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YOU Make a Difference



By Mr. J. Randall Robinson
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
Installations, Energy and Environment

I thank each of you for helping make the Army the best fighting force in the world. Each of you are part of this Army. Your hard work and contributions to the Achievements of our Soldiers and support to our Families is invaluable to our great nation and the American people.

During my tenure in IE&E, I have had the privilege to personally witness the depth of your dedication and the strength of your character. Your professionalism, your can-do spirit, and your sense of patriotism have contributed greatly to help shape the finest Army history has ever known.

We have accomplished many great things for our Army and will continue to do so. Below are the priorities I am focused on in the near term. While some of your specific initiatives may not be listed, be assured they are captured under enabling readiness.

1. Build Collaboration & Teaming
2. Ensure Senior Leaders understand the Infrastructure Sustainment & Buy-Out Strategic Message (SR&M, DEMO, MILCON)
3. Relook delegations and power down (ie, IGSA approval authority)
4. Focus on what IE&E processes or policies that need to be revised
5. Focus operational and renewable energy efforts on obtaining "Energy Security" or prices significantly below grid parity
6. Build Army-wide understanding & support for Installations of the Future efforts
7. Continue to advocate for BRAC
8. Finalize Contingency & Expeditionary Basing roles & responsibilities
9. POM 19-23
10. White House Infrastructure Initiative
11. Audit readiness
12. Enable Readiness!



I am proud of you. I thank you for your dedicated service, for your steadfast commitment, for your sacrifices, and for your abiding devotion to our mission. Keep making a difference!

Randy Robinson

Introducing The Environment, Safety & Occupational Health Strategy 2025

By David Guldenzopf, Ph.D.
ODASA (ESOH)

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health has published a holistic Army-wide strategy that incorporates environmental, safety, and occupational health strategy, policies and programs into one comprehensive document: the Army Environment, Safety, & Occupational Health Strategy 2025 (Army ESOH Strategy 2025).

The Army ESOH Strategy 2025 introduces an entirely new strategic design and direction for the ESOH program.

The strategy establishes a new paradigm for the Army that views environmental resources as mission enabling assets that are the foundation of a ready, proficient, and resilient Army. This paradigm transforms the costs of environmental compliance into investments that improve the Army's operational capability.

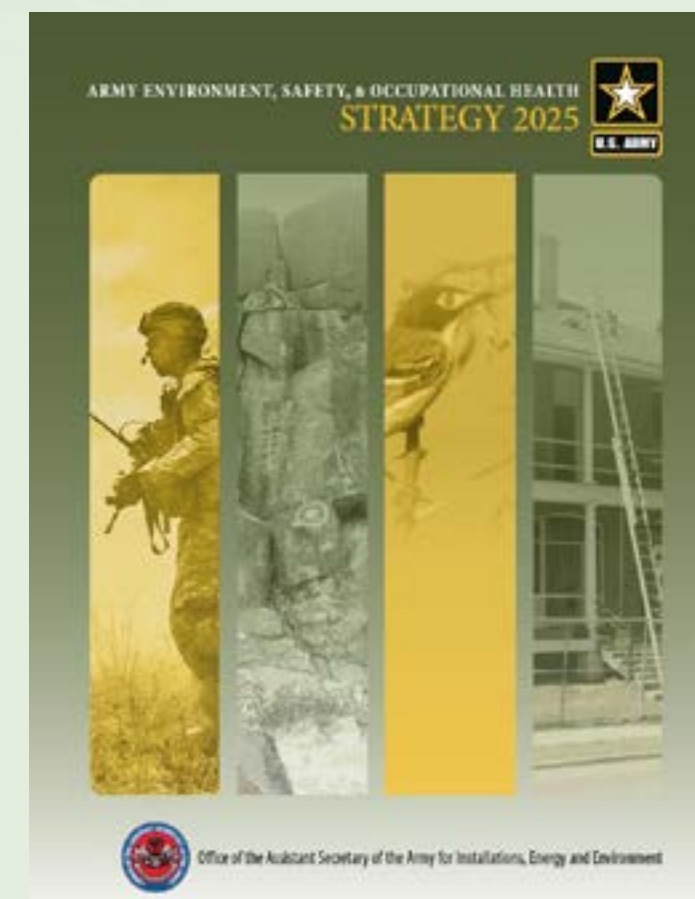
The Army ESOH Strategy 2025 also introduces the synchronization of safety and health in the workplace. This synchronization will drive synergies in the use of risk assessment, medical surveillance examinations, safety training, safety engineering, workplace wellness programs, and total worker health. By maintaining the health of

Soldiers and employees, health-related costs decrease while work productivity and mission support increases.

The Army ESOH Strategy 2025 establishes new Army-wide ESOH program goals and objectives that maintain an effective environmental stewardship program and a safety-based culture for Soldiers, their families, civilians, contractors, and communities surrounding Army installations. These goals and objectives also contribute to a stronger, ready and responsive fighting force. The Army ESOH Strategy 2025 goals establish where we intend to go and tell us when we get there, and the objectives identify the specific steps the Army will take in order to attain the goals.

