



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

EVERGREEN

MAGAZINE

FALL / WINTER 2023

STAMPEDE INTO HISTORY

Washington Army National Guard takes part in first-ever mass formation run, leadership summit and esprit de corps events during November drill.



WASHINGTON TRIBES MEET ON CAMP MURRAY | WWII AIRMAN'S JOURNEY HOME | GUARD HELPS DURING MIDTERM ELECTIONS

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ON THE COVER

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Dent, commanding general of the Washington Army National Guard, greets his Soldiers during the first-ever Rainier Stampede at Yakima Training Center, Wash., on Nov. 5, 2022. More than 3,700 Soldiers throughout the state mobilized to attend leadership training, a barbecue, and a three-mile run led by Brig. Gen. Daniel Dent, commanding general of the Washington Army National Guard.
(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Adeline Witherspoon)

Members from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing honor guard stand at attention as "Taps" is played during the memorial for retired Col. Mark Fischer October 14, 2022 at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, Wash. Col. Fischer retired as the vice wing commander at the 141st ARW in 2018 after 34 years of service. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Rose Lust)



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WASHINGTON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMMAND SGT. MAJOR LEAVES A LEGACY AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Brian Rikstad says he feels most at home on the water.

“I totally love the ocean,” Rikstad said. “I did some commercial fishing with my uncle in the summers. I worked for the department of fish and wildlife, worked for fish hatcheries in Oregon. When the military gave me my money for college, I went to Grays Harbor College for Marina Biology. The Guard was a great avenue to pursue that.”

Rikstad joined the Washington Army National Guard in 1982 and served the state for more than 40 years before retiring on Oct. 14, 2022 in a ceremony at the Army Aviation Sustainment Facility on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

“I walked out of my 10th grade English class and that is where I met my recruiter,” said Rikstad.

While young Brian was interested in helicopters following the Mount St.



Left: Command Sgt. Major Brian Rikstad addresses the audience during his retirement ceremony on Oct. 15, 2022 at the Army Aviation Sustainment Facility on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Trio Left to Right:Command Sgt. Major Brian Rikstad with Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, Commanding General, Washington Army National Guard, Col. Kristen Derda, Director of Operations, JFHQ-WA, Col. Dan Brewer, Chief of Staff, JFHQ-WA.



Story by Joseph Siemandel, Photos by 1st Lt. Oduero

Helens response, his first unit was the 803rd Armor out of Port Orchard. There he got to work on the M60 tank as tank crew member while going to school at Grays Harbor College.

“Those were rough years,” Rikstad remembered. “We trained hard, show up to drill on Friday nights, rack out at the armory or on the tank for a couple hours and then train for a couple days and then back to work Monday morning. I was in Port Orchard for 17 years as a part-time National Guard reservist.”

Those years traveling to drill from school and work, as a part-time National Guard member, is where Rikstad credits really learning and growing as a leader in the Washington Army National Guard.

“I had the transmission on my car go out, so I called the unit and let them know I was having car trouble. The readiness said he didn’t care, you need to get to drill, so I rucked up and started walking,” said Rikstad.

From his house in Aberdeen to Port Orchard would be a hefty walk, so Rikstad began hitchhiking. He was picked up right away by a Marine reservist who was going to Bremerton for his drill, however was still late to first formation.

“I started talking to Sgt. 1st Class John Witt, he was my platoon sergeant, he was counseling me for being late and as we were talking he realized where I was in life. He stopped and said you hitch hiked here, told him it was all I got,” said Rikstad. “He drove me home that Sunday, so I didn’t have to hitchhike. The next drill he called me and asked me if I was good to go to drill, which I wasn’t, so he picked me up that next Saturday and then offered to help get my car fixed.”

Rikstad says leaders like that helped him develop his own leadership style.

“That was probably one of my greatest memories of what real leadership looked like,” said Rikstad.

As the 81st Armor Brigade Combat Team ramped up for deployment in 2003, Rikstad was offered the first opportunity that would define the second half of his career.

“I was the working staff in the 81st headquarters, operations section, and as we got to Fort Lewis they asked me to be the first sergeant for the 281st Military Intelligence Company,” said Rikstad. “I was like whoa, I am a

tanker. Command Sgt. Maj. Ohler was like I don’t care, just make sure they point the weapons in the right direction.”

That opportunity led Rikstad to take more leadership opportunities in the 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment, 96th Aviation Troop Command and the Joint Operations Center working domestic operations.

“It was crazy because I remember it was 1981 when I talked with the recruiter. Then in April 1982 I joined the Guard. But [40 years later] it all went back to those helicopters, hearing about them flying down in the Toutle River Valley saving those people, that was the reason I joined the Guard, to help people,” Rikstad said.

Rikstad has spent the last 15 years working in the Joint Operations Center both in a part-time and a full-time capacity. Through numerous domestic operations, late night phone calls after an emergency happens or answering hard phone calls following the passing of fellow Guard members, he believes it is one of the most important missions in the organization.

“The JOC is a real mission,” Rikstad said. “The guys, technicians and soldiers, pour their heart into the domestic mission. If those guys weren’t there, answering the call, activating the airmen and soldiers for domestic operations, it all starts there, those soldiers in there are absolutely amazing.”

After a storied 40 years in uniform, Rikstad will continue to give time through his wood working business to benefit numerous non-profit service member’s groups.

“I want to still support our veterans and our service members,” he said.

He is also ready to return to his first love – the water.

“Plan to do some fishing. I bought a boat in 2015, and only has 10 hours on the motors so I’ll make time for that.”

He also knows he needs to return lost time to the people that mean the most to him.

“I owe my children time, I owe my wife Brian,” said Rikstad. “After all these years, I am not going to go back to work, I want to give my time to them.”

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW: MILITARY DEPARTMENT HOSTS HISTORIC FORUM WITH EMERGENCY MANAGERS FROM LOCAL TRIBES



In any disaster, no matter the size, having advanced knowledge of what resources are available to assist during the response can save lives and mitigate further damage.

In an effort to share knowledge and resources, the Washington Military Department hosted an historic forum with emergency managers from 25 federally recognized Indian tribes and nations in the state.

"I don't believe something like this has happened in a long time, at least to my knowledge," said Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, commander of the Washington Army National Guard. "This is an incredible opportunity to learn and discuss a topic that we are very passionate about."

Tribal governments and their members are an essential part of the state's emergency management team. The relationships formed between the Military Department and tribes are necessary in the state's mission of working together to protect lives and property before, during and after a disaster. Washington state is home to 29 federally recognized Indian tribes, which represent nearly two percent of the state's population living on more than 3.2 million acres, each with their own tribal governments, including emergency management and response supervisors and staff.

"Our goal is to consistently look at how we can better support you and

continue to provide resources, connecting you with subject matter experts and the important programs you need, and making navigating the emergency management system a little easier," said Sharon Wallace, deputy director of the Washington Emergency Management Division.

During the event, the tribal emergency managers and the Military Department representatives discussed the support the state's Emergency Management Division can provide with outreach, public assistance, grants, mitigation and education. The National Guard showcased a number of unit resources and the work completed during the COVID-19 response and Cascadia Subduction Zone preparation.

Since the State Route 530 Landslide near Oso in March 2014, the Washington Military Department has put an emphasis on working with the tribes to develop stronger relationships following a disaster. Chief Warrant Officer Three Bill Elliott, a tribal liaison with the Washington State Guard, was activated immediately following the landslide to assist with any impacts to the Stillaguamish Tribe.

For this event, Elliott, Erik Riske, the tribal liaison from Washington Emergency Management and Master Sgt. Randolph August, another member of the State Guard, worked across the Military

Department to put together the best venue and information for the tribal emergency managers.

"The tribes have a great relationship with the Military Department, we are always working to make it stronger," said Elliott. "All of the participants considered the meeting a success, and were grateful to the Military Department in both opening dialog between the State and Tribe, but also acting as a facilitator to enable them to begin the process of working on inter-tribal support on emergency management matters."



