



# ENERGY CONNECTION



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER Brig Gen Jimmy Canlas

### Team Energy,

This week we say a fond farewell to a great leader and professional, our DLA Energy Deputy Commander Mr. William "Eric" Smith. Mr. Smith was selected by VADM Skubic to serve as the DLA Chief of Staff. I know he will excel in his new role, and we will benefit having Energy advocacy on the HQ staff.

It has been my sincere honor to serve with Mr. Smith. As a new Commander, I was blessed with Mr. Smith who supported me during my first several months as I assumed my new role in the height of COVID. We will miss Eric and his extensive DLA experience, sage wisdom, and straight-forward approach to hard challenges. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he has dedicated to improving the Energy culture with his emphasis on leadership development. From his monthly leadership nuggets to monthly Donuts with Deputies, Mr. Smith profoundly influenced us with his steadfast leadership.

As Mr. Smith departs, Ms. Patricia Wilkins will step in as the Interim Deputy Commander.

Eric, thank you for all you have done for our organization, and we look forward to Patricia continuing on with our progress. Warfighter Always!

## Shadow a DLA Energy Leader!

The DLA Energy Virtual Shadow Program for DLA Energy employees is a unique opportunity to shadow a leader and gain valuable experience.

Shadow experiences are designed to provide participants with professional development opportunities, professional networks, meaningful career conversations, exposure to leadership at multiple levels, and a broader understanding of DLA Energy.

Participants are not the only ones to benefit from the Shadow Program. DLA Energy leaders benefit by fostering a coaching culture and increase transparency of Energy's business strategies.

[Bulk Petroleum Products' Callie Ettleson Lake shadowed Kevin Ahern](#) in February 2018 when Ahern was Acting Director of Procurement Process Support.



"I chose to shadow the Procurement Process Support Division in hopes that it would give me a bigger picture of what is happening in the acquisition community at DLA Energy," Lake said.

She said her goal was to get a better idea of what our senior leaders deal with on a day-to-day basis to help her understand how her role fits into the organization.

"It not only helped me understand the workload that senior leaders in our organization manage every day, but it also gave me insight into whether I could see myself in that position in the future," she said.

[Chris Boeding, DLA Energy Japan Deputy Director, participated in the program in 2018 when he was in Bulk Petroleum Products and Keisha High, a member of the military personnel team within the Manpower Division, participated in August 2019.](#)

"It gave me a perspective of how everything comes together," High said. "I don't work directly with fuel, therefore, learning about the places we service and potential problems we may face getting fuel where it needs to be to support the Warfighter was insightful."

Applications for the virtual version of the shadow program can be submitted through your chain of command and [emailed to the SCG](#). [Read this DLA Today Announcement for more information.](#)

**HQC/NCR COVID-19 Reconstitution Status:  
Phase 0 - HPCON B**



Members of the DLA Energy Middle East team participated in NSA Bahrain's SAPR 5K run on April 22. Big shout out the participants! LTC Justin Darnell and family, LTC Kristyn Felix, LT Kwabena Antwi-Nimarko, CPT Demetrios Rocco, CW2 David Fonteneau, SFC Elizabeth Grace, Ms. Shelly Brayboy, and Ms. Kelley Warren.



**ADVANCING  
LEADERS  
THROUGH  
PURPOSE-DRIVEN  
SERVICE**

**ASIAN AMERICAN  
PACIFIC ISLANDER  
HERITAGE MONTH**

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Across the nation, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders contribute to a rich and deeply rooted heritage. From migrant laborers to inventive trailblazers, the month is a time to acknowledge their hardships, culture, achievements, and beliefs.

Learn more at the [Department of Defense Education Activity website](#).

## Hail and Farewells



Welcome to Mr. Don Pollack! The new DLA Energy Deputy Chief Counsel. He joins the team from the Defense Technical Information Center where he served as Agency Counsel. He also served 20 years with the U.S. Army.



Thank you for your 37 years Federal government service Mr. Ralph Wells! The DLA Energy Indo Pacific Deputy Director retired April 24. The Interim Deputy is Mr. John Reed.

## Condolences



On Sunday, April 18, 2021, Ms. Phyllis Orange peacefully passed away in the comfort of her home.

Ms. Orange was DAWIA Level III certified in contracting and worked in Bulk Petroleum Products for more than 15 years. She took great pride in the DLA mission earning over 30 Performance Awards, 2 DLA Humanitarian Awards, and many letters of commendation from customers.

## NEWS



**[DLA Energy supported National Reconnaissance Office rocket launch!](#)**  
Aerospace Energy supplied the liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to create the more than 2.1 million pounds of thrust needed for the rocket's liftoff on April 26.



**[Middle East QARS perform an internal tank inspection at sea.](#)** Mark Mizrahi and Army SFC Elizabeth Grace (pictured) received hands on training as Kelley Warren observed aboard the oil tanker LEFKARA in the Persian Gulf on April 9.



DLA Energy QARs TSgt Mersino and Mr. Ronnie Brock brief DLA Director VADM Skubic during her recent visit to DFSP Tampa. The team provided her an overview of DFSP including truck load and laboratory operations.



(front row) DLA SOUTHCOM LNO Roy Diaz, SOUTHCOM COS RADM Davis, DLA Director VADM Skubic, SOUTHCOM J4 Col Gibbs and (back row) LCDR Pasley, SOUTHCOM J4 Larry Burton, and DLA Energy SOUTHCOM LNO Jason Hill pose during the DLA Director's recent visit to SOUTHCOM.