

GM and TARDEC Introduce New Fleet Of Army Fuel Cell Vehicles in Hawaii

HONOLULU - The U.S. Army last week unveiled a fleet of 16 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that the military services in Hawaii are testing in an effort to research efficient, clean and renewable energy sources and reduce the U.S. military's dependence on petroleum.

"The Army continues to investigate technologies and partnerships that give the United States a decisive advantage," said Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, commanding general of U.S. Army, Pacific. "These fuel cell vehicles will move the U.S. Army in the Pacific toward a sustainable path that reduces energy security challenges and strengthens our energy independence."

During a Feb. 22 ceremony at historic Palm Circle at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, officials from the services comprising U.S. Army, Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Marine Corps. forces, Pacific - government leaders including U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz and Honolulu Mayor Peter



At Fort Shafter in Hawaii last week, U.S. Army TARDEC introduced the first fleet of 16 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles being used by any military in the world. TARDEC combined with General Motors to adapt 16 Chevy Equinoxes for this particular project.

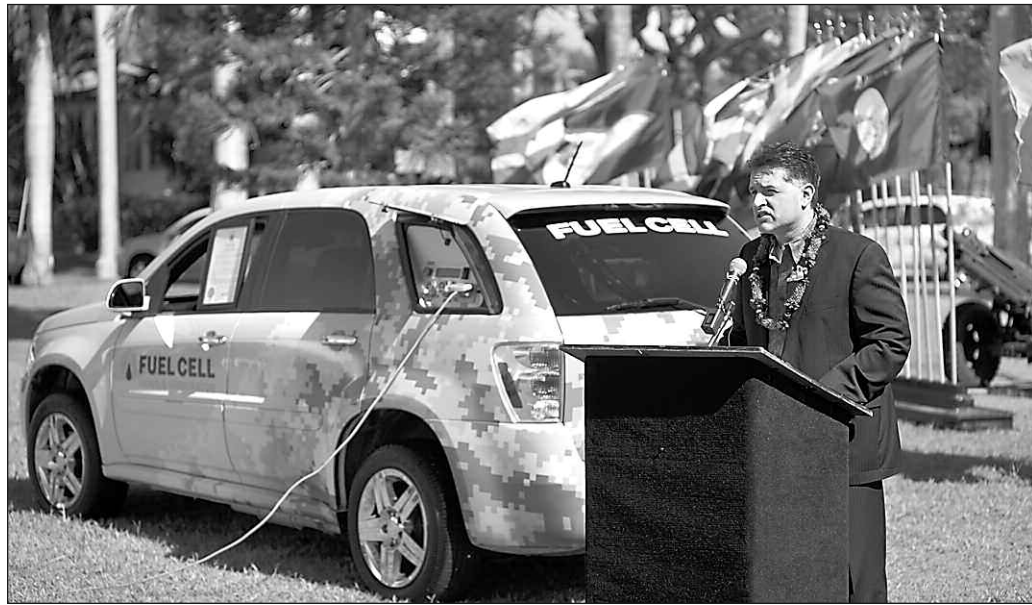


Maj. Gen. Roger Mathews, U.S. Army, Pacific addresses the gathering at a ceremony for the commissioning of the world's first military fleet of fuel cell vehicles on Feb. 22, 2012 at the Army's Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Carlisle, and industry partners demonstrated the use of the 16 General Motors hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

The zero-emission vehicles, funded by the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Office of Naval

Research and Air Force Research Laboratories, are being tested in Hawaii's ideal climate for real-world conditions reflecting each service's



General Motors Executive Director of Global Fuel Cell Activities Charlie Freese addresses the gathering at a ceremony for the commissioning of the world's first military fleet of fuel cell vehicles at Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Army is using Chevy Equinoxes that run on hydrogen.

needs. The military fleet of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles serves as the test platform powered by renewable hydrogen. Each vehicle travels up to 200 miles on a single tank, refuels in five minutes and produces only water as emissions.

"The development of fuel cell vehicles and an associated transportation infrastructure on which new military and civilian fleets can be tested and employed will reduce dependence on foreign oil and help move our state and country forward," said Sen. Daniel Inouye. "Hawaii is uniquely situated to benefit from the shift toward electric and fuel cell vehicles."

The Army actively seeks and supports industry partnerships to increase compatible renewable energy development. Fielding of military fuel cell vehicles with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines is the latest effort of the Hawaii Hydrogen Initiative, a partnership among 13 agencies, companies and universities. More information on the initiative can be found at Hydrogen2hawaii.com.

"This large scale experiment will last more than two years and, during it, we will mature and accelerate these technologies in support of our Nation's energy efficiency goals," said Dr. Grace M. Bochenek, TARDEC director.

"The combined efforts of these defense laboratories are proven in Hawaii, other states can adopt a similar approach," said Charles Freese, executive director of global fuel cell activities for GM.