HEAR THE OPENING ADDRESSES FROM BRIG. GEN. DAN DENT AND SHARON WALLACE AS THEY WELCOMED EMERGENCY MANAGERS FROM 25 WASHINGTON TRIBES.



Story By Joseph Siemandel



NATIONAL GUARD, SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE PARTNERSHIP HELPS ENSURE SECURE VOTING SYSTEM

When ballots were cast for the November midterm election, voters can be assured their ballot was secure due to a long-standing partnership between Washington's Secretary of State and the Washington National Guard.

"This on-going relationship since 2014 continues to provide that extra layer of protection to what is already a very secure voting system in our state," said Col. Thomas Pries, the commander of the 252nd Cyberspace Operations Group.

Since 2014, cyber security professionals from the Washington National Guard have assisted the Secretary of State's office to ensure that when a vote is cast in our state, it is counted correctly and accurately. In September, a team of eight members from the Washington Air National Guard and Washington State Guard spent two-weeks working with the Secretary of State's office to coordinate cyber security support for the November 8th general election. Getting involved early provides the Guard and the Secretary's office awareness of any

issues and ensures they're detected early.

"Every time we do this mission, we make the system even more secure," said Pries. "It is helpful when we are all on the same sheet, all working together with the same goal, that every vote cast in our state is accurate and secure."

Since 1993, Washington began the shift from in-person voting to mail-in ballot voting. In 2005 the state Legislature enacted a measure that said counties in the state could decide to switch exclusively to "vote-by-mail." By 2009, 98 percent of the state had made the switch to mail in voting. Because the decision was made by the counties, all the power is held at the local county level. In 2018, elections systems were deemed "critical infrastructure" by the Department of Homeland Security and were part of a nationwide effort to upgrade security. At that time, Washington received nearly \$8 million in federal funding to protect against future threats. Partnering with the Guard adds an additional layer of

protection and continues an established relationship.

The partnership between the Guard has continued even following the departure of Secretary Kim Wyman, who was appointed by President Joe Biden as a Senior Election Security Lead at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"Even with the change at the Secretary's office, it hasn't changed the approach. We are still in lock step and understand the objectives," said Pries. "The work that we did with Secretary Wyman and her vision has carried over under Secretary Hobbs."

Guard members took the month of October to further develop their support plan prior to re-engaging with the Secretary's office for the elections.

"The adversaries are becoming more advanced and so are we," said Pries. "We aren't isolated to just our Washington National Guard assets. If needed we have the whole Department of Defense, state and federal government to bounce ideas off of and discuss anything we are seeing." - Story By Joseph Siemandel



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STAMPEDE INTO HISTORY

First of it's kind event brought Guardsmen from across the state together for a day of events, education & camaraderie in Yakima

On a cold but sunny morning in Eastern Washington, approximately 3,700 soldiers from the Washington Army National Guard ran in lockstep through the rolling hills of the Yakima Training Center, proudly carrying their unit flags and building esprit de corps following two years of an unprecedented operational tempo.

"We rally here together today standing shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in arms to remember our fallen heroes, recommit ourselves to being soldier first, driven by the big 6, and to strengthen the foundation that we will draw power from moving us forward in the coming months and years," said Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, commanding general, Washington Army National Guard during his speech at the event.

Dubbed "Rainier Stampede," the event kicked off during the morning hours of Nov. 5, 2022, with a 5K organization run. The event exercised the Washington Army National Guard's critical mobilization support functions while enriching the service of, and providing unified purpose, direction and motivation for all soldiers while taking part in Army Combat Fitness Test events and a leadership development summit.

"We're going to bring the leadership teams together and we're going to talk about the command philosophy," said Command Sgt. Major Eric Honeycutt. "See where we were at two years ago and then look at where we're at today. Hopefully we can continue to make this organization better."

The last two years have been historically active for soldiers of the Washington Army National Guard, with ongoing missions to support the state's COVID-19 response, as well as law enforcement partners responding

to civil disturbances both locally and in the nation's capital. Additionally, the previous two years included significant overseas deployments, with more than 2,000 members deployed on missions around the world.

"Since before World War I, from Europe and the Pacific to the Middle East, you, the soldiers of this Guard and this Army, have been there and you continue to travel down that hallowed trail every day," said Dent.

Joint Services Support providers, numerous employers and other community resources were on hand for the soldiers attending the event. Washington National Guard Museum Historians provided select unit history assets to provide exposure and educate the force on the organizational history. Soldiers that attended also were treated with a barbecue meal prepared by the Washington Army National Guard's culinary specialists.

The last time Dent and Honeycutt held a similar leadership summit was just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in

January 2020. The most recent summit helped educate newer officers, non-commissioned officers and warrant officers that have more recently joined the Washington National Guard and provided the members that previously attended a chance to discuss best practices, share knowledge and learn from senior leadership and one another.

"We thank you for making this commitment today. We thank you for making the sacrifice to take time away from your families and other endeavors to stand together in this formation in the critical and honorable profession of arms," said Dent. "I am proud of you and I am so deeply honored to serve alongside each of you as you continue to serve this great state and the greatest nation ever formed."

- Photos by Adeline Witherspoon and Alec Dionne
- Story By Joseph Siemandel and Peter Chang



Scan to watch Brig. Gen. Dent's Speech at Rainier Stampede



Scan for highlights from the first-ever Rainier Stampede

AIRMEN ASSIST DURING HURRICANE IAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Four members of the Washington Air National Guard, including two members from the 194th Wing activated to Camp Blanding, Fla. to support the response following Hurricane Ian on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Master Sgt. Casey Cason, 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, and MSgt Aaron Kelm, 256th Intelligence Squadron, went to share their expertise with integrating high-speed Starlink satellite communication systems into Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) in the local area.

“The opportunity to travel around the US and help out communities around the country for a domestic response is very rewarding,” said Cason.

JISCCs are operational all over the country and respond to multiple high-level communications systems to help Army and Air Guard units re-assess situations to aide them in accomplishing their own missions within their state. The high-speed communication system allows military units to quickly and effectively communicate with local emergency entities when responding to real world situations and enable relief to arrive as quickly as possible. These two Starlink packages will help aid in voice data and radio capabilities when cellular data is not available.

Cason has been attached to the 202nd Red Horse Squadron in Florida. RED HORSE, “Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers,” is a Civil Engineering unit of the Florida Air National Guard that can deploy to any location.

During this time, Cason is providing Red Horse with high-speed Starlink data for downloading maps and satellite imagery during their road clearing operations. One team is airlifting to Pine Island today, due to the bridge collapse, and will begin performing the same mission on the far North side of the island. Red Horse has estimated about another three to four days to clear all the roads on the island, said Cason. The squadron is doing what they can to clear roads and assist island residents until the bridge is reopened.

The team is also bringing Red Horse radio equipment that he will set up to establish line-of-sight radio communications. He is also providing data and voice service support to an Army unit working with local law enforcement. The second Starlink capability will aid in support at another fire station.

When Cason is not on activation, he works for the 242nd CBCS. Its main mission is to provide tactical and mobile communications. Personnel and equipment from the squadron have deployed to all areas of the United States and to the far corners of the world in support of real-world missions and military exercises. Cason has had the privilege of activating for numerous real-world situations for his job, such as the last presidential inauguration, and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico to help set up service provider communication systems during natural disasters.

The 242nd Combat Communications Squadron Commander, Major Matt Bracy, is hoping that there will be more support and funding for these types of missions in the future.

“This will hopefully draw more attention from other states to get the help they need and allow for more funding from National Guard Bureau to support these systems so they will become more common practice,” said Bracy. - Story by Emily Moon



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION UTILIZED
STARLINK DURING THE 2020 WILDFIRE SEASON

AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEPUTY DIRECTOR VISITS WASHINGTON UNITS

Washington Air National Guard senior leaders welcomed the U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Duke Pirak, deputy director, Air National Guard, during a visit to Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Camp Murray, Washington, Oct. 27, 2022.

