



THE PATRIOT

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Above: After a demanding month of August with wildland fire response missions, September drill offered an opportunity to get back to skills training to support WSG’s Mission-Essential Task List (METL). Here CW2 Jared Morrison leads members of the Ridgefield Detachment through a field-portable HF radio deployment. For more, see Ridgefield DET report, [page 7](#).

WASHINGTON STATE GUARD LEADERSHIP



COL Joe Maassen
Commander
Washington State Guard

CSM Richard Stickney
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Washington State Guard

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Roll Call

WASHINGTON STATE GUARD COMMAND:

Commander: COL Joe Maassen

Deputy Commander: COL Peter Lukevich

Senior Enlisted Advisor: CSM Richard Stickney

DETACHMENTS (OIC, NCOIC listed):

Headquarters: CPT Scott Livingston,

1SG John Sauer

Camp Murray: MAJ David Luxton,

1SG Gene Vetter

Marysville: Pending OIC,

SFC Chandler Honeyman

Ridgefield: 1LT Jason King,

SFC Perry Eimen

Yakima & Spokane: 1LT Andrew Cochran,

SGM Butch McConnell

PRIMARY STAFF:

Chief of Staff: COL Peter Lukevich

S-1, Admin / Personnel: CPT Scott Livingston

S-3, Training & Ops: LTC David Trujillo

S-4, Logistics: MAJ John Adams

S-5, Plans: MAJ Aaron Logan

SPECIAL STAFF:

Recruiting OICs: CPT Scott Livingston, 1LT Nelson Leese

Chaplain: CH (COL) William Toguchi

Commandant of Schools: MAJ Carl Chatfield

Medical Advisor: MAJ Dustin Colegrove

Public Affairs Officer: MAJ Carl Chatfield

Staff Judge Advocate: COL Peter Lukevich, JD

THE WASHINGTON STATE GUARD MOTTO

Pro Civitas et Patria—For State and Country

COMMANDER'S WORDS

COL Joe Maassen



Leaders: We will kick off the new training year with our second annual **Leadership Development Day at Camp Murray on Saturday, October 10th, from 0900–1500 in the JOC, Building 17.**

This event is for all E-7 and above senior NCOs, and all Warrant Officers and Officers. It will provide an important opportunity for our senior leaders to come together as we begin the new training year.

Our focus will include:

- * A review of lessons learned from our recent **State Active Duty missions** and how we can better prepare for the next call-up
- * A review of our **current mission set and priorities for 2027**
- * Professional development focused on strengthening our leadership team and preparing the WSG for the challenges ahead

The lessons we have gained from recent missions provide us an excellent opportunity to improve how we prepare, mobilize, employ, care for, and demobilize our Soldiers.

I'm looking forward to a productive day and to seeing our leaders there!

SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR'S WORDS

CSM Richard Stickney



No report this month.



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SITREP: CHIEF OF STAFF

COL Peter Lukevich



October 1st marks an important date for the WSG. It is a starting point for the future and a chance to look back on our efforts for the past year. We have had many successes and chances to excel.

Moving forward, we are looking at the start of a new training year and preparing for our AT in late May or early June. We know that our focus will include MILO training, LNO training, sUAS

training, personal development and PME for advancement, and other requirements set out in the Joint Campaign Execution Guidance (JCEG). The expectations of our higher headquarters for us to be ready when called will continue to increase as will our focus on recruiting and retention. If you thought the last 12 months have flown by, buckle up as our operational tempo will continue to quicken.

I mentioned that 1 OCT also allows us to reflect on what we have done. We can take great satisfaction to our ability to respond during the December floods of 2025 in Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, and King counties, the Nippon Dynawave industrial tank failure in Longview, C-UAS red force support for the 194th Wing and the 10th CST, and our 44-day response during the recent wildfires season that just concluded on 11 SEP—as well as other important missions. The wildfires response alone required 33 WSG soldiers to provide support to aviation, hand crew, and security missions from Plain to Spokane. We responded when the Governor called and demonstrated our expertise and professionalism. Thank you to all of the WSG members that made this happen and interrupted your daily lives to answer the call.

