

RON AVERILL

Ron Averill was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. After graduating from USC, he entered the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1959. He was in the Signal Corps until 1964 when he integrated into the Regular Army in the Military Intelligence Corps. Ron served overseas assignments in Germany, Belgium, Vietnam and Hawaii, as well as tours in the Pentagon, including two tours in Vietnam serving in 6 campaigns. After 30 years in the Army, Ron retired in Hawaii at the rank of colonel in 1989.

Ron's first job after Army retirement was with the State of Hawaii Military Department Division of Civil Defense. He was an emergency management planner at the State level for two years. Later he went into higher education where he was a professor of political science and international relations at Hawaii Pacific University and, in 1992, South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. In 2000 he became Dean of Social Sciences at SPSCC.

In November 2006, Ron was elected as a County Commissioner, in Lewis County. He received a baptism under fire in emergency management with three flood events and two major storms in the county in his first four years. He became a founding member and leader of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority in 2008, to seek a basin wide solution to flooding. Under his leadership, Lewis County has vastly improved its early warning and response capability, updated county emergency management plans, and worked closely with Federal, State and local governments and agencies in the preparation, implementation, and recovery from major disasters.

Ron has represented the Washington Association of Counties on the Washington State Emergency Management Council since 2010.