

Enrolling in The Geographic Information Systems Graduate Certificate program, in conjunction with pursuing admission to the Master of Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College, represents a significant and purposeful step in my professional journey. I am motivated by a deep-seated passion for leveraging my diverse background and experiences to drive innovation in emergency response strategies for natural disasters, particularly earthquakes in the context of the "Cascadia Rising" scenario in the Pacific Northwest. Combining this with my 14-year career as a United States Marine, serving as a Radio Chief in the Fire Direction Center of an Artillery Battery, and having undergone the crucible of combat in Desert Storm and peacemaking missions in Somalia, I bring a wealth of knowledge, skills, and perspectives that uniquely position me to make a significant impact in the field of emergency management.

My educational journey has been a transformative one, culminating in an MA in Producing for Film and a BA in Digital Filmmaking. These degrees have equipped me with a diverse set of creative and technical skills that I am eager to apply to the realm of emergency response implementation for natural disasters. My experience in the film industry has honed my abilities in communication, storytelling, and problem-solving, which I believe are transferable and invaluable in the realm of disaster management, where clear and effective communication can be a matter of life and death.

The intersection of my military background, filmmaking expertise, and passion for emergency management has fueled my interest in Emergency Response Implementation for Natural Disasters, with a specific focus on earthquakes as they relate to the "Cascadia Rising" scenario. This interest is rooted in a deep-seated desire to contribute meaningfully to the safety and well-being of communities in times of crisis. The Pacific Northwest is known for its seismic

activity, and the potential impact of a major earthquake in the region underscores the critical need for proactive and innovative emergency response strategies.

One of the unique aspects of my background is my strong connection with Veteran Organizations such as the American Legion and VFW. I firmly believe that the skills, experience, and sense of duty instilled in veterans will make them invaluable assets in emergency response efforts. The facilities of these organizations can serve as operational command and control centers during crises, providing a centralized hub for integrating response initiatives and leveraging the expertise of veterans who are accustomed to operating effectively in high-pressure and chaotic environments.

The utilization of these Posts effectively separates them from the public schools that would serve as emergency shelters. The Posts' most invaluable resource lies in their ability to provide the recharging of batteries for drones, computers, and communication equipment during times of prolonged power outages when there is no immediate prospect of electricity restoration in affected communities. This critical service ensures that vital technology remains operational, enabling effective communication, surveillance, and information sharing even in the face of adversity. By providing this essential support, these Posts play a pivotal role in maintaining connectivity and resilience in times of crisis, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of emergency response efforts and safeguarding the well-being of the community.

This strategic approach not only optimizes resources but also ensures efficient coordination and response to disasters. It highlights the importance of utilizing drone technology in emergency response and emphasizes the critical role that veterans can play in disaster management. My vision includes establishing the "Sounder Drone Fleet" in collaboration with FEMA and Washington State entities to develop a robust response framework that prioritizes

rapid assessment and targeted assistance to the area's most in need following a catastrophic event. This initiative, driven by skilled veterans and supported by advanced GIS technology, aims to enhance the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of emergency response efforts, ultimately saving lives and minimizing the impact of disasters on affected communities.

In conclusion, my decision to pursue The Geographic Information Systems Graduate Certificate and the Master of Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College is driven by a steadfast commitment to service, innovation, and community resilience. I am eager to leverage my unique blend of military experience, filmmaking skills, and passion for emergency response to contribute to the development of forward-thinking strategies that can enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Through collaboration, education, and a shared sense of purpose, I am confident that we can build a more resilient and responsive community that is better equipped to face the challenges posed by natural disasters.