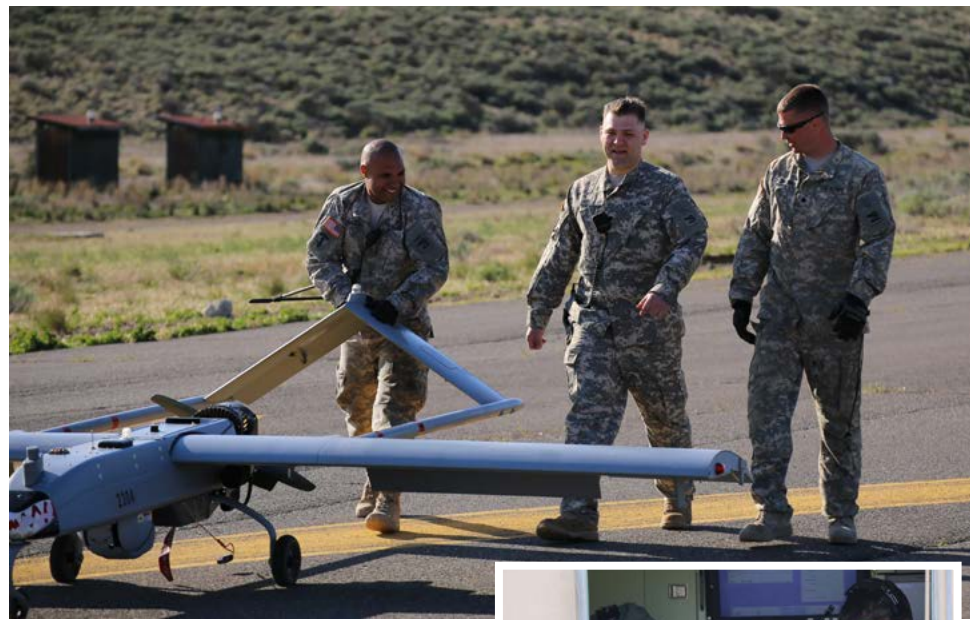
on YTC, gave the 81st Brigade an overhead look at wildfire training, and even assisted the Yakima Fire and Rescue team track a fast moving wildfire on the Training Center all while reaching a national milestone of

462 hours—the most internal hours flown by a Guard unit up to that point in the FY.

“Our goal this year was 440 hours; we have motivated operators and maintainers,” said SSG Jacob Gappmayer, Instructor Operator and senior TUAS operator in the unit. “Our guys want to be the best at their jobs, they work hard, but also do it safely.”

Like manned aviation, TUAS operators have to meet the same standards in regards to safety, physical fitness and crew rest. This means the unit usually conducts drills in off hours, has safety stand down days and has to request from their company commander an extra duty hour to continue to serve.

“We have had NCOs that have come off active duty,” Gappmayer said. “They deployed and performed their jobs in Iraq and Afghanistan. They know the right way to do things and will bring that knowledge



Top: SSG Giudice, SPC McElmurray and SPC Green push Shadow down the run way after landing. Middle: SSG Gappmeyer discusses the area of flight with other soldiers Bottom: SGT Chapman pre-flights a Shadow

to our younger operators right out of the school house.”

Experience matters and the TUAS platoon has had the chance to get that experience this year. The unit hopes that it will continue to see the success of FY15 carry into the future.

“When you can end a year in the top five in the country, you know that you are doing something right,” said Kerr. “I know these guys just want to do their best and they are showing that now.”



Officer Candidates School prepares future soldiers while learning about the past

Candidates travel to Fort Worden to learn about National Guard’s past

Story and photos by Capt. Kerri Turner, 205th Regional Training Institute

Overlooking the Olympic Peninsula on a pristinely clear day, Officer Candidates School Class 58, 2nd Battalion (OCS), 205th Regiment explore and learn during a staff ride at Fort Worden in Port Townsend.

Fort Worden, along with the heavy batteries of Fort Flagler and Fort Casey, once guarded the nautical entrance to Puget Sound. These posts, established in the late 1890s, became the first line of a fortification system designed to prevent a hostile fleet from reaching such targets as the Bremerton Naval Yard and the cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Everett.

The purpose of the staff ride is to get the candidates to appreciate the operational and strategical significance of terrain and battles, as well as learn about history in the U.S. Army.

“This experience is absolutely worthwhile,” said Officer Candidate Sarah Drerup, class platoon sergeant. “We have been looking forward to this event after being out in the field for the last two drill months. Seeing a new part of the state and a place with historical significance for the Army is an important connection for me to have, since I will serve in Washington.”

The class platoon leader and platoon sergeant are evaluated on their mission planning and execution of the weekend.

They are responsible for the logistics, transportation, coordinating the tour, physical fitness and more. Their attention to detail and success of the mission is critical for them to graduate and become lieutenants.

“This has been the busiest drill thus far,” said Officer Candidate Lee Roach, class platoon leader. “We conducted a team recon. We came to identify buildings, walk through the barracks and dining facility, verify times and locations of ferry transport and had many conversations via telephone with a tour guide. There were a lot of moving pieces, but I learned from past mistakes and applied tactics that worked well in previous drills to ensure we have a successful plan.”

