

West Coast General Aviation Response Plan (Cascadia Subduction Zone)

Presenter

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NW Regional Emergency Services Director
Emergency Volunteer Air Corps (EVAC)



What Is It?

- **WCGARP- West Coast General Aviation Response Plan**
- A coordinated effort of response for when the "big one" hits
- Involves multiple national/local pilot organizations/groups into one effort
- To enlist GA pilots to fly resources in and on return legs fly out injured or displaced people.
- EVAC, CalDART, ACA, Oregon DART, Idaho DART and BC AERO Primary leaders.

Examples of Past Drills/Responses

- Youtube site of effort;
- <https://www.youtube.com/@secondchance111>
- Thunder Run 2022 Point Roberts Seaplane Drop
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqIk875BUI4>
- DART 2021 and CAP Joint Drill WC EVAC DART Site
- <https://vimeo.com/568139794>
- Jefferson County Seaplane exercise
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oYQhK-bFqV8&t=221s>
- King 5 News Story
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X1fP38fGe0>

Some General Aviation (GA) History

- **Loma Prieta earthquake** a volunteer pilot group of about 80 aircraft flew about ½ million pounds of supplies in 3 days.
- **Haiti's 2010 earthquake** a flying boat (albatross) flew in 2 tons of supplies direct to the beach community in need. It included a full medical team.
- **Hurricane Dorian Response**
Florida DART Delivered first SAR Team Freeport
- **North Carolina Hurricane Florence Response**
Operation Airdrop 280,000 pounds
- **Hurricane Dorian Response**
Aerobridge over 500,00 lbs.

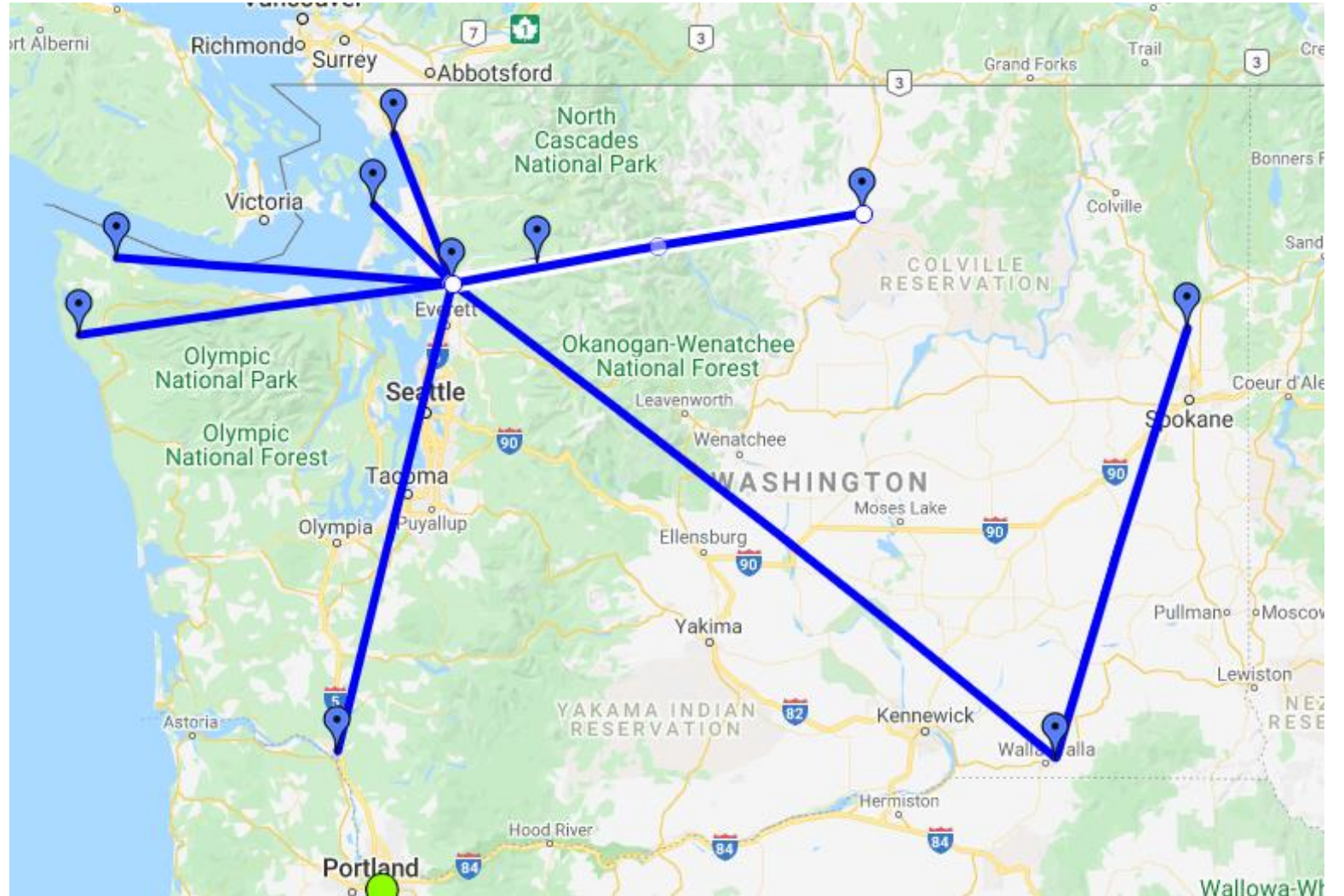
Now What We've Done

- **5-9-2020** First ever full use of the WCGARP. CalDart Delivers 500 face shields to Walla Walla medical front line workers.
- **5-23-2020** Aerobridge delivers 3,000 face shields to Walla Walla county.
- **5-2020** BEFA starts flying over 500,000 pieces of PPE out to rural counties for WSHA during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What We've Done (Continued)

