Energy Action Month – Energy Resilience Gives Us the Power to Win

October is Energy Action Month and this year’s theme, “Energy Resilience Gives Us the Power to Win” reinforces the importance of the Army having a resilient and secure installation energy and water posture at its installations and enduring locations overseas to enable Warfighters to accomplish their mission.

Energy Resilience, or uninterrupted access to energy, is essential for Army readiness and ensuring the Total Army can deploy, fight, and win. Army assets are increasingly at risk for natural, physical, and cyber threats and must be able to withstand disruption in electricity, fuel, and water supplies. Currently, our installations rely, with few exceptions, on commercial energy and water sources to accomplish critical missions. In order to reduce mission risk, the Army needs to prioritize its ability to provide resilient energy and water supplies, facilities and infrastructure to continue supporting those critical missions during a power outage.

Energy and water resilience, efficiency, and affordability impact all Army missions. The Army is modernizing installation and operational energy and water programs, technology, and infrastructure to increase the Army’s ability to support multi-domain operations. Through diligent energy management, our installations can become robust and resilient power projection platforms where our Soldiers live, train, and work.

The Army conducts Energy Resilience Readiness Exercises (or “pull the plug” exercises) at installations to identify capability gaps. These exercises test an installation’s emergency and standby energy generation systems, infrastructure, equipment, and fuel that support critical missions. The fenceline is now the frontline – we must remain vigilant in protecting Army assets.

The Army is the largest consumer of electricity in the Federal Government, spending more than a billion dollars on installation and operational energy a year. Commands at all levels must prioritize energy resilience requirements to ensure reliable energy to sustain critical missions and reduce consumption. By taking action and making informed decisions, we possess the power to reduce energy consumption and improve resilience.

During October, it is everyone’s responsibility to become energy aware, and to apply this awareness throughout the year. We urge the entire Army to remain mindful of energy use, reduce consumption, and promote energy awareness.

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