During his visit to the Western Air Defense Sector, Pirak received an Operation Noble Eagle mission brief. ONE is the federal mission that deters, denies, and defeats potential threats to the U.S. and Canadian airspace around the clock under the command of North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Pirak had an opportunity to walk around the WADS operations floor and speak with Airmen about their job responsibilities in the data links, weapons control, air picture management, and command and control sections. WADS leadership talked about how mission-ready, multi-capable, WADS Airmen are, innovating and advancing the theme of agile combat employment in battle management.



While on the operations floor, Pirak recognized WADS superior performers by coining Staff Sgt. Simin Waters, enterprise systems technician, 225th Support Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Jordon Schaefer, weapons director, 225th Air Defense Squadron.

Pirak held an all-call at the Pierce County Readiness Center on Camp Murray where members of WADS and the 194th Wing were recognized for winning the Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award for 2020 and 2021. The award recognizes the individual and/or team who demonstrates innovation in cost and manpower savings to improve efficiency, operational readiness and replication of the innovation across the Air Force enterprise.

The Washington ANG Innovation Team developed the U.S. Air Force’s first artificial intelligence/machine learning-backed battle management training system that is capable of scaling across the entire tactical C2 enterprise. Battle



Management Training Next is a cutting-edge video game-like training system that provides C2 battle management operators with sustained, high-quality, low-cost training repetitions. The team also stood up the first ANG state coder team, leading software builds for the Department of Defense next-generation C2 platform. The team continues to work with industry-leading software teams to build Joint All Domain Command and Control software “by the warfighter, for the warfighter.”

Following lunch with junior Airmen, Pirak visited the 194th Air Support Operations Group, 143rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron, 194th Intelligence Squadron, and 252nd Cyberspace Operations Group.

While learning about the unit’s respective missions, Pirak took the opportunity to recognize three superior performers in the 194th Wing: Tech. Sgt. Derek Henden, network technician, 143rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Brett Grace, cyber defense operations journeyman, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Kevin Snow, cyber transport technician, 194th Intelligence Squadron. - Story and Photos by Kim Burke





NEW ALIGNMENT WITH 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES TO 81ST STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Soldiers in the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team may be afforded new training opportunities as it moves under the 36th Infantry Division out of Texas under the U.S. Army's new divisional alignment.

"The new divisional alignment opens opportunities to conduct warfighter exercises with habitual units, therefore building continuity and familiarity in the event of large-scale combat operations," said Col. Matthew James, director of operations for the Washington Army National Guard.

In September, Washington Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty signed a memorandum of agreement to facilitate unity of effort with the Adjutants General of Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee and New Mexico and the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division. Under the MOA, which went into effect on Sept. 30, 2022, the 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard has coordinating authority with the Washington Army National Guard's 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Under this alignment construct, the 36th Infantry Division constitutes nine brigades headquartered in five states: Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Washington, and New Mexico.

Maj. Gen. Win Burkett, the commander of the 36th Infantry Division joined Col. Jim Perrin, commander of the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, to visit Guard members as they trained at the Yakima Training Center. During the visit, he got the chance to talk with soldiers about the alignment and the new opportunities.

"Unlike the Army Associated Unit Program, which was an alignment for Training Readiness Oversight to assist Brigade Combat Teams with their mission essential tasks list benchmarks, this is a true go to war alignment with emphasis not just on training but readiness across personnel, equipment, and maintenance," said James.

The alignment brings more training, knowledge sharing and leadership development opportunities to develop high performing leaders within the participating states through the Talent Management Alignment Process. While the Adjutants General retain final approval of all positions for organic units within their states, they allow soldiers from participating states to apply for certain positions through their individual talent management processes as they become available.

The divisional alignment will better enable the Army National Guard to plan training and operations with subordinate units in different states, setting the conditions for large-scale operational readiness. It also means the Army Guard will modernize in a predictable and sustainable manner.

"[This alignment] could provide command and key developmental position opportunities within other states; it allows Washington National Guardsmen to compete for coveted positions they may not otherwise have the opportunity to compete for and it may allow for Washington National Guardsmen who live out of state to drill in a state closer to their homes," said James.

During a panel discussion, Army National Guard leaders addressed the divisional alignment and how it will affect the National Guard. They believe this new alignment will provide soldiers and families with more predictability and lessen the impacts of the demanding implementation requirements on units. They also addressed the new reality of a

global environment characterized by great power competition and how the Army is looking to best use Army National Guard Divisions within the Multi-Dominant Operations fight.

"The 36th Infantry Division is classified as a 'Standard Heavy' division with subordinate Armor, Stryker and Infantry Brigade Combat Teams. The Army has also defined divisions as the 'unit of action' with the intent of deploying division sized organizations to fight a near peer in large scale combat operations," said Maj. Nick Stuart, G35 future operations with the Washington Army National Guard. "This is a shift from the Global War on Terrorism where Brigade Combat Teams were the unit of action."

Currently, there is no federal deployments on the docket for the 36th Infantry Division or the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Breakdown of the 36th Infantry Division's units and State National Guard headquarters.

36th Infantry Division
36th Combat Aviation Brigade
36th Sustainment Brigade
56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
176 Engineer Brigade
(Texas National Guard)

81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team
(Washington National Guard)

111th Sustainment Brigade
(New Mexico National Guard)

155th Armor Brigade Combat Team
(Mississippi National Guard)

278th Armored Cavalry Regiment
(Tennessee National Guard)

WASHINGTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD SHOWS OFF CAPABILITIES TO ELECTED LEADERS

The 141st Air Refueling Wing held legislative lifts Aug. 25-26, 2022, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Fairchild Air Force bases. More than 30 elected leaders and their staffers were able to see the mission of the Washington Air National Guard first-hand.

The event took place over two days starting out at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington, where attendees that represent mostly Western Washington districts, were able to tour the Western Air Defense Sector and elements of the 194th Wing. The legislators also were briefed by leaders from a range of Washington National Guard positions.

On Fairchild, the 141st Air Refueling Wing hosted legislators from mainly Eastern Washington Districts and both sides of the state played host to a group of staffers working for Washington Representatives in Washington D.C.

Legislators were able to speak to Airmen from across the Washington Air National Guard and hear first-hand how each of the wings contribute to the larger Air Force Mission.

While at the 141st the legislators received a mission briefing from Senior Master Sgt. Shaun Bopp, 116th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, on the flight path, receivers, and passenger safety for their orientation flight. Col. Greg Nolting, 141 Air Refueling Wing commander, also gave welcome remarks and thanked attendees for coming and seeing the mission of the wing.

Following that the legislators boarded a KC-135 Stratotanker and flew down to the Oregon Air Refueling Track to watch F-15s from the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Oregon, be refueled. Once they landed the National Guard Association of Washington provided a lunch that was set up by the 141st Force Support Squadron Services Flight. The Wing hosted a capabilities tour that rotated between Security Forces, Homeland Response Force, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability and the Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen.

Legislators were able to walk through and see the capabilities of each area demonstrated to give a better understanding of what it takes to complete the mission.

"This was by far the coolest thing I have ever done as a legislator," said David Hackney, Washington State 11th Legislative District Representative. "In all my years as a representative this has been my favorite thing I have done."

- Photo by Peter Chang, Story by Michael Brown



Scan for highlights
from the 2022 Legisla-
tive Lift Event



Washington State Rep. My-Linh Thai, 41st District, looks out the boom window during an Air Refueling Flight on August 25, 2022. (Photo by Peter Chang)

A TSUNAMI STRATEGY FOR THE WESTPORT MARINA

The Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) has completed a Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy for the Westport Marina to help the region understand the tsunami risk and what protective actions to take to enhance life safety and protect property. It's a strategy developed with the Port of Grays Harbor and the city of Westport along with other partners.