- **10-5-2020** Walla Walla GA WCGARP DART hub receives **29,000 masks** that FEMA donated to the EVAC/WCGARP effort.
- 26,000 of those masks were flown out via GA/DART aircraft to west side counties and also a DART group being developed in Idaho.
- 3,000 stayed with Walla Walla DART.
- 10 locations in 2 states in just a couple of weeks in poor to good weather at times and all by GA aircraft.

The Big Lift, 9 Days Of Operation In Dead Of Winter



The Big Lift Continued

- King 5 News Video

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/dart-ppe-tribes-washington-state-airlift/281-821eaba7-c46f-4180-934b-624ec1adf22b>

- 29,767 lbs. of PPE/food moved in 9 days of operations.
- 80 sorties performed
- Less than ideal weather, no injuries or mishaps throughout operations.
- Full use of WCGARP

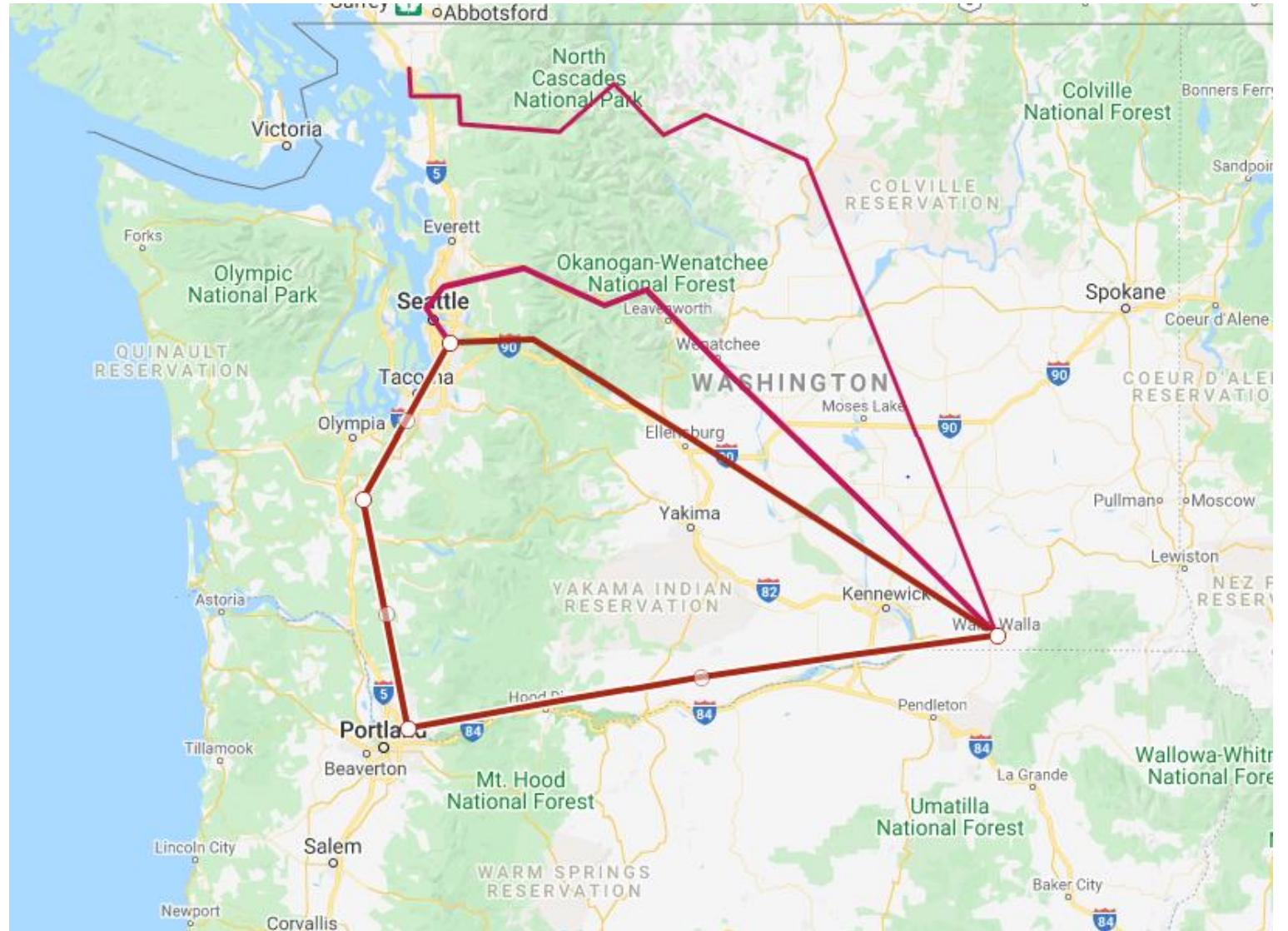
The Big Lift (Continued)

