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For Immediate Release

NEW *EARTHFIX* SPECIAL REPORT

Battle Ready: The Military's Environmental Legacy in the Northwest

SEATTLE—KCTS 9 Digital Studios today announced a new *EarthFix* special report: *Battle Ready: The Military's Environmental Legacy in the Northwest*. Seventy-five years ago, America was drawn into World War II and the Pacific Northwest answered the call with lumber, hydroelectricity, even a secret plutonium factory to arm atomic bombs. This special report explores the hidden history of the military, the Northwest and the environment. Since the 1940s, our region's natural and human resources have been a vital part of U.S. military readiness. This contribution, however, has come at a cost that was not fully understood at the time, and that our region is still paying today.

"We were genuinely surprised by what our investigation uncovered," said Katie Campbell, Video Managing Editor/Producer for *EarthFix*, a public media partnership of Pacific Northwest public media stations focused on reporting stories about environmental issues. "Few people know the legacy of environmental destruction that home front preparations for war has on the Northwest. We also dig into the military's expanding presence in the Northwest today and ongoing challenges to balance the needs of military preparedness and the environment."

The compelling series may be viewed now at KCTS9.org/battleready. The series includes segments on topics from Liberty ships and the Boeing B-17 to plutonium production and the legacy of nuclear waste at the Hanford site. The series also looks at the military presence in the Northwest today, including recent steps the military is taking to protect wildlife whose survival depends on the same habitat where soldiers, sailors and pilots train for war.

KCTS 9 Digital Studios' designers devised a unique interactive story platform that allows the viewer to interact with video and related multimedia elements. Rather than a single, linear video experience, the innovative format will allow users to choose subject strands and dive deeper into topics of special interest.

To learn more about [**Battle Ready: The Military's Environmental Legacy in the Northwest**](#) and other KCTS 9 programs and initiatives, visit KCTS9.org.

Battle Ready: The Military's Environmental Legacy in the Northwest is an *EarthFix* and KCTS 9 Digital Studios production built in collaboration with partner stations Oregon Public Broadcasting, Idaho Public Television, KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio, Northwest Public Radio and Television, Jefferson Public Radio, KLCC and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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(image courtesy of The Boeing Company)

About KCTS 9

KCTS 9 brings quality public media programming to the public when and where they need it—on the air, online, and in our communities—serving more than 2.2 million viewers each week in Western and Central Washington State, British Columbia and across Canada. To learn more about our programs and initiatives, visit KCTS9.org.

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