

## Much to Remember & Celebrate This Earth Day

**IN JUST FIVE** months, Congress approved funding for two fully armed naval vessels and a crew of 80, added six ships to the Navy's inventory, selected a Commander of the Fleet, commissioned eighteen naval officers, and stood up two Marine battalions. Moreover, service pay and subsistence tables were established, and standard naval codes of discipline were drafted. It was the 13th of October, 1775, and the Revolutionary War loomed on the horizon.

All of this was accomplished without phones, computers, and central air and heating. What fueled such astonishing productivity? I believe it was our forefathers' fierce ache for national independence. But independence can come in countless forms, including energy independence.

Can you imagine a future where energy shortages do not exist? Where energy prices remain fairly stable? Where people are routinely energy conscious? Where fueling your vehicle does not necessarily require burning a fuel that comes largely from someplace overseas? Where businesses are rewarded for sound ecological practices?

Those of you present at the 2011 Naval Energy Forum heard top energy leaders from industry, government, and the military confirm that *it is possible for us to have an energy-secure future—but only if we act now and take two vital actions: (1) diversify our domestic energy resources and (2) limit the amount of energy we use.*

In 1957, Admiral Hyman Rickover offered a cautionary analogy for the latter point:

Fossil fuels resemble capital in the bank. A prudent and responsible parent will use his capital sparingly in order to pass on to his children as much as possible of his inheritance. A selfish and irresponsible parent will squander it in riotous living and care not one whit how his offspring will fare.

This decade is our window of opportunity to accomplish those two goals and increase our national security, but since action follows thought, the key to our success begins with changing how we think about energy.

It was Albert Einstein who cautioned, "We cannot solve the problems we have created with the same thinking that created them." For those of us fighting for an energy

secure nation, that means we must judiciously and thoughtfully promote a culture change that alters the way we think about energy. Conventional thinking got us where we are today, but it will not take us where we need to go. To learn more about the Navy-wide culture change taking place, read on. Review the in-depth coverage of the 2011 Naval Energy Forum on pages 42–51 in this issue of *Currents*.



Historically, dogged patriotism has played a key role in motivating Americans when indifference was not an alternative. One example is the War of 1812. As early as 1803, there were distressing reports of British ships being manned by thousands of American citizens who were kidnapped and forced into service under extreme duress. In foreign ports, British ships routinely blocked American ships from procuring life-sustaining replenishments. Still, during all that contention, the U.S. attempted peaceful negotiations with Britain. After all, at that time, only twenty years had passed since the British had signed the 1783 Treaty of Paris that recognized the independent nation of the United States of America. In the meantime, many of our nation's merchants faced economic disaster due to a continuing blockade. Our nation's coal trade was crippled (fortunately, in some ways, because it resulted in innovative energy paths). Finally, following the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe, a surge of renewed patriotism swept through the country. And on 18 June 1812, a war that many on both sides of the Atlantic feared, was ultimately declared. You will be hearing a lot more about the War of 1812 as our nation celebrates the bicentennial anniversary of this struggle.

In today's Navy, patriotic pride continues to motivate vital change. If we are to achieve true energy security, one fact is clear: victory will be determined from the gun deck upward. Our number one weapon in this fight is a gutsy, tenacious, and highly resourceful world-class force: the United States Navy Sailor. Nobody realizes that fact better

than Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick West who recently formed a new Senior Enlisted Executive Steering Committee (ESC), led by Force Master Chief Christopher Engles. MCPON West established the ESC to better advise Sailors in the Fleet about the Sailors' role in the new energy culture change.

It is always a pleasure for me to publically recognize those commands that are leading our Navy's energy and environmental efforts. As such, I extend a hearty Bravo Zulu to the winners of the 2011 Navy Community Service Environmental Stewardship Flagship Awards. These awards recognize the best year-round Navy volunteer supported programs or special projects that promote education and good stewardship of environmental resources.

One of the many interesting stories reported from this competition is that of Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, Whidbey Island's participation in the air station's yearly "dumpster dive" in support of Earth Day. Since 1990, commands from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island that comprise "Team Whidbey" have raised awareness of the benefits of recycling by supporting the base's recycling waste management efforts. One activity involves the unit's commanding officer and others to climb into dumpsters and recover recyclables. This year, nearly seventy-five percent of the items in the dumpsters were able to be recycled.

I would also like to acknowledge the winners of the FY 2011 Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards competition. This awards program is highly competitive and recognizes excellence in environmental programs and initiatives that promote natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, and weapon system acquisition. A ceremony honoring the winners and recognizing their achievements will be held 5 June at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A complete list of this year's winners can be found on pages 62-63 in this issue of *Currents*. Additional information about these award programs can also be found at <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/environment/awards>.)

Mark your calendars! Earth Day 2012 will be Sunday, 22 April. Worldwide, Navy and Marine Corps commands and individuals will host and participate in diverse activities to celebrate on the official Earth Day date and throughout April and May. My staff works closely with the Secretariat, Chief of Naval Installations Command, and others to

increase awareness of the Department's Earth Day activities. We also strive to help people understand how much of what we do every day—24/7, around the globe—aligns with the Earth Day founders' vision of a sustainable world and with the principal founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson's following message: "The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard." For information on Earth Day 2012, including resources that may be available to your command, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/environment/earth-day/>. We've also included our own Earth Day poster in the center spread of this issue of *Currents*.



And finally, if you have not yet heard, I am no longer serving the Navy as Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division (N45), though I am happy to say this is not goodbye. I will continue overseeing energy and environmental successes, as well as numerous other responsibilities that fall under the OPNAV N4 organization, as I take over for Vice Admiral Bill Burke as the new Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4). Vice Admiral Burke will be moving onto become the newly appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (N9), and I greatly look forward to working with him on shared issues in his new position.

For those of you who are working tirelessly to achieve the Navy's Energy Vision, and those of you working to ensure a sustainable Navy through our environmental stewardship responsibilities, let me leave you with this final thought: What you do matters and your leadership notices and appreciates your efforts! Promoting energy independence and environmental stewardship are noble and critical pursuits for your Navy and nation. Of course, such responsibilities are not anchored in any one person or single office. This is a shared fight and we all must play our part, whether at home protecting our critical infrastructure or overseas defending our national security interests. No matter which role you play, you are a patriot and have given much for our great nation. So, thank you, most sincerely, for your service, your commitment, and your leadership. ⚓

Vice Admiral Philip H. Cullom  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics