

## Moving Out on Energy Action Month, New App & Marine Mammal Research

**WELCOME TO THE** fall 2014 issue of *Currents*. October is Energy Action Month, so I'm hopeful that you're reading this issue during or shortly after the many activities we had planned across the Navy to promote the importance of energy and conservation both afloat and ashore. The Navy (and overall Department of Defense) Energy Action Month theme for this year is "Energy Action = Mission Success," and it's certainly appropriate. Beyond the themed posters, senior leadership panel discussions, social media posts, and Navy energy projects and initiatives we spotlight during the month of October, we're taking action year round to reduce our energy consumption and increase our operational capability, reach, and resiliency.

A large component of our program is behavioral change, which starts at the deck plate level and extends to our most senior leaders, which is why increasing energy awareness across the Navy continues to be a focus area. With that in mind we launched our new "Energy Warrior" digital publication (app) in mid-September, targeting our younger Sailors. The app, which can be downloaded for free for use on Mac iPads and Android devices, demonstrates the efforts of Sailors and other personnel who are taking innovative steps to conserve energy, lead behavioral change, and get the maximum warfighting punch out of every gallon of fuel or kilowatt of electrical power. We also have a new Energy Warrior playlist on the Navy's YouTube channel with videos and personnel profiles.

I'm excited about the app as a tool to help us reach out and connect with Sailors around the Fleet on a personal level. Energy Warrior can help our Sailors and civilians understand how truly critical energy is, both for our daily jobs and for enabling combat capability for the long term. Plans are already underway for additional video profile interviews for a future version of the app. Commands with innovative energy projects, people, and ideas can contact the Navy's energy team at [energywarrior@navy.mil](mailto:energywarrior@navy.mil). For additional information, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/energywarrior>.



The Navy Secretariat, our office, and the Fleets are also in the planning stages for a second set of Fleet Energy Training events at Fleet concentration areas. Similar to the events in San Diego and Norfolk held earlier this year, these are envisioned as one-day workshops

that focus on understanding why energy is viewed as both a combat enabler and a vulnerability, energy saving practices that extend time between refuelings, and the need for culture change and innovative ideas.

In the technology realm, we are accelerating the installation of light emitting diode (LED) bulbs on ships. While the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and the Fleets have completed installation of LEDs on many of our ships over the past few years, this year we've funded the installation of LEDs for critical/key areas on all remaining surface combatants within the Fleet that have not been outfitted and the conversion of shipboard



battle lanterns to LED. The switch to LED lighting reduces the maintenance burden for Sailors: LEDs last up to five times longer than conventional fluorescent lights, so that means Sailors spend 80 percent less time swapping out bulbs and more time doing their primary mission. Other benefits of LEDs include better light quality, durability, energy savings, improved safety due to less frequent relamping of hard to access spaces, and none of the hazardous waste found in florescent lights. NAVSEA is also aggressively working with commercial lighting firms to qualify additional vendors to provide LED lighting for naval vessels.

On the energy and environmental fronts, delivering the message to key internal and external stakeholders about the Navy's many initiatives remains essential. We

conducted outreach in both topic areas at Baltimore Navy Week (September 10–14), the Naval Air Station Oceana Air Show (September 19–21), and San Francisco Fleet Week (October 9–14) with energy/environmental exhibits and information materials. San Francisco Fleet Week also included the commissioning of USS America (LHA 6) on October 11. USS America is the Navy's second amphibious assault ship to be equipped with an electric auxiliary propulsion system in addition to its main propulsion plant for energy efficient steaming at lower speeds when the main plant can be shut down. This concept is becoming the new standard for energy efficient propulsion.

mapping, or ocean current and temperature information, is expensive and takes time to collect, compile and analyze. When feasible, it would be ideal to be able to better share and leverage that type of information among agencies to mitigate costs and avoid potential duplication of effort. I recently participated in a meeting with William Brown, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Chief Environmental Officer, and Don Schregardus (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment) to discuss partnering opportunities for the Navy and BOEM relative to



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As part of our ongoing marine mammal research, the Navy's Living Marine Resources (LMR) program funded an additional round of behavioral response studies off southern California in the late September/early October timeframe. The studies involve independent research organizations temporarily attaching digital data tags to marine mammals and recording their reactions to underwater sounds. The sound sources range from simulated sonar and other sounds played via underwater speakers, to actual mid-frequency sonar transmissions from naval warships. As with any research, the results of these studies take a long time to fully analyze, but this data has great potential to help us better understand how marine mammals may be affected by Navy at-sea training and testing activities.

There are numerous examples of the Navy's efforts to be a good environmental steward while fulfilling our mission. I and others on my team have written at length about many of those programs and projects in past columns, web pages and blogs, and will continue to do so. I'm also impressed by and would suggest you visit U.S. Fleet Forces Command's "Stewards of the Sea" Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/USNavyStewardsoftheSea](http://www.facebook.com/USNavyStewardsoftheSea)) which is another excellent resource for timely information about Navy environmental and energy topics and initiatives.

Collecting data about the ocean environment, be it marine mammal research or monitoring, bathymetric

our marine mammal program. In the coming months, we hope to identify opportunities for collaboration on our ongoing and future marine mammal initiatives.

Finally, I would like to again congratulate the winners of the fiscal year 2013 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards. The 27 winners were honored via a video teleconference (VTC) ceremony on August 20. Awardees from around the country and overseas participated in the VTC from their respective sites, while the CNO, Vice Admiral Phil Cullom (N4), and I hosted from the Pentagon. Distinguished visitors representing DoD/Navy leadership and non-government organizations also participated. While the VTC saved significant travel dollars and reduced the carbon footprint that would have resulted from an in-person ceremony, it was a great opportunity for the CNO to personally thank each winning team for their efforts in promoting and supporting Navy's environmental stewardship. For more information about the ceremony, please see page 48 of this issue.

Thank you for your interest in and continued support of the Navy's energy and environmental initiatives. I'm proud of our Navy team and really do believe their efforts and commitment makes a difference every single day. 📍

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