

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**USDA Satellite Features Feed**

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**FEATURE – USDA, NAVY JOIN FORCES ON RENEWABLE ENERGY**

INTRO: An agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Navy could result in everything from the navy's cars to ships being run on biofuels. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:49)

THE UNITED STATES NAVY WANTS TO DEVELOP BIOFUELS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO COSTLY FOSSIL FUELS FROM UNSTABLE PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE NAVY SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AT THE PENTAGON TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.

Ray Mabus, Navy Secretary: We're moving to expand the testing of biofuel blends to our marine gas turbines that we use in the surface navy and to our tactical vehicles like the one sitting here today. By 2016 we're going to deploy the great green fleet, which is going to be powered entirely by alternative fuels and by 2020 the Navy and Marine Corps will produce half of all our energy from alternative sources.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK SAID RELYING ON HOMEGROWN BIOFUELS WILL HELP THE NAVY AND RURAL AMERICA.

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary: The capacity for us to move away from unreliable foreign sources of energy puts us back in control of our energy destiny and I think that the military probably understands that better than just about anyone.

There are enormous jobs in ethanol production, facilities, maintenance. Processing facilities that must be built by those in the construction business in rural America. Engineers and technicians operating those processing facilities and designing them in rural America.

AND VILSACK HOPES ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY CONSIDER CONVERTING TO BIOFUELS.

Vilsack: Begin to consider all the planes, all the ships, all the cars, all the tanks all the equipment. Enormous opportunity for expansion.

THE U-S MILITARY USES NINETY PERCENT OF THE ENERGY CONSUMED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN WASHINGTON FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE I'M BOB ELLISON.