

Fleet Forces Command, Pacific Fleet Partner to Conduct Energy Conservation Training

“Ship Visit” Program Designed to Accelerate Energy Culture Change

U.S. FLEET FORCES Command (USFF) has partnered with Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic (CNSL) and Commander, Pacific Fleet (CPF) to conduct waterfront energy conservation training. The Ship Visit program is designed to accelerate energy culture change throughout the fleet and, ultimately, to create a more effective and efficient Navy by bringing energy conservation messages, approaches, lessons, and best practices to the waterfront via tailored ship visits.

USFF’s Navy Operational Energy Program, which was chartered under Task Force Energy in 2008 by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), is focused on making energy efficiency a routine part of fleet routine.

“Our goal is to get up close and personal with fleet Sailors so that we can have honest conversations about energy conservation,” said Commander Daniel “Heed” Orchard-Hays, USFF’s Operational Energy Section Head. “Going ship to ship gives us the opportunity to thoroughly understand the concerns of each crew, and helps us in the

process of figuring out how to decrease our energy consumption while getting the job done.”

The Ship Visit program conveys the urgency of energy conservation by providing the tools for culture change, sharing best practices, raising awareness, and providing an opportunity to tour shipboard spaces with the Chief Engineer. In short, its objective is to empower Sailors to become Energy Warriors. (For more insights into CNO’s Energy Warrior program, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/energywarrior>.)



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“We constantly ask ourselves if we’re really doing everything we can to make a difference.” said Harold “Hank” Viado, USFF’s Fleet Energy Initiatives Project Manager. “If we constantly challenge ourselves, we’ll keep improving. By making conservation an integral aspect of what we do, both underway and in port, we’ll ultimately make the Navy more capable and operationally ready.”

As Sailors now realize, energy conservation plays a key part in making and keeping the fleet ready.

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus’ established energy goals, which he first articulated in 2009, are a key driver of the Ship Visit program. These goals are incredibly important to the Navy’s long-term effectiveness and efficiency, so the Ship Visit program focuses on creating a culture where Sailors routinely operate their ships and systems in the most energy-efficient mode, unless circumstances dictate that they do otherwise. In other



The guided missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) was one of the first participants in the newly-established Ship Visit program which is designed to bring energy conservation messages, approaches, lessons, and best practices to the waterfront via tailored ship visits.

words, the Navy has shifted from “Save energy if you can” to “Save energy unless you can’t.”

The fleet’s surface and aviation communities are its two biggest consumers of fuel. Accordingly, the Navy is working diligently to track and reduce their fuel consumption by identifying, developing, and codifying operational procedures. This will allow operators to meet their tasking while reducing their overall energy consumption—thereby helping to achieve SECNAV’s energy goals.

“The idea of achieving established Navy energy goals requires sustained waterfront energy conservation—not only in port, but underway as well,” noted Orchard-Hays. “We won’t get there based on technologies and advanced alternative fuels alone. Improving waterfront energy conservation requires fostering and sustaining desired behavior. And that starts at the deckplate level.”

A primary way of achieving and sustaining this evolved energy culture involves establishing ship class energy consumption baselines, which can show a given ship’s crew how they stack up against their peers. The results of these comparisons can motivate crews to identify and correct over-consumption and, ultimately, to share their practices with others.

“When we show a crew what other ships are doing to conserve energy, and highlight the benefits of that behavior, we inspire them to be better,” remarked Viado. “Sailors want to do their jobs as well as they can, and we arm them with the ammunition that they need to help them improve.”

While the U.S. Navy continues to be the most powerful force afloat, making every reasonable effort to save energy helps the fleet to retain its warfighting edge. ⚓



TOP: LT Rick Campbell, Chief Engineer of USS Cole and CNSL representatives Mike Gaffney and Jim Romeo pause at one of the ship’s air conditioning plants. The ship’s three air conditioning plants cool the entire ship, consume the most energy behind the ship’s propulsion plant, and offer a large potential for energy savings.

BOTTOM: USFF and CNSL personnel conduct an energy awareness ship visit on USS Cole (DDG 67). Part of the Ship Visit program includes identifying energy saving opportunities while touring various ship spaces. During a stop in the engineering central control station, LT Rick Campbell explains to USFF representative Hank Viado and Jim Romeo how Cole monitors electrical usage.

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