



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NORTHWEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# NAVAL BASE KITSAP and NAVFAC NORTHWEST Celebrate Earth Day 2014

SILVERDALE, Wash. – Naval Base Kitsap and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest celebrate Earth Day everyday by reducing energy consumption, increase energy awareness, and work to preserve and protect the environment for the future.

Earth Day is a special day for the U.S. Navy, its Sailors, civilians and contractor workforce. Its significance is best illustrated by those astronauts who have orbited high above our one and only home for which the Navy is entrusted to preserve. While everyone needs to be conscious of preserving the Earth every day, Earth Day gives us an opportunity to take time from our busy lives and acknowledge just how much this “tiny pea, pretty and blue” means to us.

“Two critical goals that Naval Base Kitsap is currently on track to meet are a 30 percent reduction in energy intensity by 2015 (from a 2003 baseline), and a 26 percent reduction in water consumption by 2020 (from a 2007 baseline),” said Captain Tom Zwolfer, commanding officer of Naval Base Kitsap.

Energy production and consumption can cause pollution but energy conservation presents a tremendous opportunity to conserve those resources that make our planet so special. As we celebrate this Earth Day it is important to take note of what each of us can do to preserve our home and environment for future generations. Every nation can benefit from the wise use of energy.

“The first day or so we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth.” Saudi Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud.

As the single largest domestic user of energy, the U.S. federal government spends more than \$9 billion each year to power its vehicles, operations, and approximately 500,000 facilities throughout the United States. Every federal agency is focused on efficient energy management at their facilities because energy efficiency protects the environment and natural resources for all Earth’s residents, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves taxpayer dollars, and contributes to our national security.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command has been providing facilities engineering solutions to the Navy since 1842. NAVFAC’s unique combination of facilities engineering and construction; maintenance and facility services, environmental planning, stewardship and remediation, and energy are just a few of the skills that support and defines their contribution to our Nations’ defense.

To ensure that each federal agency has a shared path to follow, several federal regulations were established, such as the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Presidential Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, which all require federal agencies to meet a number of energy and water management goals. These goals range from reducing energy and water consumption to designing more efficient facilities to reducing fossil fuel consumption and associated greenhouse gasses within fleet vehicles.

“The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile. All of us down there ... have to keep it clean and good,” Israeli Ilan Ramon.

With so many major global challenges tied to energy use, including air pollution, climate change, volatile fuel supplies and costs, aging energy infrastructure as well as reliance on fossil fuels, it makes sense to choose energy efficiency as a basic work ethic and lifestyle.

“It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and (it) blotted out the planet Earth. I didn’t feel like a giant, I felt very, very small,” American Neil Armstrong.

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***Naval Facilities Engineering Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command***

NAVFAC is the Systems Command that delivers and maintains quality, sustainable facilities, acquires and manages capabilities for the Navy’s expeditionary combat forces, provides contingency engineering response, and enables energy security and environmental stewardship. Additional updates and information about NAVFAC can be found on social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Become a Fan at [www.facebook.com/navfac](http://www.facebook.com/navfac) and follow us at [www.twitter.com/navfac](http://www.twitter.com/navfac)