

Insight on Army Operational Energy

Interview with Col. Shelia Faye J-McClaney, chief of Operational Energy for the U.S. Army G-4

ARMY TECHNOLOGY: How is your organization helping the Army meet its energy goals?

Faye: The goal of Army Power and Energy is to increase operational effectiveness and reduce risk for the warfighter, as well as to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

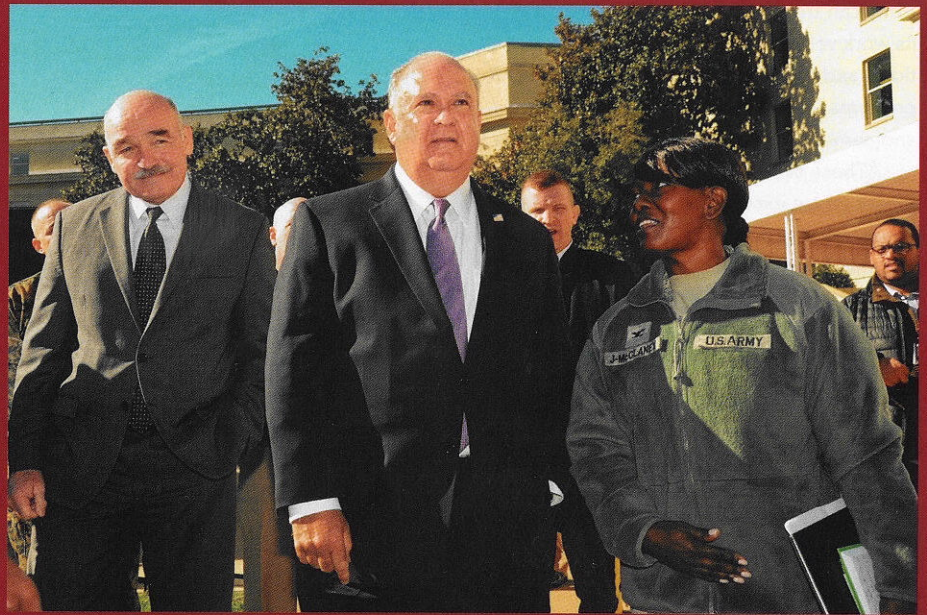
In September 2012, the Chief of Staff, Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno assigned responsibility for operational energy on the Army Staff to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G-4 Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, in support of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment the Honorable Katherine Hammack. The G-4 Operational Energy and Contingency Basing Office is working with organizations across the Army—Soldiers and leaders—as well as with our partner in the other services, to achieve energy informed operations.

ARMY TECHNOLOGY: How do you see technology helping the Army meet its goals? What key enabling technologies do you think will get us there?

Faye: Operational energy enables extended range and endurance, flexibility and resilience, enhanced mobility and freedom of action.

It enhances combat capability and reduces the challenges, risks and costs associated with delivering fuel to remote and austere combat outposts, forward operation bases and village stability platforms.

We are making battery loads lighter and fielding more efficient technologies.



Col. Shelia Faye J-McClaney, chief of Operational Energy for the U.S. Army G-4, speaks to Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal and other officials during a Nov. 14, 2013, energy showcase event at the Pentagon Courtyard. (U.S. Army photo by Conrad Johnson)

Key enabling technologies include: the Integrated Soldier Power/Data System; next generation generators; insulated shelters; microgrids; alternative energy systems; the Improved Engine Turbine Program for Black Hawk and Apache; and the Abrams auxiliary power unit.

ARMY TECHNOLOGY: Many say our culture needs to change. What do you think?

Faye: The Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh named "Developing Effective Energy Solutions" as one of his top ten priorities. In support of this, the Army continues to work to embed an energy informed culture across the Total Army Force through doctrine, operations, materiel solutions, training, leadership and communication, to ensure we are making the best use of energy.

Across the Army, we are training the force on the new technologies, so all Soldiers have confidence that the technologies will perform as intended and increase operational effectiveness.

In addition, a pilot initiative in select Initial Military Training at Fort Lee ties personal energy habits to operational energy practices which will continue throughout the Soldier's careers.

ARMY TECHNOLOGY: What words of encouragement do you have for the Army research and development community?

Faye: We encourage the Army research and development community to continue with its outstanding work and will work to ensure the Army is leveraging all that the Research, Development and Engineering Command has to offer in terms of operational energy. ■