To meet future challenges and succeed in future operating environments, it is imperative that the Army ESOH Strategy 2025 is implemented in a manner that ensures its goals and objectives are attained at every level.

For further information, the Army Environment, Safety, & Occupational Health Strategy 2025 can be viewed at <https://www.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/472081.pdf>



Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment



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2017 Army Earth Day Commemoration



By Eugene Collins
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)



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Birthday Celebrations

On April 22nd the Army and the Nation commemorates Earth Day and renewing its commitment to sound environmental stewardship.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense is sponsoring an event on Friday, April 21st in the Pentagon focusing on Climate Preparedness and Water Resilience, disease vector shifts and water related illness and drought and atmospheric river prediction.

The 2017 Army Earth Day theme is "Sustain the Mission / Secure the Future", which embodies the Army's commitment in supporting military readiness through environmental protection.

Readiness of the Army and security of the nation are linked to protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources on our installations. The sound environmental stewardship demonstrated on Army Earth Day supports the quality of Soldier training, quality of life for Families, the Army workforce, and neighboring communities.

The Army is steward to more than 12 million acres of land used to support the military training and testing mission.

Those lands contain 1.3 million acres of wetlands. The Army protects 224 threatened and endangered species on 119 installations within the U.S. Army lands include more than 91,000 historic buildings, more than 82,000 archeological sites and more than 180 Native American sacred sites.

The Army has cleaned up remnants of past practices at more than 11,000 sites at active and excess installations.

Army installation environmental activities also include sampling and analyzing air and water, maintaining environmental permits, providing safe drinking water, properly storing and disposing of waste, and environmental analysis of Army actions.

The Army has maintained the lowest number of environmental enforcement actions among all the Department of Defense, while having the largest inventory of land and facilities.

The Army decreased and is sustaining an enforcement action rate under 10 percent, and has achieved an 80 percent decline in the number of enforcement actions issued to the Army over the last 25 years.

Military readiness is compatible with sound environmental stewardship.

The air, water and land on Military installations provide the natural infrastructure for realistic training for our Soldiers to maintain mission readiness. We manage our natural resources to help shape a realistic training environment that enhances training and testing operations, while striving to reduce restrictions on military activities through endangered species conservation.

The Army has also made great strides in implementing sustainable operations including green building designs in new construction and becoming more energy efficient to improve energy security.

Energy conservation is a critical component of Army installation sustainability. It eliminates inefficiencies in existing facilities, increases efficiency in new construction and renovation, reduces dependence on fossil fuels and improves national security.

We are committed to energy conservation, sustainable operations, and protecting the environment to ensure that the Army remains ready, resilient and capable of accomplishing its mission of defending our Nation, and because it is the right thing to do.

Earth Day provides installations an opportunity to share the good news of Army's environmental

protection programs with neighboring communities.

Today, the U.S. Army and its installations and organizations around the world embrace Earth Day. Earth Day is an opportunity for Army Soldiers, their Families, and Civilians to consider the environmental footprint they make, and the influence they have on natural resources whether they are on installations, deployed overseas, or in

their homes.

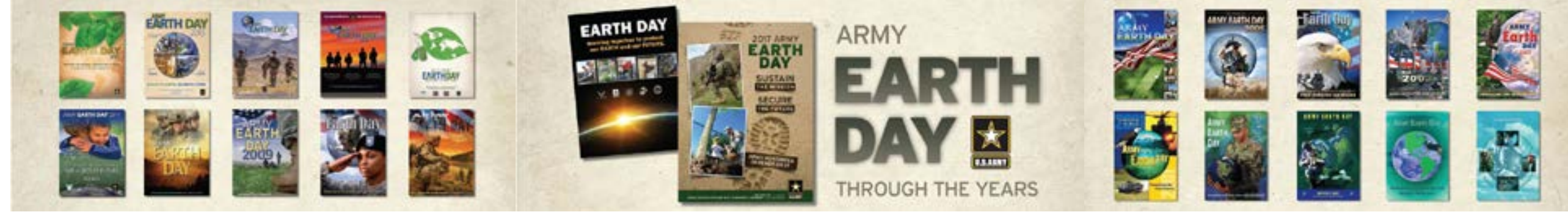
To commemorate Earth Day, Army installations and organizations host various events on and around Earth Day. In 2016, the Army celebrated Earth Day with hundreds of activities from installations, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve sites, and at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Districts.

Continued on page 4



Fort Hood, Texas, is a prime example of how the Army manages natural resources including threatened and endangered bird species in a manner that supports the training mission and our military readiness. Fort Hood is home to the Black-capped Vireo and has worked with federal and state partners to

help meet Black-capped Vireo population recovery goals. There are now more than 5,200 known birds and more than 14,000 estimated across the breeding range. Due in large part to Fort Hood's efforts, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has the Black-capped Vireo planned for de-listing as an endangered species. This action benefits military readiness by eliminating prior restrictions on 23,000 acres of Fort Hood's training area. Fort Hood is also home to the Golden-cheeked Warbler. Fort Hood has managed the Golden-cheeked Warbler population and worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to eliminate restrictions to training on 50,000 acres of training area.



