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Army planning for energy, water sustainability

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PHOTO CAPTION: The visioning workshop is key for getting installation “buy- in” and support for action plans. – Fort Irwin, Calif. (photo provided by AECOM Technology Corporation)

The extreme heat wave experienced by many over the summer adds to the challenge Army installations face as they work to meet mandated energy and water reduction goals. Not only has the consumption of these commodities gone up, so has the price tag. The requirement to meet goals, however, has not changed.

To help installations meet established goals, Army planners developed a roadmap that will help meet or exceed reduction goals outlined in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence Security Act of 2007 and Executive Order 13514 – Oct 5, 2009. These mandates address energy and water conservation currently and into the future with the intent that the U.S. would move toward greater energy independence and security.

The roadmap, called the Comprehensive Energy and Water Management Plan (CEWMP), outlines a long-range and visionary strategy. In 2008, the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, worked with Don LaRoque and Paul Volkman, both of Headquarters, Installation Management Command (HQIMCOM) at the time, to develop the strategy each installation will follow to develop the personalized CEWMP.

The IMCOM-directed CEWMP, under the leadership of Qaiser Toor, HQIMCOM, is managed by Huntsville Center’s Planning and Programming Branch. So far, eight installations have completed their CEWMP, 23 are in progress and 14 installations are scheduled. The 45 total continental U.S. installations are on track to be finished by September 2011.

Huntsville Center manages the contracts and process to develop the CEWMPs.

The CEWMP assesses existing energy and water infrastructure; focuses on building systems and infrastructure to address and improve sustainable goals; fosters the ultimate goals of an enduring Army that is enabled by secure and sustainable operations, systems and communities; and conveys a sustainability strategy for achieving compliance with the mandated energy and water reduction goals and promotes energy security through implementation. A standardized framework is used to help installations assess, measure, define and implement current and future energy and water strategies.

The process starts when an installation’s subject matter experts, key leaders and decision-makers attend an Energy and Water Visioning Workshop to consider the vision, goals and objectives for optimizing and sustaining energy and water systems. At the workshop, attendees assess existing data to provide a baseline of energy and water consumption

to establish reduction goals specified in the national mandates. An analysis provides overall “health” of each system; identifies opportunities and constraints associated with meeting energy and water security goals; and serves as the basis and justification for programming actions. The group then develops plan directives at the strategic level that include recommendations for additional studies, programs, best management practices and energy conservation measures.

Each project is kicked off by introducing the program and collecting data during a one day pre-visioning visit. Then the team returns to the installation for a week long visioning workshop and site survey. During this week, a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis is performed and energy and water profiles are formulated. Results from the SWOT analysis and the profiles are used to develop the action plans and the future focus areas. The week long charrette is attended by key stakeholders of the installation and an energy and water sustainability “vision statement” is completed.

Once the plan is complete and the project action plans are developed and prioritized, the document will become a useful tool that will go hand-in-hand with the installation’s real property master plan. The CEWMP also is intended to work closely with other studies such as the Energy Engineering Analysis Program, also managed by Huntsville Center, that ultimately forms the basis of DD1391 development.

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Acronyms List

CEWMP - Comprehensive Energy and Water Management Plan

HWIMCOM – Headquarters, Installation Management Command

SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

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