Their physical fitness plan included a group run, which incorporated sprints and the stairs at Kinzie Battery, then finished on the beach front conducting circuit training. “I knew I needed to include the terrain,” Drerup said. “It is an experience I will remember for a long time -- group sit-ups on the beach were hard but fun.”

The trip also solidifies esprit de corp amongst the candidates. “This drill feels slightly less formal, which allows for more informal conversations about our families, each other’s military experienc-

es and affords the opportunity for information sharing with our platoon trainers,” Drerup said. “It is nice to receive more advice instead of corrections.”

“The change of scenery is great, but taking our group dynamic we have developed and watch the teamwork solidify through this experience is the best part about the staff ride,” Roach said.

As the class enters into the third phase of training next month, the staff ride is the culminating event of the second phase. In addition to learning about the coastal artillery forts, the candidates discover which branch they will commission into upon graduating the course.

“We started a new tradition with this class, which is unique and special,” said Maj. Michael Vincent, the company commander. “On the bluffs of Fort Casey, we pin the branch insignia on their uniforms; we just want it to be an experience for the candidates.”

Knowing their branch is half the battle, now they need to focus on Phase III, which has an intense training agenda and many challenges they must pass to earn the coveted gold bar.

Their success and improvements up to this point prove they are ready for the next challenge.

Mount Saint Helens 35 Years Later

Anniversary of the blast provides unique opportunity for awareness

Story by Steven Friederich
Washington Military Department

Most people who saw Mount St. Helens explode back on May 18, 1980 probably ran in the other direction or stood in silence watching. But when members of the Washington National Guard were training in Yakima back on that very day, they saw the massive explosion and the giant plume of ash rapidly approaching, got in their helicopters and headed into the disaster.

“The ash plume was getting up there to 60,000 to 80,000 feet,” said former Washington National Guard UH-1 pilot, Hal Kolb, “I had never seen anything like this before. The plume was just rising. It was like a big black avalanche with lightning. ... I was the last helicopter to get out of Yakima.”

“The power of that thing was unbelievable,” added Jess Hagerman, a pilot who was on the other side of the mountain at Fort Lewis, but would soon be called to respond to the incident on several missions. “It was boiling and black and doing all sorts of things.”

The helicopter crews helped save many lives despite the poor flying conditions. The pilots -- as well as the many others who contributed and helped during what was one of the finest moments for the Washington National Guard are remembered on this, the 35th anniversary of the catastrophic eruption of Mount St. Helens.

May was Volcano Preparedness Month in Washington state, providing residents an opportunity to become more familiar with volcanic risk in their communities and learn about steps they can take to reduce potential impacts. This year, Volcano Preparedness Month also coincided with the 35th anniversary of the May 18, 1980



eruption. The eruption of Mount St. Helens caused massive destruction and loss of life. It also, however, was a catalyst for a new era of unprecedented scientific discovery, technology development and community awareness.

The Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division, Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and the U.S. Geological Survey Cascades Volcano Observatory are working together to provide timely warnings and reduce the negative impacts of future eruptions. Together, the agencies develop and exercise emergency plans with communities, coordinate communications, conduct public education programs, and plan for short- and long-term recovery in the event an eruption or lahar should occur.

In October of last year, the Washington Emergency Management Division worked with its partners to complete the Mount St. Helens / Mount Adams Volcanic Region Coordination Plan, put in place in case another disaster were to happen. The plan details the roles and responsibilities of the various partners in the face of an eruption again.

Mount St. Helens Anniversary

On Sunday, May 18, 1980 at 8:32 a.m., the bulging north flank of Mount St. Helens slid away in a massive landslide. Seconds later, the uncorked volcano exploded and blasted rocks laterally, destroying centuries of forest growth in a span of several minutes. Nine hours of explosive volcanic activity ensued, altering the landscape, and what we know about volcanoes, forever.

The opening minutes of the eruption claimed the lives of 57 people. Winds transported 520 million tons of ash across the United States, producing darkness in Spokane, more than 250 miles away. Water from melting snow and ice mixed with loose rock debris to form lahars – volcanic mudflows – that poured down river valleys ripping trees from their roots and engulfing roads, bridges and houses.



Thirty-five years later, excess sediment still moves down those river drainages most affected by erupted debris on May 18, creating flooding issues and impressing upon all that hazards can persist long after an eruption is over. The eruption left an indelible effect on the regional economy and lives of citizens in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Mount St. Helens is a volcanologist's ideal laboratory. The landslide exposed the interior of the mountain. This affords scientists with unprecedented access for examining deposits, installing monitoring gear and conducting tests that provide new insights about volcano dynamics. Eruptive activity helps scientists to draw correlations between monitoring signals and impending eruptions.

“The true legacy of the Mount St. Helens eruption has been the long-term opportunities it has given scientists to understand explosive-style volcanoes, and for raising public awareness about hazards in the Cascades,” said Carolyn Driedger, hydrologist and outreach coordinator at the USGS CVO.

