

## ASD Burke and Sen. Murray Announce Efficient Base Camp Award in Spokane By Tarak Shah | August 22, 2013



Assistant Secretary of Defense Sharon Burke discusses energy efficient base camps with Don Myers, President of Berg Company and LTC Ross Poppenger, Army Product Manager for Force Sustainment Systems and COL Steve Sliwa, Director, Army Rapid Equipping Force. **(Photo by Tarak Shah)**

Yesterday, ASD Burke joined [U.S. Senator Patty Murray](#) in Spokane, Washington to announce new Army orders for energy-efficient combat outposts worth \$13.5M with [Berg Co.](#)

The Army is purchasing these mobile, lightweight, energy efficient combat outposts including soldier housing shelters, tactical operations centers, kitchens and hygiene centers from Berg and plans to field them to U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, Africa, and Turkey later this year.

Combined with other efficient basecamp components, Berg's shelters reduce daily fuel use between 30-50% and reduce water use over 70%. And when considering all of the costs of transporting fuel and water for our most remote operations, these systems can potentially pay for themselves in 4-6 months.

Reducing fuel and water resupply in operations reduces combat risk associated with moving and protecting convoys and cuts costs. In fact, in Iraq and Afghanistan, over the past decade, thousands of our troops have been killed or injured moving and protecting fuel and water in dangerous supply convoys around the battlefield over the past decade.

Berg's shelters reduce resupply needs by integrating highly efficient insulated panels and lightweight aluminum frames into easily deployable expandable shipping containers to create transportable, adaptable combat outpost components. The shelters use both emerging and commercial-off-the-shelf technologies to maximize fuel and water efficiency.

Berg, one of Washington State's oldest businesses, was established in 1883 as a supplier of tents and other camp solutions and specializes in remote shelters today. As military demand for efficient shelters has increased, the company has grown from 45 employees four years ago, to 250 today. In addition to DoD customers, the company supplies similar shelter systems to other government and commercial markets including; mining, oil and gas, homeland security and medical camps.

Also on hand yesterday for the announcement was COL Steve Sliwa, Director of the [Army Rapid Equipping Force](#). The funding for yesterday's announcement is part of a \$21M battlefield energy modernization effort being managed by the Rapid Equipping Force. The funds originally came from the DoD Rapid Innovation Fund, which Sen. Murray helped create in 2011. In addition to Berg's energy efficient combat outposts, the fund is rapidly procuring and fielding microgrids, and hybrid solar power solutions to combat forces across the world.

And because the Army believes it is important to build permanently build these capabilities into all of the future operations, LTC Ross Poppenberger of the Army's Product Manager Force Sustainment Systems was on hand as well.

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