

**DRAFT SPEECH – LAST UPDATED 31 MARCH by Allison**

Department of the Navy and United States Department of Agriculture  
Biofuels Partnership Kickoff Event  
April 6, 2010  
MCBH Kaneohe Bay Officers Club

**Remarks by the Honorable Jackalyn Pfannenstiel  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Energy, Installations & Environment)**

**(planning for 10-15 minutes speaking)**

Thank you Chris, for that very kind introduction.

I am delighted to be here today on behalf of the Department of the Navy. This is my first event as Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations and Environment and I could not have imagined a more appropriate one.

I would like to recognize Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan for her encouraging remarks. Thank you for USDA's role in this partnership and specifically for this event.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Governor Aiona for being here this morning and committing the State of Hawaii to this partnership.

Major General Pawling from the Pacific Fleet is also here along with Admirals Smith and Giorgione. Thank you for coming.

Finally, much thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped put this event together and to you, the participants, for taking part in this informative forum.

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President Obama is committed to changing the way energy is used and produced in the United States. As he stated just last week, "moving towards clean energy is about our security, our economy and our planet." He has challenged us to break from old habits and start thinking of new, smarter approaches. As government agencies, we have a responsibility to take ambitious actions to address energy. And, in fact, we can have a great effect. The Department of Defense alone uses over ninety percent of the energy consumed by the Federal Government. The Federal Government, in turn, uses two percent of all energy consumed in the United States. Working with Agriculture and others, the Department of Navy can, indeed, greatly impact new ways to produce and use energy.

You may have heard that the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus committed all Marines and Sailors to five aggressive energy goals last October. These goals are ambitious but I believe, we all believe, we can meet them.

The first goal commits the Department to receiving *half* of its total energy consumption from alternative sources by 2020.

Second, the Department of the Navy has changed its acquisition process and will now hold industry contractually accountable for meeting energy targets and system efficiency requirements.

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Third, by 2020 at least *half of all* of the Department's shore-based energy will be produced on our installations and *half of our bases* will be net-zero in terms of consumption.

Fourth, by 2015 petroleum usage in our 50,000 strong commercial fleet of non-combat vehicles will be *reduced by half*.

Finally, the Department will demonstrate a Green Strike Group by 2012 and deploy it by 2016. This includes our F/A -18 Hornet running on a half biomass fuel mix. Appropriately, we are calling it our Green Hornet and it will perform a test flight this month on Earth Day.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed this past January by the Department of the Navy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture formed a partnership that builds upon each of the two departments' independent strengths. Additionally, it brings together our mutual experiences in renewable energy and biofuel development. This event today is one of the first steps subsequent to that MOU and I can see it has great potential for allowing us all to reach our goals.

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You may wonder why the Navy is so interested in alternative energy resources like biofuels. It's fundamentally about increasing our energy security. And we see increased *energy security* as a key in achieving increased *national security*. Let me explain further.

Like our nation in general, the Department of the Navy is heavily dependent on petroleum-based fuels. And, as you know, much of this petroleum comes from outside our borders. Therefore, when we enhance our energy security – whether it is through increasing our use of alternative fuels, decreasing our energy consumption, or applying the latest technologies – we strengthen our combat effectiveness.

I'll give you a tactical example. Think of a Marine located in one of our forward operating bases in Afghanistan. We need to get fuel to that Marine. By the time the fuel arrives in the region, travels along a supply caravan and eventually reaches that Marine, *one* gallon of that fuel can cost us 30 dollars or more. Not to mention that the valuable personnel used to transport and protect that fuel could have a greater impact in other jobs. Our resources, then, could and should be more strategically deployed.

The Department of the Navy is one of the largest consumers of power in the State of Hawaii. And the Department alone consumes three percent of the State's total petroleum while the Department of Defense, as a whole, consumes almost five and a half percent.

We, the Department of the Navy, have had a long history and important role in the State of Hawaii and so we are especially proud to be a partner in, and supporter of, this biofuel development effort.

Many technologies will play important roles in this effort. And, in fact, we are already testing and developing many of them right here in Hawaii.

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Biofuels are one piece of this puzzle. Energy efficiency is another. There is no one silver bullet that will allow us all to meet our energy goals. We must use partnerships to build on the strengths of our many existing relationships.

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I would like to leave you all with a couple final thoughts.

The Department of the Navy is here to help make this biofuel partnership a success. I hope you take the opportunity today and tomorrow to express your concerns, learn more about the opportunities available and have your questions answered. We are looking for your ideas and innovations.

We all have high expectations but also a strong belief that this partnership will be successful. We understand that bold steps and great ambitions will be necessary. The Department of the Navy, however, has not been one to back away from the call for boldness or ambition.

How we use energy in the future will shape the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense, as a whole. This partnership will be crucial in helping to define our energy future.

Thank you.