The beginning of the new training year is also the start date for new officer assignments. Congratulations to the officers and warrant officers that are assuming new roles. Now is the time for a solid hand-off to be completed and to share key roles and responsibilities. Change can be trying. However, change can also be rewarding, motivating, and can enhance the skills and abilities of any soldier as they prepare for career advancement and promotion. Use your new opportunity to make those WSG soldiers around you better at what they do, and ready to answer the next call for mobilization. If you are not being reassigned, look at what you can do to make your role more impactful and also contribute to the readiness

of the soldiers you supervise or impact.

As always, we cannot slow down our recruiting and retention efforts. CPT Scott Livingston and 1LT Nelson Leese will be leading our recruiting effort effective 1 OCT. However, recruiting is not just their responsibility. Each WSG soldier was tasked with bringing one new member into the WSG this past year. Have you met that expectation? If not, now is the time to act. Invite a qualified friend or colleague to visit during a drill. Attend a local VFW or American Legion event in your community and tell the WSG story. Each of us can make a difference.

Take great satisfaction in our successes! Embrace the future and the challenges that will be presented. The WSG is a formidable force multiplier that is always ready for State and Country.

SITREP: SECTION CHIEFS

S-1, Admin/Personnel: CPT Scott Livingston



The S-1 shop supported personnel actions as described in the following sections:

- * *Enlistments*, [page 10](#).
- * *Awards*, [page 11](#).
- * *Retirements and Separations*, [page 11](#).

S-3, Training and Operations: LTC David Trujillo



I have some additional photos from our summer wildland fire deployments to share.

The large group photo below is the second iteration of the Washington National Guard hand crews working Task Force Ember Shield:





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Here's a zoomed-in view of SSG Lee and myself:



The data below represent 1.5 months of WSG activity from 01AUG through 15 SEP.

01-31 AUG SAD 2026	Days	Hours	01-15 SEP SAD 2026	Days	Hours
Total	383	3064	Total	34	272
Cyber	11	88	DOMOPS MILO	8	64
DOMOPS MILO	309	2472	DOMOPS Demob Assist	6	48
DOMOPS Chaplaincy	2	16	DOMOPS Post Demob Assist	20	160
DOMOPS TCP / ARC	40	320		24	272
DOMOPS JOC Surge	21	168			
	383	3064			
01-31 AUG IDT 2026	Days	Hours	01-15 SEP IDT 2026	Days	Hours
Total	70	560	Total	116	528
DOMOPS WSG Cmd Vist	4	32	DOMOPS Remote Assist	4	32
DOMOPS Remote Assist	39	312	Recruiting	5	40
Tribal	1	8	Community Engagement	7	56
Color Guard	2	16	Other	4	32
UAS	4	32	Drill (does not incl CPM)	96	368
Other	8	64		116	528
Drill CPM only	12	96			
	70	560			
TOTALS	Days	Hours	Total volunteer hours for time shown are (560+528)=1,088		
01 AUG to 15 SEP 2026	417	3336	Value is calculated using the hourly rate assigned by 2024		
SAD			Ind. Sector Value of Volunteer Time Report (WA): \$41.70		
IDT	186	1088	Volunteer value for time shown is (1,088*\$41.70) = \$45,367		

S-4, Logistics: MAJ John Adams



Hello WSG soldiers and welcome to the Fall season!

What a summer we have had.

We are in the maintenance, recovery, set-up mode for the next season. Cold and wet. Time to repack your bags and examine expiration dates, battery strength, your coffee supplies, and put the rain gear back into your field kits. There is lots to do! Frankly, I enjoy this kind of puttering. I like to put on a half interesting game while sorting, validating, storing and repacking. It feels great to get this task completed and out of the head. The Future You will really appreciate it. I am pondering ultrasonic

mosquito devices instead of applying deet and weird chemicals to my skin.

Regarding maintenance, get it done before the weather gets nasty. This is one of the areas where less material goods is extra good. That truth is hurtful to me but I sure enjoy having all my equipment fully maintained and operational.

Be well folks and keep your heads up!

S-5, Plans: MAJ Aaron Logan



A sincere thank you to MAJ Bish for his outstanding work and leadership over the past months; the section is in excellent shape thanks to his dedication. As I transition back into the S-5 role, my focus is on maintaining that momentum. I look forward to leading our team in executing plans that directly support the mission and priorities of the Commander and Chief of Staff.

