

Seattle District, Army Corps of Engineers, Assists in Tragedy

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SEATTLE—Three highly-trained Army Corps of Engineers disaster-relief individuals, departed Seattle by car to travel to Portland, Ore., where they will board a specially designated plane headed ultimately for Washington, D.C.

Their mission: support the east coast relief operations in the best way they can, as directed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It is a mission Gretchen Martinsen, Eric Winters and Pam Gumaer gladly accepted.

Upon arrival in Portland, they will be joined by Tami Robison from the Portland District, Corps of Engineers. The four-person logistics planning and response team will provide support to the mobilization center at the Anacostia Naval Station in Washington, D.C.

George Hanley, public affairs specialist from the Kansas City District, will join the cadre in Kansas City, Mo. All five individuals represent a small, dedicated, group of emergency response personnel who are the first to go on behalf of the Corps from the Northwest area.

The Corps nationwide is currently helping in eight different areas: activation of Emergency Operations Centers in support of FEMA Regional Operations Centers, debris removal, emergency power, structural safety assessment, technical assistance to the state of New York. Sixty three people have been deployed thus far.

The Corps is anticipating this to be a long-term effort where replacement teams will be needed to relieve the first wave of assistance.

On alert are the ice, water, power, debris, structural safety, urban search and rescue and management planning and response teams.