Earth Day Commemoration

Continued from page 3

In support of 2017 Army Earth Day, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, collaborate with the U.S. Army Environmental Command on the Army's annual Earth Day poster.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command is the Army's primary support for Earth Day, and they create a custom designed Army Earth Day poster each year. The posters are distributed Army-wide and used as a form of outreach and awareness. For a two-week period leading up to Earth Day, the Army Earth Day poster is also displayed throughout the Pentagon in designated areas and is posted on the electronic Infonet Board the entire month of April. In addition, the U.S. Army Environmental Command has tools available for download by installations, such as the Earth Day guide, and an activity book for children.

We look forward to the many opportunities to celebrate and

commemorate 2017 Army Earth Day. The Army takes great pride in its commitment to protect the environment and continues to lead the Federal Government through sustainability initiatives. The Army has been at the forefront in finding and implementing ways to protect, preserve, conserve, and restore the natural environment and has done so much over the years to protect the natural and cultural resources on our installations. We encourage everyone to take an active role in sustaining the Earth's resources and supporting the Army's commitment to maintain a quality environment.

Army leaders at all levels actively support Earth Day. I commend the contributions by so many in our Army community to enhance the mission, preserve the environment, and protect our way of life; however, there is still more to be done. We must continue to consider the impact on everything we do and strive to meet the operational and financial challenges of the future. Consider the environmental footprint we make and continue to lead the Federal

government through sustainability initiatives to protect, preserve, conserve and restore the natural environment and the effect our actions have on the environment.

The Army is constantly seeking innovative ways to minimize and eliminate inefficiencies on the environment. Using our resources wisely now and in the future, are ways to preserve America's heritage, now and for generations to come. Earth Day is a time for all of us to get involved and make a difference by doing our part, using best practices and new technologies to help sustain the environment for a secure future. By making the right choices today, our Army will remain the world's premier military force into the future.

Join us in our commitment to commemorate 2017 Army Earth Day, to preserve a quality environment that will "Sustain the Mission and Secure the Future" for generations to come. "Army Readiness Depends on It," to remain the Strength of the Nation!



A few of the outstanding Army Earth Day events that took place in 2016 included: Fort Campbell's Environmental Division hosting an event in the Fort Campbell Post Exchange Mall. Participants included the Qualified Recycle Program, Forestry, Conservation, Cultural

Resources, Air Quality, and Storm Water programs which offered free giveaways. For the young at heart and children, Smokey the Bear and Wally Waterdrop were on site for pictures; U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, cleared trash and dumped objects from the woods, and with school children, decorated and hung bird boxes; U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, Korea, held an Earth Day "Eggstravaganza" in conjunction with the children's Easter activities and the installations' 5k run. Fort Hood participates in Earth Day Dallas, widely recognized as the Nations' largest Earth Day event. The Army leads the way with annual activities of cleaning up installations and other public lands, gardening and tree planting, household hazardous waste collection, students from local schools who volunteer to support and set up exhibits and educational booths, all types of recycling and outdoor educational activities such as seedling planting, trail work, wildlife habitat improvement, litter pickup, landscaping and other projects.

For further information, the Army Earth Day Website is located at <https://aec.army.mil/outreach/publicinitiatives/earthday.aspx>

Last year's Earth Day activities within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers included an Omaha District celebration for the completion of a stream ecosystem restoration project along a one-mile stretch of Lower Boulder Creek in Boulder County, Colorado. The purpose of the project was to restore critical habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife and reestablish wetland and stream values. As part of the ceremony, cottonwood trees were planted from saplings propagated from Boulder County's 150-year old national champion cottonwood. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District's Earth Day commemoration events included Tioga, Hammond, and Cowanesque Lakes participation in the annual Earth Day event at Mill Cove in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, with outdoor activities for adults and children, and presentations on the Corps mission areas including recreation, dredging, the Washington Aqueduct, Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration, Raystown Lake shoreline

cleanup and paddle cleanup at Snyders Run Boat launch. Baltimore District's participation at Phillips Wharf Oyster House on Tilghman Island included exhibitors, authors, educators, and experts on a range of Chesapeake Bay conservation topics including rain gardens, native plants, oyster restoration, storm water management, wildlife habitat, living shorelines and energy alternative. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held an Earth Day event at Bonneville Lock and Dam featuring rangers performing invasive weed control and promoting the "Leave No Trace" message. The Army anticipates that 2017 Army Earth Day activities will be as great a success as last year's!



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Contributions to this publication are welcome. Deadlines are the third Monday before the month of publication.

The next date of publication will be July 2017.

On the Cover:

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Danieto Bacchus, right, participates in a dismantled patrol mission.

U.S. Department of Defense Photo





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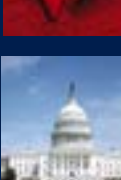
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HERE IT COMES

Slipping, Tripping and Falling:
 Each year, thousands of Soldiers and civilian employees are hurt in slip, trip and fall accidents. How do we reduce the risk?