- **West Coast General Aviation Response Plan (WCGARP) assets which are the following;** EVAC, DART pilots state wide, Arlington DART team, WC EVAC DART Team/pilots, Renton Field DART pilots, Walla Walla DART team, Bellingham Aviation Services, Arlington Airport and hanger services, Gorge Aviation in Walla Walla, Oregon DART pilots, Idaho DART pilots.
- National Tribal Emergency Management Council
- Farmer Frog
- Arlington Airport was forward logistical distribution point
- Following airports were drop sites where local tribes picked up; BLI, 11S, OTS, UIL, 1S2, KLS, DEW, OMK and ALW served as transition point for DEW.



June 12, 2021 EVAC/WCGARP Exercise

June 12 Food Drive / Air Lift Continued Red Flights / Dead Man Switch



June 12,2021 Continued

- 4,301 lbs. of food collected at Lake Way Fred Meyer/Eden Home Health food drive
- 2,930 lbs. food/PPE flown out of BLI & Split Between Point Roberts & Walla Walla
- First joint exercise with Civil Air Patrol at both BLI & Walla Walla
- Full HAM com's across state
- Renton DART, BLI DART, Walla DART, State Wide DART pilots and at least one Oregon DART Pilot involved



Sept 25, 2021, 1st DART Lift Of Full SAR Team Pulse Equipment, West Coast

Sept 25, 2021, 1st DART Lift Of Full SAR Team Plus Equipment, West Coast

- Impact NW SAR Team BLI to Point Roberts and back, same day
- Point Roberts had 48 take off's / landings
- BLI had 48 take off's / landings
- Lunch flown to Point Roberts
- Flight groups of 2 to 3 to 4 aircraft with simultaneous take offs at both airports
- Full HAM coordination at both locations



Sept 25, 2021, 1st DART Lift Of Full SAR Team Plus Equipment, West Coast

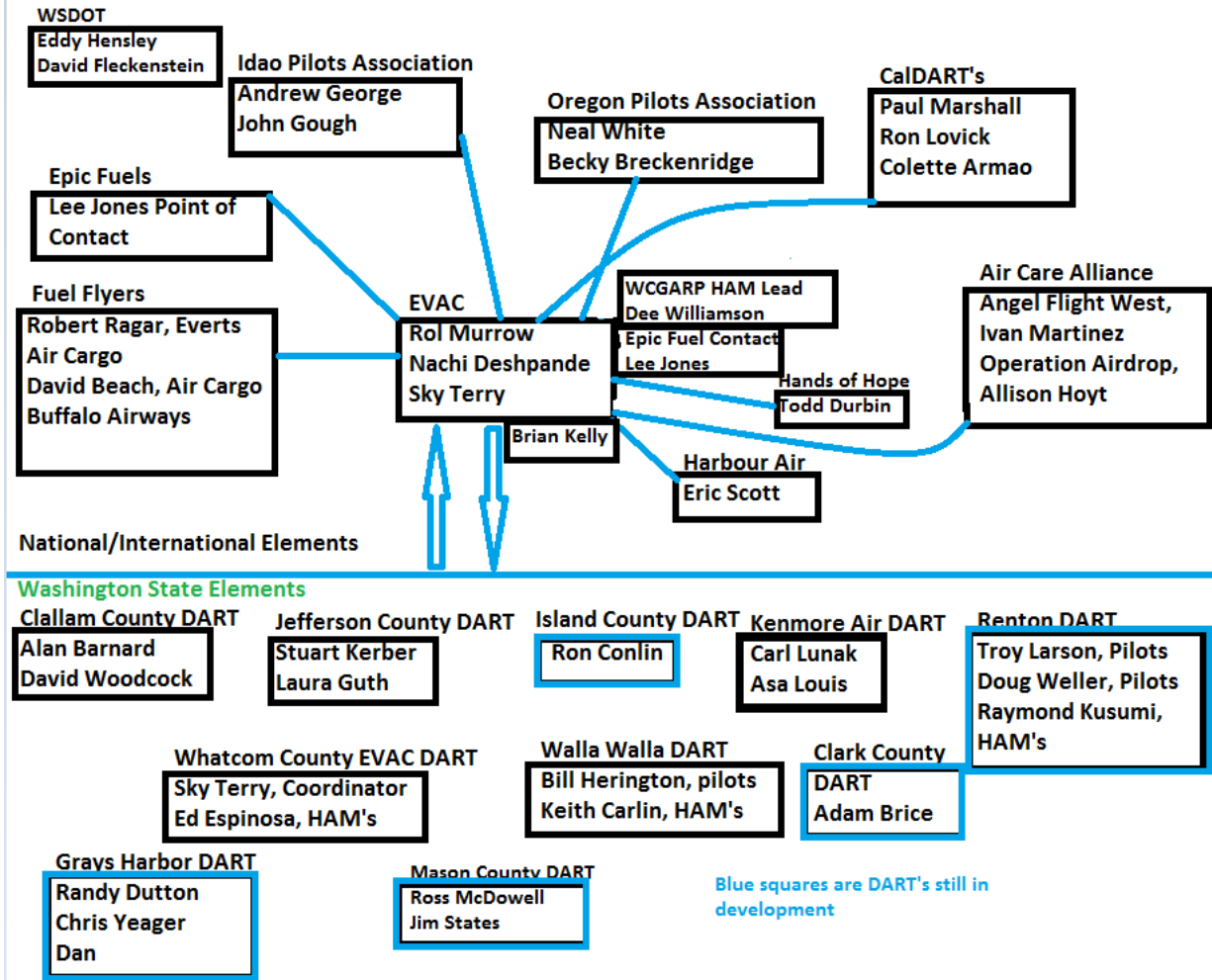
- Teams involved; Point Roberts Emergency Preparedness, Empact NW, Puget Sound HAM's, local Whatcom County HAM volunteers, Washington State Guard present, Point Roberts fire department present, WE EVAC DART pilots/ground support and pilots from state wide DART list.
- To best of my knowledge first time ever done by DART's on West Coast.



