

Personnel News

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Jerry Jenson, exercise training manager, retired Oct. 31, completing 12 years of service with the Emergency Management Division. Eighty persons, including staff from nearby emergency management jurisdictions, attended the retirement lunch for Jenson and his family Oct. 27 at Camp Murray. Jenson, who retired as a colonel in the Washington National Guard after 32 years of military service, built “one of the best emergency management exercise programs in the country,” said Terry Egan, manager of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit. Jim Mullen, EMD director, noted that Jenson had served in operations and planning positions for the Y2K, TOPOFF 2, Cascadia Peril, Regional Response and National Level Exercise 2-08 activations. Mullen said Jenson provided oversight for exercises involving the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, U.S. Department of Energy and the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant. Jenson also developed a multi-year exercise program integrated with a training program and corrective action process. He will leave “a strong legacy of accomplishment that won’t go away,” Mullen said. In comments to Emergency Management staff, Jenson thanked them for their help during the past 12 years. “It’s been a great opportunity to serve with you,” he said. Jenson was presented a Commander’s Medallion from Brig. Gen. Bret Daugherty, assistant adjutant general, and a congratulatory letter from Gov. Chris Gregoire.

Don Miller, emergency communications branch chief, left the Washington Military Department Oct. 28 for a private sector position. Miller, who had served 20 years with the Emergency Management Division (EMD) and the Military Department, received a Commander’s Award for Public Service from Brig. Gen. Bret Daugherty, assistant adjutant general, in a ceremony Oct. 27 at Camp Murray. Gen. Daugherty said Miller had built EMD’s networks of radios, microwaves, tsunami and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness alert sirens and pioneered the network system that ties emergency operations centers together. The public service award citation said Miller had “provided the state with the structure that makes it one of the leaders in the country for protection of our citizens and their way of life.” A retired U.S. Army warrant officer, Miller told EMD staff it had been fun to work with them over the past two decades. “Thank you for the privilege of working with all of you,” he said.