SITREP: SPECIAL STAFF

Recruiting: CPT Scott Livingston, 1LT Nelson Leese



Submitted by 1LT Leese

This is an exciting time for Washington State Guard Recruiting! Beginning 1 OCT, Recruiting will be leaning into a team approach with Co-OICs CPT Scott Livingston and 1LT Nelson Leese, multiple assis-

stants, and continuing to push all Soldiers to spread the word. Thanks to all of you, people are seeing the impact they could have in the State Guard and prospects are reaching out. Keep up the good work. If you see new faces at Drill, please continue to welcome them and offer assistance throughout their transition to serving in the State Guard.

We recognize and thank MAJ Wheeler, who is passing along an organized system for bringing Soldiers into the State Guard, and are in the middle of preparing for the handoff. We are discussing ideas to build on our momentum, target high-value groups of potential applicants, and use social media tools to



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expand our reach. Please bring us any thoughts about where we could improve. In the meantime, keep talking about your service, bring friends and coworkers to Drill, and keep the WSG in the conversation!

Public Affairs: MAJ Carl Chatfield



WSG Soldiers participated in the Honor Flight departures and arrivals at SEA Airport on 12 and 14 SEP. Honor Flight is a recurring event where Alaska Airlines flies US Armed Forces veterans from the Pacific Northwest to Washington DC for a weekend of recognition and tours of memorials. WSG's assistance with departures and "Welcome Home" return flights is an excellent event for both veteran recognition and WSG visibility.



Above: WSG Soldiers (L to R) 1LT Chelsea Bailey (mission OIC), SPC Joshua Fruichantie, SPC Connor Paulson, and CW5 Ed Marcin, along with VFW members and supporters, at SEA Airport 14 SEP.

The last Honor Flight missions of 2026 will be held on 10 and 12 OCT. For more information, see "3 Months Out View" on [page 13](#).

Recruiting outreach!

Reminder that every issue of this newsletter includes a printable half-page flyer (see [page 12](#)) that you can post at suitable locations. In addition, vetted sources of information include:

- * Our page on the Military Department's website: <https://mil.wa.gov/state-guard>
- * This newsletter, which is approved for public distribution
- * Recruiting pamphlets and guidance from the WSG Recruiting Officer CPT Livingston at Scott.Livingston@mil.wa.gov
- * The WSG's page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateGuard>

Chaplain: CH (COL) William Toguchi



Aloha My Fellow Washington State Guard Warriors,

There are many of you who have been involved with wildfire missions during this summer. I had the privilege to go over the weekend near Wenatchee to minister to some of our National Guard soldiers. I heard a couple soldiers share they are between jobs and being on SAD

(State Active Duty) orders have been extremely helpful for them financially. However, they were concerned about what they will do after they get off SAD orders. One of them asked me, "Chaplain, I am a person of faith and going through difficulties in my life. What do I do?" Unfortunately, we could not talk that night. A few weeks later we met again at a Yellow Ribbon and were able to finish up our conversation. I told him that I was going through a book called The Great Lives Devotional that put human struggle into perspective from the eyes of faith. The story is about Joseph, his struggles and how he ended up becoming Pharaoh's next in command. The following is from that devotional:

Joseph spent most of his life in Egypt, far from the land that God had promised to his father, Jacob. Yet on his deathbed at the age of 110, Joseph was confident that God would bring His people back to the Promised Land. How did Joseph have such faith? Perhaps because he experienced God's work firsthand multiple times.

God had raised Joseph from slavery to prosperity as a servant of the captain of Pharaoh's guard, then from prison to the second most powerful position in Egypt. Joseph had been in hard places before, but he had seen how God was faithful. So, at his deathbed, Joseph fully expected God to be faithful to the promises God made to his forefathers.

While God promises many blessings to believers, He doesn't say our life on this earth will be easy. In fact, the Bible teaches that believers will experience troubles and even persecution. But no matter how difficult life may be, we can rest assured that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28 NIV) God is with us even in times of trials, and He will be faithful.

Some of you may be going through some personal hardship in life such as financial, relationship or perhaps a crossroad in life. Life is not always going to be easy; you will probably experience some road-bumps in your life. However, you do not have to face life alone. In the Washington State Guard, you have a psychologist, counselors, chaplains and people in



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your chain of command to stand with you. You do not have to struggle alone. In the WSG we are family, we take care of each other. In the eyes of faith, the writer of this devotional said, "But no matter how difficult life may be, we can rest assured that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him...God is with us even in times of trials, and He will be faithful" even in difficult times.

