

Improving Awareness of Energy & Navy At-Sea Activities

WELCOME TO THE winter 2015 issue of *Currents*. I'll use this space to give a short overview of recent Navy accomplishments in our energy program, as well as some noteworthy environmental items.

This past November, I participated in a Fleet Energy Training event hosted by U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. It was the third event of this type, and I believe the best one to date. There were 270 participants and a great turnout by senior leadership from USFF and all of their Type Commanders. Among the many informative speakers were the Honorable Dennis McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; Rear Admiral Brad Gehrke, Director of Maritime Headquarters for USFF; and Rear Admiral Mary Jackson, Commander Navy Region Southeast. These forums provide a great opportunity to highlight the importance and purpose of the Navy's energy program as well as to share/discuss new ideas and best practices throughout the Fleet to turn ideas into useful outcomes. For Sailors and other attendees, these training events reinforce the fact that we are undertaking energy initiatives because more efficient use of fuel provides increased combat capability and more time on station. Likewise, alternative fuels provide greater flexibility and resiliency to our logistics chain. Additional training events are being scheduled in Hawaii and Japan early in 2015.

saving practices. We're already thinking about how to make the next version more interactive and as engaging as possible to help harness the innovative ideas of our Sailors and civilians. If you haven't downloaded it yet, get EW for free and send us your ideas at <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/energywarrior>.



With 2014 now in the rear view mirror, planning is ramping up for deployment of the Great Green Fleet (GGF) in 2016. The GGF deployment will differ from the historic journey of the Great White Fleet in that, rather than a specific "battle group" that navigates a planned route worldwide, the GGF will involve assets in many locations performing planned exercises and deployments while using alternative fuels (i.e., biofuel blends or nuclear) and/or a combination of energy conservation measures such as stern flaps and energy dashboards or operational procedures that maximize the efficient use of energy/fuel. As with other facets of our energy programs, individual behavior and cultural change is key as

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One of the awareness tools USFF and I highlighted at the Jacksonville training was the Energy Warrior (EW) app. The app has been available for iPads and Android devices since mid-September, but we recently completed an update that makes it work on iPhones as well. USFF personnel did a great job introducing the app, and many attendees—including a reporter from Action News Jax (WJAX-TV)—downloaded it on the spot. We continue to get requests from participants regarding the app and others offering technology ideas and innovative energy-

we highlight these initiatives during GGF as "the new normal" to increase our capability and resiliency.

Interoperability with our allies will also be a vital aspect of the GGF for many reasons and we intend to invite our international partners to participate. We and our partners must have full assurance that any alternative fuels supplied to our ships and aircraft meet required military specifications (MILSPEC), which is what our test and qualification program for fuels achieves. Once qualified, our MILSPECs

for fuel are updated to reflect that these new fuels meet military standards. We currently have statements of cooperation in place with the Royal Australian Navy (July 2012) and the Italian Navy (April 2014) to facilitate cooperation on research, testing, and use of advanced biofuels, and are pursuing similar agreements with other allies. Additionally, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization fuels and lubricants working group is working with partner nations to adopt alternative fuels.

ship's crews because of better light quality, much longer bulb life which greatly reduces maintenance requirements, as well as improving safety as bulbs in hard to change locations do not have to be replaced as frequently. We're getting positive feedback from ships with LEDs installed and have plans to install more in the future.



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On the shore energy front, our installations continue to be recognized for their innovative efforts to reduce energy consumption. During a ceremony on 31 October 2014 at the White House, the Navy received two of the seven 2014 GreenGov Presidential Awards. These awards recognize organizations and individuals that excel in pursuing clean energy goals outlined in executive order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance). The energy team at Naval District Washington was recognized for reducing energy intensity by 25 percent relative to a 2003 baseline, reducing water intensity by 13 percent from the 2007 baseline, and completing 99 percent of advanced metering infrastructure installation. Located in an extremely challenging climate with base power provided solely by generators, the Camp Lemonnier (Djibouti, Africa) energy team reduced energy intensity by 13.5 percent relative to the 2003 baseline by making efficiency upgrades to generators, power plants, air conditioning units, and chilled water stations. Especially in areas like Djibouti, efforts to reduce water and fuel usage with no mission impact can be a huge cost saver and helps reduce challenging logistics burdens. Congratulations to these two commands for this well-deserved recognition.

In my last column, I mentioned progress in accelerating installation of light emitting diode (LED) bulbs on ships. I'm happy to report that as of the end of 2014, the Naval Sea Systems Command and the Fleets have installed approximately 185,000 LED bulbs on 190 ships, including amphibious ships, cruisers, destroyers, and Military Sealift Command ships. LEDs save energy, which is important for reasons I've outlined above, but they also have a very positive impact on the quality of life for

We are always looking for opportunities to highlight our environmental stewardship and educate the public about how and why we train and test, the steps we take to protect marine mammals and the environment, and the research we're funding to improve knowledge on how marine mammals are affected by underwater sound. In support of those goals, USFF recently provided an opportunity for key representatives from the Marine Mammal Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (a non-profit oceanic research organization) to embark aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 74). This was a rare chance for non-military folks to see their Navy in action, talk to Sailors, and better understand the complexity of how we live and operate at sea. After the carrier visit, several guests participated in a pier side visit to the destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74). They received briefings on the marine mammal protective measures we use at sea, the marine mammal awareness training shipboard personnel receive, and our systems for safely managing biodegradables and other waste materials while minimizing impacts on the environment. While it is no small task to organize these types of ship visits, I believe they are among the most effective means to provide an accurate picture of our environmental programs and stewardship.

Thanks for reading *Currents*, and for your continued interest in and support of the Navy's energy and environmental initiatives. ⚓

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