

Media Contact:Rae Moss, MSA, (509) 376-6522, Rae_Moss@rl.gov**For Immediate Release:**

February 1, 2018

MSA ANNOUNCES 2017 SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

RICHLAND, Wash. – Mission Support Alliance (MSA) is excited to announce the recipient of the 2017 Kathryn A. Wheeler Safety Leadership Award – Captain Rudy Almeida with MSA’s Hanford Patrol Training Academy. Rudy, who joined Hanford Patrol in 1979 as an officer, is now an Emergency Driving Instructor Trainer for the Department of Energy, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Rudy has been a huge advocate for increasing vehicle safety on the Hanford Site. He has designed training courses to promote safe driving habits to help reduce site vehicle accidents. The skills Rudy teaches are applicable not only at work, but every time drivers get behind the wheel. He promotes safe driving at the annual Safety Expo using a simulator he designed and built. When he received the award earlier this month, he said, “I thought I was there to do a safety presentation. To my surprise, I had been nominated for and was named the recipient of this award. I feel honored, but I could not have done it without the help of the team at Hanford Patrol.”

Rudy shows true care and concern for the safety of everyone around him noted, Craig Walton, vice president of MSA’s Emergency Services organization, “His work with our Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Safety Expo and sharing lessons learned make him a special person not only to MSA, but to Hanford and other local law enforcement agencies. We’re incredibly lucky to have a colleague like Rudy.”

The Kathryn A. Wheeler Safety Leadership Award is awarded each year and recognizes a member of the MSA workforce who demonstrates support of safety through worker engagement and activities that are collaborative, cooperative and proactive. The award highlights the importance of a safe work environment which is essential to a successful Hanford mission. It honors Kathryn A. Wheeler and her dedication to the safety of her coworkers. Kathryn was a long-time Hanford employee committed to safety. Her passion for safety and compassion for her co-workers embodied MSA’s safety culture principles. Kathryn passed away in 2012 and the annual award was established in her memory.

###