Medical Advisor: MAJ Dustin Colegrove



Healthy eating doesn't have to be complicated. A balanced diet provides the energy and nutrients your body needs while helping reduce the risk of chronic disease. Focus on eating a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Choose minimally processed foods when possible and limit added sugars, excess sodium, and highly processed

foods. Portion size matters, but so does enjoying your food. Drink plenty of water and pay attention to hunger and fullness cues. Healthy eating is not about perfection or strict diets but rather about making nutritious choices consistently and building habits you can maintain for the long term.

Schoolhouse: MAJ Carl Chatfield, Commandant



I am thrilled to be assigned Schoolhouse Commandant, effective 1 OCT. I myself am a graduate of WSG's outstanding OCS program (Class 04-15, Hooah!), and I look forward to working with our outstanding Schoolhouse Cadre and all members of WSG who contribute to Schoolhouse.

I am currently working with Leadership and Schoolhouse Cadre to align Schoolhouse programs with Commander's Intent and WSG's METL. There is much work in progress and we'll share our decisions as they are made.

I want to acknowledge the current WOCS/OCS applicants who have shown great patience in starting their training. I say to you: Stand by, just a bit longer. Good things are coming.

SITREP: DETACHMENTS

Headquarters: CPT Scott Livingston, OIC; 1SG John Sauer, DET SGT



Most HHD personnel returned from SAD missions during the month of August and were able to drill together

this month - the first since July. 1LT Scott Roberts, who was promoted to CPT in a special ceremony on 9 AUG, separated and I have been assigned as the new HHD OIC effective 1 OCT.

COL Wentzel attended first formation and thanked everyone for their support to the Washington National Guard during the wildfire responses from July to present. She acknowledged the WSG serving in many roles including MILO, LNO, and JOC support, and the efforts were greatly appreciated.

HHD staff are preparing for Leadership Development Day (LDD) on 10 OCT and our next drill, 17-18 OCT, looks to be a busy one with new staff assignments in many sections and at our detachments. We look forward to new roles and responsibilities as we continue to focus on our mission.

Camp Murray: MAJ David Luxton, OIC; 1SG Gene Vetter, DET SGT



The Camp Murray Detachment remains focused on our IET training schedule. Our trainees have successfully

reached the halfway point in their training. They continue to demonstrate strong progress and commitment as they work toward completing the program



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Right: SPC Tariq Schmidt was awarded the Washington National Guard Achievement Medal in recognition of his service during the emergency activation in Longview, Washington. He was also awarded the Washington State Emergency Service Ribbon (WSESR) for his contributions during the mission. Congratulations to SPC Schmidt on these well-deserved recognitions.



PFC Brandi Yanez-Riddle and PV2 Logan Sprague were welcomed to the detachment this drill (See *Enlistment*, [page 10](#)). Welcome to the Sentinels!

We bid farewell to 1LT LaBeach as he transitions to his new assignment with the Marysville Detachment. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team, and we thank him for his contributions to the CM Detachment and wish him continued success in his new position.

We also look forward to welcoming 1LT Bailey and 1LT Viesse to the CM Detachment effective 1 OCT. We are pleased to have them joining the team and look forward to working with them.

Marysville: Pending OIC; SFC Chandler Honeyman, DET SGT



Submitted by CW2 Chris Hills

The Marysville Detachment recently conducted a full day of training focused on soldier skills, leadership development, communications, and team building. The day began with morning muster, a uniform inspection, and a ruck march, followed by an internal debrief to discuss lessons learned and observations from previous activities.

Training continued with practical instruction on the use of map overlays, HF radio communications, and Equal Opportunity training. The afternoon shifted toward leadership development with instruction on Developing an Effective Team and Correlating a Leader's Role in Character Development. Soldiers then moved into field-oriented training, including reacting to indirect fire while dismounted and selecting hasty fighting positions. The day concluded with an after-action review and final formation. The varied schedule gave soldiers an opportunity to work on individual skills while reinforcing the teamwork and leadership needed to operate effectively as a detachment.

