



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Energy Training Event
San Diego, California
Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr.
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As prepared for delivery**

Ladies and Gentlemen, as today's first speaker I know it is my job to set the pace for today's summit. Considering a lot of today's focus is on energy conservation and management, I want to make sure I do my part. So I don't drain your batteries, I'll be efficiently brief, then I'll efficiently sit down.

As the Pacific Fleet commander, my first priority is to ensure our forces are ready to fight tonight, and it is in this context that I want to talk about energy.

Readiness to defend our nation tonight -- and tomorrow -- is our top concern. Energy conservation and management are important parts of that. When our nation calls, we can't afford a moment's hesitation. We've got to go like that, and the navy with the greatest "at sea endurance" has the advantage. That must be us, every time.

As everyone here knows, energy conservation is an increasingly important topic in our Navy, and one that is personally important to me because it is an effective tool that gives our forces an edge over any potential adversary we may face.

It might surprise some to know that as a warfighting commander, I've spent time working with our State of Hawaii partners on several energy initiatives like the Solar Array that is going in at Waipio. We welcome ongoing planning of the elevated light rail system that will make a difference in providing needed congestion relief. This is especially important considering the increase in population, tourism, and the approximately 700 new NOAA workers all transiting our region at the same time. I've also approved further study of Pearl Harbor as a candidate for a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal.

I have also recently visited the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, only a few miles from my headquarters building. Red Hill is an engineering marvel that I consider an important strategic resource and a national treasure.

I am personally involved in energy issues because I truly believe that it will help us to be a better warfighting force, to be where it matters, when it matters...just as we were a few months ago for Operation Damayan, when our naval forces responded to assist the people of the Philippines in the wake of one of the most powerful typhoons in recorded history. We couldn't do that unless we were already there. Forward presence matters.

As San Diego-based warfighters like Vice Admiral Tom Copeman will tell you, it takes a lot of time and fuel to get anywhere in the Pacific.

When you get a chance, get on a computer and bring up google earth, take that 3D globe and manipulate it around until you see the entire Pacific Ocean on the screen. You'll see that it

covers fully half the planet -- half! It's a visual you just can't see on a 2D map, a vivid illustration of the vastness of the Pacific. But no matter how big it is, I view the Pacific not as something that separates us from our allies, partners and friends, but rather a pathway that binds us together.

Now, admittedly, it's a long pathway, this "Tyranny of Distance" and it goes a long way in explaining why fuel is essential and lots of it...and why energy efficiency matters.

Energy efficiency is something we can't defer to tomorrow. Hope is not a COA. We must advance energy efficiency at the operational level today. The key to being relevant tomorrow is to lead today. From my experience, there is no force or organization as adaptive and innovative as the United States Navy.

This was clearly seen two years ago when we saw the Great Green Fleet Demonstration off the coast of Hawaii during RIMPAC 2012. There our predecessors demonstrated the use of a bio-fuel blend and other innovative energy solutions. When you think about our Navy's nuclear platforms, and the ships and aircraft powered by bio-fuels, we're well postured to reach SECNAV's and CNO's energy conservation goals for 2020.

They're concrete goals, they're challenging goals, and they're achievable.

So today, I'm challenging all of you to work to change the Fleet's mindset. Everyone must understand that, in order to maintain our readiness to fight tonight, we must not only promote energy awareness, we must walk the walk. Instead of saving energy when you can, save energy unless you can't.

And I know we have the right people in the room here. We have the operators who execute tasking, we have fleet planners and schedulers who provide that tasking, we have the SYSCOMs, NAVSEA and NAVAIR, that are bringing new technologies to the fleet including those biofuels, hybrid electric drives for DDGs and the big deck amphib, and analyzing procedures like Smart Tanking for aircraft flight profiles that have the potential to save millions in fuel. These are exciting times and I'm glad to see such a great team here today to help bring it all together.

So today it gives me great pleasure to introduce a leader who knows the importance of warfighting readiness, one of the architects of this summit, the Honorable Mr. Dennis McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment.

Admiral McGinn served 35 years in uniform, having been a fighter pilot, a test pilot, and the Commanding Officer of the USS WICHITA -- an oiler, how appropriate -- and the mighty USS RANGER. He returned to San Diego as the Commander of the mighty US Third Fleet. And he was the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs (N7) where he oversaw the development of all future Navy capabilities.

Like Occam's razor, he had a reputation in the Fleet for an uncanny ability to cut through the bureaucracy to get to the heart of the matter...simply, quickly and effectively. Just what we need today.

He's been a past member of several steering committees that are especially applicable here, including the Energy Future Coalition, the United States Energy Security Council, and the Bipartisan Policy Center Energy Board...not to mention that he was the former President of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), co-chair of the CNA Military Advisory Board and an international security senior fellow at the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Besides being a graduate of the world's greatest institution of learning, the United States Naval Academy, he's attended the national security program at the Kennedy School of Government, and was a CNO strategic studies fellow at the Naval War College.

So he clearly has the tools, the education and the experience we need here...and now, he's got point for the Navy's efforts for energy conservation among many other things.

Ladies and gentlemen, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, the Honorable Dennis McGinn.