

# Hovercraft: Preparing for disaster

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are already in place, we'll be on our own for at least seven days."

Officials from the county and local cities participated as did members of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), AuxComm (Auxiliary Communications), Oregon Army National Guard, U.S. Navy, Clatsop County Search and Rescue, the sheriff's department, Medix and local ham radio operators.

"As far as I know, this is the first time that this has been done," said Cpl. Treyse Reber, a member of the Army National Guard from Salem.

While developed for military operations, LCACs can be used after natural disasters through the Defense Support of Civil Authorities program. The program delivered supplies after the Dec. 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami wiped out areas of Indonesia, Thailand, Sumatra and Sri Lanka.

It's the first time one has touched down on the Oregon Coast.

John Cooper-Smith and his wife, Anne, watched the action from a nearby bluff.

"We live in a tsunami zone," he said.

"This will be one of the main ways of getting supplies to the coast in the event of a disaster."

A Cascadia Zone earthquake and subsequent tsunami could cause widespread damage to highways, bridges and other Northwest infrastructure, complicating rescue and recovery efforts.



**Above:** Members of the military and local volunteers stand by while equipment is brought onto the beach from the hovercraft.

**Left:** The craft beaches itself.  
Photos by Peggy Yingst

**Right:** The two landing craft each can carry 60 tons of emergency supplies and equipment.  
Photo by Mark Wickham



## Man arrested for recklessness with a gun

The Columbia Press

A Renton, Wash., man was arrested after Hammond residents reported gunfire and screaming near their homes in the middle of the night.

Adam Wayne Heinke, 29, was booked at Clatsop County Jail on suspicion of disorderly conduct, unlawful possession of a weapon with intent to use and reckless endangerment.

"The first report was of multiple gunshots and people screaming," Senior Officer Jeff Dalrymple wrote in a probable cause declaration.

He pulled up near the Hammond Post Office and didn't see anyone, but once Dalrymple rolled down his windows, he heard screaming coming from the Columbia River. As more 911 calls came in, officers from other agencies arrived to assist.

They determined the noise was coming from somewhere between the Hammond Marina and the Point Triumph Condominiums.

From his vantage point at the west end of the condos, Dalrymple used his flashlight and spotted a man seated on the beach.

"Several times I asked the man to stay put, but he got up and began walking away," the officer wrote.

Officers had to climb down a rocky embankment to get to the shore, but the man had left the area. Multiple empty gun casings were found on shore.

Another resident called to report he's spotted the man walking down the street and officers located Heinke and took him into custody.

The man was highly intoxicated, Dalrymple wrote. He had a belly concealment holster and a 9 mm magazine, but the gun wasn't on him. A search of the area wasn't successful in finding the weapon.

Heinke was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital for medical evaluation and then booked at Clatsop County Jail.

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—from Sherryan Reische

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