Mount St. Helens demonstrates the importance of scientists working in close partnership with emergency and land management agencies to prepare for future eruptions, which includes installation of comprehensive monitoring networks, developing and practicing emergency plans, and supporting community education. John Ewert, scientist-in-charge at the USGS CVO, added, “We cannot wait for indications of volcanic reawakening to begin these preparations. The work needs to be done now.”

Preparing for future eruptions

Recent eruptive events at volcanoes in Chile and Japan are reminders that volcanoes can reawaken very quickly and that preparations must be accomplished in times when the volcano is quiet. During September 2014, Ontake Volcano in Japan erupted with only a few hours of precursory earthquakes, and claimed the lives of 63 people. In April 2015, Calbuco volcano in Chile provided similar short notice and displaced more than 6,500 people.

This year, various agencies are involved in mitigation measures, including updating emergency coordination plans, making public education presentations and posting signs in communities. A schedule of events is available online. A diary of daily happenings during 1980 has been posted on the USGS Volcanoes Facebook site.

Washington state's Emergency Management Division website has a section about the state's volcanoes as well as volcano preparedness measures. There's also educational material for kids on its publication section. Follow the agency's Twitter feed for breaking news and information.

The USGS CVO and PNSN work to improve eruption forecasting and warning capabilities for Cascade volcanoes as part of the National Volcanic Early Warning System. They continue to monitor Mount St. Helens and other volcanoes in the Cascade Range for signs of unrest. The monitoring network operated by USGS and PNSN enhances the likelihood of detecting preliminary signs of an impending eruption at Mount St. Helens at its earliest stages.

The USGS CVO website has information about Volcano Preparedness Month events, as well as the USGS volcano-monitoring program, and the hazards in Washington and Oregon. Register for weekly updates and occasional Information Statements from the USGS Volcano Notification Service.

The University of Washington's PNSN tracks earthquake activity in the Cascadia region including those under the Cascade Volcanoes on their Volcano Seismicity web pages.

The Washington state DNR's Division of Geology and Earth Resources produces maps, assessments and other information to inform landowners, residents, community leaders and emergency personnel about the risks related to volcanoes, lahars and other natural hazards in Washington state.

“The power of that thing was unbelievable.”

- Jess Hagerman



The Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) office has seen many changes and been witness to many accomplishments these last six months. The former CPI Director, Ronald Kapral, recently retired and will be greatly missed. His dedication to both the CPI office and the Washington Military Department will continue to inspire others throughout the agency.

Over the last six months, the CPI Office has been a part of many accomplishments:

- Instructed over 147 employees in basic Lean skills
- Mentored and facilitated 16 projects to completion, which saved the agency time and improved employee satisfaction
- State Litigation Discovery Process (Bernadette Petruska)
- 141st MXG and 92nd MXG IGEMS Process (Brian Gregory and Tyler Beal)
- 14st AMXS Federal Awards Process (Stephen Stearly)
- Federal HRO Technician Vacancy Announcement Process (Chris Blanco)



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state government.

-Gov. Jay Inslee

- Master Cooperative Agreement 1003 (David Grun)
- JSS Standardized Calendar (Gary Lott)
- HRF Pre-Mobilization Readiness Tracking (Nicholas Winters)
- 141st OG Orders Processing (Dana McCrillis)
- WADS GIS Delivery Time (Henry Lee)
- Honor Guard Mission Processing and Tracking (Charles Einarson)
- JFHQ Evergreen Tremor 2015 Communications Process (George Williams)
- C/303rd Class II Supply Process (Daniel McMasters)
- 81st ABCT SICUPS Process (Brian Rikstad)
- Stationing Committee (Keith Kosik)
- 194th MDG Line of Duty Process (Choon Young)
- EMD Green Sheet ongoing (Shannon MacFarlane)
- Trained 28 Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Green Belt students of which nine have received certification. They are: CPT Nicholas Winters, MAJ George Williams, SGM Brian Rikstad, SSG Daniel McMasters, SSgt Dana McCrillis, Gary Lott, Karin Johnson, 1LT David Grun, and Charles Einarson
- Developed an LSS Black Belt Certification Course in conjunction with three other National Guard CPI offices which will be piloted in the fall
 - The new CPI Director, Samantha Einarson, completed the first four phases of the Army's Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt Certification process and received authorization to instruct LSS Black Belts.

LEAN is...

the endless pursuit, identification and elimination of waste, adapting to change, and continuous process improvement.



SOUND OFF!

"We provide more than 3,000 meals to our Washington National Guardsmen at the Yakima Training Center during a typical drill weekend, we need to be ready to go when they come to get food."

- MSG Darrell DeGross

Find out more about the Food Service Detachment and their role in the Fall Evergreen.

Seattle Mariners General Manager, Lloyd McClendon, pays respect to Sgt. Carl Chatfield from the Washington State Guard after the opening ceremonies that paid tribute to the armed forces. The Seattle Mariners Baseball Club invited service members from across Washington to take part in the opening ceremonies for the 2015 Salute to Armed Forces Game. Pregame events included commemorative plaques awarded to each service as well as a representative from each service throwing out a ceremonial first pitch. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Christian)



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