

**NEWS RELEASE  
Washington Air National Guard  
141<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing  
Fairchild AFB, WA**

**Release No. 08-12-01**

**Dec 30, 2008**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. – Washington Air National Guard snow operations continue to help clear roads in cooperation with the Spokane County roads and engineering department. Guard crews started yesterday clearing areas north of Fairchild AFB in the West Plains area and prepositioned an industrial snow blower in Spangle, Wa.**

**Today, one team will work on Spangle Waverly Road, while another snow blower and crew will work in the Deep Creek area, west of Fairchild AFB.**

**Two Oshkosh High Speed Snow Blowers, capable of throwing 5000 tons of snow per hour as far as 200 feet, are being used. The same type of equipment is used to clear runways and taxiways. A smaller snow plow and front-end loader will assist in limited access areas.**

**For the second time in 2008, Governor Gregoire has authorized the Washington Air National Guard to assist state and local jurisdictions to relieve the Spokane community from crippling snow conditions.**

**The 141<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing was activated in February of this year for a similar snow emergency, and has a long history of assisting in weather-related emergencies within the state's borders such as wildfires, floods and the 1996 ice storm. The unit was also called upon to assist other states during Hurricane Katrina as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The distinct difference between the National Guard and its active duty counterparts is the dual mission the Guard has in supporting both Federal and State authorities. The 141<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing's 900 citizen airmen are Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through a Tradition of Service.**

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