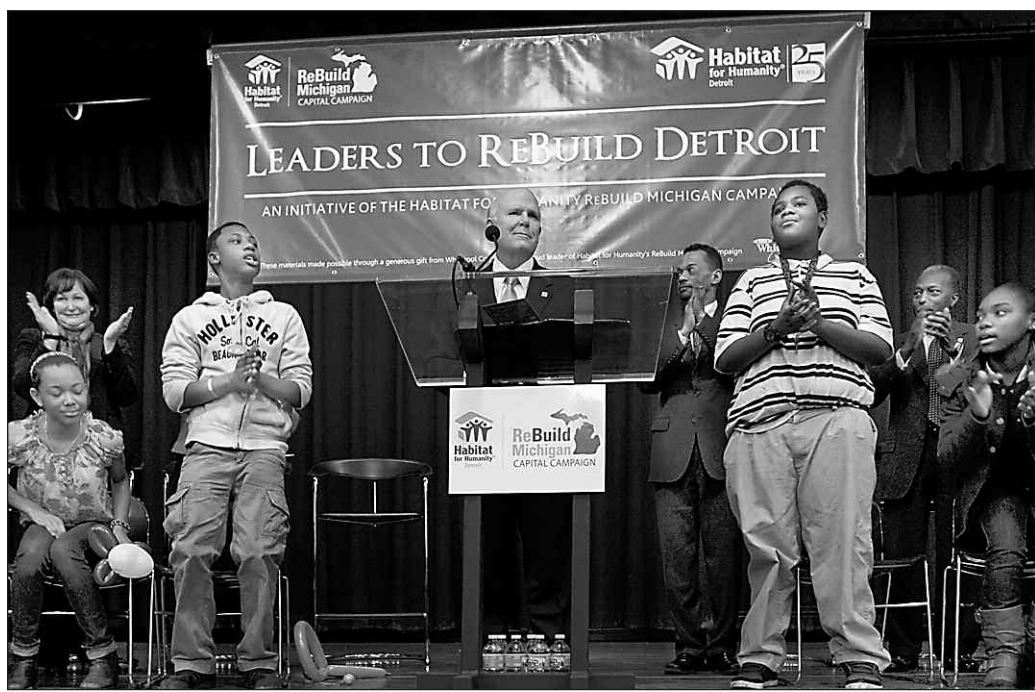
"Once the key hydrogen infrastructure elements are in place, other states can adopt a similar approach," said Charles Freese, executive director of global fuel cell activities for GM. "The military is paving the way, demonstrating the practicality and applicability of this technology."

General Motors, it might be noted, has been running an experimental Global Fuel Cell Activities program, using the Chevrolet Equinox, since 2007. In that time, GM has

been experimenting with how to refuel, drive and use Equinoxes modified to run on hydrogen as a fuel source.

About a decade ago, the book "The Hydrogen Economy" by Jeremy Rifkin suggested that the global energy economy, long based on petroleum, would soon shift to hydrogen, a less expensive alternative to petrol.

The Hydrogen Economy never quite took hold, but leading automakers including GM and BMW continue to experiment with it as a practical automotive fuel. The cost of building a national hydrogen fueling infrastructure was estimated at \$1 trillion, leaving it as an enticing afterthought.



General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson helps to launch Habitat for Humanity Detroit's "Leaders to ReBuild Detroit" initiative by personally giving \$1 million as a cornerstone donation for the three-year, \$25-million effort to engage Detroit's corporate leaders in revitalizing the city.

GM CEO Donates \$1M to 'Habitat'

DETROIT - General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson last week helped launch Habitat for Humanity Detroit's "Leaders to ReBuild Detroit" initiative by personally giving \$1 million as a cornerstone donation for the three-year, \$25-million effort to engage Detroit's corporate leaders in revitalizing the city.

The Akersons' personal gift will help pay for house rehabilitation, construction and repairs in partnership with 20 families, and weatherization projects in partnership with 12 families in Detroit's Morningside Commons neighborhood.

"A strong America is built on strong communities, and building them starts with one hammer, one nail and one person who cares - from there, it's contagious," Akerson said. "My wife, Karin, and I want to see this effort to rebuild Detroit catch on, spread out and draw scores more volunteers and millions more in contributions."

The "Leaders to ReBuild Detroit" initiative will serve at least 500 families by 2014 through house construction, rehabilitation, critical repairs, and energy-efficiency upgrades and weatherization

projects. Additionally, these families will participate in financial literacy training, homeownership workshops and community security initiatives provided by partnering organizations. "Leaders to ReBuild De-

troit" is collaboration among Habitat for Humanity Detroit, Habitat for Humanity Michigan and partnering organizations including the City of Detroit, Detroit Public Schools and Mich. State Housing Development Agency.

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