- Slow down and pay attention
- Wear protective footwear
- Use the correct ladder
- Report workplace hazards
- Remove trip hazards such as electrical cords and cables
- Report ice, snow or water accumulation on walking surfaces

WATCH YOUR STEPS!

READY...OR NOT?

Ready — or NOT is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead — both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcomes of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making. #Armysafety

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?

<https://safety.army.mil>

APRIL IS EARTH MONTH- PLANT A TREE

April 22- Earth Day
 April 28- Arbor Day

Trees remove pollution from the atmosphere, improving air quality and human health.
 Office workers with a view of trees report significantly less stress and more satisfaction.

Trees lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade.
 Shaded surfaces may be 20-45°F cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded surfaces.

Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25%.
 During one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

For more tree facts visit www.arborday.org/trees/treefacts/



2017 ARMY EARTH DAY

SUSTAIN THE MISSION

SECURE THE FUTURE

ARMY READINESS DEPENDS ON IT.

ARMY EARTH DAY | arc.army.mil/Outreach/PublicAffairs/EarthDay.aspx
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT | www.army.mil/arc/ee

U.S. ARMY

HERE IT COMES

Take a Hike!

- Always plan and prepare for your hike
- Select the activity that matches your skill level
- Check the latest weather forecast when you arrive at your hiking destination
- Use sound judgement while on the trail—common sense goes a long way

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?
 #Armysafety

READY...OR NOT?

<https://safety.army.mil>



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New Army Directive Bolsters Commitment to Energy and Water Security

*By Mr. J. E. "Jack" Surash, P.E.
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Energy and Sustainability)*



I am now entering my seventh month as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy and Sustainability) and I am glad to report that the momentum continues to build within the E&S office.

The E&S team continues to do outstanding work to strengthen the resiliency of Army installations through increased energy security and sustainability. As you know, our team focuses on three primary areas: Energy and Sustainability, Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI), and Operational

Energy/Contingency Basing. The collaboration and teamwork within this group of professionals and among the Army staff and other stakeholders continues to impress me.

In addition to preparing for the congressional hearing season, we are working on the fiscal year 2018 Energy & Sustainability Program and Budget brief to the congressional professional staff members.

In February, the Acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer signed Army Directive 2017-07 (Installation Energy and Water Security Policy). The signing of this directive is a tremendous accomplishment. It supports the Army's Energy Security and Sustainability (ES²) Strategy and also conveys the importance of energy and water security within the Army. The directive establishes the requirement that the Army prioritize energy and water security requirements to ensure available, reliable and quality power and water to continuously sustain critical missions. The directive divides this policy into two components: "secure critical missions" and "sustain all missions."

The Army will become capable of providing necessary energy and water to its critical missions for a minimum of 14 days, thereby reducing the risks posed by power or water emergencies. In order to sustain all missions, the Army will improve resiliency at its installations by addressing the following attributes: assured access to resource supply, reliable infrastructure condition, and effective systems operations.

Directive 2017-07 bolsters the Army's commitment to energy and water security – a commitment that is central to the Army's Energy Security and Sustainability Strategy (ES²), published in May 2015. It can be found at <https://www.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/394128.pdf>

The ES² Strategy is a road map to a more adaptable and resilient force – a force that is prepared for a future defined by complexity, uncertainty, adversity, and rapid change. It envisions a ready and resilient Army, strengthened by secure access to critical resources and future options.

Like the new directive, the ES² Strategy calls for the Army to "assure access" by maintaining reliable access to energy, water, and land resources, and by protecting delivery mechanisms to mission-essential functions and applications. ES² also seeks to "build resiliency" by advancing the capability for systems, installations, personnel, and units to respond to unforeseen disruptions and quickly recover while continuing critical activities.

In addition to bringing the Army into closer alignment with the ES² Strategy, the Installation Energy and Water Security Policy (Directive 2017-07) addresses a key component of the Army Installations 2025 Strategy: enhancing installation resiliency. The Installations 2025 Strategy calls for the Army to, "create and maintain sustainable installations that support the missions of a transformed Army with land, facilities, and infrastructure, providing excellent quality of life support for Soldiers and their Families."

Installations 2025 can be found at <https://www.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/455380.pdf>

Also, the OEI team's large-scale renewable and alternative energy initiatives are very impressive in regards to collaboration, teamwork, and results. The Fort Rucker 10-megawatt (MW) Solar, the Anniston Army Depot 7 MW Solar, and the Fort Hood 15 MW Solar and 50 MW Wind projects will all be operational and producing electricity in the next few months. We seek to achieve improved energy security and resiliency for our installations by enabling new generation, energy storage, and energy controls to support Army installation energy requirements and enhance mission effectiveness – which aligns with the new 2017-07 Directive.

And the Operational Energy/Contingency Basing team continues to make excellent progress in the areas of investments in equipment capabilities, expanded support for planning and equipping sustainable solutions to all Combatant Commands, continuing to explore energy efficient and sustainable base camp solutions to equip the force for 2025, publishing new Operational Energy training strategy, and including Energy Key Performance Parameters for new acquisition programs.

In closing, I hope that everyone had a chance to do something proactive for World Water Day in March, and later this year we will be promoting Energy Action Month in October. I also look forward to the collaboration and networking opportunities at the August DOE/FEMP Energy Exchange.

