

# Warfighter Support Enhancement

By DLA Energy Americas West staff

The United States armed forces are widely recognized as the most formidable in the world. That military superiority is attributable in large part to the Department of Defense's commitment to realistic training scenarios, according to senior leaders. And the Defense Logistics Agency Energy plays a big part in supporting combat training that gives America's warfighters the edge they need.

Realistic combat training requires a steady diet of fuel. And, DLA Energy Americas West, responsible for supporting DLA Energy customers west of the Rocky Mountains, keeps three of the military's premier training programs fully fueled. The Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; the Navy's Fighter Weapon School, called Top Gun, at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., and the Air Force's Red Flag and Green Flag exercises at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., are all supported by the Americas West team.

"These are the 'Big Three' training and force projection facilities in the world," said DLA Energy Americas Commander Army Col. Bill Keyes, "and supporting them creates many fuel challenges."

### There at the inception

Once fuel contracts are awarded through DLA Energy business units at Fort Belvoir, Va., it becomes the mission of AMW to make sure clean, on-specification products reach the training facility. Two of DLA Energy America's primary inventory managers, Keith Embree and Dave DeHoag, work together to schedule delivery to the military Services' training facilities.

Because there are no local refineries in the region supporting DoD, and because other contract specifics can differ from year to year, "award patterns can be quite elaborate," explained Lee Oppenheim, AMW's deputy commander. "The supply pipeline is different in each case, and timing is everything, so planning begins at about 60 days prior to the start of an exercise."

Aviation Jet Fuel Grade JP8 is the primary fuel used throughout the training programs, and not just for air operations. The team places orders with suppliers using current contracts. Then the local quality assurance representative, Tom DiPaola or Clyde Flwellen, inspects and assures both the quality and quantity of fuel purchased from the suppliers.

Currently, JP8 for these locations is supplied to DLA Energy by one of two refineries: Chevron Richmond, Calif., or Shell Martinez, Calif. BP Cherry Point, Wash.; Valero Benecia, Calif.; and Exxon-Mobil Torrance, Calif., refineries have also held contracts in support of these locations.

The JP8 is amassed at DLA Energy's contract storage facility in the San Francisco Bay Area. Embree coordinates tanker schedules with the DLA Energy Tanker Division to move the JP8 to the Los Angeles Basin. JP8 ordered from supply contracts currently arrives at either of two L.A. Basin defuel support points—DFSP San Pedro or DFSP Carson—via a ship on charter to the Navy's Military Sealift Command. The validates quantity and quality of the fuel both upon arrival and again when it is discharged into the DFSP storage tanks.

### Delivering the goods

#### ***Nellis Air Force Base***

Nellis AFB is the home of the Air Force's premier military training area with more than 12,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land. With 1,900 possible targets, realistic threat systems and an opposing enemy force that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world, Nellis is the home of a "peacetime battlefield," providing combat air forces with the ability to train together in a realistic combat environment.

Red Flag and Green Flag exercises are held throughout the year to train aircrews

In addition to the "big three" combat training facilities, Defense Logistics Agency Energy Americas supports many training programs and exercises across the continental United States and South America. Here U.S. Marine Corps aircrewmembers refuel an AV-8B Harrier II aircraft during a training mission at Laguna Airfield at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., in October. The mission was part of Weapons and Tactical Instructor Course 1-11. Photo by Marine Cpl. Benjamin R. Reynolds.



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# DLA Energy fuels 'big three' DoD combat training facilities

from the United States, NATO partners and other allied countries in real combat situations.

“The exercises almost pull fuel faster than we can give it to them,” said AMW’s Bo Swenson, distribution manager. “It’s very challenging, and the trick is to ‘frontload’ the system with fuel because these exercises use more fuel in one day than most commercial airports do,” he explained.

DeHoag works with DLA Energy’s transportation partner Kinder Morgan Energy Pipelines to schedule shipments from the L.A. Basin through the KMEP network, allowing for a seven-day transit time. Ultimately, the JP8 is received into the KMEP Las Vegas storage facility under the careful surveillance of DLA Energy’s local QAR.

