



United States Army Reserve 2019 Energy Action Month Message Energy Resilience Enables Army Readiness

As the warfighter continues to make strides in technology, adversaries are working hard to enhance capabilities that leverage vulnerabilities in creative and effective ways to maliciously target the United States and our allies.

For instance, foreign military intelligence hackers continue to wage cyberwarfare by testing their capabilities on many countries. To date, these battles (that transcend traditional attacks on physical boarders) have caused an untold amount of businesses to lose infrastructure, close and/or majorly disrupt services such as power grids, mining and transport companies, hospitals, banks and more. Not to mention, they easily spread to other countries and cause millions in damages.

While these documented efforts may seem like faraway problems for another day, evolving technology puts threats within an arm's reach of Reservists and civilians. Electricity, fuel and other energy resources are mission essential and it's only a matter of time before our assets could be targeted. As recent as 2018, foreign adversaries targeted U.S. energy and other critical infrastructure sectors to gain remote access to networks and gather information on industrial control systems. The 2018 National Defense Strategy states, "It is undeniable that the homeland is no longer a sanctuary." The Army Reserve must continue to take steps that ensure critical missions are sustained.

As a lethal and combat-ready force, unforeseen natural disasters and physical attacks on energy supplies can leave us vulnerable in critical times of response. In September 2017, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico suffered a power loss for two months and a water failure for one month at the hands of hurricane Maria. Only mission-essential buildings received emergency power and water. Fort Buchanan now employs better protected solar sites from future severe weather and also installed the Army Reserve's first solar powered rainwater harvesting system for potable applications at their Welcome Center. They will continue to implement measures that make them more resilient and secure from disruptions to the commercial power grid and water distribution systems.

As a Reserve community, we must do our part to counter the real-world threats that lie before us and foster the responsibility to enhance our energy resilience. We can do this by:

- Maintaining our commitment to using more renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal energy
- Enhancing energy and water resilience delivery methods to maintain preparedness and our ability to react in times of natural disasters or physical attacks
- Coordinating efforts with the private sector, government agencies and National Laboratories amongst others to develop and implement tools to help utilize best practices, measure results, and increase energy security
- Prioritizing energy efficiency and conservation in an effort to reduce costs that enable us to move dollars towards other operational needs
- Implementing simple yet effective changes in our everyday lives at work and at home to conserve energy

For more information on U.S. Army Reserve energy resilience initiatives and tips on how you can help, visit www.usar.army.mil/Sustainability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Cederman".

Daniel L. Cederman
Colonel, GS
Director, Army Reserve Installation
Management Directorate