

Energy Awareness Message from  
Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

As October, Energy Awareness Month, draws to a close, I thought it important to remind the Navy and Marine Corps that energy reform and energy conservation are more than ideas to think about only one month out of the year. Energy reform must inform and shape every decision we make during research, development, and procurement of our systems, during training operations, and during daily life aboard ship, on base, and in our homes. It requires the efforts of every Sailor and Marine from the newest seaman recruits and privates to our admirals and generals.

I recently committed the Navy and Marine Corps to meet five ambitious energy targets by 2020. Target 1: by 2020, half of our total energy consumption, ashore and afloat, will come from alternative sources. Target 2: by 2020, we will make half of our installations net-zero energy consumers, using solar, wind, ocean, and geothermal power generated on base. Target 3: by 2016, the Navy will sail the Great Green Fleet, a carrier strike group composed of nuclear ships, hybrid electric ships running biofuel, and aircraft flying on biofuel. Target 4: by 2015, the Department of the Navy will cut in half the amount of petroleum we use in our commercial vehicle fleet through phased adoption of hybrid, electric, and flex fuel vehicles. Target 5: effective immediately, the Navy and Marine Corps will change the way contracts are awarded. Industry will be held contractually accountable for meeting energy efficiency targets.

These are formidable goals that require adoption of new fuels and development of new systems, as well as development of new energy efficient practices and techniques.

We need your help. You, Sailors and Marines, work with our systems and equipment every day. What good ideas do you have? How many times have you said, if only the Navy or Marine Corps did this - we would be better? If you are a Sailor or Marine with an idea on how to make a system more efficient or make a process better, tell your leadership. Senior enlisted leadership, help your people move good ideas up the chain of command.

With a consolidated Navy and Marine Corps effort, we will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce our tactical and strategic vulnerabilities, and we will make the Department of the Navy a government leader in energy reform.