

Ensuring National & Natural Security

OVER THE PAST six months I have had the privilege of leading both the Navy Energy Program and the Navy Environmental Program. In the Energy Program, the Navy's goal is to enhance national security by reducing warfighter dependence on vulnerable fuel supplies while simultaneously ensuring we have available sustainable energy for the future. We have had many early successes. In the Environmental Program, the Navy is also a leader. By minimizing releases to air, land and water, and ensuring effective protection of sensitive places and threatened/endangered species in all Navy activities, we ensure security of another kind, natural security.

It is no accident that I draw a parallel between these two American values of national security and natural security. As a maritime nation, our way of life depends heavily on our Navy's ability to assure the free flow of commerce over the world's oceans and, where necessary, project power ashore anywhere in the world to protect our national security. As we look to the future, our quality of life is equally dependent upon how we preserve the natural resources vital to the nation, from water to air to flora and fauna, and how we find ways to mitigate threats like climate change.

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This is why we have chosen to pursue both security requirements through a future fleet of fuel-efficient ships and aircraft powered by sustainable, non-petroleum-based fuels made in America from renewable resources. The development of plant and algae-based fuels is rapidly making this national security future a reality for the U.S. Navy. In 2010 the Navy demonstrated that tactical aircraft and riverine command vessels can operate to full performance parameters using these "home-grown" biofuels, which account for far lower carbon emissions than petroleum-based fuels. As the Navy moves in the biofuel direction, our natural security is enhanced at the same time.

Part of the success of the Navy's Energy and Environmental Programs is due to strong collaboration with other federal agencies, industry, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGO). In this vein, I am happy to welcome to the pages of *Currents* Mr. Peter Lehner,

Executive Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). NRDC has long been an influential voice in the national discussion of environmental, energy, and sustainability issues. I am sure *Currents* readers will find his comments most interesting.



Looking forward to the New Year, there will be no shortage of opportunities and challenges. We hope to complete Phase I environmental planning for 14 training ranges and operating areas at sea, while simultaneously developing the follow-on Phase II documents that will cover the period 2014 through 2020. Our environmental restoration (ER) and munitions response (MR) efforts will continue according to plan, with the goal of achieving remedy-in-place or remedy complete by 2014, for ER sites, and 2020 for the MR sites.

Through implementation of conservation and alternative fuel efforts ashore, we will progress toward achievement of a 34 percent reduction in Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. We will continue to collaborate with regulators, other agencies, industry, academia, and NGOs in carrying out a world class marine mammal research program with emphasis on understanding behavioral effects of anthropogenic sound on marine species. In partnership with federal and state regulators, the Navy will do its part to achieve a clean and vibrant Chesapeake Bay. We will face increasing fiscal challenges in all these efforts, as the federal government moves to address longstanding budgetary issues. More than ever we must work together to ensure that every dollar spent, and every man-hour devoted to an issue, returns good value to our ultimate objectives of national and natural security. ⚓

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