Current WCGARP Com's Flow; Non-disaster environment

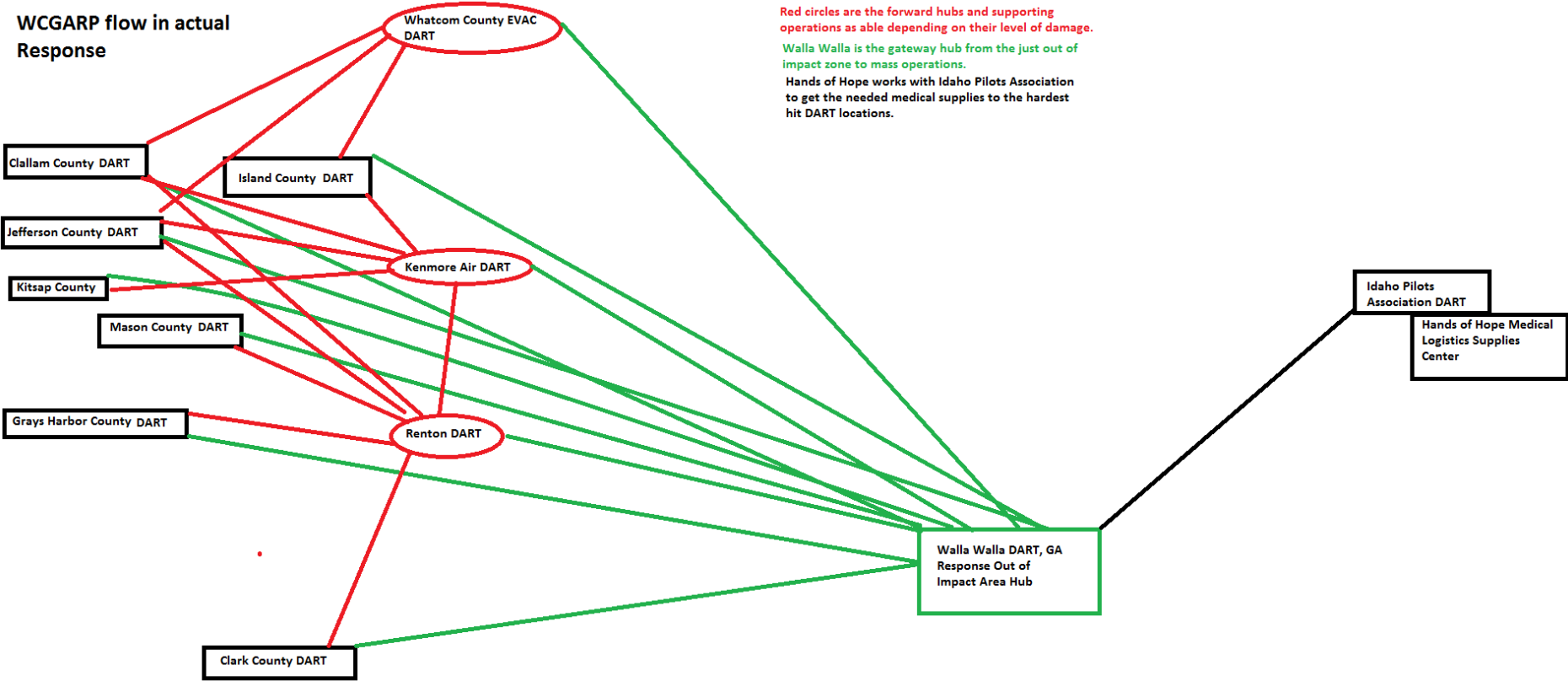
WCGARP COMS FLOW

Out side of a catastrophic disaster response

