Marine Corps Bases win Energy Awards

Since 1991, October has been proclaimed as National Energy Awareness Month by the President of the United States. This year, President Obama declared it “Energy Action Month” to help spur a call to action to save energy. The Marine Corps answered the call and is pushing to excel in all aspects of Energy.

Each year at this time, the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) recognizes Department of the Navy (DoN) installations for performance in Energy and Water Management. There are four categories or recognition, with Platinum as the highest, followed by Gold, Blue and not rated. In 2012, five Marine Corps installations achieved the Platinum rating and recognition; they were Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, GA. Two of these installations were further recognized by the SECNAV as the Marine Corps Installation Energy Award Winners.

The 2012 SECNAV energy award winners are Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (Large Base) and Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany, GA (Small Base). These winners exceeded key objectives and made significant strides in accomplishing energy goals.

MCB Camp Pendleton’s energy management strategy targets improving facility operations and increasing renewable energy generation on site. The base has reduced energy intensity (consumption / square foot) 20% compared to their 2003 baseline. During FY 2011, construction of multiple photovoltaic (PV) systems increased on site renewable energy capacity to 4.5 MWs producing nearly 7,000 megawatt hours (MWH) or 20% of the Base electrical demand. Over the past decade, MCB Camp Pendleton has made significant investments to improve energy efficiency and install energy metering capabilities.

MCB Camp Pendleton

MCLB Albany has reduced energy intensity (consumption / square foot) by 19% compared to their 2003 baseline. The primary energy consumer at Albany is the Maintenance Center which rebuilds and repairs combat support equipment. Utilizing the combination of a Power Purchase Agreement to acquire methane gas from a nearby, municipal landfill and an Energy Savings Performance Contract to install a state-of-the-art Combined Heat and Power Generator, the installation now provides 1.9 MWs of renewable electricity to support the Maintenance Center. Across the Base, management and control system upgrades for buildings provide better control of HVAC systems while lighting upgrades included high output T8 fluorescent lights, occupancy sensors, and day lighting.

MCLB Albany

Both of these installations truly excelled And they were further recognized as recipients of the 2012 Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) award for individual projects. FEMP considers programs and individual projects from all agencies in the federal government.

MCB Camp Pendleton was recognized for the Box Canyon Landfill 1.48MW PV project. It utilized American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding and was constructed on a closed landfill. The project represents the largest PV system on a Marine Corps base – and ranks among the largest solar installations in San Diego County. Consisting of 6,300 KD235 modules produced locally by Kyocera Solar Inc. at its San Diego facility, the system stands on the site of the Box Canyon landfill – effectively transforming unusable land into a site producing renewable energy. While the system is capable of generating enough electricity to power roughly 400 homes annually, it also reduces the carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 million pounds.

MCLB Albany was recognized for the landfill gas (LFG) cogeneration plant. The plant is able to produce electricity on site, which will

offset the purchase of electricity as well as natural gas for steam production. In addition to energy efficiency, reduced conventional energy use and renewable energy cogeneration, this will also provide energy security and reliability benefits. The LFG power plant can operate in parallel with the utility or in island mode, and can run using only LFG or LFG blended with natural gas. In the event of an electrical utility outage, the generator will provide power to the maintenance center's critical loads, which are essential to supporting various Marine Corps missions worldwide.

Congratulations to Camp Pendleton, MCLB Albany, and all of the Platinum Energy Installations for their recognition as outstanding stewards of our Nation’s resources and for continuing to set the bar high for all.