

Marine Corps Energy Innovation: Extending the Operational Reach of the Force

7 August 2015 – ME Lecture Hall – 1300

With Col. Jim Caley, USMC

Director, Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O) Headquarters,
United States Marine Corps

Abstract:

In the last 10 years, the U.S. Marine Corps' (USMC) requirement for energy on the battlefield has increased exponentially, driven by new and powerful warfighting capabilities. While these capabilities have made the Marine Corps more lethal, they have also had an unintended consequence—forces are heavier and dependent on logistic trains that are vulnerable to attack.

In 2009, the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) declared energy a top priority and created the USMC Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O) to help solve the Marine Corps' energy problems and increase readiness. In 2011, CMC issued the USMC Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan with the goal of increasing combat effectiveness through ethos, efficiency, and renewable energy—from “Bases to Battlefield.”

E2O is enhancing the tactical effectiveness of the force, increasing operational reach, and improving readiness by developing and integrating new technologies, giving Commanders unit-level visibility of their energy consumption, and informing the development of the future force.

The USMC has made significant progress in reducing energy use through advancements in equipment and new technology. However, technology alone cannot solve future energy challenges. E2O's new Energy Command and Control (Energy C2) program will give Commanders a tool to increase energy information, awareness, and control. E2O is also working to advance energy behavior change across the institution. Studies indicate that changing behavior and practices can increase energy efficiency upwards of ~25 percent. Efficiency gains translate directly to mission success, be it in training or in operations.

Abridged Biography:

Colonel Jim Caley has served in the Marine Corps since 1989. He has worked in the transportation, logistics, and communications fields, and he is an experienced operational and strategic planner with expertise in Asia-Pacific, South Asia, and Middle East issues. Colonel Caley has completed tours in Korea, Somalia, and Iraq, and he has held command positions at the Battalion and Regimental levels. Col Caley currently serves as the Director of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office, an organization focused on innovating energy solutions that enhance the combat effectiveness of Marines.



Col. Jim Caley