The Marysville Detachment welcomed PFC Steven Walsh to the Washington State Guard (see *Enlistments*, [page 10](#)). I had the privilege of administering his oath of enlistment and officially welcoming him into the organization. In civilian life, Walsh is a middle school science teacher in the Sammamish/Issaquah area. He brings several interests that may prove valuable to the Guard, particularly his experience with amateur radio on UHF and VHF and his interest in mesh networking and communications. Outside of work, he enjoys home brewing, camping, hiking, cars, gaming, and flight simulation.

PFC Walsh has already started working through his IET requirements and FEMA coursework as he begins his Guard career. We are pleased to have him joining the Marysville Detachment and look forward to seeing him put both his teaching experience and technical interests to work in support of the Washington State Guard.

MAJ Chatfield adds: This month we say goodbye to PFC Simon Peltier, who is going active-duty US Army and ships out in October. We wish Peltier the best, and trust he got a great introduction to uniformed service in the WSG.

Right: PFC Peltier at TF Sentinel, Spokane, AUG 2026. Peltier got plenty of advice on preparing for active duty from Army veterans such as SGT Rhodes, also pictured, SFC Colvin, and other Soldiers on mission.



Ridgefield: 1LT Jason King, OIC; SFC Perry Eimen, DET SGT



The Ridgefield Detachment's September drill came together after a brief break due to no drill in July and wildfires deployment. The DET is poised to

make training year 2027 (TY27) challenging, successful and productive.

Following First formation, OIC 1LT King gave brief announcements on upcoming WSG events and training with emphasis on professionalism, training, and recruitment. 1LT King emphasized once again that AT attendance is essential for training, advancement, and camaraderie. Mission-ready skillsets were discussed such as MILO, ARRO, EmComm, and sUAS.



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SGT Frank then taught IET Training, including History of the WSG, Command Structure, and UCMJ. IT was an excellent presentation and delivery by SGT Frank.

CW2 Morrison was on hand and set up a second mobile comms station. The DET is honored to have CW2 Morrison rejoin us as our Communications Officer. We look forward to his expertise, training, and experience. CW2 Morrison and SFC Eimen both set up mobile comms stations during the drill.

Right: Chief Morrison and SFC Eimen deploy a field-portable HF antenna. The orange strips are a popular new type of radial/counterpoise system that improves the antenna's omnidirectional radiation pattern.



CPL Masterson then gave a presentation on upcoming recruitment opportunities. The Ridgefield Detachment has multiple contacts, events, and resources for effective recruitment, networking, and general exposure throughout our community.

CW2 Manseau gave a brief and comprehensive assessment of the Wildland Fire Deployments. CW2 Manseau was deployed as MILO for the WAARNG Aviation. The DET is preparing for additional MILO training and other relevant skillsets so more of our Soldiers will be deployable in this capacity.

Overall, Ridgefield Detachment's September drill was a success. Each SM was engaged, prepared and willing to participate. Once again, the Ridgefield Detachment is pressing forward towards readiness, capability, and service.

Discipline is the pathway to freedom ~Jocko Willink

**Yakima: 1LT Andrew Cochran, OIC;
MSG Eric Farmer, DET SGT**



The detachment drilled at YRC this month. After the pace and tempo of supporting the wildfire mission, we reset and took some time to reflect our

recent activation. I also shared some updates in the WSG, including the planned Leadership Day in October and that

effective 1 OCT, I will be the officer in charge of the combined Yakima and Spokane Detachment.



Above: We continued our ongoing training with HF radios, with SPC James Krusmark manning the SHARES net check-in.

SPC Krusmark also lead a discussion on equal opportunity. Afterwards, SSG Lee shared a briefing on the history of the Yakama Nation in our area and the historical relationship between the state and the tribe. It was a very insightful discussion and I think all of us took something positive away from it. Interfacing and partnering with people from across our state with many different backgrounds is an important part of our mission set and something that we are going to continue to develop in our detachment.

SSG Lee had a guest from the local area join us for drill. He is interested in the WSG and SSG Lee continues to work on recruiting him. Recruiting continues to be a priority mission for the detachment to increase our strength and ability to respond to requests from the state in times of need.

