



New Agreement to Move Solar Energy, REPO Forward at MCICOM-West Bases

The Honorable Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus recently signed a renewable energy contract with the Western Area Power Administration and Sempra U. S. Gas and Power that will bring additional solar power to Department of the Navy installations in the western U.S. This support for the Renewable Energy Program Office (REPO) efforts includes Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and Marine Corps Recruitment Depot-San Diego – all located in California. MCICOM-West Commander, Brigadier General Edward Banta participated in the agreement signing ceremony with Secretary Mabus at Naval Base Coronado.

“When you think of Marines you probably don’t think of art and the environment,” said Secretary Mabus. “But they’ve been at the forefront for years, changing energy. Changing the way we get it and the way we use it.”

The newly-signed agreement will begin providing solar energy to the Marine Corps bases in December 2016 from solar panels currently being constructed in Arizona. According to Bob Griffin, Executive Director, Department of the Navy REPO, the long-term power purchase is the largest renewable energy purchase by a federal agency and comes at a time that was right for the deal as module costs for power sources have flattened out, project debt has become cheaper and regulations require an increased production of energy from renewable sources in California.

The Department of the Navy’s Renewable Energy Program Office began its efforts in May 2014 to help the Marine Corps and Navy meet the goal of bringing one gigawatt of renewable energy into procurement by the end of 2015 and increase the department’s overall energy security, operational capability and resource availability at installations.