



Army Energy Awareness Month - October 2012
Enhancing Mission Effectiveness

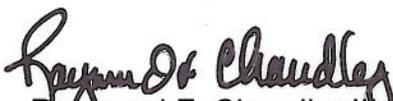
Energy Awareness Month provides an opportunity for everyone in the Army to evaluate their daily energy and water use. Overreliance on resources, fossil fuels and connections to vulnerable electric power grids jeopardizes Soldiers' lives, mission effectiveness and the continued viability of our installations. Conservation, efficiency, sustainability, technology advancements and behavioral change are the pathways to creating an energy- and water-secure Army.

Many of our installations, such as forward operating bases, are at the end of distribution lines, making them increasingly at risk for power and water disruption. Over seventy percent of the logistics required to sustain combat outposts and forward operating bases consists of liquid fuel and water. The requirement to secure every fuel and water convoy not only diverts combat resources from the primary mission, but it also puts our Soldiers at greater risk.

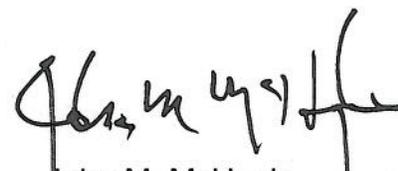
We are making great strides toward reducing the number of these convoys and increasing the energy independence of each Soldier. We currently have over 30 mini-grids operating in Afghanistan that save more than 50 million gallons of fuel annually – equivalent to removing 55 trucks per day from the road. We are reducing dismounted Soldier energy loads using advanced portable power systems, lighter batteries, universal charging devices, and water re-use systems.

We urge every member of the Army team – Soldiers, Families, and Civilians – to contribute to creating an “energy- and water-informed culture” and to assist the Army in reducing consumption. Each deployed Soldier can reduce the amount of fuel for both transportation and electricity generation through small things like turning off heating, cooling and lights in unoccupied tents or ensuring that generators are utilized in an efficient manner that saves fuel and reduces maintenance. At all installations, we can use energy and water more efficiently, whether by replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, turning off lights, or shutting down and unplugging equipment when not in use. Also, by installing high efficiency showerheads, every household could save more than 2,300 gallons of water per year and reduce energy demands on water heaters.

The success of the Army's missions and the security of our Soldiers depend on reliable access to energy and water. Each of us has not just an opportunity but an obligation to enhance our mission effectiveness through individual conservation efforts. Energy and water conservation helps to keep us Army Strong!


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army