



NEX Oceana Opens Flex-Fuel Alternative Gas Pump

By Kristine M. Sturkie, Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) -- Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., Navy Exchange (NEX) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its E85 flex-fuel gas pump March 13.

This is the first public-accessible E85 facility in the Hampton Roads area and the second Navy-operated alternative fuel supply pump in the state of Virginia. The NEX also supplies alternative fuel at its Quarters K gas station outside the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

"The Navy is a leader in the use of alternative fuels, including ethanol and biodiesel, and operates the largest fleet of vehicles using alternative fuels in the state," said Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM).

"This venture will provide the Navy the needed access to E85 for their flex-fuel vehicles. It is also the first example of a public-private partnership to accelerate the availability of alternative fuels and improve energy security."

NEXCOM awarded a public-private venture contract in April 2008 to Protec Fuel for the infrastructure development and supply of the alternative fuel E85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline). NEX Oceana is the first location developed under this contract.

"E85 infrastructure development is important," said Larry Boone, NEXCOM automotive program manager. The opening of the NEX Oceana facility is just one more step toward energy independence. This public-private venture shows the commitment of energy partners like Protec Fuel in making sound investments in bioenergy."

E-85 pumps on Navy installations are available for use by federal, state and local governments, military exchange patrons and the general public.

For more news from Navy Exchange Service Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/nexcom/.

Source: http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=43317