SECNAV outlines new energy initiatives support program

Story and photo by MCC Samuel Shavers, Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus delivered the keynote address at the National Clean Energy Summit 4.0 in Las Vegas Aug. 30.

The summit brought together leaders of industry, government, and those specializing in research and development to chart the course for the future of energy in America.

Mabus told attendees that "changing the way the United States uses, produces, and acquires energy is one of the central policy challenges that confront us as a nation."

While there are many reasons why the Navy has prioritized energy independence and energy security, Mabus stressed the most important is because doing so addressees a vulnerability and allows the Navy and Marine Corps to be better warfighters.

Mabus said President Obama has authorized the Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Navy to invest up to $510 million over the next three years.

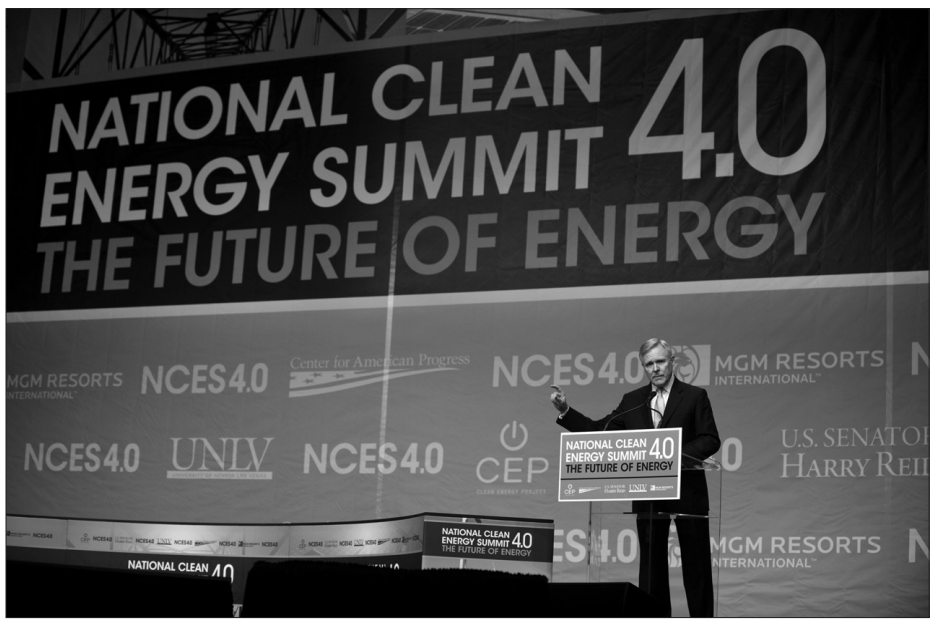
"The combined effort of these three departments is a powerful force that will decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil, position American companies to be global leaders in the production of advanced drop-in biofuels, and create jobs for American farmers and American companies," said Mabus.

The Department of the Navy has made steady progress in testing and certifying its aircraft, ships and tactical vehicles with drop-in biofuels and alternative energy sources.

At the Clean Energy Summit, Mabus announced the next highly visible milestone the Navy will reach will occur this weekend when all six of the Blue Angels flight demonstration team perform using a 50/50 blend of drop-in biofuel during the Pax River Labor Day Air Show.

"This will be the first time an entire unit has flown on a biofuel mix," Mabus said.

Vice President Biden and Secretary Chu also delivered speeches to the veteran business executives, energy policy innovators, and senior public officials attending the Energy Summit.



Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus delivers the keynote address at the National Clean Energy Summit 4.0 in Las Vegas Aug. 10. The summit brought together leaders of industry, government, and research and development to chart the course for the future of energy in America.

SECNAV delivered his speech a day after he announced that the Naval Postgraduate School would begin developing a dedicated energy graduate degree program in the fall.

For more news from Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs, visit www.navy.mil/secnav/index.asp.

Fleet master chief remembers 9/11 victims

By FLTCM(SW/AW) John Minyard

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the attacks that changed our lives and our Nation forever. We will commemorate the loss of nearly 3,000 people killed during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. on Sept. 11, 2001.

It is hard to believe so much time has passed. Many of you were not even in the service when the attacks happened, and yet to this very day you and your families are asked to make personal sacrifices so that such events never happen again.

