On 20 June 2013, Deputy Secretary of Defense Carter issued guidance for a comprehensive defense energy policy. Specifically, he highlighted how changes in the Department’s use of energy are needed in order to:

- Enhance military capability,
- Improve energy security (i.e., assured access to reliable supplies of energy and the ability to protect and deliver sufficient energy to meet mission essential requirements), and
- Mitigate costs.

With this guidance, the Deputy Secretary initiated a process for institutionalizing these priorities across the full range of defense energy activities, including operational and facilities energy as well as energy-related elements of mission assurance. The resulting DoD Issuance will adapt core business processes – including requirements, acquisition, planning, programming, budgeting, mission assurance, operations, and training – to improve the Department's use and management of energy. Rather than a one-time change, the Department will thoroughly and consistently re-shape how we develop, acquire, operate, and sustain forces around the globe.

As we work to finalize the policy, the Deputy Secretary’s memorandum provides interim guidance to OSD, the Joint Staff, Combatant Commands, Military Departments, and Defense Agencies. For example, the Department will improve energy efficiency, invest in cost-effective energy sources (including renewables), promote non-materiel and behavior-based solutions, address mission risks associated with energy-related infrastructure, and collaborate with other Federal departments and agencies to promote innovation that meets DoD energy needs.

Supporting the implementation of this guidance are initiatives overseen by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, other parts of OSD, and the Military Departments.

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