

First East Coast Fleet Energy Training Event Focuses on Energy Awareness

ASN (E,I&E) McGinn & Other Senior Officials Stress the Role of the Fleet in Uncovering Sound Energy Conservation Practices

U.S. FLEET FORCES Command (USFF) hosted the first east coast Fleet Energy Training Event for type commanders and their operational unit-level leaders aboard Naval Station Norfolk on March 25, 2014. The forum was intended to increase awareness of current energy initiatives and evaluate future options that will enable the Navy to achieve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption throughout the Fleet. Roughly 400 participants—a mix of senior leaders, operators, and civilian professionals—explored solutions to energy challenges with a focus on increasing range, endurance, and combat effectiveness.

Mr. Jim George, program manager, Combat Logistics Force Ships, received the award on behalf of Robert E. Peary.

USNS Grapple's crew oversaw repairs to the ship's air conditioning units and replaced the condensers to ensure proper efficiency. They also provided oversight on the

USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE 5).



Ship Recipients of SECNAV Energy Awards

To kick off the event, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) (ASN (E,I&E)) Dennis McGinn presented Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Energy Awards to six ships. In the Military Sealift Command category, USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE 5) and USNS Grapple (T-ARS 53) were recognized for their outstanding energy conservation accomplishments.

USNS Robert E. Peary's crew instituted energy saving initiatives to include installation of adjustable speed drives on pump systems and the establishment of procedures that identified plant configurations combined with speed curves that minimize generator hours and maximize efficiency.



USNS Grapple (T-ARS 53).

USS Nicholas (FFG 47).



overhaul of the controllable pitch propeller system and bow thruster repairs and provided guidance on load share and timing for the engine control system—making for a more efficient plant. Mr. Edward Shanley, assistant supervisory project engineer, Rescue and Salvage Ships, received the award on behalf of Grapple and her crew.

In the small ship category, USS Nicholas (FFG 47) was recognized as a “platinum” award winner. Recently decommissioned, Nicholas supported the Command’s commitment to energy conservation through the use of Shipboard Energy Conservation Assist Team charts and transit speed curves with optimal plant alignments and routine training and conservation awareness.

Nicholas’ conservation efforts saved 7,800 barrels of fuel with a cost equivalence of 1.1 million dollars. CDR Corey Blazer, the last commanding officer of Nicholas, accepted this award.

USS Roosevelt (DDG 80).



USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) and USS Gravelly (DDG 107) were recognized in the medium ship category. Roosevelt instituted standard operating procedures to ensure energy conservation was thoroughly considered in its daily routine and operations. By utilizing fuel curves and efficient plant lineups, Roosevelt saved 20,000 barrels of fuel with a cost equivalence of 2.7 million dollars. Rear Admiral Peter Gumataotao accepted the award on behalf of Roosevelt.



USS Gravelly (DDG 107).

USS Gravelly was awarded the SECNAV energy award at the gold level. Gravelly’s efforts saved 15,800 barrels of fuel with a cost equivalence of 2.2 million dollars. These savings were realized as a result of the crew’s commitment to energy conservation and implementation of procedures that ensured the ship operated at high efficiency while maintaining operational readiness.

Gravelly’s commanding officer CDR Kevin Kennedy accepted the award on behalf of the ship and her crew.



USS Kearsarge (LHD 3).

USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) accepted the SECNAV award at the blue level in the large ship category. Kearsarge is committed to sound energy conservation practices from transiting at the best economic speed per fuel curves to using the optimum track ship routing tool. Kearsarge saved 13,700 barrels of fuel with a cost equivalence of

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ASN (E,I&E) Dennis McGinn

ASN (E,I&E) Dennis McGinn was the keynote speaker at the Fleet Energy Training Event.
Michael Ford



1.9 million dollars. Kearsarge's commanding officer, CAPT Fredrick Nielson accepted the award.

All of these ships are based in Hampton Roads, with the exception of USS Roosevelt which is based at Naval Station Mayport.

Plenary Session

After the awards ceremony, senior officials reinforced why reducing energy consumption should continue to be a priority Navy-wide. Featured speakers at the plenary session included:

- ASN (E,I&E) Dennis McGinn
- Commander, USFF, Admiral Bill Gortney
- Director, Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division (OPNAV N45), Rear Admiral Kevin Slates
- Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, Rear Admiral Peter Gumataotao
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Fleet Installations and Environmental Readiness, USFF, Mr. Joseph Murphy.

Admiral Gortney was the first to take the stage to highlight the Navy's successes in reducing energy consumption and maintaining readiness in recent years as the cost of fuel has continued to rise. That means, as Admiral Gortney stated, "we need to get as much readiness as we can for the least cost so we can stay out in front of the cost of energy."

