# Helicopter Rescues in the Pacific Northwest



# Introductions

- Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brian Roche

OHSU
CPD

# Introductions



# Agenda

- Who we are
- How we get involved
- Big picture capabilities
- Big picture limitations
- Medical care
  - On scene
  - En route
- Recommendations
- Questions/answers

# Who We Are

- Oregon Army National Guard
  - Fundamentally 'Army'
  - State control during 'dwell' periods
- Army Aviation MEdical EVACuation (MEDEVAC)
  - Overlap with domestic search-and-rescue
    - Medical expertise/capability
    - Hoist Capability
    - Performance at altitude
- NOT 24/7 search-and-rescue firm

# How We Get Involved (Trauma)

- Point of injury – trauma occurs
- 911 call, personal locator/distress beacon
- Dispatch contacts local sheriff
- Sheriff coordinates response (SAR/ropes team)
- Sheriff IDs need for air/hoist assets
- Sheriff contacts Oregon Emergency Management
- OEM contacts Oregon Military Department
- State Army Aviation Officer accepts/rejects
- Passed to Operations to execute (3-6 hours!)

# Big Picture Capabilities

- Hoist capable up to ~10K feet
- Pickup direct at point of injury
- Transport directly to treatment facility
  - “Tail-to-tail” transfer
- Enroute care



# Big Picture Limitations

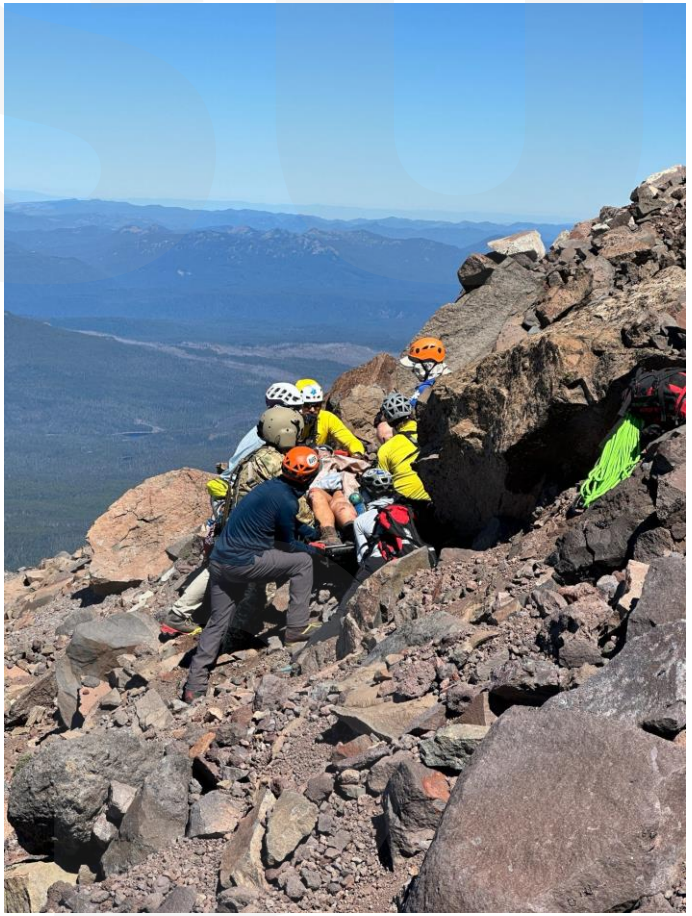
- Not 24/7 on-call
  - Long response times
- Weather and environmental
  - Wind
  - Heat
  - Altitude
  - Clouds
- Fuel
- Duty day






# Medical Capabilities

- ALS providers
  - Nationally Registered Paramedic
  - Critical Care Paramedic
  - Flight Paramedic Certification
- Trauma care
- Medical care



# Medical Care – On Scene



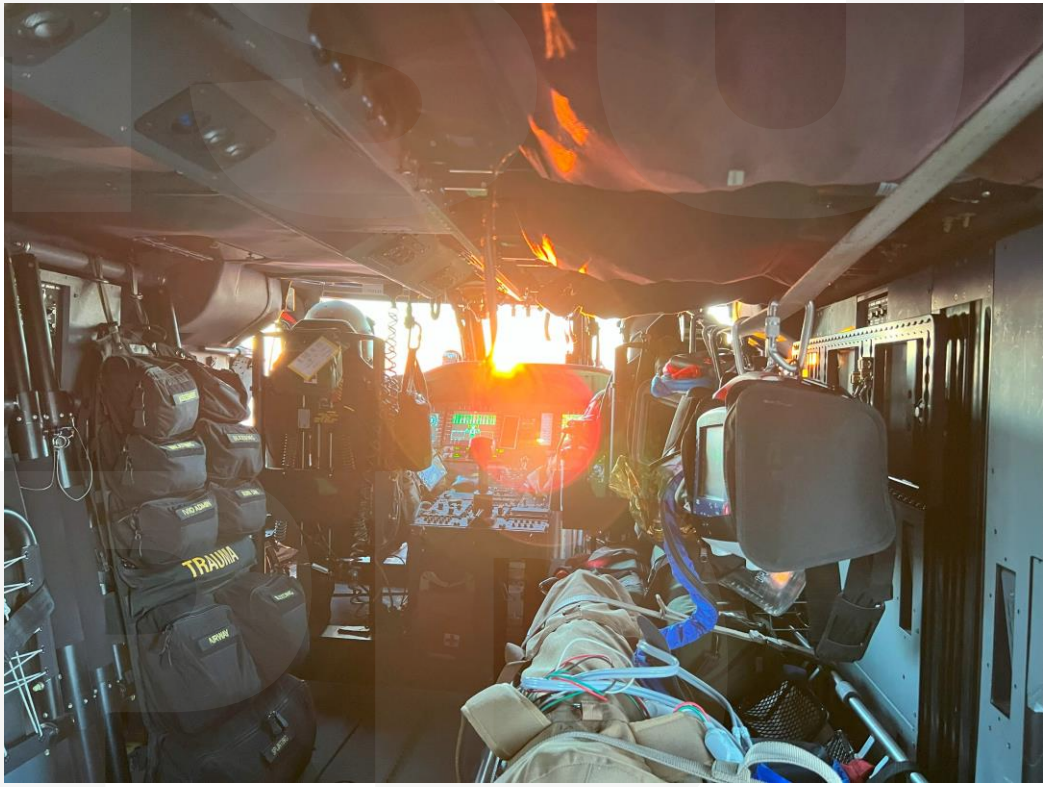
# Medical Care – On Scene

- Supplies limited to
  - What you have
  - What we bring

- Focus on:
  - Patient stabilization
  - Packaging for transport

# Medical Care - En Route

- ALS equipment
  - Vent
  - Monitor
  - Suction
  - Splints/ trauma care
- Meds
  - RSI
  - Pain meds
  - ACLS



# Medical Care – En Route



# Medical Care – En Route

- Interventions based on:
  - Time to treatment facility
    - Or to ‘parallel’ ambulance service (ground/air)
  - Fuel endurance
  - Patient condition

# Recommendations

- Buddy system
  - Solo, “Where you’ll be”
- Personal Locator Beacon/Satellite Messenger
  - Cell phone (meh?) *(2026 - Satellite texting?!)*
- Bright-colored clothing
- Signaling devices (whistle, mirror)
- Basic or intermediate first-aid training
- Local mountaineering groups
- Risk *understanding* and *tolerance*

# Questions/Answers!

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