

Thunderbird and Whale 2022 National Level Exercise

18 June 2022

United States Volunteers - Joint Services Command

Great earthquakes along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) have been taking place for thousands of years. The most recent CSZ earthquake (estimated magnitude 9.0) occurred on January 26, 1700. The exact date was determined from historic records of a tsunami that struck Japan, and confirmed by tree-ring studies of coastal trees killed when land level changes plunged their roots into tidal water.

A search of Native American myths, stories and traditions has revealed an abundance of accounts from Tribes in Washington and Oregon that may be connected to Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquakes.

The Thunderbird and Whale 2022 (TW22) is a part of a National Level Exercise featuring a subduction zone event along the coast of Washington and Oregon and causing a 9.0 earthquake and tsunami.

The National Tribal Emergency Management Council (NTEMC) has prepared and coordinated an exercise plan that will move thousands of pounds of food by air, water, and land to local food bank to exercise the response to this earthquake and tsunami.

This will be the first National Level Exercise planned and implemented by the Tribes in US history.

The Thunder Run portion of the NTEMC TW22 plan will be the largest General Aviation mission of this type ever performed in the US.

The United States Volunteers - Joint Services Command has been invited by the NTEMC to provide ground support for two general aviation airports in Washington State with HAM radio operators coordinated by the NTEMC.

The 10th Regional Command in Washington State will establish a Joint Operations Center (JOC) at the NTEMC EOC to coordinate the USV-JSC units providing ground support.

The 4th Regional Command in Florida will conduct JOC training and will have HAM radio support to communicate with the USV-JSC National Headquarters.

The MERT Academy in Virginia will be supported by HAM radio and report to the USV-JSC National Headquarters.

The USV-JSC National Headquarters will establish a JOC in California to coordinate the actions of the USV-JSC units that are deployed in support of this mission.

The USV-JSC is grateful for the opportunity to be invited by the NTEMC to participate in Thunderbird and Whale 2022. The training and experience from this exercise will save lives.