The QAR validates the fuel quality once again to assure the JP8 remains on-specification. The QAR must be especially vigilant; lax quality control procedures could result in the JP8 being tainted by another fuel type, Oppenheim explained.

During Red Flag exercises, the base consumes 6,000 to 8,000 barrels per day of JP8. Normally, batches of 25,000 barrels of fuel move through the line. So, to ensure adequate stock for the exercise, the team “frontloads” the supply.

“Just prior to any exercise, Embree works mightily to make sure all the available tankage at Las Vegas and on Nellis AFB is full,” AMW Commander Air Force Lt. Col. Tam Gaffney explained. Even with these preparations, sometimes the exercise consumes fuel so fast that AMW must request KMEP increase the parcel size to be 40,000, or even 75,000 barrels in order to meet mission needs.

The DLA Energy QAR Glenn Beshara tracks daily shipments and monthly receipt schedules during the Red Flag and Green Flag exercises. He maintains communication between Nellis’ fuels management team, KMEP and the AMW inventory manager.

### **Fort Irwin**

By fueling the Army’s National Training Center and the support battalion at Fort Irwin, DLA Energy fosters vital training of Army and other U.S. forces. NTC training is often supported by air assets from Nellis AFB as well.

The NTC focuses on battalion task force and brigade levels to provide “tough, realistic joint and combined arms training,” according to its website. The

U. S. Air Force instructors from the 12th Combat Training Squadron debrief tactical air control party students after the completion of a combat training scenario on the Fort Irwin Training Range, Calif., Nov. 1. Defense Logistics Agency Energy Americas West fuels training on Fort Irwin, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Naval Air Station Fallon, Calif., and numerous other facilities west of the Rocky Mountains. Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Rubi.

training helps commanders develop trained, competent leaders and soldiers, and it helps to identify unit training deficiencies, provide feedback to improve the force and prepare for success on the future joint battlefield. “The NTC conducts force-on-force and live-fire training for ground and aviation brigades in a joint scenario across a spectrum of conflict” which includes a “highly-lethal” opposing force.

Rotational combat exercises are held throughout the year to support Army, Air Force, Marine, Navy, Army reserve, NATO and allied country forces.

From DFSP San Pedro, DeHoag schedules truck assets to load JP8 for delivery to Fort Irwin. During each two-week exercise, the DFSP ships seven to eight truckloads per day, or about 50,000 gallons, to the NTC. QAR Talbert Hignight provides product quality surveillance at DFSP San Pedro, and QAR Glenn Beshara monitors truck receipts at Fort Irwin, where he takes product samples for analysis in order to meet product specification. Beshara also provides customer support for fuel issues related to upkeep and maintenance of the fuel distribution system to the Fort Irwin fuel group.

“His persistence in tracking daily shipments during these exercises and maintaining communications with the AMW inventory manager has allowed the organization to maximize contribution to the war fighter,” Gaffney said.

### **Naval Air Station Fallon**

NAS Fallon is the only U.S. Naval facility where advanced integrated Carrier Air Wing strike training can take place, combining realistic flight training in electronic warfare, air-to-ground, air-to-air weapons delivery, special weapons delivery, and enemy evasion tactics. Military aircrews from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Nevada Air National Guard train at NAS Fallon, located 70 miles east of Reno. Aircraft currently stationed at the base include the F/A-18, F-14, A-6, and F-5 jet aircraft, and the H-3 and HH-1 helicopters. The Naval Fighter Weapons School is also located here, pro-



viding strike planning and execution training opportunities in a dynamic, realistic, scenario-driven simulated wartime environment.

Training at NAS Fallon is ongoing yearround. The training period for each Carrier Air Wing Group is typically 30 days.

Last year, DLA Energy provided approximately 525,000 gallons of JP8 per month to NAS Fallon. This supported all traffic at NAS Fallon, both directly fueling the aircraft for Top Gun training and other aircraft used to transport personnel and material associated with the training exercises.

