



# ENERGY CONNECTION



Core Values: Leadership, Professionalism & Technical Knowledge through Dedication to Duty, Integrity, Ethics, Honor, Courage & Loyalty

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF Col Keith Mecham

Energy team,

It's hard to believe it's already the end of August. I hope you have taken some time for vacations, family connections and R&R.

Much like Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of summer, Labor Day weekend often marks its unofficial end. But Labor Day is much more than an end of summer celebration.

Labor Day pays tribute to the merit, significance and achievement of American workers. Today, the national holiday is widely accepted and celebrated with parades, picnics and pool parties.

Originally, it was a day of rallies and strikes to protest poor working conditions, long hours and low wages that existed at the end of the 19th century during the height of the Industrial Revolution. American workers, including many children, worked 12-hour days seven days a week. As labor unions began to grow in prominence to help protect workers, many of their efforts turned violent like the [Haymarket Riot of 1886](#), in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed.

Because of these efforts to raise awareness and fairness for the American worker, Labor Day began to be accepted and celebrated as a day off. Over the course of the next decade, the day grew in recognition and was ultimately signed into law on June 28, 1894.

The success of any organization is its team, and the success of every team is its individual teammates. Each of you is a valued contributor for the unique qualities and skills you bring to the Energy team. Your hard work and dedication keep DLA Energy supporting the warfighter around the globe.

In honor of Labor Day, I want to say thank you and enjoy the weekend with family, friends and loved ones.

Happy Labor Day!

## Retirement Planning

Regardless of whether you're just starting your federal career or have served for more than 20 years, it's never too early to plan for retirement.

During a DLA Energy virtual Lunch & Learn on August 10, Human Resources Benefits Specialist Mr. Aaron "Kav" Kavanagh provided an overview on federal retirement options.

He discussed the importance of checking your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) to ensure it is accurate and requesting [retirement estimates](#). While employees can request one estimate every 12-month period from the HR team, Kav said your forecasted retirement date must be no more than two years into the future.

Another tool used for retirement pay calculation is the [GRB Platform](#) (CAC required) that is easily accessible anytime.

Kav stressed the importance of verifying beneficiary forms, service records, civilian and military deposits, and the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, referred to as a DD 214, if applicable.

Once you are eligible and retirement ready, Kav said to submit a completed Standard Form 52 to your benefit's specialist at least 30 days prior to the requested date and plan for the process to take at least 60 days.

If you are within five years of retirement eligibility, enroll in the DLA Learning Management System (LMS) Pre-Retirement Training. This training reviews the retirement benefit programs, deposits and re-deposits, Thrift Savings Plan, health benefits, insurance options, survivor benefits, social security benefits, legal issues and taxes. [Learn more in this DLA Today Announcement](#).

Do your research, know your eligibility and get your estimates. It's never too early to start retirement planning.

FERS Voluntary Retirement		
Minimum Age	Minimum Service	Special Requirements
62	5	None
60	20	None
MRA	30	None
MRA	10	None (Annuity is reduced by 5% for each year the employee is under 62.)
Any Age	25	You must be under special provisions for air traffic controllers, law enforcement or firefighter personnel.
50	20	You must be under special provisions for air traffic controllers, law enforcement or firefighter personnel.

**FERS Retirement Calculation (Standard Formula)**

Basic Annuity - 1.0% Accrual	
Age	Formula (example)
Under Age 62 at Retirement, OR Age 62 with less than 20 years of service	High-3 average salary (\$125,000) x 0.199167 (19 years and 11 months) / 12 months = \$2,074/month

*If you began your federal career after Jan. 1, 1987, you're part of the Federal Employees Retirement System.*

CSRS Voluntary Retirement		
Minimum Age	Minimum Service	Requirements/Special Provisions
62	5	None
60	20	None
55	30	None
Any Age *	25	You must retire under special provisions for air traffic controllers, law enforcement or firefighter personnel.  * ONLY air traffic controllers can retire at any age with 25 years of service as an air traffic controller.
50	20	You must retire under special provisions for air traffic controllers, law enforcement or firefighter personnel.

