



Department of Washington  
5213 Pacific Ave E  
Fife, WA 98424

## **General Order Number 1** **July 2023**

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Department Commander-I, Craig Dougherty, hereby assume command of the Department of Washington, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, effective June 26, 2023.
2. It shall be noted, in accordance with the Manual of Procedure, Article V, Section 516: The Department Commander retains authority to remove appointed officers, committee chairman and committees at any time.
3. In accordance with the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure, each elected officer is required to familiarize themselves with the duties and obligations assigned in Sections 218, 418 and 518.
4. It is with utmost importance that each Post utilizes the "Chain of Command" properly. Almost every problem encountered at the Post level can be properly handled at the Post level, utilizing the appropriate measures, and establishing a committee to resolve the problem. If the problem cannot be resolved, request assistance from your District Commander. The Department intervention shall be the last means of resolving internal problems, however, the officers and staff at the Department are more than willing to assist or provide guidance.
5. Your newly elected officers for the 2023-2024 year are as follows:

Commander	Craig Dougherty
Senior Vice Commander	Perry Taylor
Junior Vice Commander	Drew James
Judge Advocate	Frank Persa
Surgeon	Walt Tanimoto
Quartermaster	Fred Green
Chaplain	Uschi Graeff
1 Year Trustee	RC Sample
2 Year Trustee	Don Wischmann
3 Year Trustee	Jim Traner

### Appointed Positions:

Chief of Staff	Jerry Herker
Adjutant	Fred Green
Inspector	Ted Street
Service Officer	Todd Gruchalla

6. I would like to "Congratulate" all the VFW and Auxiliary members who have taken on new positions within the Department, Districts and Posts. I look forward to a great year of coming together as a department, becoming social again and working to serve our veterans, military, families, and communities!

7. I want to "Congratulate" the 2023-2024 District Commander Team:

District 1	Terry Stinson
District 2	Joe Fitzgerald
District 3	Jeff Graeff
District 4	Michael Thompson
District 5	Holly Pierce
District 6	Dana Difford
District 7	Fil Rivera
District 9	Wes Anderson
District 11	Jim Beatty
District 14	Verdon Hendrickson
District 15	Keith Wooldridge
District 16	Charles Zandecki
District 17	Wayne White

8. July 27 to August 1 will be the National Convention in Louisville, KY. Information from the convention will be sent out to the membership through general orders and emails.

9. The Department Joint School of instruction will be held in two locations:

August 05, 2023	9AMto 5PM	Herman Uddenberg hosted by Post 1854
August 19, 2023	9AMto 5PM	CPT James Shively hosted by Post 1435

10. All social media, websites or webpages using Department of Washington VFW must be approved by the Department Commander. Any social media, website or webpage operating without permission of the Department Commander will be considered in violation of this General Order #1.

11. Reminder, all Post, District, Department and National Official Correspondence will come from the Adjutant

12. We are an organization deep in tradition, please continue to mentor and teach not just the work of our order, but the traditions as well. I am honored to be our Department of Washington State Commander. Together we will do great things! As we go forward into this year, let us continue to serve Veterans and Families. This is an exciting time to be a part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Washington State team! "It's Veterans we serve!"

///Original Signed///  
Fred Green  
Department Adjutant

///Original Signed///  
Craig Dougherty  
State Commander