



Media Advisory – May 7, 2008

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

County honors fallen soldier, employee

Snohomish County will recognize and honor one of its own employees Monday, May 12, following his recent death while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

County Custody Officer Joseph M. Cerfus, an Army Reserve Soldier with A Company, 5-159 Aviation Regiment, died Monday after sustaining injuries during a joint training exercise at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center, CFB Wainwright, Alberta, Canada.

Cerfus, who began work with Snohomish County Corrections in January 2007, will be honored with a joint resolution signed by County Executive Aaron Reardon and County Council Chairman Dave Somers.

County flags will be flown at half-staff Monday.

“Joseph was known to employees as a hard worker and a dedicated soldier,” Reardon said. “His death is a tragedy, and we offer our condolences to his family during their time of grief.”

Cerfus offered the Department of Corrections a strong sense of teamwork where no job was too small or too big, said Steve Thompson, the county’s corrections director.

“Joseph was an asset to the work that we have to do here,” Thompson said. “He worked alongside many of our corrections officers and was frontline most of the time.”

Snohomish County has made efforts to offer employment to members of the Armed Forces and their family. Reardon said veterans and their families prove to be high-caliber employees who are well-regarded in the work they do.

“These employees take great pride in protecting our country’s freedom and working for Snohomish County,” Reardon said. “We owe a debt of gratitude to Officer Cerfus and others who selflessly put service to their country and to their community above all else.”

###