

News

Carson leads charge

Cutting-edge system complete

By Susan C. Galentine

Directorate of Public Works sustainability specialist

Fort Carson hosted a ceremonial “switch throwing” event Jan. 9 for the completion of a cutting-edge battery energy storage system designed to combat the high cost of peak electricity use periods.

The ceremony, hosted by U.S. Army Garrison Fort Carson, Commander Col. Brian K. Wortinger, at the utility substation site, drew more than 70 guests including government partners, Colorado Springs Utilities, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, community stakeholders, and private sector contractors involved in the battery project.

Although there are existing energy storage systems at military bases, the Fort Carson unit installed in November is the largest peak-shaving battery on a DOD installation, according to Mike Belles, AECOM’s senior project manager for the work.

The 8.5 megawatt-per-hour battery system is comprised of thousands of



AECOM courtesy photo

Project partners involved in the construction of a new battery energy storage system assist U.S. Army Garrison Fort Carson, Commander Col. Brian K. Wortinger, at a “switch throwing” ceremony held Jan. 8 at the utility substation.

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Space

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Shank said that while he doesn't think the U.S. has lost leadership in space, it is losing ground. After all, he noted, the U.S. isn't without its own recent achievements in space.

Space development agency

"In the same week they land on the moon, we are at the furthest reaches of the solar system at Ultima Thule," he said.

NASA's New Horizons probe flew by and observed the trans-Neptunian object about 4 billion miles from the sun last week. It's the farthest object ever explored in space.

To stay relevant in space, the U.S. will need to speed up its development cycle for space-based technologies significantly, Shank said.

"The DOD is committed to creating a Space Development Agency," Shank said. "That would be a joint organization ... to rapidly develop and field the next generation of space capabilities. I think that a Space Development Agency will represent a real investment in experimenting and prototyping of the rapid field of capabilities. ... So buckle up — 2019 is going to be busy." 🚀



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launches from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., April 14. The Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Secondary Payload Adapter Augmented Geosynchronous Laboratory Experiments system was onboard and is one of the 3rd Space Experimentation Squadron's primary missions.

Battery

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small cells inside more than a dozen, 5-by-12-foot containers. The battery will offset the high energy demands placed on Fort Carson's power grid, especially during summer cooling season, ultimately increasing power grid resilience.

"Using less of anything when demand is high and/or there is a shortage is the first step to becoming more resilient," said Vince Guthrie, utility program manager, Directorate of Public Works.

When Fort Carson is paying the highest rate each month for peak electric use as a large-scale consumer, the system discharges electricity and during periods where there is less electricity demand, and the post pays a lower

rate for its electricity, the battery recharges.

"The system will reduce our billed peak electric use (by) an average of 9 percent every month, which will save Fort Carson approximately \$525,000 a year," explained Guthrie.

Because the project is guaranteed to pay for itself over time, Fort Carson was able to leverage an existing Energy Savings Performance Contract with engineering firm AECOM to finance, design and construct the \$8 million battery system.

Pursuing the battery energy storage system project aligns with the Army's increased focus on energy resiliency.

"The Army needs resilient energy at Fort Carson and other Army installations," said Guthrie. "If we lose power it impacts our capability to adequately train and equip Soldiers and deploy Army power where it's needed." 🚀



The 8.5 megawatt-per-hour battery system installed in November is designed to reduce Fort Carson peak electricity use costs, especially during the summer cooling season.

Photo by Scott Clark

Life-changing

From Page 2

in my bed. From the beginning, I went to the dining room for meals and on the weekend, went to the gym. Staying in the room all the time or hiding out is not good for your psyche.

You will fall and fail, continue to push on.

I fell twice. Once on the first day I was home and the first day I showered with no one in the house. The first time, I was trying to do something I shouldn't have been and the second, I was doing everything right but still fell. Stay calm and figure out how to get back up. It is fine and expected.

I fail every day. That doesn't keep me from trying and before I knew it, something I couldn't do turned into something I now can. You can't get frustrated. Go at your own pace — you know what you can do and it may be faster or slower than people think — you know your body. Be honest with yourself — you may want to do something or try but your body isn't ready, acknowledge that and don't push too far. The most common thing I say is, "I'm not there yet but I will be."

Don't compare the new you with the old you or anyone else.

You aren't the same person so you will only get frustrated if you continually compare yourself with what you used to be like. Also, don't get frustrated because someone who had the same thing you had seems to be farther along than you. We all heal differently. Remember someone is looking at you, thinking you are healing faster than them.

A positive attitude is worth more than anything, and is vital to your recovery.

I fought every day to be positive because I knew the more I accepted what happened and worked hard, the faster I would be on my feet. It takes time but in the big scheme of things; what is one month, six months or even a year when you are comparing it to a lifetime.

I had two examples that kept me going. The first was a good friend, Air Force Col. Aaron Burgstein who passed away in 2015 after battling a brain tumor for five years. The whole time during his fight to live, he said "PMA" — positive mental attitude. I know he had his bad days but he never took it outside of his home. He always had humor about his situation and talked openly and honestly about it. I tried to emulate that in my recovery.

The second is someone I had the great fortune to work with at Fort Carson, Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Marks. Marks is an Army World Class Athlete and a wounded warrior. Injured in Iraq, she didn't let it define her. She found swimming and became a gold medal Paralympian. While that is impressive, the thing that affected me the most was her positive attitude. I know she had her struggles but she didn't let the world see them and she didn't let them define her. I tried to emulate that in my recovery.

I'm not 100 percent yet but I will be. It won't be the same 100 percent it was before my stroke, but it will become my new normal. 🚀

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