



Inland Northwest Chapter
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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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Local Red Cross Strengthens Ties with Armed Services

[SPOKANE] WASHINGTON, Friday, March 13, 2009 — For more than a century, the American Red Cross has provided free services to support the men and women of the United States military. During national Red Cross Month, the Inland Northwest Chapter is reaching out to remind all military personnel and their families of the service available through the Red Cross.

“We have Armed Forces Emergency Services staff on U.S. military installations near Iraq in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Every day, the Red Cross delivers emergency messages to servicemen and women worldwide, and we often arrange emergency travel, enabling military families to be together,” said Keirsten Hess, Services to the Armed Forces Coordinator. “The long separations and stressful situations that occur when a service member deploys often place a serious emotional strain on families. The Red Cross links military personnel and their families through services which include confidential counseling as well as neutral, impartial assistance when and where needed, particularly during times of crisis at home.”

The Inland Northwest Chapter’s services to our military personnel include 24/7 worldwide emergency communications, secure emergency financial assistance, and counseling, information, referrals, and other social needs.

The local Chapter will be hosting an awareness event at Fairchild AFB on Saturday, March 14th. The community is invited to meet representatives from the Inland Northwest Chapter and get a tour of the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle.

WHAT: American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (converted ambulance)

WHEN: Saturday, March 14th 11:00AM – 3:00 PM

WHERE: Fairchild AFB BX

VISUAL: Volunteers distributing cookies and coffee from ERV (vehicle used for mass feeding in disaster situations).

For more information about American Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces, call Keirsten Hess at the Inland Northwest Chapter at (509) 326-3330 x 221.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, some 500,000 volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of over 70,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to ten million participants; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost four million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 90 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.

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