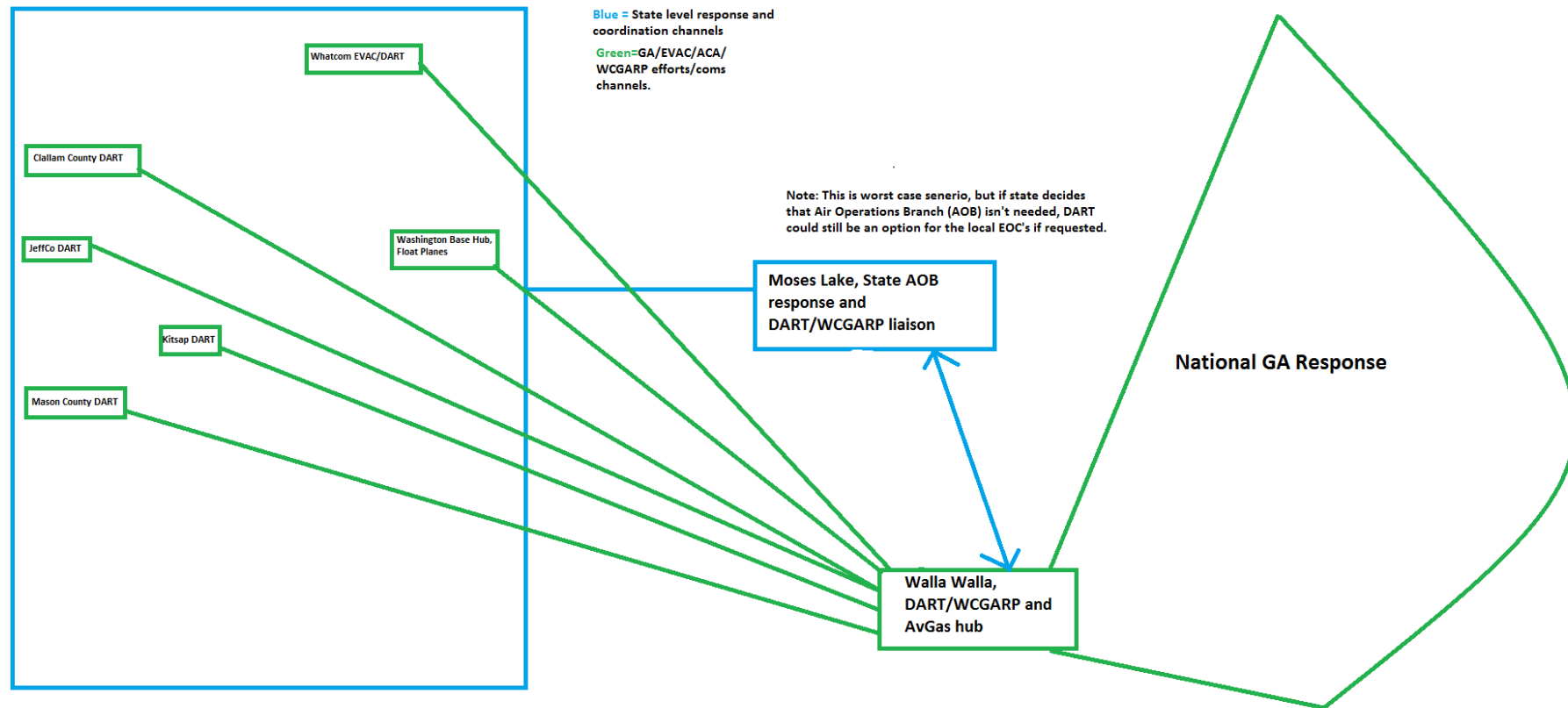


Example; Possible Response Scenario Full Response

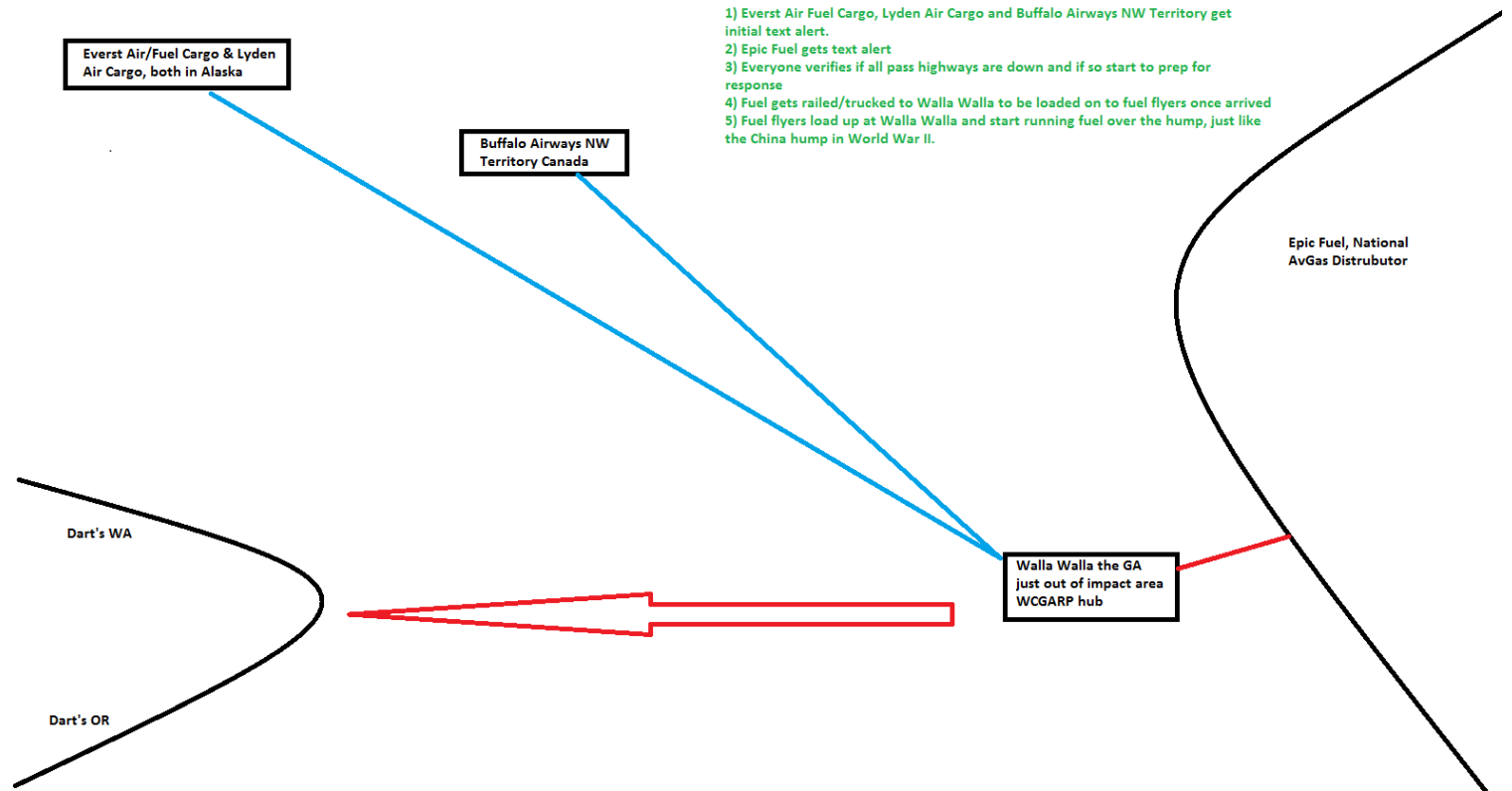
