



186th Infantry National Guard Spearheads 'UAS for Public Safety' Workshop with Local Agencies & Stakeholders for FAA Certification and Insights from Scappoose Fire Chief

Ashland, OR – Task Force Almeda, a collaboration initiated by HHC 1-186th Infantry Oregon Army National Guard and Quantum Dynamics, LLC, is providing a two-day “UAS for Public Safety” Workshop for National Guardsmen and public safety departments. This initiative seeks to futureproof Rogue Valley Emergency Management Services by incorporating drones, starting with the essential FAA Remote Airman certification training. The workshop will also feature a key presentation by Fire Chief Jeff Pricher, a leader in UAV operations from Scappoose Rural Fire District and an AUVSI Cascade Chapter Board Member.

This event marks a public-private partnership committed to educating and licensing participants at no cost, promoting a unified approach among public safety agencies, the Oregon Army National Guard, and Quantum Dynamics, an unmanned systems training and solutions provider.

Workshop Highlights

Commercial FAA Part 107 Remote Airman Certification for Rogue Valley’s National Guard & Public Safety: A crucial step for public safety and emergency management personnel to employ UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) in roles such as Drones as First Responders (DFR), advanced firefighting, Search & Rescue, and beyond. This two-day accelerated course will prepare applicants to sit for their FAA Knowledge Exam on the second day.

Presentation by Fire Chief Jeff Pricher on UAS for Public Safety Integration and Regulatory Challenges (At 11:30 am Thursday, Feb 22nd): Chief Pricher is a key figure in the adoption of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for forest firefighting and advanced emergency responses. The Chief will share his insights on overcoming regulatory hurdles and leveraging UAS technology. His expertise has been crucial in pioneering innovative and effective strategies for public safety operations.

Comments from Organizers

HHC 1-186th Infantry Oregon Army National Guard: “We are at a critical juncture in enhancing our emergency response capabilities with advanced UAV technology. This workshop is a key initiative in our journey towards operational excellence,” remarked Staff Sergeant Taham Khosroabadi, the unit's Reconnaissance Team Sergeant and sUAS Program Manager.

Scappoose Fire Chief Jeff Pricher: “Adopting UAV technology in our operations enhances our efficiency and effectiveness in safeguarding our communities. This event is a significant step forward in the Rogue Valley’s continuous pursuit of innovation.”

Quantum Dynamics Co-founder Sean Holt: "Our mission focuses on saving lives, protecting property, and preserving the natural environment through cutting-edge technology in local emergency response and STEM education. This key public-private partnership workshop aims to position drones as essential tools for public safety, enhancing situational awareness to manage disasters proactively."

About the Organizers

HHC 1-186th Infantry Oregon Army National Guard: A unit dedicated to the safety and security of Oregon, actively engaging in community support and emergency response efforts. The 186th Infantry Regiment "Guardians of the Western Gate," part of the 41st Infantry Division, was among the first U.S. combat units deployed in World War II, engaging in significant battles in Papua-New Guinea. Today, as a component of the Oregon Army National Guard, it participates in various missions, including overseas deployments, disaster response, and national defense. The regiment's activities reflect a commitment to operational readiness, community support, and historical legacy.

Scappoose Rural Fire District: A leading fire service provider, pioneering the integration of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operations to enhance firefighting and emergency response capabilities, and stands at the forefront of fire service innovation, pioneering the integration of) operations to revolutionize firefighting and emergency response efforts. This integration spans from local to federal levels, showcasing a seamless collaboration across jurisdictions to leverage advanced UAV technology. Notably, the district has achieved the coveted Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) approval, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and safety during critical missions.

Quantum Dynamics, LLC (QD): Launched in 2020 as an affiliate of Timberland Helicopters, Inc. (THI), QD originated from the visionary efforts of its co-founders within THI's Unmanned Systems & Special Projects division starting in 2016. With a focus on UAS operations, training, drone technology, software, research and development, and counter-UAV measures, Quantum Dynamics commits to advancing sectors like public safety, energy, utilities, agriculture, and STEM education by driving the technological integration of unmanned systems. As a veteran-owned and operated company, Quantum Dynamics sponsors veterans through their Transition Assistance Programs for Servicemembers (TAPS).

This event is invite-only. Media is welcome to join the presentation and networking on Thursday, Feb. 22nd, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Location: HHC 1-186th Infantry, Ashland Armory, 1420 E. Main St., Ashland, OR 97520

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