We concluded drill with a discussion on what we would like to accomplish in the coming year and that will serve as a good baseline for me to bring to the leadership day next month.

Finally, I would like to thank PV2 Anderson for his service to the WSG as he separates from us to pursue other personal goals. He is welcome back when he is ready to rejoin.



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**Spokane, 1LT Ron Desmet, OIC;
SGM Butch McConnell, DET SGT**



The Spokane Detachment drilled at the Spokane Readiness Center starting with the OIC briefing mentioning the new policies on PT and physical

standards that will be effective on 01 OCT. Those policies will be presented when available. Also mentioned was the fact that this was my last drill as OIC of the Spokane Detachment. At the time I was not aware of my new duty assignment. However, since drill I received orders to join the S-3 Shop.

Our guest Lance Melin introduced himself and our soldiers introduced themselves to him. His application has been submitted.

Training focused on ARRO PERSTAT/LOGSTAT and forms management when deployed. The training emphasized the importance of keeping up-to-date on forms and control numbers. Scanning/submission of documents in a timely was also emphasized.

We setup HF and we checked in on the SHARES net and were able to connect with Marysville and Ridgefield detachments on the HF net. We will continue to develop these skills and work towards consistent contact with detachments.

After the HF net, each person who was deployed provided information on their experience with deployment, what they learned, what operational standard they incorporated to make the deployment easier and what they could do better next deployment.

My time as OIC of the Spokane Detachment has been an experience I will carry with me throughout my career. I couldn't have hand-picked better soldiers to lead. Each one brings life experience that enhances the detachment. I sure they will continue to have great success, personally and professionally. It's been my honor to lead such a fine group of soldiers.

Editor's note: Effective 1 OCT, the Yakima and Spokane detachments will consolidate into a single detachment led by 1LT Cochran and SGM McConnell.

MEMS



The Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) qualifications are defined by the [State Guard Association of the United States \(SGAUS\)](#). MEMS aligns with the mission set of the WSG and has strong support from the Commander. MEMS is administered in Washington state by MAJ Logan at [alo-](mailto:alo-gan1023@gmail.com)

gan1023@gmail.com.

MEMS Qualifications Awarded This Month

- * **1LT Nelson Leese**, Headquarters DET: MEMS Basic
- * **PV2 Logan Sprague**, Camp Murray DET: MEMS Basic

Summary

- * Awarded this month: 2
- * Packets in Progress: 1
- * Qualifications awarded YTD: 8

All applicants: Please request new templates before starting effort. It will save both of us a lot of time in processing!

MEMS News: MEMS Flash for 2026 Wildfire Deployments

I am currently evaluating orders for those who supported the multiple 2026 Wildfire State Active Duty deployments to ensure that qualified soldier-citizens earn the MEMS Flash.

True to the WSG's mission of quiet, reliable service, our soldiers provided vital operational support to the Washington National Guard. Personnel executed essential behind-the-scenes tasks, including staffing Traffic Control Points (TCPs), serving as Military Liaison Officers (MILOs), and providing critical Joint Operations Center (JOC) surge support. Because these missions involved hands-on disaster response, deployed personnel with a MEMS Basic qualification (minimum) are eligible for the MEMS Flash — the blue and gray background device worn behind the standard qualification badge on the WSG dress uniforms.

While the standard MEMS badge is earned through classroom study and practicums, the Flash requires a verified, real-world activation. The State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) enforces strict compliance guidelines. As the Academy State Director, I must meticulously audit official activation orders, specific duty logs, and ensure requirements are perfectly aligned before processing.

I am committed to ensuring our soldiers' practical service during the 2026 wildfire response is properly recognized for selfless service rendered. A few of the 29 WSG Soldiers who



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answered the call to service already have a MEMS Flash. Presently, I am pushing to add another 14 to that list with an attitude of gratitude and a humble heart. Well done Soldiers!

