

Personnel News January 2010

SSG Dave Hall, currently serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq, sent a thank-you gift to the Emergency Management Division for the steady shipment of “care packages” mailed to him since his deployment last year. The gift was a flag that had been flown over his Iraq duty station. An emergency planner with EMD, SSG Hall is expected to return to his EMD position in mid-2010.

Chuck Hagerhjelm, manager of the Mitigation and Recovery section in the Mitigation, Response and Recovery Unit, retired Jan. 31 after serving more than 15 years with the Emergency Management Division. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Hagerhjelm served in disaster and joint field office positions for 16 federally-declared disasters, including work as state coordinating officer, deputy state coordinating officer, Governor’s Authorized Representative, and Alternate Governor’s Authorized Representative.

Hagerhjelm said one of his most significant contributions during his EMD service was to create a fixed facility response plan that combined the separate plans for the Umatilla Depot, the Hanford Site, and the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant. He said this fixed facility plan led to the development of an updated comprehensive state emergency planning guide which first brought the concept of emergency support functions into the state emergency plans. He moved to recovery work in March 1996 and was named Recovery Section Supervisor in 1997. He said his job title subsequently changed three times although he continued to sit at the same desk.

In 2001, Hagerhjelm was assigned through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact to work in the New York City emergency operations center following the 9/11 attacks. While each disaster has its own characteristics, Hagerhjelm said some of his most poignant memories are of the impact of the Kelso landslide of 1998. The landslide itself was very limited in size, but “the impact on the people was very huge,” he said. He said virtually none of the affected homeowners had any insurance to cover relocation and rebuilding costs. Of 137 homes affected by the landslide, he said he helped the city to acquire 126 on terms that averaged about 30 cents on the dollar. Even though all of the affected homes were written off as worthless by the county assessor, he said 11 families still reside in the landslide disaster area.

As for retirement plans, Hagerhjelm said he has no particular plans “other than what my wife tells me to do.” But he adds that is looking forward to the birth of a new grandson arriving this spring and to the chance to watch lots of Mariner Rainier baseball games.

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Peggie Duggan started Jan. 19 as a temporary State Emergency Operations Officer. She previously worked at the Emergency Management Division in the Mitigation, Response and Recovery and the Planning, Exercise and Training units from May 2004 to July 2005. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in social sciences/history in 2007 and a Master's Degree in strategic intelligence in 2009.

Sheryl Jardine became the new Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager Feb. 1 to succeed Chuck Hagerhjelm who is retiring. Jardine has been a program Manager in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs Unit since 2004. She joined EMD in 1998 in the Recovery Section of the Programs and Recovery Unit. After serving in the Earthquake and Emergency Management Performance Grant programs, Jardine worked three years in the Public Assistance Program the Olympia Disaster Recovery Field Office.

Michael Namchek, the electronics technician for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in the Tri-Cities, left the Emergency Management Division in January to do similar electronics work with Franklin County. He had worked in EMD since 2001.

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