

# ENERGY SOURCE

Defense Logistics Agency Energy

Spring 2015



## DLA ENERGY AMERICAS

# from the commander

## Brig. Gen. Mark McLeod, USAF Defense Logistics Agency Energy

The other day, I was asked, "What's do you think is the 'heart and soul' of DLA Energy?"

Without a doubt, it's our regional commands – Middle East, Europe & Africa, the Pacific, and our featured region in this quarter's edition of the Energy Source magazine, Americas. DLA Energy's core processes of contracting and acquisition certainly power our engine of success globally, but it is the direct processes, interfaces, relationships we build, nurture and enjoy out if the regions that translate our world-class processes into world-class customer support.

Sitting here in the headquarters, it becomes easy to see our 'Energy' world from the inside (here at Belvoir, Virginia) outward. While that may be good for operations here in the Washington, D.C. area of responsibility, it's not the best way to address the myriad of issues our customers encounter ... either with our internal processes or with their various customers. Thus I've adopted an 'outside-in' approach during my time here in Energy, shaped by both my previous experience in a combatant command and by the feedback from our regional experts. That's why we are focusing so heavily on addressing future COCOM requirements (positioning, capability and capacity), enterprise Sustainment Restoration and Modernization program velocity, Enterprise Business Process performance and executive agent authorities that place us in the best position to synchronize the Department of Defense fuel infrastruc-

ture prioritization and right-sizing. Warfighters first – then effective and efficient for DoD.

Not surprisingly, Energy Americas professionals proudly carry out this mission set throughout our nation and beyond its borders every day. Keep turning the pages and you'll see their important efforts on behalf of President Obama's rebalance to the Pacific initiative, the activities and contributions of our quality assurance representatives and the outstanding support we provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the 2015 Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise. In addition to their uncompromising mission support, I think you may also find the article on America's management team attendance at the "True Growth Academy" interesting and illustrative of their commitment to improving both organizational efficiency and culture/climate environment.

World-class support and innovation centering in Houston and San Pedro, California? YOU BET! Enjoy the following pages and see if you agree.



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**Energy Source is an official publication distributed by and for the Defense Logistics Agency Energy and energy-oriented clientele. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency or Defense Logistics Agency Energy.**

**Energy Source is prepared by desktop publishing applications.**

**Photos not credited are courtesy of DLA Energy sources.**

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# *DLA Energy Americas*



A motor transportation operator, with the 773rd Transportation Company, based out of Queens, New York, prepares a fuel line for inspection before using it for transporting fuel in the 2014 Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise, operationally controlled by the 633rd Quartermaster Battalion here, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, June 8. Photo by Army Sgt. Dalton Smith

# Exercise Planning

**By Susan Lowe, DLA HQ PAO**

**D**efense Logistics Agency Energy supplies the bulk petroleum for annual Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercises, providing readiness and training for more than 2,000 Army Reserve soldiers.

The Army Reserve's 475th Quartermaster Group from Farrell, Pennsylvania, is providing overall mission command for QLLEX 15, which occurs June 6-19 and will distribute the bulk petroleum to DLA Energy's real world customers in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina, Washington and Arizona.

DLA Energy Americas employees from both the Houston and San Pedro sub-regions participate in the exercise and must plan well in advance how best to support the Army.

"The planning for QLLEX 15 started almost immediately after we concluded our after action report on QLLEX 14, which was around July 2014," said Ben Beadles, DLA Energy Americas at Houston operations officer.

"By the time I picked up planning responsibilities in September 2014, intermediate [defense fuel support points] were already selected along with fuel projections and estimated daily lift requirements," he said. "In the planning phase, regional supply planners assist with forecasting and demand planning for customers receiving bulk fuel from our DFSPs."

DLA Energy Americas at Houston provides the forecasts or lift projections to the Army Reserve so they will have a broad idea of systems assets required to support customers in the eastern states.

"The Army Reserve delivers fuel to DLA Energy customers for two weeks during the exercise so it's critical we're involved in all phases of it," Beadles said. "Our goal is to maintain the supply chain and make it seamless to our customers."

All QLLEX 15 participants meet formally during three planning workshops. The initial planning workshop was held in September 2014. During the mid-planning workshop in December 2014, subject matter experts from DLA Energy Americas at Houston validated bulk petroleum requirements, confirmed customer locations, coordinated tanker pre-inspection day, quality day and assisted the

475th Quartermaster Group staff with any concerns. The final planning workshop is scheduled for late March 2015.

In progress review teleconferences, which occur on a monthly basis, are focused at the action officer level.

The IPRs, which started in September 2014 and will continue until just before the exercise execution, serve as a conduit to share information, provide status updates and task out or close planning requirements.

"On a person-to-person level, the region maintains constant contact with the Army Reserve and immediately shares any information, changes to a distribution mode or method, schedule updates, or infrastructure issues that might impact the exercise," Beadles said.

DLA Energy at Americas has assigned military liaison officers, also known as LNOs, to the battalions to facilitate operations and communication during QLLEX 15.

