

Energy Actions & People in Motion, Despite the Shutdown

WELCOME TO THE fall 2013 issue of *Currents*. Hot issues on my mind as of this writing have been the government shutdown and communication/training in support of Navy energy initiatives. We've also seen some leadership and staff turnovers, and I'll touch briefly on those.

Speaking frankly, the government shutdown has been tough to deal with. It's unfortunate because it really has had an impact on hard-working people, and the financial aspect makes it even more personal. I applaud everyone's professionalism throughout this time, and I'm glad to see that at least a short-term solution is finally in place. The challenge is, while we can continue to work and focus on vital Fleet readiness issues, we still lack a final budget appropriation.

On a more positive note, October was National Energy Action Month. Originally established by presidential proclamation in 2006, the event celebrates our nation's commitment to greater energy security, a strong economy, and a better environment through smart energy choices. From a Navy standpoint, it's a great opportunity to reflect on what each of us can do to conserve energy ashore and afloat. We had planned outreach activities to drive home the message that energy actions can have a major impact on combat capability and resiliency. Unfortunately due to the government shutdown, we weren't able to do as much of this messaging as originally planned. We did distribute a press release on Navy.mil, make downloadable posters available on our social media pages and the Greenfleet website, and spread the word within the Pentagon via posters and digital "InfoNet" displays around the building.

Also in October, we launched the "Did You Know?" energy awareness campaign. Developed by the creative folks at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport with our input, the campaign emphasizes key facts about the Department of Navy's energy usage and the importance of embracing culture change to enhance combat capability for the long term. Future "Did You Know?" spots will include vignettes of naval personnel who see the value of energy and relate it to their specific jobs and organization as a whole. You can see the introductory video on our social media pages, the Greenfleet website, and YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1D8JFu-gpzzg>). Stay tuned for more campaign elements both online and in *Currents*.

This past quarter we'd been working with the Secretariat, Commander Naval Installations Command, the Fleets, and Marine Corps offices to plan two Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) energy training events in October. In both Norfolk and San Diego, we envi-



sioned two-day events focused on training and awareness: a day on operational energy and a day on shore energy. The advantages of conducting these in Fleet concentration areas would be (1) cost-effectiveness, since that's where a large percentage of our people and assets are located; and (2) audience, because it's the people closest to the deck-plate who are likely to have some of the best ideas for changing practices to reduce energy usage. Due to the government shutdown we've now postponed these events, but we do plan on conducting them in the future.

In September, I had the chance to attend the SECNAV Executive Energy Seminar at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca. It was targeted to flag officers and senior executive service leaders, and was a great learning and collaborative opportunity. We had in-depth discussions about operational practices and the challenge of optimizing them, and about options to rethink how we do some operational tasks to reduce fuel demands. That dialogue reaffirmed my belief that technology alone, while important, is not going to get us all the way there as far as conserving fuel to increase our capability or making the best possible use of the fuel we do burn. This was the second offering of the course, and two more offerings are planned for fiscal year 2014.

Conserving energy ashore remains a focus because it saves money for the long term, but we also need to continually seek energy efficiency solutions that enhance readiness for the Fleet and operational units—and provide commanders flexibility for when they need the fuel. We should challenge our existing practices to find efficiencies that don't detract from operational readiness, but actually increase it. I heard



a quote from Mr. Joe Murphy, Deputy Chief of Staff, Fleet Installations and Environmental Readiness for U.S. Fleet Forces Command, which summarizes this perfectly: “(Navy) energy-saving practices must evolve from ‘save energy when you can’ to ‘save energy unless you can’t.’ “ It’s a great quote; I wish I’d thought of it myself.

In the spirit of Mr. Murphy’s words, we need to incorporate energy considerations into our existing continuum of training. If a naval officer is going to his or her first command job, he or she should learn the aspects of energy a commander can influence. In navigation school, you should learn how weather and tidal factors affect energy use. Engineers should learn optimal parameters for split plant lineups (engine configurations) from an energy conservation and performance perspective. In this way, classroom training should target specific rates and skills and what we can do in our jobs to be more energy aware, efficient and effective.

Another theme I keep hearing is the value of competition. Naval personnel are competitive by nature, so if we can encourage competition at the waterfront or between the squadrons, it may pay dividends in terms of energy saved and/or new solutions realized.

experts for vetting, we worked with the Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC) to integrate our site’s idea submission functionality with NWDC’s online “Collab Lab” tool. The system is fully up and running, and I’m happy to report that it’s already saving staff time and more efficiently getting good ideas to the right folks.

I want to add a few words here to welcome Secretary Dennis McGinn as the new Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment. He came on board in September, and brings a unique perspective as a retired senior flag officer in the Navy as well as a champion for efficient use of energy. We’ll be interviewing him for publication in the winter 2014 issue of *Currents*.

Mr. Tom Hicks, who served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy since March 2010, has now taken over as Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy and Deputy Chief Management Officer. It has been a pleasure working with Secretary Hicks on a wide range of issues, and I’m optimistic that he’ll remain influential in the energy arena in his new position.

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—Mr. Joe Murphy

A stellar example of energy-related training and competition “in action” is the shipboard Incentivized Energy Conservation (i-ENCON) program, which the Naval Sea Systems Command has successfully executed annually since 1999. The program provides training to help ship operators use energy more efficiently and gives cash awards to ships that use less fuel based on their size and mission profile. Using the i-ENCON model with some adjustments for the aviation community, the Naval Air Systems Command and Chief of Naval Air Forces will roll out a similar “Air-ENCON” program across the Fleet in 2014.

We continue to receive energy ideas from Sailors, civilian employees, industry representatives and private citizens via the Greenfleet website (<http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/energy-efficiency-idea>). In an effort to streamline our process and route ideas quickly to the technical

Finally, I’ll add that our office recently bade farewell to Todd Bowie, one of the plank owners in the Navy’s energy program at OPNAV. Over the past three-plus years, Todd brought a wealth of knowledge about new technologies, fuel systems, carbon chains and biofuels to bear for countless briefs and other forms of vital support to Navy leadership. Todd has moved on to a promising position with a consulting firm in Boston, and will be sorely missed. Thanks to Todd for his significant contributions to our Navy team.

And thanks to each of you for your interest in and continued support of the Navy’s energy and environmental initiatives. ⚓

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