Continuing our work with industry, utilities, public utility commissions, and other stakeholders to improve the Army's energy and sustainability posture is key to our success. So long as energy supply shortfalls and power distribution failures, whether caused by acts of man or acts of nature, remain a strategic vulnerability, the Army will continue to focus its energy and water programs and investments on resiliency and security.

AMERICA'S ARMY
THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION

ES² Strategic Goals

Army Energy Security & Sustainability (ES²) Strategy

Find it at:
<https://www.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/394128.pdf>

- 1. Inform Decisions**
 - Incorporate Resource Sustainability into Plans and Processes
 - Educate and Train
 - Lead by Example
- 2. Optimize Use**
 - Decrease Resource Demand
 - Increase Resource Efficiency
 - Support Resource Recovery
- 3. Assure Access**
 - Diversify and Expand Supply
 - Maximize Flexibility in System Design
 - Reduce Vulnerability and Risks
- 4. Build Resiliency**
 - Maintain Continuity of Operation
 - Foster Adaptability
 - Adapt to Uncertain, Changing Conditions
- 5. Drive Innovation**
 - Leverage Expertise
 - Expand Collaboration
 - Continuously Improve

Unclassified Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy & Environment)

Jack Surash



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Securing Army Installations with Energy that is Resilient, Affordable and Sustainable

By Mr. Mike McGhee
Executive Director OEI

The Army is committed to implementing energy projects which strengthen energy security and resiliency of Army installations. And while the Army's accomplishments have been significant to date, particularly with the development of power generation and the diversification of supply, there is a lot of potential for additional growth.

The Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) continues to facilitate additional, modern power generation assets on or near Army installations adding electrical supply lines to Army installations and surrounding communities.

This approach integrates a more "distributed generation" model which is now being more actively adopted across the United States power grid, especially with the increased afford ability of solar, wind and fast-starting natural gas power plants.

Nationwide, the Army OEI has facilitated six large-scale renewable and alternative energy resiliency projects that are on-line and producing almost 185 megawatts (MW) of power. Five additional projects, totaling more than 140 MW, are in the final stages of development or construction.

The Army OEI is also aggressively seeking opportunities to enable more projects that bring an "islandable" capability to Army installations.

Such projects will integrate energy storage (such as batteries or fuel), power generation, and energy switching and control systems to isolate and dispatch the flow of power to where and when it is needed in the event of a grid disruption.

The Army OEI Projects Map is a snapshot of the OEI energy initiatives portfolio, showing large-scale energy generation projects at various stages in the development process. Projects with "islandable" capabilities are outlined in red.

These "islandable" capability projects are in different stages of development, with some under construction and others under evaluation.

For example, the 60 MW biomass plant operating at Fort Drum, New York, provides 100 percent of the installation's electric power demand.

The 50 MW biofuel plant under construction at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, will provide 100 percent of the backup power demand at Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Airfield, and Field Station Kunia.

Projects in the procurement or negotiation stages at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, California, are expected to provide 100 percent of the installations' demand in the event of a grid disruption.

Similar projects are being assessed at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and at Fort Benning, Georgia.

These projects represent tremendous achievement for the advancement of energy security and resiliency across the Army.

They also illustrate the extensive teamwork that results in the success, timelines, and value the Army OEI facilitates through its integrated management approach and streamlined project development process.

Finally, these projects provide new domestically-produced energy and modern infrastructure that support our local communities and national interests.