It's the second maritime strategy developed for the state of Washington. In 2021, the state helped develop a similar strategy for the Port of Bellingham. A new strategy is now being developed for the Anacortes area.

"Among the most vulnerable facilities to tsunami impacts are ports, harbors and marinas, which are typically located along shorelines in developed areas," EMD's Tsunami Program Coordinator Danté DiSabatino writes in the strategy. "The ability of ports, harbors and marinas to withstand a disaster and resume operations quickly will be a major factor in the recovery

of the local community and economy in the short and long term."

The activities at the Port of Grays Harbor's Westport Marina and its uplands support nearly 2,300 jobs and more than \$227 million in business revenue every year in rural Southwest Washington, according to the Port.

"The Westport Marina Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy is an integral part of the overall resilience planning for the South Beach," said Westport Public Works Director Kevin Goodrich. "The city of Westport and the Port of Grays Harbor provide services and infrastructure to a broad group of shared users, so having a cohesive Tsunami Mitigation Strategy is crucial. This includes building resilience into facilities and partnering on projects like the city's proposed Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structure in the marina district."

"We are grateful to the fine folks at the Washington Emergency Management Division for the thoughtful and comprehensive plan

they have put together for the Westport Marina," stated Port of Grays Harbor Commission President Tom Quigg. "Their knowledge and expertise on maritime response and mitigation strategy has resulted in an incredibly useful, proactive planning document and resource for our marina users and surrounding community."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce provided funding to EMD to work with ports and regional partners on tsunami preparedness activities. The Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington SeaGrant and the University of Washington were also key to completing the report.

In addition to the strategy, new protective guidance for boaters has been created with plans to distribute the guidance to charter boat captains, commercial fishermen, local U.S. Coast Guard and others.

"The biggest takeaway from developing this strategy is that there are actionable steps people on every level can take to save lives and minimize the impacts of tsunamis on the marina and its boaters and these steps can be applied to much of the state's vulnerable ports, harbors and marinas," DiSabatino said.

Hundreds of commercial vessels use the Westport Marina to harvest Dungeness crab, salmon, albacore tuna and more throughout the year.

The Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy looks at actions the Westport Marina could take before a tsunami, ranging from evacuations to repositioning ships within the Harbor.

The strategy includes new tsunami inundation modeling showing what would happen during a devastating 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, as well as a separate model showing impacts from a 9.2 Alaska earthquake.

"In this strategy we are getting a first look at what an Alaska scenario could look like," DiSabatino said, adding that having updated and new modeling for the maximum considered scenarios of both local- and distant-sourced tsunamis is vital to understanding the risks and what protective actions to take to reduce the risk.

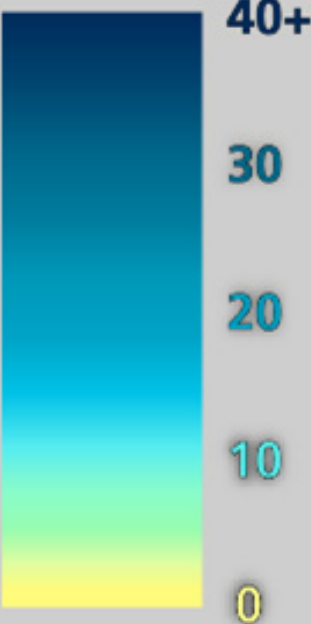
Some issues may not be solved due to the extreme damage of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. However, mitigation could occur before a tsunami generated from an earthquake that occurs in Alaska. In one example, DiSabatino points out there is one Port-owned chemical storage tank that can be capped in the event a tsunami is on the way. Creating an emergency procedure to have marina staff cap the storage tank prior to the wave's arrival could mitigate the potential spill of hundreds of gallons of used oil which could compound existing debris and spill clean-up. While there is not a feasible location to place the storage tank out of the inundation zone for a local Cascadia Subduction Zone tsunami, since water and debris is expected throughout the entire area, it is possible to elevate the storage tank above Alaska inundation levels at its current location.

Other measures look at signage, size and stability of dock pilings and more.

"These response and mitigation actions can help save lives, make the marina more resilient and reduce the time it takes for the marina to recover, thus restoring an integral part of the maritime infrastructure and economy," DiSabatino said.

- Story by Steven Friederich

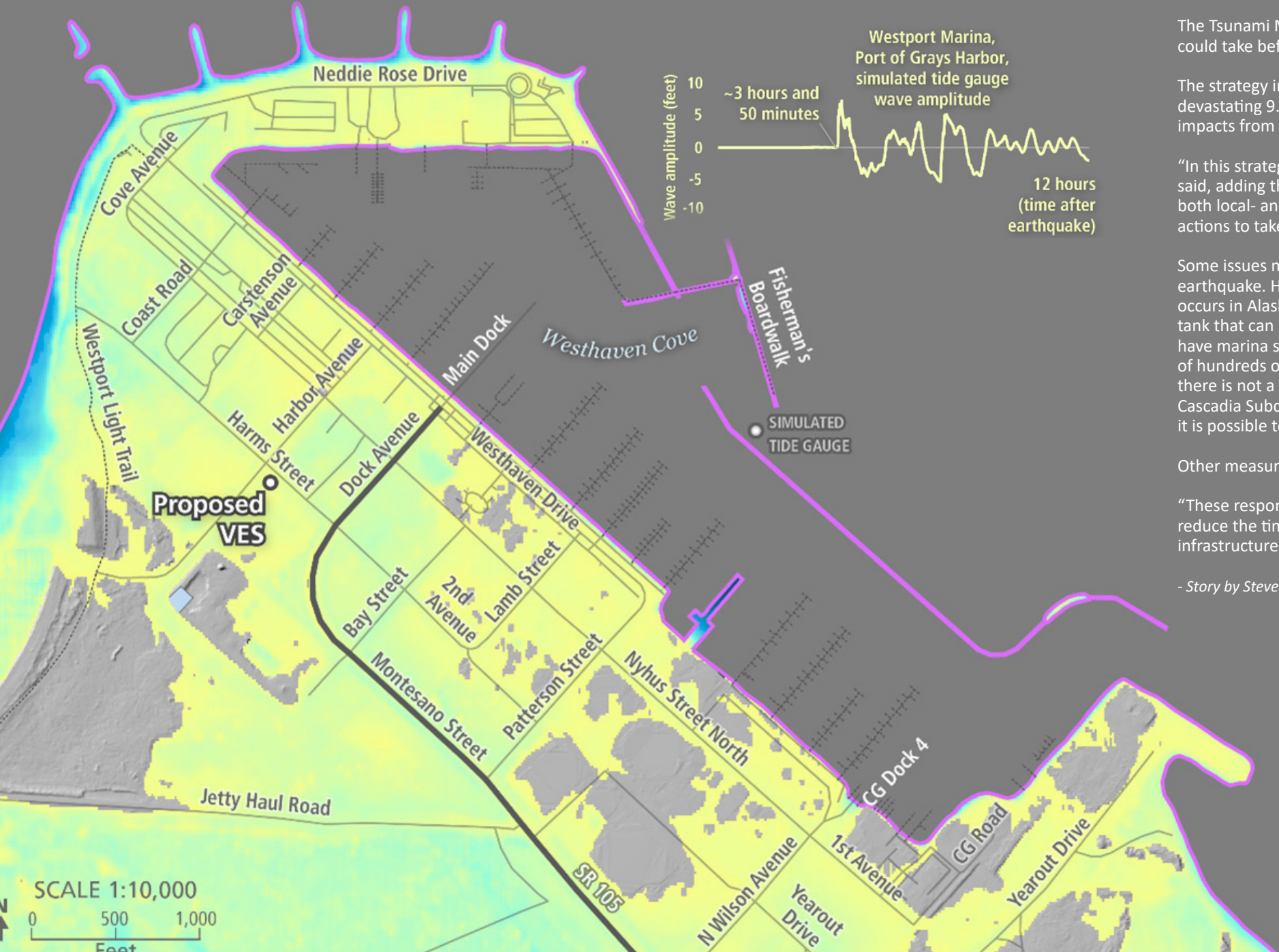
Modeled onshore inundation depth (feet)



Source: Alaska
Datum: MHW

MAP SYMBOLS

- Dry land
- US Highway
- Road
- Trail, dock, pier
- Pre-earthquake shoreline



Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy:
Westport Marina, Port of Grays Harbor
Westport, Washington
2022



Scan to read the Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy





Spc. Raymond Alonso, a combat medic specialist with Charlie Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, added his name to the short list of individuals who have earned the Expert Field Medical Badge on their first attempt – and became the first member of his unit to accomplish this feat in more than a decade.