Since 2001, our Armed Forces have been engaged abroad, to bring stability and security to our world. It has been a difficult task - more difficult than we imagined when we undertook it nearly 10 years ago, but even had we known what it was going to take to defeat the enemy our resolve has never waivered.

To do less would be to dishonor the ultimate sacrifices of so many proud Americans that served our country. I was thinking about this the other day while watching *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) pull into Pearl Harbor for a liberty call on her way home from deployment. As I watched her steam past the Arizona Memorial where a different generation of Sailors and service members lost their lives during an attack, I was reminded of what an honor and privilege it is to serve in the U.S. Navy.

You know, I often wonder about the seemingly insurmountable challenges they faced and overcame, and how they would view our service today. We know that those men and women knew the meaning of sacrifice and understood what a great responsibility they bore on their shoulders, but they did so with honor and firm resolve.

Coast Guard rescue team from Sandy Hook, NJ, races to the scene of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 Tom Sperduto

The same kind of courage and commitment was on display ten years ago when people rushed to help victims, not just at the World Trade Center, but at the Pentagon and aboard Flight 93 where the heroes who rushed the cockpit showed more courage and knew what they were about to sacrifice for others.

Do you think even one of those people would turn down a chance to trade places with us today and serve their country with honor?

I want you to think about that this Labor Day and this Sept. 11 when you're enjoying the weekend with family and friends. What decisions will you make and could they dishonor or bring harm to others. It's simple, just stop for a moment and ask yourself "Do my actions honor those I swore to protect and defend, do I honor those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and would they be proud of what I have accomplished", or disappointed that their sacrifice was squandered away by someone who does not appreciate what it means to serve your country?

I always prefer to end things on a cheery note, so before I go there is another group of people who serve their country honorably and deserve more than a little respect for the sacrifices and contributions they make on our behalf, especially when you consider they aren't getting paid for any of it. I'm talking about our Command Ombudsmen who generously donate their time and energy into improving quality of life for our family members and making sure their sacrifices don't go unnoticed while we're away from home.

In case you didn't know, Sept. 14 is Ombudsman Appreciation Day and this year will mark 41 years of service they have provided. Please join me in saying thanks to our Ombudsmen for their support and contributions to our Navy family.

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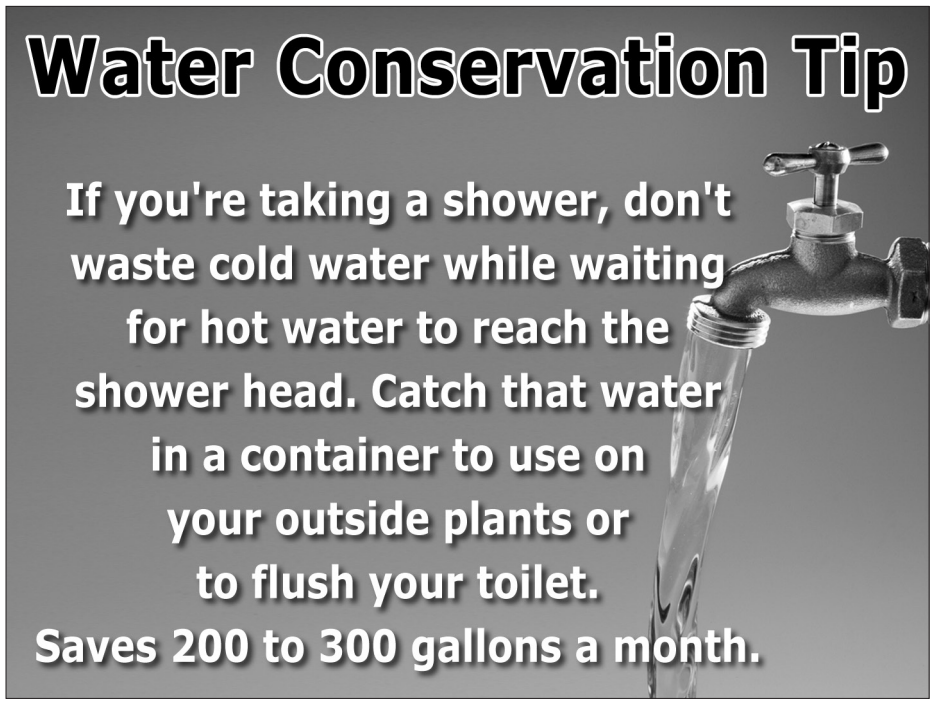
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