"As far as I know, this is the first time the region has added military LNOs to assist the Quartermaster battalions," Beadles said.

Joint officers and noncommissioned officers handle all communications regarding preparation for and the actual execution of QLLEX from their assigned battalions to the Americas at Houston team or appropriate subject matter experts, Beadles said.

DLA Energy LNOs coordinate preparation of Army Reserve tank trucks and tankers for DLA Energy pre-inspections, Quality Day inspections and laboratory correlation. They coordinate recertification testing of the fuel prior to returning the product to DLA capitalized sites and facilitate lines of communication for leadership visits, recon site visits, DFSP and distribution requirements.

During the exercise, DLA Energy LNOs will be on-site with their assigned Quartermaster battalions.

"It's a good idea [to have military LNOs] as it allows our officers and NCOs to engage with events outside their normal duties and responsibilities and it reinforces the region's commitment to a successful annual exercise and partnership with the Army Reserve," Beadles said.

Quality assurance representatives are also involved in the





**Army Reserve fuel trucks participating in the 2014 Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise, operationally controlled by the 633rd Quartermaster Battalion, drive to deliver fuel outside Fort Bragg, North Carolina, June 10, 2014. Photo by Army Spc. Miguel Alvarez**

exercise planning process and focus on product quality and safety concerns.

DLA Energy QARs have the opportunity to take one last look at the Army tanker trucks on Quality Day.

“We ensure the trucks are ready to load with regard to product quality, said Clay Allen, DLA Energy Americas at Houston QAR. “The QARs also ensure the mechanical systems appear to be operating [safely] without fuel and are safe to operate in terms of protecting personnel, equipment and the environment.”

When tanker trucks are loaded at DLA Energy-operated DFSPs, the DLA-owned product must be maintained ‘on specification’ while in transit to DLA Energy customers,

Allen said. Performing these inspections on Quality Day helps ensure the product’s quality throughout the mission.

The inspections also help minimize mechanical problems at the loading facility, in transit and at the capitalized delivery location, he added.

“Army tanker trucks must be ready with operational equipment and safety items to protect their interest, but also prevent incidents at our operated facilities and while moving the DLA-owned product,” Allen said.

The receiving location can reject the tanker truck because of product quality or safety concerns and they can be denied access to the military installation at the gate for security or safety concerns.





Given the number of tank trucks used, Quality Day is absolutely necessary to ensure a successful QLLEX mission; it's not just training, Allen said.

The QARS are extremely busy throughout Quality Day inspecting, documenting and facilitating corrective actions, he said.

"QARS perform a top to bottom assessment of the tanker truck as a system, which includes the prime mover, the tanker and all associated equipment like pumps, filters, hoses and fire extinguishers," Allen said. "The QAR brings deficiencies to the attention of the operators immediately and in many cases, they can be corrected on the spot as the Army has maintenance vehicles and personnel on site."

Quality Day involves many interested parties and observers from leadership to other stakeholders in supporting commands.

"However, [the QARS] find time to coach and handle questions throughout the day," Allen said. "Quality Day for QARS is a huge event often lasting 10-14 hours."

It is important for DLA Energy to participate in exercises like QLLEX 15 for a number of reasons, Beadles said.

DLA Energy Americas assumed a new mission during and after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

During an emergency or crisis situation, the region is required to assemble a "Task Force Americas" to assist U.S. Northern Command, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies with command, control and distribution of bulk petroleum products.

Although QLLEX isn't DLA Energy's exercise, it's the best opportunity there is to test the region's "Task Force Americas" responsibilities, Beadles said. **ES**

*DLA Energy Americas*

# Growing America





# Americas' Leadership

By Christopher Goulait

Members of the Defense Logistics Agency Energy Americas team sought out an experience to boost their leadership skills and develop both better leaders and a better organization.

To do so, management teams from DLA Energy Americas at Houston and DLA Energy Americas at San Pedro, California, attended the True Growth Academy Nov. 11-14, 2014, in Cypress, Texas.

DLA Energy Americas at San Pedro Deputy Director David Ray and DLA Energy Americas at Houston Deputy Director Tracy Keenan discussed who was selected for training, and why it was important for their teams.

"DLA Energy Americas at San Pedro targeted our leaders at the management and supervisor level to attend the True Growth Academy to develop, mature and sustain the leadership skills to lead high-power teams – teams able to achieve optimal mission success and innovation by mentoring and leading their employees to fulfill their individual and team potential in a positive manner," Ray said.

The San Pedro office first selected supervisors and chiefs to attend an initial training session in June 2014, which was then expanded to include more leaders in the November session. Similar management teams were chosen by the Houston office.

"DLA Energy Americas at Houston understands the value of this training, and is making all efforts to afford supervisors the opportunity to attend," Keenan said. "The course takes you on a deep journey to understand what makes you tick, document key life events that changed you and come out the other side with an action plan to live a better life and in the process be a better leader."

"This is a comprehensive look at who you are and where you want to be in your life and as a leader," Keenan added. "The course looks at both personal and professional to help you determine where you want to be in the future."