ENLISTMENTS

The Washington State Guard welcomes the following new members:



Above: PFC Steve Walsh was sworn in 12 SEP by Chief Hills, and assigned to Marysville DET. Walsh reports:

I have no prior service. I went to high school in Shoreline and attended Central Washington University where I graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and Science Education. I went on to earn my M.Ed from Western Governors University in Educational Technology. I've been a certificated teacher in the State of Washington since late 2015 and have spent my entire career in the Issaquah School District. I worked in elementary schools for about 6 years and left for a slightly older group after the COVID years. I am now in my 5th year of teaching Physical Science to middle school students. I also have the pleasure of teaching Earth and Space Science to a separate group of students this year. Switching over to teaching different sciences helped me rekindle my interest in amateur radio, and geology. A few months ago a friend had started talking about joining the Washington State Guard and how my background and skills could be of use. We both visited a drill and I was sold. I had always had a desire to do more to serve my State and discovered that the WSG offered the type of service that I could commit to while balancing my career commitments.



Above: PV2 Logan Sprague was sworn in 12 SEP by CPT Livingston, and assigned to Camp Murray DET. Sprague reports:

I enlisted in the Army at 17 years old in 2020 as a Combat Medic. After being medically discharged, I worked in security for a couple years before transitioning into working on a wildland fire hand crew during the summers. I am currently studying Forestry at Green River College; am a volunteer planner for Washington State with Team Rubicon; and am an Emergency Services and Communications Officer with Civil Air Patrol.

I joined the Washington State Guard to build upon and continue my service to my community and country with a particular interest in emergency management and response.



Above: PFC Brandi Yanez-Riddle was sworn in 19 SEP by MAJ Luxton, and assigned to Camp Murray DET. Yanez-Riddle reports:

I am a former urban planner with a focus in food systems and urban agriculture. I previously worked for the now dissolved Puyallup Watershed Initiative for almost a decade supporting community members to build food projects in their communities. I am currently a Medical Assisting student, and I'm also



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earning IT certifications. I have no previous military background but I joined because I love the community I've built here in WA, and want to support during emergencies. Though, overall, I just want to help in any way possible.

AWARDS

The following Soldiers recently received the awards listed:

- * **MSG Eric Farmer** was awarded the Washington State Meritorious Service Medal (WSMSM) for service on flood response mission, JAN 2026.
- * The following Soldiers were awarded the Washington State Achievement Medal (WSAM) and Washington State Emergency Service Ribbon (WSESR) for service on Longview Nippon Dynawave Implosion mission, MAY-JUN 2026:
 - * **CW2 Tom Lukevich**
 - * **CW2 Tom Manseau**
 - * **CPL Pete Merz**
 - * **SPC Tariq Schmidt**
- * **CPT Scott Livingston** was awarded the National Guard Service Ribbon (NGSR) ribbon with device in recognition of 10 years combined Federal and WSG service.

Awards for the AUG 2026 wildland fire response missions are in progress and will be summarized in OCT newsletter.

PROMOTIONS

The following Solders were recently promoted to the ranks listed:

- * None this month.

RETIREMENTS AND SEPARATIONS

The following individuals recently **separated** or **retired** (5+years of service) from the Washington State Guard:

- * **PV2 Ian Anderson**, Yakima DET, separated. Period of service: MAR 2025—SEP 2026.
- * **PFC Simon Peltier**, Marysville DET, separated. Period of service: OCT 2025—SEP 2026. Peltier is going active-duty US Army—Hooah!

CALLING ON ALL WSG MUSICIANS

Submitted by COL Lukevich

The 133rd Army National Guard Band has reached out to the WSG to invite any of our WSG members that have talent playing musical instrument to join the Band in the future for a friendly “jam” or “pickup” session. These would be informal events popping up a couple of times a year and most would take place at Camp Murray. Sounds like fun and an opportunity for musicians to enjoy themselves doing something they love.



If you have an interest in being invited to join the Band, send me a note with your name, rank, detachment location, and the musical instrument you play. I will send along the names that I receive to the 133rd Army Band Commander and a Band representative will let you know when a get-together will be held in the future. You can send your note of interest to me at:

peter.lukevich@mil.wa.gov



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TY27 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Below is the Training Year 2027 (TY27) training schedule. This schedule is applicable to all WSG units at garrison locations.

