



USS RANGER FOUNDATION

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Ranger Means Emergency Preparedness

Continuing to Serve

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The purpose of this document is to explore some of the unique possibilities Ranger will bring to Oregon and Southwest Washington in the areas of emergency and disaster preparedness. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of possibilities, but to stimulate ideas and encourage participation by the communities and others that will benefit.

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Background

The USS Ranger Foundation is a nonprofit corporation chartered to acquire the retired super carrier *USS Ranger* and operate it in the Portland OR metro area, as the anchor of a museum, memorial, educational, and civic center complex. The ship is currently moored in Bremerton WA, and is being held for a no-cost donation. Full details, presentations and planning materials are available as well as speaker engagements.

Current status

Donation of Ranger is under a federal program conducted by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in Washington DC. They have a multi-phase process for proving that the potential donee has the proper corporate structure, tax status and plans for every facet of acquisition, modification, movement, mooring, operation and maintenance.

The USS Ranger Foundation has successfully passed through the first phase where we identified ourselves as a properly constituted and governed corporation with the correct IRS 501(c)(3) status. In addition, the Foundation commissioned a marketing study whose findings were that if the planning was properly executed; the project would be financially stable and viable in this area of the country. The Foundation has selected Chinook Landing on the Columbia River in Fairview Oregon as the site for this museum complex.

Phase II

Phase II was entered by the Foundation in September of 2009. NAVSEA has given us twelve months to complete the required activities in phase II, enabling us to enter phase III. Included in this timeframe is the creation of a business and financial plan as well as a comprehensive environmental study.

Phase III

Phase III begins after successful completion of phase II, and includes planning and construction related to the actual donation of the ship, its relocation to Portland, modifications etc. Also in this phase are the museum acquisitions, planning and other activities related to providing a complex of this size and complexity.



Ranger means being prepared

Natural disasters

Oregon is the 9th largest state in the Union encompassing approximately 98,000 square miles with 36 counties and 240 cities, according to county mitigation pages provided by the **Partnership for Disaster Reliance**.^{*} This website provides a general overview for all 36 of the counties and highlights of the current mitigation plan status and local action items.

In examining only Multnomah County, one can see a list of action items relating to natural disasters, including Earthquake, Fire (Wild land-Urban Interface), Flood, Landslides and Debris Flow, Volcanic and Winter Storms. Since 2000, the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR) at the University of Oregon has been working with Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region Ten, and local governments statewide to coordinate the Partnership's activities in a manner consistent with FEMA's Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201, published in February 2002, which requires states and communities to develop natural hazard mitigation plans in order to apply for FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation project funding and other hazard mitigation grant programs. USS Ranger Foundation stands ready to work with these agencies in the implementation of their action items.

Manmade disasters

When the United States was attacked on September 11th, 2001, the city of New York maintained an emergency communication and command center. Unfortunately, it was located at the World Trade Center.

As help and investigators flowed into the city, the retired aircraft carrier **Intrepid**, moored at 42nd Street and the Hudson River, was able to serve as an emergency center. Her flight deck provided helicopter-landing space, and she was rigged with communication gear to establish command and control capability directing the rescue and recovery efforts.

During **Intrepid's** recent overhaul activities, these capabilities were formalized aboard, having proven their effectiveness.

Ranger means consolidating centers

There are numerous emergency centers and facilities whose purposes are to provide communication and coordination in the event of an emergency of any kind. Ranger can help to save time, money and duplication of effort through consolidation.

* <http://www.oregonshowcase.org/index.cfm?mode=plans&page=multnomah>



Ranger means potential

When operational, Ranger was a virtual self-contained city. In dealing with the Navy's inactive fleet shipyard personnel, the Foundation has determined that much environmental work has been done already. This works to provide many advantages in the area of Emergency Preparedness.

What we cannot do

As a museum ship, Ranger must be essentially a static display. Navy requirements preclude the activation of any of her steam equipment for propulsion or cooking/serving food. Further, there is no fuel aboard for the plant. The sanitation facilities are for the most part disabled. While five thousand people lived and worked aboard this ship, sanitary facilities in her museum role will be limited to a capacity based on visitor population.

What we can do

The flight deck provides over four acres of space capable of launching and recovering helicopter traffic. FEMA-style trailers can be located there for command and control and secured using aircraft tie-down equipment already aboard.

Communication spaces can be equipped with state of the art satellite, cell and radio gear. The ship was mothballed in 1993 so any equipment existing is probably obsolete, but the infrastructure is there. This includes closed circuit TV, FM radio and announcement systems.

Berthing spaces aboard, when fully utilized, can accommodate in excess of 5,000 people. This would require massive amounts of mattresses, linens, pillows etc. and would not be viable for long-term habitability.

Temporary housing can be rigged in the hanger, which can be closed to inclement weather. Again, sanitary facilities, cots etc. would need to be made available for a short term.

Fuel tanks have been drained and scrubbed, and can store in excess of one million gallons of potable water. Our plans call for capturing rain and snow runoff to provide non-potable water to the complex as part of our 'green ship' efforts.



Ranger means safety

The shipyard has drained and cleaned most hydraulic systems, preventing accidental environmental damage if the hull sustains damage. Underwater openings are already sealed from four feet above the waterline down to the keel.

Below decks watertight compartments and stringent mooring requirements from the Navy ensure the ability of the ship to weather any anticipated conditions with a comfortable safety factor.

The deck edge elevators will remain operational providing the ability to stage equipment in the hangar for delivery to the flight deck, and to move the injured below.

Below-deck armories can be used to store non-perishable supplies. Elevators to them from the second deck can remain operational.

The emergency generators may be able to be activated for power generation. More practically, barge mounted generators can be brought alongside to provide emergency power.

There are four enlisted mess decks. Though the steam-driven equipment is unusable, the food preparation serving and eating areas can be utilized for serving large numbers of people.

Medical and dental spaces may be equipped and stocked for use as triage centers.

We need your help to make this happen

Please help us spread the word about this exciting project. In order for the Pacific Northwest to benefit from this magnificent addition to the area's infrastructure, we need the demonstrated support of the area emergency preparedness groups, labor forces, civic associations, Port of Portland, politicians from the federal level to the local neighborhood association. We also need your dollars to fund the required permitting activities and studies.



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For further information

For further information please visit our web site [HTTP://WWW.USSRANGER.ORG](http://WWW.USSRANGER.ORG) or phone (503) 558-8519.

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