WCGARP flow in actual Response



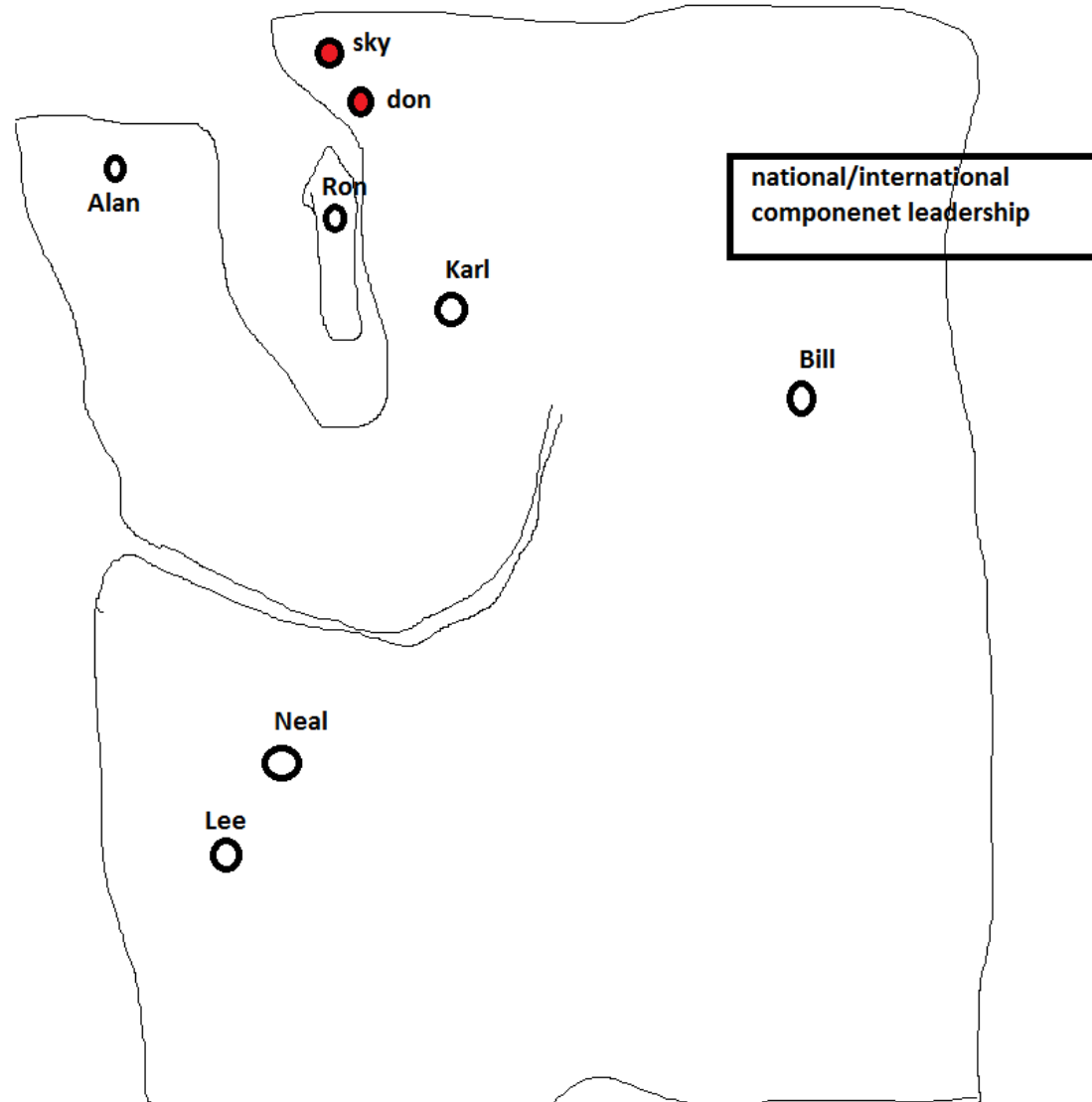
Example; Possible Full Response GA/State/Fed's Interaction