TY26		2026			2027								
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
DETACHMENTS	Head-quarters	17-18	14	5	9-10	6	6	3-4	1	5 or 12	No drill	7-8	11
	Camp Murray	10		12	16	13	13	10	15	19		7	
	Marysville	17		5	9	6	6	3	1	5 or 12			
	Ridgefield												
	Yakima & Spokane												
WSG Staff & DET Leaders Sync		14	11	3	6	3	3	31 MAR	28 APR	2 or 9	None	4	5
SCHOOL-HOUSE	WOC/OCS	Class 1-26, To be announced											

NOTES:

- * Leadership Day for all Section and Detachment leaders will be held at Camp Murray on 10 OCT 2026.
- * The quarterly 2-day drill is required only for WSG Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD).
- * Proposed Annual Training dates are 20-23 MAY or 3-6 JUN.
- * When Schoolhouse commences next WOC/OCS class, it will normally be held the next full weekend following drill.

WSG members: Print this page and cut on the dotted line to produce the WSG recruiting flyer shown below. Post it in locations frequented by potential recruits **you would be proud to serve with**. Add your own contact info to the flyer if you wish to help recruit and onboard new members from your communities, and earn yourself a Washington State Recruiting Ribbon (WSRR).



JOIN THE WASHINGTON STATE GUARD



The Washington State Guard (WSG) is an all-volunteer, uniformed military element of the Military Department of Washington. WSG members train without compensation and serve within the state. The Washington State Guard serves at the direction of the state's Adjutant General, and the Governor is our commander-in-chief.

The Washington State Guard serves two major functions:

First, the WSG is the permanent cadre structure of the legally authorized state militia, which can be activated by the Governor in response to major disasters or other events.

Second, the WSG deploys highly trained volunteers for specific missions within the state-frequently in close coordination with the state's Army and Air National Guard. Our Soldiers specialize in cyber security, emergency communications, domestic and tribal liaison missions, wildland firefighting, and more.

WSG members normally drill monthly as organized units stationed strategically throughout the state.

Interested in joining? For more information, visit: <https://mil.wa.gov/state-guard>

Email the WSG Recruiting Officer CPT Livingston at Scott.Livingston@mil.wa.gov.



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3 MONTHS OUT VIEW: DRILLS AND MISSIONS

	-----DETACHMENTS-----					MISSIONS AND OTHER EVENTS (OIC/POC is listed)
	Head- quarters	Camp Murray	Marysville	Ridgefield	Yakima and Spokane	
OCT	17-18	10	17	17	17	10: Leadership Day for all senior NCOs (E7+), Warrant Officers and Officers, Camp Murray (see <i>Commanders Words</i> , page 2) 10: Honor Flight departure, SEA Airport* 12: Honor Flight homecoming, SEA Airport*
NOV	14	14	14	14	14	11: Color Guard mission for Veterans Day, Seattle (Chief Morrison)
DEC	5	12	5	5	5	19: Color Guard mission for Wreathes Across America, Seattle (Chief Morrison)

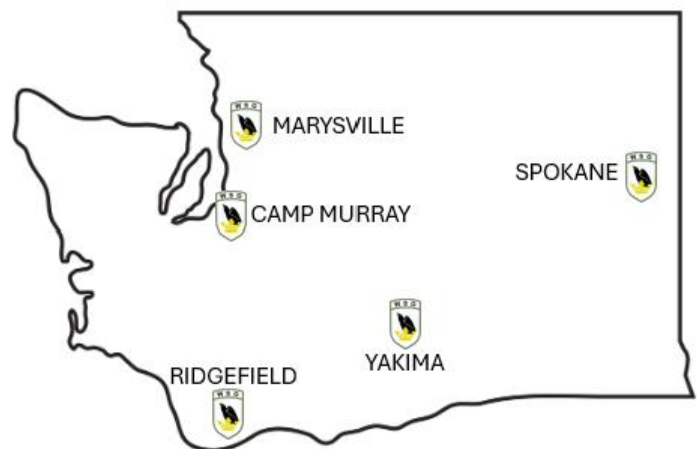
NOTE:

* Your DET/Section OIC has additional details about Honor Flight missions. Request details up through your chain-of-command.

Drills are normally conducted at the following locations:

- * Headquarters: BLD 33, Camp Murray
- * Camp Murray Detachment: BLD 36, Camp Murray
- * Marysville Detachment: Armed Forces Reserve Center, Marysville
- * Ridgefield Detachment: Ridgefield Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Ridgefield
- * Yakima & Spokane Detachment: Yakima Readiness Center and Spokane Readiness Center

If you're not sure where or when to drill, check with your chain-of-command.



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