ASN (E,I&E) Dennis McGinn took Admiral Gortney's sentiments a step further, stating "if you don't do everything

you can in terms of saving energy, years from now you will find yourself with your back against the wall."

Mr. Joe Murphy explained that USFF has been actively working with the type commands to lead, measure, assess and correct energy initiatives as needed to meet the desired end state of maximum efficiency. He made the additional points that:

- We need to make the *best* best practices standard operating procedures where it makes sense to do so.
- Technology represents a small percentage of our long-term energy solution, so individual behavior will be paramount.

"We need to get beyond our old mindset and embrace culture change. Include energy in your planning factors—make it routine," said Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy and USFF are already using the Readiness Kill Chain methodology, in which current processes, practices and decision making are evaluated to ensure best use of resources, to implement a comprehensive approach to energy use. A key principle of the Readiness Kill Chain is that all hands, from SECNAV to the deck plates in an engine room, have a key role in energy efficiency.

"Changing how we use our energy resources saves money in an increasingly austere fiscal environment," said Mr. Murphy. "It also yields tangible warfighting advantages by giving us longer legs, reducing refueling vulnerabilities, and providing an operational energy reserve in the event that circumstances require a burst of speed or a longer dwell time."

Rear Admiral Kevin Slates told participants that increasing combat capability is the key driver for all of the initiatives highlighted at the Fleet Energy Training Event.

Michael Ford



The audience assembled during the plenary session of the Fleet Energy Training Event held aboard Naval Station Norfolk.

Michael Ford



Other Training Events

IN FEBRUARY OF this year, similar energy training events were held in California for west coast and Marine Corps commands. For more information about these events, read our article entitled “Naval Base San Diego, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Host Inaugural SECNAV Energy Training Events: ASN (EI&E) McGinn Delivers Keynotes; Hundreds of Sailors & Marines Share Energy Efficient Ideas & Best Practices” in the spring 2014 issue of *Currents*. To browse the *Currents* archive, visit the magazine’s on-line home on the Department of the Navy’s Energy, Environment and Climate Change web site at <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/currents-magazine>.

Rear Admiral Slates and other speakers at the event maintained that the Navy is not focused on energy due to a desire to be green or save money. “Increasing combat capability is the key driver for all of these initiatives,” he said. Rear Admiral Slates expressed confidence that a combination of technology, best practices and ideas from the Fleet, and broad energy awareness across the Navy, will enable the operators to avoid “the wall” that Mr. McGinn spoke about and allow the Navy to remain a formidable, combat-ready force—while using energy wisely.

Rear Admiral Gumataotao agreed with Rear Admiral Slates when he said, “We need best practices, but for all of us it comes down to warfighting. Whatever we’re doing for energy has to be transparent to the operator.”

Representatives from the type commands, including the following individuals and organizations, then provided briefings on their progress toward optimizing energy use:

- LCDR Tom Brashear and CDR Chris Boyle, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic
- CAPT Don Neubert, Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic
- Mr. Sonjae Whang, Military Sealift Command
- CAPT Marc Delao, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command





ASN (E,I&E) Dennis McGinn and Admiral Bill Gortney, commander, USFF, speak to local media during a one-day energy training event for 400 operational leaders at Naval Station Norfolk.
 MC2 Jonathan E. Donnelly

The Navy is transitioning from a philosophy of “save energy if you can” to “save energy unless you can’t.”

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

In the afternoon, operators held breakout training sessions in the aviation, surface and submarine type commands, Military Sealift Command, and Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, as well as Naval Air Systems Command and Naval Sea Systems Command. These breakout sessions allowed participants to discuss methods for reducing energy consumption within their own organizations and documenting good ideas for further consideration.

MSC’s breakout session consisted of a two-hour training course that focused on improving shipboard operating practices for better efficiency. During the training, participants (mostly chief engineers and maintenance officers) discussed approaches for evaluating their financial baseline to make

energy saving decisions. Among the topics discussed were air compressors, engine cooling/reheating, and lighting and shore power, with an emphasis on both reduced consumption and lower costs.

Session participants agreed that more incentives and guidance are needed for ship engineers and maintenance staff to successfully implement these types of upgrades.

One of the key messages of this and other recent energy training events was that the Navy is transitioning from a philosophy of “save energy if you can” to “save energy unless you can’t.”

“Well-executed training events like this one help to identify the reforms that need to be made to the Navy’s energy culture and address the SECNAV’s specific energy goals,” said Rear Admiral Slates.

OPNAV N45 public affairs personnel conducted brief videotaped interviews with attendees throughout the day, and are using the interviews to develop online content to share ideas and feedback with those who didn’t get the benefit of participating in the event in person.

To read quotes from participants in the Norfolk Fleet Energy Training Event, visit www.twitter.com/navalenergy or www.facebook.com/navalenergy. 

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