CSRS Annuity Formula	
Years of Service	What You Receive
First 5 years of service	1.5% of your high-3 average salary for each year
Second 5 years of service	Plus 1.75% of your high-3 average salary for each year
For all years of service over 10	Plus 2% of your high-3 average salary for each year

*Generally, if you began your federal career before Dec. 31, 1983, you're part of the Civil Service Retirement System.*

## HQC/NCR COVID-19 Status: HPCON B

Continue max telework until your designated re-entry date. Face masks not required in the HQC Complex but are required for HQC Child Development Center.

## EOQs

Congratulations to the DLA Energy 3rd quarter, FY22 military, civilian and strategic goals employees of the quarter.

### Company Grade Category:

**Capt Akeem Parks\***, USAF, Energy Middle East

### Category B Civilian (GS/WG/WL 7-12):

**Walter Hegan**, DLA Energy Europe & Africa

### Category C Civilian (GS13-15/WS):

**Carly Dubernas**, DLA Energy Utility Services

### DLA Director's Strategic Goals Award Category:

**Individual Award: Connie Braesch**, DLA Energy Public Affairs

**Team Award: DLA Energy Supplier Operations Branch** from DLA Energy Europe & Africa

**\*Congratulations to Capt Parks who also won at the enterprise level!**

## AROUND ENERGY

Meet the **Quality Operations Division**! This team develops, monitors, and implements quality policies and programs for DLA Energy-supplied commodities and provides quality assurance and quality surveillance support.



Pictured left to right are Barbara Mooney, Richard Knapp (Division Chief), Mike Wilson, Patricia Wilkins (QT Director), Dustin Wilkerson and Sarah MacLean.



Congratulations to Army MAJ Jerry Bortner on his promotion, which was held at historic Gunston Hall in Mason Neck, Virginia, Aug. 9.

## ASOC LNO

### Volunteer to be the Agency Synchronization and Operations Center Energy LNO!

The highly visible and fast-paced position fuses information from across the agency and provides centralized awareness of Energy's business and operations functions.

The six-month rotation starts Monday, Sept. 5. The position is open to GS-12 or 13 employees (GS-12 are eligible for temporary promotion to GS-13). Applicants must possess a Secret Clearance that is active or adjudicated and can be activated. Supervisor and business unit director pre-approval is mandatory for consideration.

If you're interested, email the CCC at [dla.energy.ccc@dla.mil](mailto:dla.energy.ccc@dla.mil).

## Employee Recognition

On Aug. 9, DLA Director of Acquisition Mr. Beebe visited DLA Energy to discuss important acquisition topics including key acquisition metrics, status of agency management review activities, and the Contract Quality Review Pilot. He also held a focus group with DLA Energy's Contracting Officers Mentor Group Leaders along with newly warranted Contracting Officers for open discussions on a variety of topics. During his visit, Mr. Beebe presented several DLA Energy employees with the DLA Director's Coin or plaque for their outstanding work in DLA Energy or with DLA J7.



Paul Churchill



Randy Kelley



Mark (Miz) Mizrahi



Ross Paxton accepted the coin on behalf of Patti Rivera



Candis Schiefer



Curtis (Curt) Stough

### Mark your calendars!

**Sep. 12:** Supervisory Committee Meeting,\* 2:30pm

**Sep. 13:** Advisory and Integration Council Meeting,\* 9am

**Sep. 13:** Culture Climate Committee Meeting,\* 10am

**Sep. 20:** Training Committee Meeting,\* 11am

**Sep. 21:** Coffee with the Commander, 7:30am and 5pm

\*The committee and council meetings are for current members only. If you are interested in getting involved, contact [DLAEnergyCAG@dla.mil](mailto:DLAEnergyCAG@dla.mil).

## Virtual Suggestion Box

Have a question or concern weighing on your mind?

Use the [DLA Energy virtual suggestion box!](#)

(the link is also a "Featured Link" on [Energy's eWorkplace homepage](#))