“Of the three expert badges, including the Expert Infantry and Expert Soldier, the Expert Field Medical Badge has a notoriously low pass rate. It is physically, mentally and technically demanding,” said Capt. Jim Kovell, commander for Charlie Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion. “For comparison the Expert Field Medical Badge has only a 29 percent pass rate. Compare that to the 50 percent pass rate of Ranger School, it shows how difficult it is to earn.”

Alonso joined approximately 150 other Army medics who completed the week-long test on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. from Oct 11 to 15, 2022. The evaluation consisted of a written test which assesses the institutional knowledge of the candidates. Candidates who pass the written portion advance to a Physical Fitness Assessment. Candidates that pass the physical assessment will move on to the Land Navigation portion of the test, where candidates

Up To The Challenge: Junior Guard medic earns prestigious Expert Field Medic Badge

demonstrate their individual proficiency in navigating from one point to another, while dismounted, without the aid of electronic navigation devices. Candidates must correctly annotate and punch at least three out of four points in under three hours to receive a GO for both day and night land navigation.

“The land navigation course on JBLM is difficult because there are no distinct markers, you basically just have to shoot your azimuth and trust your pace count,” said Alonso.

After passing the land navigation portion, candidates move on to the three testing lanes with a varying number of tested skills per lane. These lanes test the practical ability and attention to detail of candidates while performing evacuation, Tactical Combat Casualty Care and warrior skills tasks. In order to receive a “GO” and continue, candidates must pass nine out of 10 evacuation tasks, all Tactical Combat Casualty Care critical tasks, 10 out of 12 Tactical Combat Casualty Care non-critical tasks, and nine out of 10 warrior skills tasks. Candidates that pass this portion will then move to a 12-mile road march that has to be completed within three hours, completely crossing the finish line carrying their individual field equipment. Within five minutes after a candidate crosses the finish line, the final event begins. The final event is to clear, disassemble, assemble, and perform a functions check on an M4 or M16 rifle in five minutes or less. This final event is a critical task.

“It is a hard badge to earn, but crossing that finish line after the final event, knowing I had done it was like a weight being lifted off my shoulders,” said Alonso. “It felt so good, I was on cloud 9.”

The Expert Field Medical Badge is the most sought after peacetime award an Army Medic can achieve and is recognized at excellence among Army medical professionals.

“As we were doing the final award ceremony, I found out I was the only National Guard member to earn the badge. So many soldiers kept coming up to me asking about the National Guard and were amazed,” said Alonso.

Kovell says he isn't surprised that it was Alonso that earned this prestigious award.

“If you ask any of his battle buddies or NCOs, there was no doubt he was going to crush it in the test,” said Kovell. “He is a smart and dedicated medic and one of our rising stars in the field.”

While Alonso gets praised, he fully admits it was a team effort to accomplish the feat.

“I had 10 National Guard soldiers join me in a two-week train up before the testing. We shared best practices and knowledge that helped me,” said Alonso. “When I got back to drill that next day, everyone was asking me questions and congratulating me and I just wanted to share as much as I could about the testing.”

Alonso is set to return to the University of Washington next year where he plans to join the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp., earn his commission and apply for medical school. - Story and Photo by Joseph Siemandel

Sgt. Ty Thompson, a Black Hawk crew member with from 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation, Washington Army National Guard tightens the lift line on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in a opening in a heavily wooded area near Leavenworth on Oct. 15th, 2022. The Guard air crew was called to assist after a hiker sustained a chest injury, and was unable to self-extract. (Photo Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Travis Bearden, Washington Army National Guard)

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD AIRCREW RESCUES INJURED HIKER

An injured hiker is safe after a Washington Army National Guard medical flight crew from 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation hoisted them out of a heavily wooded area near Leavenworth on Oct. 15th, 2022.

“The hiker suffered a fall approximately five miles from the nearest trailhead, sustained a chest injury, and was unable to self-extract,” said Maj. Kevin Robillard, executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation. “Our crew immediately loaded up and departed in response.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ryan Kennedy, the pilot-in-command, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marty Hayes, assisted by Staff Sgt. Travis Bearden, Sgt. Ty Thompson, Spc. Nicholas Ehrenheim, and Maj. Danny Jones scrambled and launched their Black Hawk helicopter in less than an hours' time, enroute to the scene.

Upon arriving and observing the signaling device being used to hail the aircraft, Bearden and Thompson were hoisted to the ground to assess the individual's injuries before securing him for extraction.

Many trails in the Cascade Mountains are in dense forests or along step terrain. To perform the mission safely the aircraft was forced to maintain a solid hover more than 120 feet from the ground to avoid the tall trees around the site. The patient was safely loaded and transported to a nearby waiting ambulance and local authorities.

“The successful execution of this rescue hoist mission further demonstrates the capabilities and exceptional readiness of our Washington Army National Guard aircrews,” said Robillard.

This type of mission isn't new to the Washington Army National Guard. In August 2020, a Black Hawk helicopter crew rescued three people injured following a rockslide in hilly terrain just south of Mount Rainier. In July 2015, another Black Hawk crew rescued three isolated hikers in the area of Rimrock Lake near Yakima. In March 2014, following the devastating State Route 530 Landslide in Oso, the Washington National Guard started a search and rescue-focused training in collaboration with Snohomish County. - Story by Joseph Siemandel

WASHINGTON STATE COMMAND CHIEF RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

As he entered his final National Guard drill weekend here, Chief Master Sgt. Marvin J. Boyd was as busy as ever, leaving nothing to chance prior to his retirement after 35 years of military service. A stickler for details, he’s made sure everything was buttoned down; emailed co-workers and made phone calls to check on his cadre. Those things you still ‘just do’ after three and half decades of wearing the uniform.

After joining the Navy in 1987 and serving as a hospital corpsman during his initial three-year enlistment, he later joined the Washington Air National Guard, spending a significant portion of his career with the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron at Geiger Field, as the unit’s superintendent. He was later selected as the superintendent for the 194th Mission Support Group at Camp Murray in late 2015 prior to his final assignment at the Washington Air National Guard Headquarters.

The bookends of Chief Boyd’s tenure as the Air National Guard State Command Chief are significant anniversary dates in the history of the country. He became the senior enlisted leader on December 7, 2019 when Chief Master Sgt. Max Tidwell retired, and subsequently handed off his position to Chief Master Sgt. Allan Lawson on September 11, 2022. During his time on the job, history didn’t take a holiday. Less than two months after assuming responsibility for the 2,000 plus enlisted Airmen of the Evergreen state, the Covid-19 global pandemic surged across all parts of the nation and state.

“We’ve been through Covid, which meant setting up all the food banks across the state, along with the (COVID) testing sites, then there was civil unrest support, unemployment assistance for the state, and then our humanitarian relief mission with our Afghan partners,” said Boyd, reviewing and assessing just some of the pressing tasks that Washington Air National Guard members have recently supported. “So much of the past two plus years has been focused on the domestic operations and humanitarian missions to really help our communities - it’s really what the Guard is all about.”