Upcoming Events



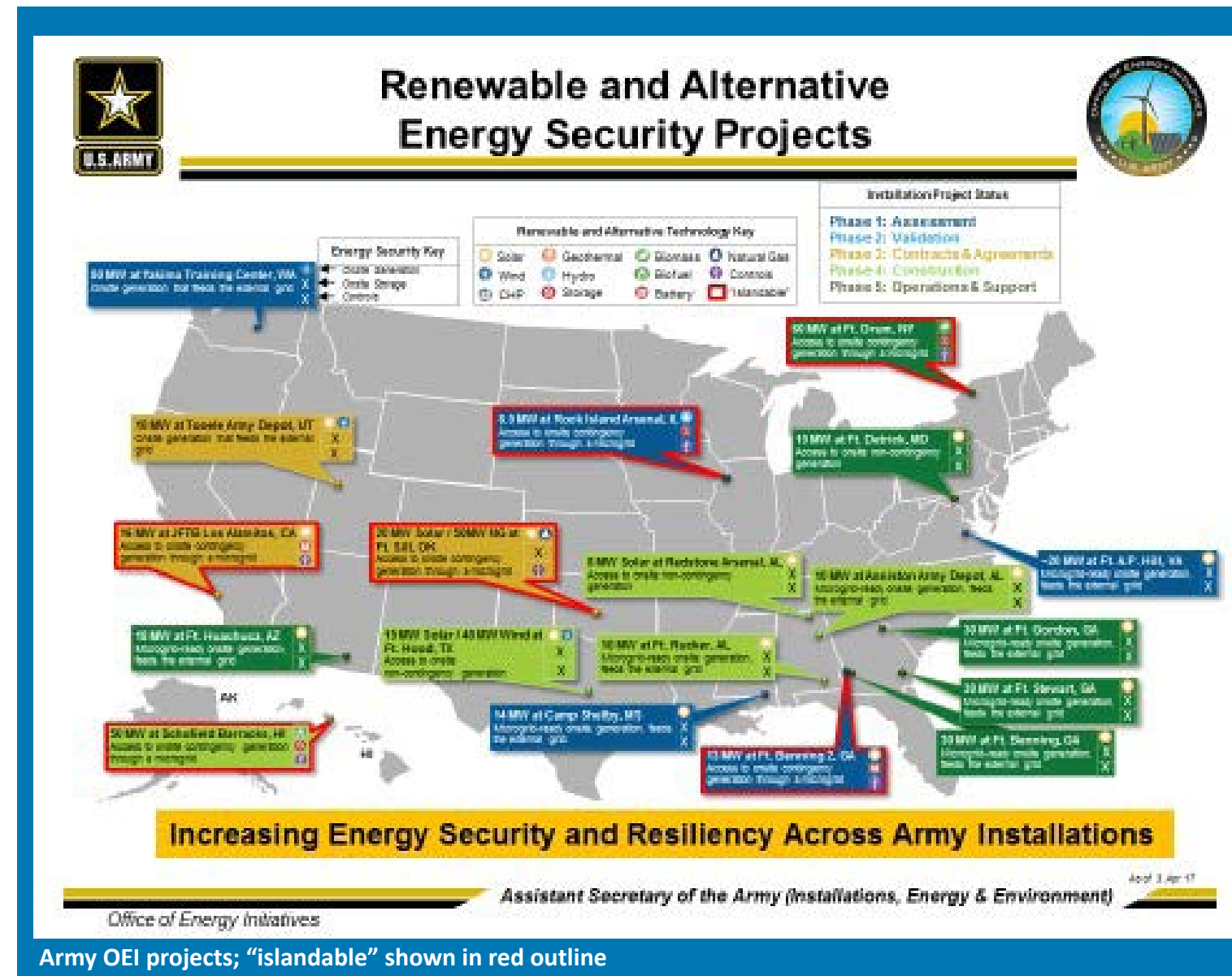
Fort Rucker, Ala.
10 MW Solar Renewable Energy Project
Ribbon Cutting Event: April 20



Anniston Army Depot, Ala.
10 MW Solar Renewable Energy Project
Ribbon Cutting Event: April 21



Fort Hood, Texas
65 MW Project, 15 MW Solar and 50 MW
Wind Renewable Energy Project
Ribbon Cutting Event: June



Chili Madness:

A decade of decadent gastronomical indulgence

By Dennis K. Bohannon

As has been the tradition for a decade, on March 4, 2016 the culinary heroes of chili perfectionism gathered to fill the halls of the Pentagon's E-Ring with wild and assorted aromas.

Chili for the masses is defined as a small hot-tasting pod of a variety of capsicum, used chopped (and often dried) in sauces, relishes, and spice powders. There are various forms with pods of differing size, color, and strength of flavor, such as cascabels and jalapeños.

For the ASA (IE&E) Cook-off, chili selections were defined in five categories: Texas Style with no beans; Chili Con Carne with beans and meat, Cincinnati Style with chocolate and cinnamon; Vegetarian with no meat, and White Chicken with no tomatoes.

The Chili Chefs and their crock pots began arriving in the ASA (IE&E) conference room before 10 a.m. Soon after the doors were sealed as the guest judges took their places and began their sampling.

Judging this year's highly coveted award winning gastronomical creations were Staff Sgt. Adam Berry from the Army Executive Dining Facility, Officer Bryan Janick and Officer Michael Zeigler from the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. On standby and guarding the entrance was Officer Tashmicha Harrington.

There were a total of 16 entries this year. Though they didn't trip any fire alarms, the festivities were literally powerful enough to kick circuit breakers up and down the hall, as well as bringing a few people to their knees trying to get things up and going again.

The judges slowly began working their way through the Rootin' Tootin's, Fritos, Banditos, Tostitos, Buffalos Roaming, Bang Bang Chili, Something's Burning, Black Lagoon, Capitol Punishment, Thumpers Thunder, Amplified, and several other delectable creations.

As the judges neared the finish line, sampling and grading each creation based on criteria that included color, smell, texture and taste - there were no screams of pain, only a few watery eyes, and minimal digestive distress.

Then came the final tally "We have a tie." Not to fear, organizers somewhat anticipated the dilemma. Front and center Officer Harrington, who provided the tie breaking vote.



Judges Staff Sgt. Adam Berry (bottom), Officer Bryan Janick (middle), and Officer Michael Zeigler sample and judge the entries. Officer Tashmicha Harrington (inset) was called in to provide the tie-breaking vote.
 Photos by Dennis K. Bohannon



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With the judging complete, the awards announced and handed out. The crock-pot prized creations were then opened to the masses for simple sampling, or a full dive-in bowl or two.