Currently JP8 is piped from the refinery in the Bay area to KMEP's Concord, Calif., station. Embree maintains liaison with KMEP and schedules deliveries into and out of the Concord terminal for use by all DLA

Energy customers in this pipeline segment.

JP8 arrives at the KMEP Sparks, Nev., DFSP with product quality and quantity surveillance performed by local QAR John Guzzardi. Once he validates the fuel quality, the JP8 is pumped to NAS Fallon, approximately 65 miles from the Sparks terminal. DFSP Fallon's base fuels facility can also receive via tank truck, also from the KMEP Sparks facility.

"We estimate this year's consumption will increase significantly," said Oppenheim. "There are, on average, 2,200 refuelings per month performed by the base fuels personnel."

The AMW QAR support to NAS Fallon is performed both on a set frequency interval and through some unscheduled on-site visits. Currently, a QAR visits the site semi-annually and keeps in touch through



many unscheduled phone and e-mail contacts, Guzzardi said.

NAS Fallon Fuel Director Steve Isaacson, a long-time and very experienced Navy employee, is also the DFSP's responsible officer. Along with his assistant, accountant D. Shaun Lamb, he is responsible for all the DFSP's infrastructure and oversees all the base fuel receipt and issues operations. These are performed by LB&B Associates Inc., a private contractor, under a DLA Energy facilities multi-year contract.

The AMW distribution group keeps a close eye on the projected fuel requests that the responsible officer submits, based on the responsible officer's weekly coordination with the Fallon NAS training flight section.

Then the AMW San Pedro distribution group slates fuel procurement from the current DLA Energy Bay Area refinery contracts or from pre-positioned DLA Energy stocks. The team coordinates with the KMEP pipeline scheduling office as the JP8 begins its long journey to Fallon NAS through the KMEP multi-product pipeline initial entry point in the Bay Area.

A coordinated AMW team effort is required to ensure NAS Fallon's requirements are satisfied, Oppenheim explained. Many inventory specialists and QARs take part in rendering service to NAS Fallon, both directly and indirectly.

"The QAR is also involved in providing assistance in reference to any issues with the Post, Camps and Sta-



**D**efense Logistics Agency Energy's Americas West supports realistic training at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., The exercises held there are challenging to support because of the rapid rate of fuel consumption associated with the number of aircraft participating.

Left, U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft fire chaff and flare countermeasures over the Nevada Test and Training Range Nov. 17. Approximately 40 C-17 Globemaster III and C-130s flew over the range to conduct air and ground operations as part of a bi-annual Air Force Weapons School mobility air forces exercise. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Gruenwald.

Right, An F-16 Fighting Falcon approaches the boom on a KC-135 Stratotanker to refuel Oct. 11 during a Red Flag training exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Red Flag tests aircrews' warfighting skills in realistic combat situations. U.S. forces and coalition forces were fueled by Defense Logistics Agency Energy-procured fuel. DLA is the nation's largest combat support agency. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Gruenwald.



tions DLA Energy contracts that deliver land vehicles fuel to Fallon NAS," he said.

At the end of the pipeline tail, the QAR's duties include witnessing or monitoring quality and quantity oversight of the JP8 batch receipts at the terminal just prior to the training location. The fuel batch cuts are also carefully additized with Fuel System Icing Inhibitor and Static Dissipater Additive during the batch cuts, and are line-injected as the fuel is being transferred and stored into the DLA Energy fuel dedicated, leased tanks in the terminal. The product stored in the leased tanks will undergo additional testing before it is approved for shipment to the base DFSP and other DLA Energy customers in the area.

### **Satisfying the customer**

Gaffney is proud of her team's support to the warfighting customer.

"Because the Americas West professionals strictly adhere to detail and maintain superior technical knowledge of the products, we have never purchased off-specification fuels for our customers, and we deliver products to them on time," she said. 