



ENERGY CONNECTION



Volume 2, Issue 5

March 14, 2022



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

Energy Team,

As evident these past few months and even years, we are constantly managing change. Whether in our personal lives, our careers or as an Agency, change is inevitable.

At DLA Energy we are not exempt from change. Current changes on the horizon include an eventual return to work, the Future of Work initiatives, Lorton move and the NDAA Section 352 provisions can combine with other changes taking place within our personal lives to cause "turbulence" or uncertainty in our daily routine.

Whether anticipated or unanticipated, change can weigh on us. If we embrace it as an opportunity rather than a challenge, we can find ways to make change mutually beneficially to our lives and our careers. Understanding the process and reason for the change and our role in it can help us prepare ourselves and minimize the turbulence and uncertainty.

While there are still many unknowns about specific details related to the upcoming changes within DLA Energy, I want you to know that we will continue to communicate and keep you informed throughout the process. We will use these newsletters, emails, all hands meetings, and strategic communication efforts like the Coffee with the Commander and Donuts with the Deputy to communicate, share information and provide updates on these and other topics.

I encourage you to share your questions related to these changes with your supervisors and senior leaders. There are likely others on the team who have the same or similar questions. Please use the available forums for your questions as we navigate through these changes in the coming months and years. As Peter Drucker once said, "The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence – it is to act with yesterday's logic." Let's continue to be forward thinking and forward leaning as we shape DLA Energy for tomorrow's challenges.

Thank you for all your do to support the warfighter. Please continue to stay safe.

On the Road: Delaware and Maryland

Last Monday, DLA Energy Commander Brig Gen Canlas, **Col Eric Haler** (Director of Customer Operations), **Richard Rines** (Terminal Operations), and a team from Americas East conducted visits to four strategic energy partner sites to better understand the interconnectedness of the AME supply chain along the eastern U.S. and discuss ongoing projects and issues at these locations.

The team visited Defense Fuel Support Point Port Mahon and Dover AFB in Delaware and DFSP Baltimore and The Vane Brothers Company in Maryland.

They were briefed on DFSP operations and projects and discussed supply chain challenges and ongoing efforts like the Port Mahon dredging project. The Vane Brothers Company currently has a USTRANSCOM contract responsible for fuel barge transportation services in the Atlantic region.

Brig Gen Canlas also took time to recognize a few outstanding Airmen. He performed a re-enlistment for **TSgt David Rhodes** and coined **SSgt Hoyt Merchant**, **SSgt Christopher Fairchild**, **(S)Sgt Jacob Parsons**, **Amn Cameron Hurst**, **SSgt Matthew Rutledge**, and **SSgt Caitlyn McNorton**.



TSgt David Rhodes



SSgt Hoyt Merchant



SSgt Christopher Fairchild



(S)Sgt Jacob Parsons



Amn Cameron Hurst



SSgt Matthew Rutledge



SSgt Caitlyn McNorton

HQC/NCR COVID-19 Status: HPCON B

Continue max telework. As of March 2, face masks no longer mandatory in the HQC Complex. Masks remain required for HQC Child Development Center.

MASK GUIDANCE

Effective March 1, the following masking guidance applies to all DoD and DLA workplaces in the United States:

When the [CDC COVID-19 Community Level](#) is medium or low in the county where a DoD installation or facility is located, indoor mask-wearing is not required for DoD personnel or visitors.

If you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, DoD force health protection guidance for workplace access and mask wearing for DoD personnel remains in effect regardless of the CDC Community Level.

Read about this guidance and get more information on the [DLA Coronavirus webpage](#).



MSgt Travis Bowser was re-enlisted by Maj Lewis Benton on March 1. MSgt Bowser is the Air Force Fuels Logistics Education Advancement Program (LEAP) Senior NCO. The program allows him to move throughout DLA Energy Business Units to learn all aspects of a fuels career field.

BREAKING NEWS

DLA Energy FY21 Fact Book is online!

[Read more in this news story.](#)



DLA chemist leading efforts in alternative fuel



Lindsey Hicks, a DLA chemist for 30 years, is the program manager for DLA Research & Development's Energy Readiness Program. ERP's strategic focus areas are fuel refining and distribution, fuel instability and contamination issues, and alternative fuel certification efforts. [Read more in this news story.](#)

Four DLA Energy employees earn agency annual awards

Sloane Struse, Maj Charles Morton, William Kennedy, and Jaron Tyner earned the agency's 54th Annual Employee Recognition Awards. A recorded ceremony honoring the recipients was released on March 10. [Read more in this news story.](#)



Mark your calendars!

March 17: Energy Supervisor Town Hall at 11am*

March 17: Energy All Hands at 12:15pm*

March 22: Energy Hall of Fame, HQC Auditorium/virtual, 9:30am*

March 23: Donuts with Deputy, GS-13 and below, time TBD*

*Watch your email for more details to follow



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2022

To honor Women's History Month, we share the stories of DLA Energy employees who are making a difference through their accomplishments both at work and in their community.

Learn more about your colleague

[Jill Chouinard](#), an engineer for DLA Energy in Alaska

SAVE THE DATE for the Acquisition Workforce Development & Intern Office **Women's History Celebration** March 28 at 1pm ET. More information to follow!

JOB WELL DONE!

DLA Energy Europe & Africa "Energizer of the Month"

Sammy Sobah

Mr. Sobah, Lead Customer Account Specialist, is recognized for his support to USEUCOM. After duty hours and on multiple weekends he worked important purchase requests for essential "spot buys" for fuel to ensure support for U.S. forces in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Turkey.



Pre-Retirement Training

DLA LMS Pre-Retirement Training provides an in-depth look at the federal benefits in retirement for those eligible employees.

The training provides a clear explanation of all major federal retirement benefit programs to include Deposits and Re-Deposits; Thrift Savings Plan (TSP); Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHB); Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program (FGLI); Survivor Benefits; Social Security Benefits; Long-Term Care Insurance Program; and legal issues and taxes. [Learn more in this DLA Today Announcement](#)

IMPORTANT PRE-RETIREMENT TRAINING TIPS:

- **Add it to your IDP annually!** Eligible employees should include their chosen pre-retirement training on their IDP during Open Season (*HQ Training uses the data to identify DLA Energy Employees requesting training*).
- **Plan for it!** Once registered, employees should fully dedicate themselves to the training (*if unable to attend once enrolled, employees should withdraw from the course thru LMS 14 days prior to start date*).
- **Employees must wait 2 years to retake the training!** To ensure all eligible employees have an opportunity to attend retirement training, employees must wait at least 2 years from the last time they were registered for the training to sign up for another class.
- **Enroll early!** Classes fill up quickly. Plan ahead and enroll early. Seats filled on a first approved, first enrolled basis.