The federal missions have changed significantly over this same time period as well. The U.S. military left Afghanistan after more than 20 years of combat operations on August 31, 2021. Boyd volunteered that same month for Operation Allies Welcome and was assigned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, helping thousands of evacuated Afghans transition to a new life in the United States.

The hectic pace of readiness after nearly two decades of deployments for American service members has ushered in new challenges for guard members too, something Boyd contemplated as he prepares to leave the service.]

“Look at all the time we choose to give up as service members – we truly give up a lot to do this – to stand up and be that 1% that go out the door when so many others aren’t willing to do it,”

“So what’s the next step for our country and our airmen?” he asked hypothetically. “I think it involves the basics: we need to look at our organization’s strengths and look at both the near and long-term needs, we also need to be able to recruit new members to our organization.”

In many ways, Boyd noted the domestic operations have been beneficial in two distinct yet concurrent measures.

“First by directly impacting the community, which has allowed the citizens to see first-hand the value of the National Guard, and then to the lessons we’ve learned in doing these various types of jobs.”

When Washington Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh selected Boyd as the State Command Chief, he said he was looking for someone who could “balance the ticket,” as the state’s leadership level.

“I first met and worked with (Chief Boyd) him in the 242nd and later with the 194th Wing,” said Welsh. “In many ways it was extremely helpful during Covid to have someone from the east side of the state in place serving our airmen in a leadership capacity during the initial lockdowns.”

The role of the State Command Chief in many ways helps airmen see someone to aspire to and represent them as enlisted members, Welsh said. They also need to possess three essential characteristics.

“It’s important to have a counter point for decisions, as well as someone who will hold you accountable and cover your blind spots... it sounds cliché, but a real ‘Wingman’ who has a different perspective or approach that helps accomplish the mission.”

Welsh said he also relied on Boyd to help motivate his fellow senior noncommissioned officers and was consistently responsive to pressing requirements. “Even though he was in a traditional [drill status] role, I could always count on him replying right away to a call or a message. He wanted to make sure our leadership team was always looking out for our airmen.”

Even approaching retirement, this is still an important factor for Boyd: making sure the airmen of the Washington Air National Guard are being considered and appreciated.

“Look at all the time we choose to give up as service members – we truly give up a lot to do this – to stand up and be that 1% that go out the door when so many others aren’t willing to do it,” said Boyd. “It’s why we need to take care of our people, whether it’s tuition assistance, or health care benefits or opportunities to grow.”

In regards to time, Boyd said this is something he plans to immediately give back to his family as he hangs up his uniform.

“I want to give back time and attention to my family. My wife, Brenda, has been with me on this entire 35-year journey, and I want to catch up with my two kids,” he said, listing his most pressing plans. “After six months, then maybe see what’s next in life. There are several civic groups I am looking to volunteer with. I still feel like community service is important and that I want to contribute too.” - *Story by John Hughel*

Washington Air National Guard Chief Master Sergeant Edward Pohl, 141st Air Refueling Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, presents the American Flag to Chief Master Sgt. Marvin Boyd during his retirement ceremony held at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., on Oct. 15, 2022. Chief Boyd retired after 35 years of military service beginning in the U.S. Navy and the Washington Air National Guard. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. (ret.) John Hughel, Washington Air National Guard Public Affairs)

GIVING BACK:

Academy cadre member shares story of struggles & growth during time with the program

Staff Sgt. Michelle Padilla is passionate about the Washington Youth ChalleNGe Academy. She has been since she first stepped on campus in 2013.

“Before I came to the Academy, I was homeless for two years, from ages 15 to 17 and a half,” Padilla said. “So when I got to the Academy, automatically it became the support I never had.”

Padilla is open about her early struggles. She was hanging out with the wrong crowd, running around all night, and getting into things she shouldn’t have been. Nearly a decade later, and a graduate of the Youth ChalleNGe Academy, Padilla is now a cadre member, sharing her experiences and stories with the cadets that she is helping guide through the 22-week program.

“I craved discipline. I didn’t know I craved discipline and I think that happens a lot with our youth,” said Padilla. “So when I got here, I was a little stubborn. So I stepped back and really soaked in everything that they taught.”

After completing the program, Padilla had to face the reality of life again off campus. She knew she didn’t want to return to the life she was living prior.

“As soon as I went back home, I started to fall back into habits that I had before. We all make mistakes,” said Padilla. “I took a step back and looked and started saying, this is not the goals I had for myself.”

She began applying the lessons learned and joined the Washington Army National Guard in 2014 as an ammunitions specialist with the 181st Brigade Support Battalion. After returning from basic training and advance individual training she began working at the Joint Service Support, helping Guard members and their families.

“I am an ammunitions specialist. However, I have to mention that my focus is on making sure I am a well-rounded NCO to my entire team,” said Padilla. “That’s really what I would say my internal MOS is. Mentorship to my subordinates is huge for me.”

She joined the Youth Challenge Academy as a cadre member in June of 2022, turning down a promotion in the Guard that would have taken her away from her new full-time job. Padilla wants to set a good foundation as a cadre first to ensure she is giving back and helping the next generation of cadets.

“I am specifically with the ladies’ platoon and watching how they maneuver through their emotions and their reactions with one another,” Padilla said. “It is so much easier having worn the same boots that they wore and the same uniform they are wearing. I always tell them, hey I once was where you are at, I once thought I couldn’t grow from where I was, I once thought I couldn’t learn from these things and apply them to my life.”

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

of the state of Washington. For Padilla being a cadre member now is the chance to watch the growth of her own cadets.

“It is critical that following generations get productive, well serving guidance,” said Padilla. “It is amazing to watch their growth and look back and be like whoa, this was me, this is how I was being watched by my cadre and I didn’t know it at the time. So to be that example of I have walked where you have walked and I made it out and I have accomplished things in my life, I know you can do the same and better.” - Story by Joseph Siemandel, Photo by Peter Chang

Scan the code to the right to watch Michelle Padilla talk about how her experience at the Youth Academy as both a cadet and a cadre member.



Youth Academy joins new mentor pilot program

We recognize how much time and effort families invest in attempting to locate a mentor for their incoming cadet. This process can frequently create stress for all involved.

The Washington Youth ChalleNge Program has been invited to join a National Guide pilot program. The hypothesis is we will be able to offer a more robust level of long term support for cadets if we a) extend the Post Residential Phase to be two full years and b) redirect some staff effort toward building increased resources and networking opportunities in cadets’ communities.

Current residential cadets who do not have an identified, screened and fully matched mentor by the National Guard deadline this week will become our pilot cadets. These individuals will have a staff or identified community members support for, at minimum, the remainder of this cycle. In addition, they will benefit from an increased amount of support and an extended Post Res phase.

Current residential cadets who already have a traditionally matched mentor will continue with their mentor as well as receive the increased support of an extended Post Residential period.

Ultimately, as staff build community resource networks, they will be able to help connect youth with resources they may not otherwise know about in their communities. This increased community involvement should provide greater cadet engagement throughout their lives.

Traditional Cadets: Traditional Mentor

Pilot Cadets: Pilot “Mentor”

For all Cadets: Post Residential Phase is 2 full years

Monthly Case Manager contact required

We will offer 4 in person Post Residential Events per year (various locations across the state)

We will offer 6 virtual Post Residential Events per year

For more information go to <https://mil.wa.gov/youth-academy>

MISS THE CHASE? AFTER FORTY YEARS IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM, MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE CALLS IT A CAREER

When you ask Andy Leneweaver why he came to Camp Murray every morning for work for more than 23 years, his answer is always the same.

“I always told people my little red truck didn’t know where else to go in the morning,” says Leneweaver with a laugh. “I truly think it was the people and what we do here matters.”

