

# 'GreenTruck': Driving force behind energy reduction

By Penny Randall  
Staff Writer

---

Naval Air Station Meridian has expanded its energy efficient fleet of vehicles.

Four new GreenTrucks -- an electric and solar powered truck made by Vantage -- arrived recently at NAS Meridian's Public Works Department.

Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Lance Coe said he expects 10 more of the "Green" vehicles to arrive on board the installation over the next two years.

Presidential Executive Order 13423 mandated government facilities to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2015. Other legislation includes the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

"These vehicles are here for people to use on base," said Roger Dozier, NAS Meridian's Resource Efficiency Manager. "These vehicles will reduce our reliance on petroleum products -- which is one of the President's and CNO's top priorities. At NAS Meridian we are constantly developing ways to reduce en-

ergy and water consumption."

Currently one of the GreenTrucks is assigned to the FEAD Department.

"It's a comfortable vehicle," said Jason Clayton who routinely drives the GreenTruck. "We make every attempt to drive it to places on base."

NAS Meridian's vehicle fleet already contains 11 GEM cars which are completely electric powered vehicles. The difference between the GEM cars and the GreenTrucks is the large solar panel on top of the GreenTrucks. The solar panel aids in charging the batteries used to power the vehicle. It still must be "plugged in" for full electrical charge.

The two-passenger vehicle features drop-down removable sides and tailgate, front tow hitch and four-wheel hydraulic brakes. The power assisted disc and drum brakes are powerful enough to make a quick stop. The DC electric motor has plenty of torque and is constructed for performance and durability.

The truck has six batteries on board the vehicle with a life of up to 30,000 miles. The GreenTruck has a maximum range of up to 40 miles per 4-6 hour charge. The acceleration is zero to 25MPH in five seconds.