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NAS Kingsville First Region Southeast Command to Install Energy Smart Meters

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By NAS Kingsville and NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

KINGSVILLE, Texas (NNS) -- NAS Kingsville became the first command throughout Navy Region Southeast to initiate the Navy Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program Oct. 28.

The program will soon be in earnest throughout the southeast region as a means of monitoring electrical use and tracking reduction progress. NAS Kingsville is the first of 12 sites across the region to have state-of-the-art utility meters installed.

"These new meters will help us track our electrical use throughout the base," said Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer. "More than that, these meters will have remote reading capability and many other features unheard of in legacy meters. The AMI program is the first step in seeking ways to promote energy efficiency and identifying options to improve utility consumption management."

The AMI program is standardizing AMI components in various forums, emphasizing open standards and interfaces, and planning for smart meters whenever possible.

Furthermore, future goals may include Demand Response programs with technology initiatives to perform joint energy audits, determine load profiles (baseline and peak), pilot installations of new technology, demand bidding, time-of-use/critical peak pricing, tracking on-base energy generation and storing capabilities.

The future capabilities of these meters are boundless but represent the backbone of any energy saving or energy generation system.

Following federal and state mandates, energy management now has more visibility than ever, and is a high priority for the Navy. This milestone was accomplished through the collaborate efforts throughout the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) claimency and big Navy.

"To reach this step, many hours of collaboration and coordination was required at all levels," said Keith Weidenbach, NAVFAC Southeast program manager. "To finally see the first meter installed is very rewarding."

"AMI is one of the basic building blocks of the Smart Grid initiatives we have been reading so much about recently," said Tom Grant, who is with URS Corporation and the design contractor. "Smart Grid is the wave of the future in building controls such as HVAC control. When the meter recognizes that peak charges are occurring the meter can tell the thermostat to increase by one degree in order to save on energy costs."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program provided NAVFAC's Engineering Service Command a way to secure funds that are now accelerating the implementation of the Navy's AMI Program.



101028-N-7181G-003 KINGSVILLE, Texas (Nov. 3, 2010) Naval Air Station Kingsville became the first Navy Region Southeast command to install Advanced Metering Infrastructure smart meters. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast is spearheading the \$23 million project, which calls for the installation of 2,177 smart meters at 12 region commands. NAS Kingsville plans to install 158 smart meters throughout the base. (U.S. Navy photo by Jon Gagne/Released)

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As a result, three Design-Build contracts were awarded in the fourth quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2009. These contracts were regional contracts targeting the Northwest, Southwest and Southeast regions.

"Navy Region Southeast was awarded \$23 million in September 2009, to install a comprehensive AMI system throughout the Southeast at 12 bases to include 2,177 smart meters," said Don Shaver, NAVFAC Southeast AMI program manager.

Setting up the AMI program is a little complicated," said Grant. "It will require a phased process that will involve many people at the bases that are receiving the new system."

There are four phases to the project. The first phase, initiation or inception, is where the team visits the sites to develop the functional requirements. This is accomplished by sampling current metering programs and defining the scope of work.

During the second phase, the development phase, the contractor will develop the final design for the Southeast region installations, each being unique in terms of size, location, mission, occupants, environment, etc. Specific meter installation requirements (pipe size, flow rates, indoor verses outdoor) will be confirmed when the contractor develops the design surveys.

The third phase of the project is implementation. Typically, this is the most visible phase of the project because it is during this time that equipment is actually installed.

The fourth and final phase of the project is the close out. During this period, the newly installed meters and system will be tested and validated.

"AMI is here, and the success of the program will rely on everyone's participation, commitment and support of the project activities," said Shaver. "The benefits will include dramatically improved accuracy in billing for all tenants on our bases and provision for real time data that will improve our ability to generate energy consumption reductions and consequently life cycle budget savings."

Cmdr. Troy Hamilton, NAS Kingsville public works officer, said the installation of the "smart meters" will actually make base personnel smarter about where the energy costs are coming from.

"AMI will help make us more aware of what we're using in regard to utility consumption," Hamilton said. "At the same time, we will be getting that information into the hands of our energy managers who will be tracking the data. These meters will tell us where our energy use is; down to the individual building. We'll also be able to better understand how to minimize our energy use throughout the base."

NAS Kingsville plans to install about 160 meters throughout the air station.

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