



Army Energy Awareness Month – October 2011

October Energy Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity to focus and strengthen our efforts to improve our Army's energy security. To accomplish our global mission the Army requires assured access to energy to meet our operational needs and to power our installations. Even as we recognize the many Army successes this past year, we must aggressively improve the Army's power and energy posture in order to reduce our reliance on a fragile electric grid and vulnerable foreign oil supplies. By undertaking comprehensive efforts in the areas of Soldier power, basing power and vehicle power, we become stronger and more effective. We must work collectively to change our culture, making energy a consideration in everything that we do and every Soldier a power manager.

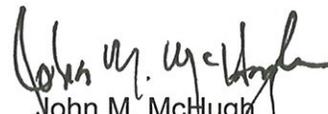
The Army needs secure access to energy. That's why we continue to foster relationships and seek private sector investment in clean/renewable technologies. This year we began the Net Zero Installation initiative, an effort to bring the total resource consumption on an installation down to an effective rate of zero. Net-zero installations which generate, repurpose and/or recycle power, water and waste are less vulnerable and more resilient. The recent formation of the Army Energy Initiatives Office Task Force will streamline acquisition processes and leverage industry for the execution of large-scale renewable and alternative energy projects on our installations.

Operational energy initiatives will make our Soldiers safer – lightening Soldier loads through advanced portable power systems, lighter batteries, universal charging devices, water purifiers and smart microgrid technologies. With traditional energy sources consuming so much of ground resupply weight, using less energy means fewer convoys and fewer convoys mean fewer casualties.

While the Army is taking steps at the enterprise level, achieving energy security requires active participation from all of us as individuals. Each of us can reduce our energy consumption at home and in the office through simple behavioral changes such as turning off lights and shutting down equipment when not in use. Together we will succeed in reducing our energy consumption, increasing our alternative energy generation and enhancing energy security so that we have the resources to sustain the Army's ability to deploy, fight and win. We sincerely appreciate your support.


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