

Personnel News August 2009

Jeanette Lomax retired July 30 after more than 30 years of public service, including 24 years with the Emergency Management Division. She was a federal program coordinator in the Plans, Analysis and Program Section of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit. Lomax headed the state agency liaison program and served as a primary planner for Fixed Nuclear Facilities, U.S. Department of Energy Programs, and for hazardous materials. She first joined the Washington Emergency Management Service in 1985 and then worked in the Washington Department of Community Development's Emergency Management Division from 1987 to 1996. Lomax moved with the Emergency Management Division when it became part of the Washington Military Department in 1996. "Keep up the good work people," Lomax said at her well-attended retirement dinner July 30. "I have other adventures to follow now. Be proud."

Penelope Cassidy, public information officer with the Enhanced 9-1-1 Unit, left EMD July 31, culminating 17 years of state service. She came to EMD in April 1996 from the state Department of Licensing where she was a public information officer and emergency management liaison. Under her direction, EMD established several innovative programs to educate the public about the proper use of the emergency 9-1-1 system. She served as co-editor of the EMD newsletter and was the shop steward for the Washington Federation of State Employees' EMD bargaining unit from 1999 through 2007. Cassidy was a key member of EMD's public information program which provided a high quality of accurate and timely information in numerous emergencies and disasters between 1996 and 2007. She also instructed and coordinated EMD courses which taught basic emergency public information skills to hundreds of responders and emergency managers throughout Washington.

Deborah Henderson, a 13-year EMD employee, left the agency Aug. 31 to accept a project position in the state Department of Agriculture. She had served as program assistant in the Programs Section of the Programs Unit since 2002. She also had worked in the Exercise and Training Section of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit and on the disaster field office staffs for the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake and the 1995-1996 floods. She received an EMD Certificate of Appreciation which noted her work with the program section budget and training conferences. "Her efforts, dedication, and program focus are in keeping with the finest traditions of state employees," stated EMD Director Jim Mullen.

Sierra Wardell on Aug. 24 was named permanent program coordinator for the Transit, Non-Profit Security and the Emergency Management Program Grant

programs in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs Unit. She had served since February 2009 in a non-permanent appointment in her position.

Bev O'Dea was appointed Aug. 25 as the permanent Hazard Mitigation Strategist in the Mitigation Section of the Mitigation, Response and Recovery Unit. She has served since August 2008 in a non-permanent appointment in the position. She also worked in the Exercise Section of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit in 2006 and 2007.