Many thanks to our contestants, our judges, and our Child Cook-off coordinators Michelle, Connie, Regina, Rick, Scott, et al. Also, thank everyone for their participation, additional support, attendance, and making this annual ASA (IE&E) tradition another memorable event.



This year's results:

First Place (above): "Something's Burning," created by ASA (CW)'s Lt. Col Tim Vail.



Second Place (below): "Bandito," created by our own Randy Robinson

"The Meanest Chili In Town"

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Third place (below): "Sweet Agita," created by ASA's very own Erica Ellis.



Exploring New Culinary Horizons:

Handle With Care

A short commentary by:
 Dennis K. Bohannon

After your first few decades in this world, it is often hard to learn something new, let alone being given the opportunity. However, I have recently learned a few lessons in the fine art of experiencing and planting hot peppers. You could say, this most recent adventure has been burned into my memory.

Last fall, during a regular meeting, Mr. Robinson casually asked if I liked “spicy peppers.” Well, having grown up in the fine state of Texas, I said “Absolutely. I grew up on a variety of jalapenos and light green chili peppers. I continue to eat them unaccompanied on a regular basis.”

With my reply, he walked over to a small jar sitting on his windowsill and removed a slender, deep red pepper. With near surgical precision he cut and offered me a 1/8th inch by 1/8th inch sized spec and said, “Try this.”

I looked at the tiny morsel and said to myself, “Really, I don’t think this is big enough to even find once I pop it into my mouth.” Nonetheless, I chomped it to mush as best possible until it was no longer locatable inside my mouth and sat in anticipation.

After a few seconds, a healthy tingle began to set in on the exact spot where that little chip had landed on my tongue. As my eyes began to water over, He asked, “What do you think? Spicy enough?” By that time a severe scorch began to rapidly spread across my palate -rapidly escalating multi-fold in intensity. Being raised in the great state of Texas where fear and pain are never exhibited, without hesitation, but with some difficulty, I replied, “Yea, those are pretty good.”

I was absolutely determined not to let that man see me cry. With another deep breath, as my face rapidly started to go numb, and while still holding my composure as best possible, I asked “What kind of pepper is that?” I don’t remember if he said it was a Ghost Pepper or a Carolina Reaper as my ears were beginning to ring, things becoming more blurry and my mind racing for ideas on how to escape. I survived the meeting. Having expanded my horizons, I gained a renewed interest and respect for those little time bombs.

It also gave me a flash-back to my days in Guam, where the sweet little old lady across the counter in a diner noticed my fondness for “spicy” delights. One day, she brought out a small bowl with three tiny peppers in it. She said, “Try this baby boonies pepper.” I picked up one of them. They resembled small orange and white pearls mounted on a green stem. “Humph ... what damage could this little baby thing do,” I uttered to myself as I popped the whole thing into mouth. Well, when I became cognizant of my surroundings again, to the delight of that sweet little old lady, I thought “Yea, maybe I should show the unknown a bit more respect.” I eventually bought a jar of these nuclear pearls with the intent of taking them back to Texas with me. Unfortunately, the jar leaked inside my desk, where it likely remains today unless a HAZMAT team has come and carried desk and all to the EOD Team for disposal.

Anyway, during other conversations, Mr. Robinson talked about growing his own peppers, drying them out in the oven, and then grinding them up so they could simply be sprinkled over any dish desired. I told him I’d be interested in trying to grow my own if I could find the seeds or the plants. He turned, grabbed a dried pepper, safely wrapped in a paper towel, and said, “Here. When you are ready to

plant the seeds, simply soak it in water for a day or so, then pop the seeds into a planter.”

Over the past few encounters, I had noticed that Mr. Robinson’s peppers were always wrapped, handled with extreme care, and that he washed his hands immediately after touching or even coming in close proximity of anything that had touched the pepper. Ok, lesson observed.

Fast forward past winter and into spring. I located the donated pepper, took it out of its jar and placed it in an open bowl of water, as instructed. Twenty-four hours later, time to peel and take the seeds out. My thinking was, “This is a many month old pepper, dried to a bone consistency, with tiny little seeds. How much damage could they do in their current state? Meticulously I removed and planted each and every seed. Then I casually looked over and noticed a very small sliver of pepper skin on the cutting board, and decided, “Well, let’s just see what this tastes like.” Sometimes it takes a couple of adventures before you truly learn. It was an instant repeat of paragraphs five and six.

Having learned that lesson a second time, and having observed my “pepper” mentor, I immediately washed my hands a couple of times. Then as my last tear from the delight of my tiny sample rolled down my face, I reached up and dried it away. Fortunately, I didn’t come in direct contact with my eyeball. Before that instant, I never knew how many nerve endings one has in their eyelid, and how sensitive they are. Fortunately my eyelid went numb after a minute or two. Horizons expanded by new experiences, again. Back to the sink, more washing.

We have a cat that had witnessed my “urban pepper farming” incident. I couldn’t tell if he was laughing or not, but I did understand he wanted a few of his little crunchy cat treats, so into the bag I go and pull out a few. As always, I laid them down in his favorite eating spot, he wandered over grabbed one ... well, I haven’t seen him since. Back to the sink, soap and water. Sorry kitty for accidentally expanding your horizons.

