



# ENERGY CONNECTION



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

Volume 2, Issue 21

November 21, 2022



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COMMANDER Mr. David Kless

Team Energy,

I love a good coincidence, and this happens to be your Energy Connection Issue 21 on November 21st. Hard to believe there are only a few more issues left for this year. Interesting fact... this is actually the 45th issue since the newsletter began in January 2021. I hope you continue to find it valuable and informative.

But, as always, I encourage you to send us your feedback, ideas and input using the [Virtual Suggestion Box](#). The link to the suggestion box is always available on [Energy's DLA Today homepage](#) under the main photo as a Featured Link.

For those of you here in the local HQC area, I look forward to seeing you at the in-person Holiday Party at the Hilton Springfield on Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Besides a delicious lunch, there are lots of fun activities planned to include the annual "Ugly Sweater" contest, a photo booth with unlimited photo opportunities, a DJ with a variety of music, and amazing door prizes. Contact [Michelle.Groat@dla.mil](mailto:Michelle.Groat@dla.mil) to buy a ticket or if you have any questions.

A reminder, the Combined Federal Campaign is underway. CFC's mission is to promote and support philanthropy through an employee-focused, cost-efficient, and effective program that provides federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. It's the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity program with over 8,000 charities representing local, national, and international levels.

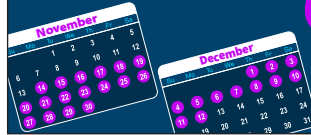
As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope that your time off provides an opportunity to enjoy the company of family and friends, celebrate our many blessings, and to focus on those we are most grateful for in our lives.

Sincerely, and with thanks to all of you.

## 2022 Federal Benefits Open Season

Health Benefits ● Dental/Vision ● Flexible Spending Accounts  
Enroll ● Make Changes ● Cancel ● Re-enroll (FSAFEDS)

Nov. 14 – Dec. 12



Federal Benefits  
OPM.gov/OpenSeason

**What is Open Season?** Enrollment in your federal benefit plans is limited to Open Season and Qualifying Life Events, so now is the best time to explore your options. Take the time to review your options now as Open Season only runs from November 14 through December 12, 2022. Updated/changed elections will be effective January 1, 2023 and employees will see premium changes on their January 20, 2023 Leave and Earnings Statement.

**Why is this important?** There are significant changes to many plans for 2023. [Several plans will see benefit and rate changes](#), some plans are dropping out of the program and others are [changing their service areas or coverage options](#).

**What do you need to do?** Compare plans using the [FEHB Plan Comparison Tool](#). Employees should review, enroll, cancel or make changes to their Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), and Federal Employees Dental & Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) benefits.

**How do you make the changes?** Use the [Government Retirement & Benefits \(GRB\) Platform](#). GRB is the puts you in control of your election, eliminates possible errors, and allows you to print a confirmation. In GRB, you can also review and make changes to your TSP contributions.

**Want to learn more?** Register to attend the 2022 Virtual Benefits Fair to chat with carriers, review 2023 plan details, and get the information you need to help make the right decisions—in one convenient, online location. [Learn more in this announcement on Energy's DLA Today webpage](#).

**Questions about Open Season?** Contact the Benefits Team at [DHRSC.Benefits@dla.mil](mailto:DHRSC.Benefits@dla.mil). For further questions, contact the [DLA Benefits Center](#).

FSAFEDS Home > Support Center > Savings Calculators > HCFSFA

### Health Care FSA Savings Calculator

Health Care FSA | Limited Expense FSA

The FSAFEDS Health Care Flexible Spending Account (HCFSFA) is an easy way to save money on items and services you already buy. Use the calculator below to estimate your annual, out-of-pocket health care costs, including eligible over-the-counter items, and see just how much you could save by enrolling in the HCFSFA. If you need a little help, take a look at the [eligible expenses list](#). Sign up for savings with FSAFEDS!

NOTE: You can only enroll in FSAFEDS during the Federal Benefits Open Season, your new hire election period, or if you experience a [Qualified Life Event \(QLE\)](#).