Example: Possible Fuel Flyer Response



Example: Text Alert Activation Mapping



Some more recent events continued, 2021 Army Core of Engineers Sandbag Lift

- Joint operation between Army Core of Engineers and WCGARP/NW EVAC leader Sky Terry, 10,000 sandbags flown from Boeing Field to Bellingham International.



2021 Army Core of Engineers Sandbag Lift

- This was during the historic flooding in Whatcom County that was the worst that's ever been seen.
- We still had inclement weather but was safe to fly.

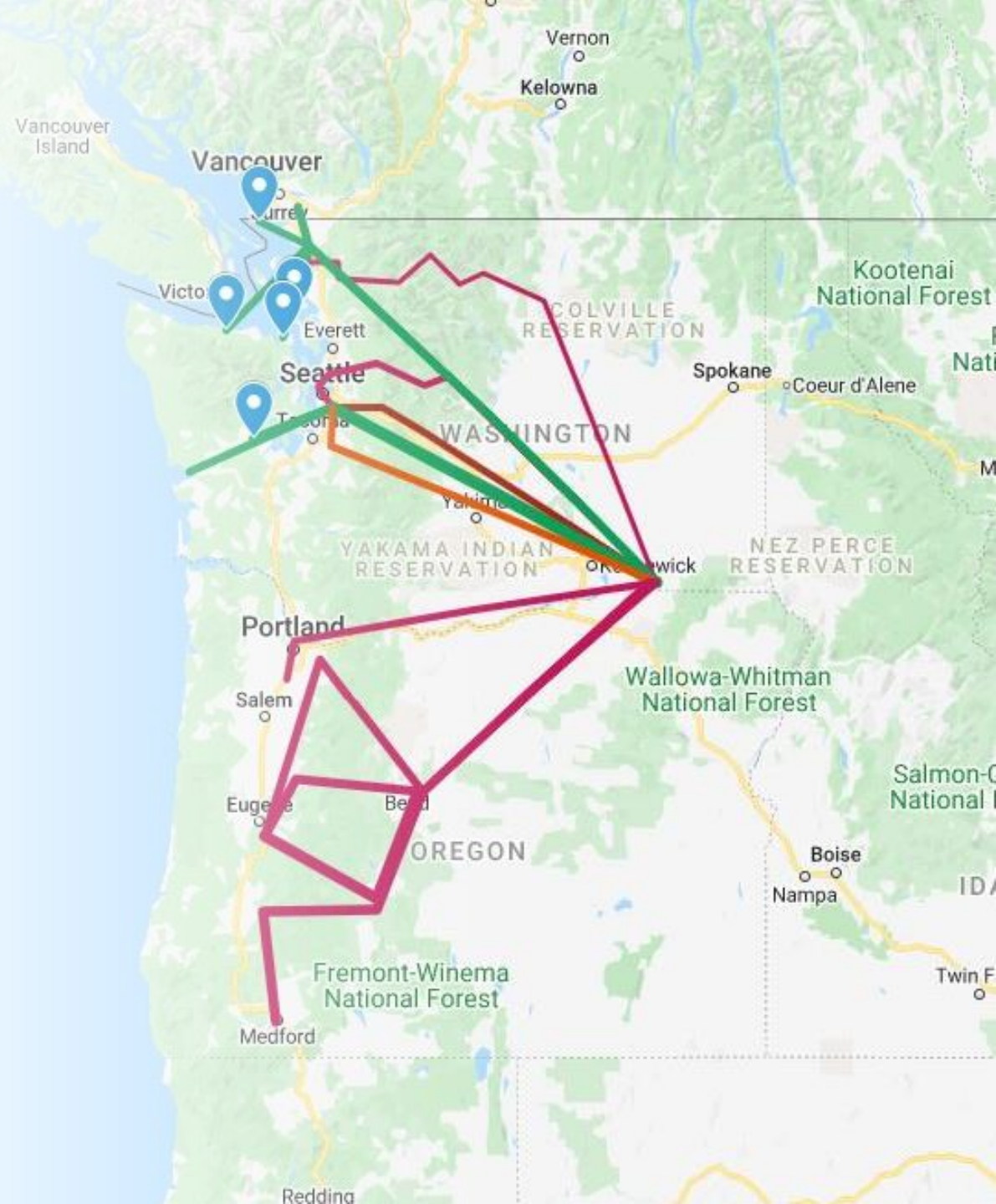


2021 Army Core of Engineers Sandbag Lift

- Between initial notification of need and being ready to load out and fly was only roughly 4 hrs.
- Had to wait one day for weather to improve for safety of pilots.
- All Sandbags went directly to Lummi Nation
- Very next day had 3rd flooding episode



Thunder Run
June 18th 2022
DART Food
Drive / Airlift



Thunder Run DART Food Drive / Airlift

Land dropped 30,000 lbs non-perishable / non-refrigerated food to Walla Walla and 12,892 lbs flown by BC AERO out of Langley airport in Canada.

DART Pilots of the EVAC / WCGARP flew 5,700 lbs out of Walla Walla into Renton Field's DART hub.

BC AERO's half to forward DART hub of BLI and Walla Walla's half to Renton DART

BLI DART divided up with some going to Point Roberts & Bellingham food bank with rest pushed forward to Jefferson, Clallam and Island County DART's/ food banks

Renton DART did the same with their out bound going to Mason County and Grays Harbor Counties



Thunder Run 2022 DART Food Drive / Airlift

Oregon DART
flew 4,800 lbs
out of Walla
Walla into
Oregon
locations.

All locations did get
food even though
we had several
storm systems in
both states
throughout the
length of the
response.

Full HAM
communication
performed through
out the exercise
between all
locations in support
of effort.

Full
activation of
the text alert
group
occurred
successfully.



Thunder Run 2022 DART/WCGARP Airlift final tallies

- **25,000 lbs** was flown into multiple food banks in WA/OR.
- Accomplished by 57 pilots through out Canada/WA and OR
- BC AERO flew **12,869 lbs** with 12 pilots flying 31 flights into BLI



Thunder Run 2022

June 18th

- At BLI location effort combined with a local food drive that ran for about a month and half prior to June 18th
- Net gain of **4,019 lbs** of which some flew out, a part of that **25,000 lb number** and some stayed in Whatcom County.
- What stayed was the following