All was well until I got up the next morning. While sipping my morning coffee I began to casually nibble on my thumb nail, yep, that would be the same thumb I used to dig out those little seeds. To my surprise ... well, just revisit paragraphs five, six, and ten. Way too many new horizons for 3 a.m.

Today, the planted pepper seeds have been set out of the way. The cat is back home. Now we just wait for a little bud to pop up. But, for some reason I think this big adventure has yet to begin.

I’ll keep you posted, if I’m able.



The Ghost Pepper



The Boonie



The Carolina Reaper

Scoville Heat Units	Heat Rating	Pepper Varieties
15-16,000,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Pure Capsaicin
2-5,300,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Standard U.S Grade Pepper Spray
2,200,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Carolina Reaper
2,009,231	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Trinidad Moruga Scorpion
1,463,700	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Trinidad Scorpion Butch T
800,000-1,001,300	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Bhut Jolokia or "Ghost Pepper"
350,000-575,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Red Habanero
250,000-400,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	White Bullet Habanero
150,000-325,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Orange Habanero
100,000-300,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Datil
50,000-100,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Thai
15,000-50,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Pencil Hot
12,000-30,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Manzano
8,000-22,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Serrano
5,000-15,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Hungarian Wax Pepper
5,000-15,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴🔴	Caribe
2,500-10,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴	Red Fresno
2,500-8,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴	Jalapeno
2,500-5,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴	Cherry Bomb
1,000-5,000	🔴🔴🔴🔴	Hatch Chile
500-2,500	🔴🔴🔴	Anaheim
500-2,000	🔴🔴🔴	Padron
1,000-2,000	🔴🔴🔴	Poblano
500-1,000	🔴🔴🔴	Santa Fe
100-1,000	🔴🔴	Italian Long Hot
100-1,000	🔴🔴	Shishito
100-500	🔴🔴	Pepperoncini
0-1,000	🔴	Cubanelle
0 (NO HEAT)	X	Gypsy Pepper
0 (NO HEAT)	X	Bell Pepper

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Congress Approves Unlimited BRAC

Compiled from various websites and submitted by:
ODASA (IH&P)

On April 1st Congress authorized the U.S. Army to begin unlimited Base Realignment and Closures. Ok, maybe not.

Welcome to Spring! This too could be an April Fools' joke with the way our weather has changed this year. As we enjoyed the inevitable pranks online and at home, brought on by the beginning of April, did you pause to think "Where did April Fools' Day come from?"



Spaghetti Harvest in Ticino

Historians have linked April Fools' Day to ancient festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises; the Festival of Lud, the Celtic god of humor; and the Feast of Fools, where the Lord of Misrule was elected for the day to turn rules upside down.

There is also conjecture that April Fools' is linked to the vernal equinox, the onset of Spring, when Mother Nature fools us with changing, unpredictable weather.

Also called All Fools' Day, historians speculate that celebrations date back to 1582, when France switched to the Gregorian calendar, officially moving the 1st day of the year to 1 January instead of 25 March, as had been promoted by Christianity to link the new year to the celebration of Easter.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the New Year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

In France, these included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person. Popularized in England in 1700, records exist of English pranksters playing practical jokes on each other, sending people on "fools' errands" and inviting visitors to proceed to the Tower of London to watch the annual "Washing of the Lions" in the River Thames.

More recently, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio, TV stations and Web sites have participated in the April 1st tradition of



reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled the masses.

The acknowledged leader in April Fools' shenanigans remains the British Broadcasting Corporation, who aired a report on 1 April, 1957, showing footage of Swiss farmers people harvesting noodles from trees and claiming that they were experiencing a record spaghetti crop.

In 1974, residents of Sitka, Alaska were convinced that their long dormant volcano, Mount Edgecumbe, was active again due to the smoke rising from its top.

In truth, a local prankster named Porky Bickar had flown hundreds of old tires into the volcano's crater and then lit them on fire.

In 1996, Taco Bell, the fast-food restaurant chain, duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, Burger King attempted to top Taco Bell by advertising a "Left-Handed Whopper," inspiring scores of clueless customers requesting the fake sandwich.

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Happy Birthday Greetings



May		
Col. Jenn Mitchell	ODASA-E&S	2nd
Steve Hearne	ODASA-ESOH	2nd
Pat Dagon	Exec Ofc	17th
Michelle Soares	Exec Ofc	17th
Scott Chamberlain	ODASA-IH&P	18th
Rick Ballard	ODASA-E&S	25th
Eric Fox	ODASA-SI	30th



June		
Paul Volkman	ODASA-E&S	7th
Mary-Jeanne Marken	ODASA-IH&P	7th
Soo Watson	RM&S	10th
Nathan Cornell	ODASA-E&S	16th
Phyllis Owens	RM&S	16th
Richard Kidd	ODASA-SI	16th
Todd Hunter	ODASA-IH&P	21st
Alicia Waters	RM&S	30th



July		
Maria Margary	Exec Ofc	13th
Holly Guzowski	ODASA-IH&P	27th