In December 31, 2022, Leneweaver will retire from the Washington Emergency Management Division after more than 40 years of service to others in some capacity. He jokes that he was born into serving others. As a child he would help his dad, setting up tables and working events to spread information about firefighting. He became a volunteer firefighter before leaving high school and in July of 1982 he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

“I remember standing there at the military entrance processing station in Philadelphia and raising my right hand, swearing the oath,” said Leneweaver. “I felt serving others is one of the most important roles we can do.”

While on active duty at Fort Lewis in 1984, young Sgt. Leneweaver learned about the Washington Army National Guard Officer Candidate School.

“It was right there in the Daily Bulletin, officer candidate school with the Washington Army National Guard. So me and a buddy decided to do it,” said Leneweaver.

That is where he got his first taste of the Washington National Guard and Camp Murray. However, after completing the program in 1985, he went back to the active-duty Army and continued serving as a non-commissioned officer. In September 1985 he left active duty and decided to move to Colorado and began building a life there.

“I went to Colorado because my mom was there. And I am glad I did. I met my wife, I joined the Colorado Army National Guard and was commissioned as an officer with them,” said Leneweaver.

The couple moved to Pennsylvania for new opportunities and quickly he joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard before moving to the Army Reserves. His career was moving forward but it was fate that led them to Washington state.

“My wife learned while we were in Pennsylvania that she had a half-sister, so her and her siblings came out to Washington to meet her,” said Leneweaver. “When she got home she said to me, if we ever move, maybe we look at Washington state. And I was fond of the area during my time at Fort Lewis.”

He decided to start applying for jobs, and on a whim the couple moved across the country.

“We couldn’t buy a home near Philadelphia, prices were outrageous. But once we got here we found a home right away,” said Leneweaver. “I was able to move to the Army Reserve unit out here and continue my service.”

Capt. Leneweaver at the time was drilling at Fort Lawson in Seattle, the old Army Reserve base, but knew he wanted something more.

“I reached out to some of my old OCS friends and immediately they began to recruit me to the Washington Army National Guard,” said Leneweaver. “In May of 1996, I became a member of our aviation community, working with then Maj. Bret Daugherty.”

Serving part time at first, Leneweaver became a federal technician in the Information Services department in 1999.

“When 9/11 happened, I always say that day changed my entire life,” said Leneweaver.

Days after the attack on the nation, Leneweaver was activated to work at the Joint Operations Center where he helped deploy Guard members to airports across the state for Operation Noble Eagle, prepared soldiers from across the Washington National Guard for mobilization, and prepared himself for a mobilization.

“I was snatched up by the Special Operations Detachment for a deployment, it was the best year of my life in uniform,” said Leneweaver. “As a signal officer, we always talk about the things you could do someday, like providing direct communications support from the battlefield to the White House. I got to do it.”

After returning home, Lt. Col. Leneweaver was involved in several high-level Army National Guard positions and projects, including the creation of the 56th Theater Information Operations Group and the early conversation that led to the transformation of the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

“I got to be a special projects guy, the mobilization officer, the force integration officer, work directly with the operations officer and learn a lot about this place,” said Leneweaver.

After leaving the full-time Washington National Guard in 2012, he took a full-time position with the Washington Emergency Management Division in the state’s E911 section.

“We have a lot of services that people utilize in our state, but no matter where you are from or your background, everyone utilizes 911,” Leneweaver said.

In the nine years since joining the team he said 911 has changed and grown so much.

“The growth is a credit to the people we have working here, from Ziggy [Dahl] and Adam [Wasserman]’s leadership to the individuals who have come and gone here, we have all had a part in making this happen,” said Leneweaver. “We aren’t here for us. We are here to help people get the help they need.”

Leneweaver has also seen a lot of growth in himself through his time at Emergency Management.

“When I took this job, I didn’t know it was a passion [Emergency Management] but it has become one of my passions and something I really enjoy,” he said.

While he is walking away from federal and state service, he still plans to serve others as a volunteer for the Tacoma Fire Buff Battalion, an all-volunteer response team that helps to reduce the likelihood of firefighter injuries and death due to overexertion, strain, and/or cardiac incidents.

“We are out there giving them water, snacks, cold towels, anything that is going to help them do their job and stay safe,” said Leneweaver. “I will also continue to support Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day events each year, so I will continue to find ways to serve.”

While Leneweaver will continue to serve others and admits he will miss the people, the one thing he will miss the most comes from the opening scene of the 1997 movie “Men in Black.”

“I will miss the chase, by that I mean, chasing down solutions to complex problems. It’s like how we build a Stryker Brigade in the Washington Army National Guard, how we provide support to those in need, how we make our program better and more user friendly,” said Leneweaver. “I will miss that chase of looking at the whole situation.”

- Story by Joseph Siemandel

- Photo by Peter Chang

JOURNEY HOME: FORMER 116TH WWII AIRMAN’S REMAINS ARE RETURNED HOME

After almost eight decades and many phone calls Linda Chauvin, (who spells her name the original French spelling before it was altered by a nun at St. Patrick School where her father graduated) breathed a sigh of relief. Her father’s remains were identified and were returning home. Linda was only three years old when her father left to serve in World War II. His mission was to fly 11 pathfinders into the Netherlands to advance into Northern Germany during an operation known as Market Garden. The Aircraft, a Douglas C-47 sky train, was shot down near the village of Retie.

“I saw the German Anti-Aircraft gun firing into the sky,” said a villager. “They were three young German soldiers and I saw the artillery hit the aircraft”

Following the strike the aircraft billowed smoke, a fire developed and the aircraft exploded over the village. Six of the 11 Pathfinders made it out of the aircraft before the explosion, the remainder perished. The villagers of Retie examined the wreckage then recovered and interred the service members at a temporary mass grave site very close to the aircraft crash according to the villager. Seven of those service members were identified in the years following however 2LT. Shauvin was not found in the resulting repatriation.

Private Shauvin from Hillyard joined the 116th Observation Squadron, Washington Air National Guard August 15, 1937 at Felt’s Field Washington and served with the Guard unit until August 14, 1940. Shauvin went on to get a higher education and joined the Active Army Air Corps attending pilot training in California.

Following pilot training he was shipped off to support Operation Market Garden. His daughter never gave up hope of finding her father. The pandemic through a wrench in the operation to find him due to travel restrictions in Belgium. In May of 2021 the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency returned to the US with remains believed to be Shauvin’s. Later that year Linda received a phone call, the remains were an exact DNA match, her father had been found.

In July of 2022 she was able to finally get closure and had a memorial service at Holy Cross Cemetery in Spokane where her father was laid to rest near other members of the Shauvin Family. Over 100 people

attended the memorial to pay respects to the pilot who was finally back home.

After 77 years of being classified as Missing in Action, his status was changed to accounted for. Along with that status change came a unique ceremony that was hosted at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten Holland. The cemetery is the second largest in Europe for U.S. Service members, second only to Normandy.

The cemetery has a “Court of Honor” wall listing 1,722 U.S. Service members that were classified as Missing in Action. When a service member is accounted for they place a brass rosette next to the name signifying the change in status.

2Lt. Eugene Shauvin’s name has resided on that Court of Honor more than seven decades and on September 22, 2022 Linda was able to be there for the ceremony placing a Rosette next to her father’s name. Attending the ceremony along side her was Lt. Col. Tyson Frost, 141st Maintenance Group, Capt. Trevor Bland, 116th

Air Refueling Squadron, Chief Master Sgt. Kjell Anderson, 141st Maintenance Squadron and Senior Airman Joshua Haley, 141st Maintenance Squadron from the 141st Air Refueling Wing.

“The three days leading up to the ceremony were nasty,” said Lt. Col. Tyson Frost. “On the morning of the ceremony the skies opened up and the sun shone through. It was almost as if 2Lt. Shauvin cleared the way for his daughter to be able to celebrate this day.”

The ceremony was well attended and brought tears to the eyes of onlookers who just happened by the ceremony, according to those present.