 - **Miracle Food Network getting 1,127 lbs**
 - **Bellingham Food Bank getting 1,261 lbs.**
 - What went outbound from BLI hub was the following and of noting BLI had around **100 arrivals** that day just for this effort.



Thunder Run June 18th 2022, BLI Out Bound

- **BLI to CLM**
4,095 lbs in 13 flights
- **BLI to OS9**
3,110 lbs in 11 flights
- **BLI to W10**
1,129 lbs in 5 flights
- **BLI to OKH**
4,099 lbs in 11 flights
- **0W7 to beaching at Point Roberts.**
801 lbs in 2 flights by seaplane
- **BLI to 1RL**
Film team and pizza



Thunder Run June 18th 2022

- The other half was a donation of **24,000 lbs** of fresh produce delivered to Walla Walla HUB by land by Farmer Frog
- Also, a **\$5,000 dollar donation** by Serena <https://www.serena.com>
- **\$2,500 dollar donation** by AvFuel to EVAC
- EVAC then did a combined check for that to the Safeway store in Walla Walla who gave that food to this effort.



Thunder Run June 18th 2022, RNT Out Bound

- From Renton DART the below distribution occurred;
-
- **Walla Walla to RNT Dart Hub Northwest Harvest food bank**
- 1,600 lbs
-
- **Renton DART to Shelton**
- 2,400 lbs 11 flights
-
- **Renton DART to Hoquiam**
- 1,700 lbs 6 flights



June 18th Thunder Run 2022 Videos

- Overall video;
- [DART EVAC Thunder Run Exercise | Cascadia Subduction Zone Disaster Simulation and Aviation Response – YouTube](#)
- Point Roberts Seaplane Drop;
[Point Roberts Thunder Run 2022 – YouTube](#)





Disaster Airlift Response Team
(DART)
Pilots, ground crew and HAM's
working together.

DART's Continued

- DART's form the foundation stone to enable multistate widespread GA response in a coordinated managed response.
- Those teams working together with other key hub's/DART's across the nation give the flexibility that enables high level management to occur effectively.
- **Training occurs annually and pilots, ham's and ground crews are always needed. You make the difference.**

Take Aways

- More DART's need to be developed at all locations that might need air support, water or land, in the aftermath of this earthquake.
- State and federal aspects need to start communicating with the WCGARP effort more regularly and include them in their planning formularies.
- The above need to be a part of each year's annual trainings that have been occurring for over a decade now.
- Training, training, training.

Contact information

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