

## Fact Sheet

March 16, 2009

# MARINE CARGO OPERATIONS

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## Marine cargo contributes to Port's mission of economic activity

- Moving marine cargo is a key function of the Port of Olympia and it stimulates the local economy.
- Port docks represent a multimillion dollar investment by County taxpayers and the Federal government.
- Investment in rail facilities at the Port provides multiple modes of shipment.
- By law, a marine terminal facility cannot discriminate or refuse to negotiate in providing services.
- Marine cargoes bring jobs and substantial economic benefits to the community.

## Government cargoes: A needed economic stimulus to the community

- Military cargo generates jobs and contributes to the economic vitality of the community. The Port's most recent U.S. Military cargo generated more than \$350,000 directly to the economy of Olympia and Thurston County. This does not include hotels, meals and local spending by Army, Coast Guard and civilian support personnel. Nor does it include wages for truckers or railroad operators. This does include:
  - On-dock and yard cargo handler wages
  - Equipment rental
  - Port staff, equipment charges, overheads and security services
  - Local law enforcement security (reimbursed to local agencies by the Port)
- The proximity of Fort Lewis makes Port of Olympia a desirable location for moving U.S. Military cargo.
- Military shipments are clean and safe: no munitions, no nuclear residue.
- Thousands of Thurston County residents are connected directly or indirectly to the military, e.g., soldiers and their families, civilian military employees, businesses with military contracts, and military retirees.

## Port of Olympia and U.S. Government: A long relationship

- Handled Government cargo during the Korean War in the 1950's.
- Handled Government cargo during the Vietnam War in the late 1960's.
- Handled two Government shipments to Korea in the 1980's
- Handled 13 shipments of U.S. Government cargo to and from the Middle East since 2000.
- Handled Government cargo of wheat bound for Ethiopia for World Concern humanitarian effort.
- Reconfirmed as a U.S. Military Port of Defense in 2003.
- Was the *only* port awarded the Quality Award by Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in 2006.

## Protecting cargo, freedom of expression

Military cargoes are unique and generate strong feelings in some citizens. The Port respects the rights of citizens to peaceably assemble and lawfully protest. The Port reserves the right to pursue civil prosecution against those who block Port roads, interfere with commerce, or damage property.

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