*FSAFEDS allows you to set aside pre-tax funds to pay for eligible out-of-pocket dependent care and health care expenses. Remember: If you are currently enrolled in the FSAFEDS program, your election DOES NOT carry over from year to year. If you wish to participate again you will need to make a new election for 2023.*

[Learn more about this program at www.fsafeds.com](http://www.fsafeds.com)

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

HQC Occupancy limited to <100%, social distancing highly recommended.

Conference room normal seating restored.

## DLA Energy Offsite

Nearly 40 senior DLA Energy leaders from around the globe gathered for a three-day DLA Energy Strategic Offsite Nov. 1-3. The group discussed a broad range of topics including staffing/training, NDA section 352, and Carbon Pollution-Free Electricity Initiatives & Sustainable Aviation Fuel Update. Events also included a tour of the new Army Museum and evening socials.



Region Commanders: Brig Gen Canlas, CDR Mazzouzi (AMW), LTC Cordova (ME), LTC Fortune (E&A), Maj Land (AMN), COL Carrasquillo (Americas), LTC Han (Korea), LTC Masson (AME), Lt Col Smith (Japan), CDR Jakubowicz (East Pac), CDR Radke (SW Pac) and Mr. Kless.

## Farewell Mr. Bruce Blank

Brig Gen Canlas and Mr. Kless presented Mr. Blank the Exceptional Civilian Service Award before he departed the Energy family to assume his next role as the DLA Pacific Deputy Director in Hawaii.

With over 30 years of federal government service, Mr. Blank has served in many DLA Energy positions including Director of the Procurement Process Support Directorate, Deputy Director of Supplier Operations, Director of Bulk Fuels, acting Deputy Commander, DLA Energy Pacific Integrator and Director of the Commander's Action Group. He has been a critical leader and member of the DLA Energy team and will surely be missed.

**Thank you Mr. Blank!**



For the 7th consecutive year, Installation Energy team members earned Federal Energy and Water Management Awards for their significant contributions to energy and water efficiency within the federal government. The 2022 and 2021 awards were presented at the Energy Exchange in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 26.

[Read more in this DLA News story](#)



Pictured (left to right): Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program Director Mary Sotos, Installation Energy team members – Jacob Vigil, Andrea Kincaid, Cynthia Ralph, Christine Bond-Jawish, Steven Slater with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment & Energy Resilience Richard Kidd IV, and Department of Energy Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Infrastructure Kathleen Hogan.

**Meet the DLA Energy Acquisition Support Division!** This team manages and oversees various contract reporting systems, the DLA Energy Government Purchase Card/Government Travel Charge Card programs and the associated acquisition metrics. They ensure the integrity of data, driving and sustaining program compliance and auditability across the systems and programs.

AROUND ENERGY



Ian Yusko, Lenny Cole, James Chapman and Christian Sivelle

Americas West Resolution Specialist **Christian Sivelle** and Customer Account Specialist **Leonard Cole** played in the 7th Annual Hero Charity Golf Tournament in Ontario, California, Nov 4. The tournament supports a nationwide non-profit mentor program for Veterans suffering from PTSD.



(Left) Kurtiss Beach, Ayodele Warburton, Angela Jones (division chief), Angela Hall, Tracey Anderson, Glynis Guest & Brandi Carpenter. Not all may be pictured.



Pet of the Year: Halley Valda

Thank you for participating in the DLA Energy Pet Photo Contest. We had 84 pet submissions and 1,196 votes... simply amazing!! All proceeds go to the DLA Energy Boosters for morale events.

**Pre-order your 2023 Pet Calendar by December 2!**

[Learn more and see the pictures of the pets in this DLA Today announcement](#)

## NEWS



### [Energy Hall of Fame celebrates three new members](#)

A former high school summer intern, airman and a sailor were inducted in the seventh annual DLA Energy Hall of Fame Oct. 31. [Learn more about all of](#)

[Energy's Hall of Fame members on the new HOF webpage.](#)

### [GTCC News Bulletin 2022 Q1](#)

Click to read important tips for Govt Travel Charge Card holders.



### [Task Force Americas closes out Hurricane Ian support](#)

After nearly a month of emergency fuel support, DLA Energy Task Force Americas closed out Hurricane Ian assistance to FEMA Oct. 19.

TFA personnel Chris Rogers, Air Force Maj. Timothy Truong, and Ray Juré helped coordinate fuel shipments from supply points in Virginia and Alabama to affected areas in central Florida.