“I can’t believe that you guys came all this way to support my father,” said Linda Chauvin.

“This is Spokane supporting Spokane,” said Lt. Col. Frost. “Once a member of the 116th always a member of the 116th and we are proud to be here supporting our former Airman.” - Story by Michael Brown



RETIREE INFORMATION

Our Washington National Guard’s strength has always been in the people that put on the uniform and serve the people of our state and nation. We recognize your service and appreciate everything you have done to keep our residents safe and secure.

For some, leaving our ranks can be scary. There are many unknowns, and as many questions for former members and their families.

To better serve our retired citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Washington National Guard, we want to provide information about retiree services, frequently asked questions and help re-connect you with the formation.

ID Card Services: Do you need a new ID Card?
Camp Murray - Building 15, Office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 0730-1530, Phone - 253-512-8080
Yakima Training Center - OPENED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, Phone - (509) 577-3207
Fairchild Air Force Base - Building #2040, Monday-Friday, 0800-1500, Phone - (509) 247-9200
Naval Station Everett - Monday-Friday, 0730-1600, Phone - (425) 304-4256

DD214: Retired in the last three years and need a DD214? Please call 253-512-8436. Have you been out longer - call the Washington State Archives at 360-586-1492.

Museum: The Washington National Guard Museum on Camp Murray is open on Wednesdays, but you can schedule a visit by calling Dr. Stephanie Carter at 253-512-7834. She can also assist with any donations that could be significant to Washington National Guard History.

Honor Guard: When a member of our military family passes away, the Washington National Guard Honor Guard is available to assist with honoring their service. Please call 253-512-8786 for more information.

Have a question, need assistance, send us a message:
Army National Guard: joseph.f.siemandel.mil@army.mil
Air National Guard: waanghq.ang.retirees@us.af.mil
Retiree network newsletter: mcgannk@comcast.net

AVAILABLE NOW! BRAND NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION LICENSE PLATE EMBLEM

Members of the public are invited to help raise awareness for suicide prevention programs by purchasing a new suicide prevention license plate emblem.

All Washington State vehicle owners are eligible to purchase the emblem displaying the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number and the message that “There Is Hope!”.

Emblems cost \$18 and can be placed on any passenger vehicle, truck, and large trailer license plate, including special and personalized plates.

Ten dollars from the purchase of each emblem is deposited into the Veteran and Military Member Suicide Prevention Account. Grants from this account will be available to community organizations who provide suicide prevention, peer support, and other assistance to at-risk and transitioning Veterans, military members, and their families.

“Each tragic suicide impacts 135 people. Family, friends, battle buddies, community members, classmates, and others are all impacted in one way or another. The new license plate emblem gives everyone in our State a way to get involved,” said Lourdes E. “Alfie” Alvarado-Ramos, WDVA Director. “Together we can spread the national 988 Crisis Lifeline number and the message that ‘There Is Hope!’. Through this collaboration, we will raise awareness and provide additional support to our communities.”

Data shows that Veterans account for 18% of suicides in our state but only 7% of the total population. Your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is working to combat this by cultivating community programs focused on providing peer services.

“Not only will this emblem raise awareness of 988 as a resource for those experiencing a behavioral health crisis,” stated Rep Tina Orwall, “but it will raise funds to support veterans, who have high rates of suicide, and provide lifesaving services.”

How to Apply:
To become a partner in the fight against suicide and purchase a suicide prevention license plate emblem, please visit: WA State Licensing (DOL) Official Site: [Prevent veteran suicide emblems for license plates](https://www.dol.wa.gov/licenses). In the coming weeks, emblems will be available at all vehicle licensing locations.

WDVA is grateful to the many partners involved in Washington State’s suicide prevention efforts including Washington State Department of Licensing, UW Forefront, Safer Homes, the Washington Department of Health, Health Care Authority, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, as well as many others listed at <https://www.dva.wa.gov/sp>.

The “988 Lifeline | There Is Hope!” Emblems were authorized by the passage of House Bill 1181 during the 2022 Legislative Session.



NATIONAL GUARD CONTINUES MODERNIZING WITH TWO NEW FACILITIES IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

Two highly anticipated state of the art facilities will open in eastern Washington in December 2022, giving citizen-soldiers of the Washington Army National Guard a new place to serve and stay during their training.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment will take ownership of a new home in the Tri-Cities area as they move into the recently completed Richland Readiness Center.

"This Readiness Center was a design build project with the team of TVA Architecture and Fowler General Construction," said Mr. Brad Olson, construction project manager with the Washington National Guard's Construction Facilities Management Office (CFMO). "Fowler General Construction is a Richland based contractor with their office located two miles from the project sited."

The 39,706 square foot readiness center project moved at record speed, as the general construction team went from ground-breaking to substantial completion in just 14 months. At a cost of \$14.2 million, the new facilities provide ample training, storage, classroom, common areas and office space for a company of soldiers of the 1-161st Infantry. This will also become the first Washington National Guard facility that is on track to meet a LEED Gold rating for environmental considerations and green cost saving measures. LEED certified buildings save money, improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions and create healthier places for people. They are a critical part of addressing climate change and meeting environmental, social and governance goals, enhancing resilience, and supporting more equitable communities.

"From a user standpoint, seeing it in person and how it looks was almost exactly the vision we had when we started designing this," said Lt. Col. Bill Cooper, commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment. "To have soldiers see it before opening they could see how it all flowed and how the CFMO delivered us a new quality building to train at."

The new Readiness Center will house a company from the battalion, but only takes up a small portion of the 40-acre lot. The Washington Military Department has proposed building a second Washington Youth Challenge Academy on the site.

"In my 15+ years on project management this is one of the top two or three projects I have been involved in," said Olson.

Another project, the long awaited and needed Yakima Training Center Barracks was completed in mid-October. The new barracks will be significant for the service members that attend one of the many courses taught by the 205th Regional Training Institute at Yakima Training Center.

"There was a need for barracks space at the Regional Training Institute, more importantly, since the RTI supports 22 states. This greatly impacts the students attending a variety of military specialty, officer candidate, warrant officer candidate and non-commissioned officer schools through the RTI," said John Wunsch, facility and designs project manager for CFMO.

The 46,285 square foot barracks facility was originally designed in 2012 by the Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office with the CFMO and input from Training and Doctorial Command and the 205th. The barracks house up to 128 students and meet the special requirements for student living space authorizations and room setting.

"Each room is single occupancy and in a two room pod with common private bathroom and showers," said Wunsch. "Each room also has a study area, and allows the soldiers privacy while they stay here."

The three-floor building has a laundry facility, common area day room and recycling and cleaning area on each floor. It has also been designed to allow for an additional 100 bed expansion in the future. A 200 person per hour dining facility was also included in the original concept and design. The dining facility, which will be located immediately next to the barracks, should begin construction in mid-2024.

"Both of these projects support our 25-year strategic plan to continue modernizing our facilities to further enhance our soldier's ability to train for their state and federal mission," said Adam Iwaszuk, director of the Washington National Guard's CFMO. "The future is bright for modernizing Washington Army National Guard facilities." -Story and Photos by Joseph Siemandel



NATIONAL GUARD | RESERVE | VETERANS | FAMILIES

Serving Those Who Serve

FOLLOW JSS ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS

JOINT SERVICE SUPPORT TAKES PART IN TURKEY DROP EVENT



On November 12, the Washington Joint Service Support team handed out 75 turkeys and fixing meals to Washington National Guard members and their families.

"This was a great informational opportunity for us to reach out to service members and families to relay the plethora of services that are available through the JSS Team," said Bea Warner, Military & Family Readiness Specialist with the Washington National Guard Family Programs. "We certainly appreciate the opportunity to connect with our service member and their families."

Guard members and service providers came out to support the event along with community partners.

"This is just a small way in which we say thank you back to them for all of their hard work and sacrifices made on behalf of our state and nation," said Warner.

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