

POWER UP POP UP 2026

October 15, 2026

Doolittle Institute Niceville, Florida



17 Years of Connecting Defense, Energy & Innovation

For 17 years, the *Gulf Coast Energy Network* has created a trusted forum where military leaders, federal agencies, engineering and construction firms, utilities, technology companies, researchers and small businesses come together to solve real infrastructure and energy challenges. *Power Up Pop Up* continues that tradition—but in a more focused format. *Gulf Coast Energy Network* will convene defense, infrastructure and technology leaders at the Doolittle Institute in Niceville, Florida for a highly focused day centered on one question:

How do we build the resilient infrastructure required to support tomorrow's mission?

This isn't designed to be a massive trade show. It is intentionally smaller, creating more opportunities for meaningful conversations, introductions and collaboration among the people responsible for developing, financing, engineering, constructing and deploying solutions across the defense enterprise.

THE PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW. THE CONVERSATIONS YOU NEED TO BE PART OF.

Power Up has a long history of bringing together representatives from the Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Department of Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Defense Innovation Unit and federal research organizations alongside major engineering firms, defense contractors, utilities, energy companies, technology developers and universities. Past participating organizations have included Lockheed Martin, Siemens, Schneider Electric, Honeywell, Michael Baker International, Woolpert, Stanley, Eaton, Battelle, SAIC, Duke Energy, Florida Power & Light, Trane, Graybar and others.

WHY ATTEND?

- ✓ **Connect with decision-makers.** Meet military, government and industry leaders working on defense infrastructure, installation resilience and mission assurance.
- ✓ **Build the team before the opportunity arrives.** Large defense and infrastructure projects rarely happen through one company alone. Power Up creates an environment where primes, subcontractors, technology providers, utilities, engineers and government stakeholders can identify potential partners before the next requirement reaches the street.
- ✓ **Discover technologies that can move the mission forward.** Engage with companies developing solutions in distributed energy, microgrids, energy storage, resilient power, construction, infrastructure modernization, cybersecurity, data, advanced materials and dual-use technologies.
- ✓ **Understand where the mission is going.** Hear directly from the people closest to defense infrastructure challenges and better understand emerging priorities, requirements and opportunities.
- ✓ **Turn introductions into relationships.** Power Up has always been about more than presentations. The value is in the conversations before the first session, during breaks, over lunch and after someone says, "You need to meet this person."

SPACE IS LIMITED. OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.

The smaller format is intentional. We are limiting attendance so Power Up Pop Up remains what GCEN has spent 17 years building: a place where the right people can actually find one another and have substantive conversations. That also means we cannot accommodate everyone. If your organization supports the Department of Defense, federal infrastructure, energy resilience, engineering, construction, mission assurance or emerging technology, we encourage you to secure your place early.

Don't wait until the next solicitation is released to start building the relationships behind it.



CONNECT. | COLLABORATE. | INNOVATE. | DELIVER.

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- 7:45 8:45 Exhibitor Set-Up
- 7:45 8:30 Registration Opens/Breakfast & Coffee Sponsored By
- 9:00 9:20 Opening Remarks: Mr. Dave Robau, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Energy Network
Welcome Message and Keynote Introduction: TBD
- 9:20 9:40 Opening Keynote Address: TBD

9:4 10:30 Session 1: Energy Security & Installation Resilience

Mission readiness starts with resilient infrastructure. This session will explore how military installations are strengthening energy security, improving infrastructure resilience, and reducing vulnerabilities that can disrupt critical missions. Defense and industry leaders will discuss emerging priorities, real-world challenges, and practical solutions that may include resilient power and

10:45 11:45 Session 2: Mission Assurance & Contested Logistics

As military operations become increasingly distributed and contested, installations must be prepared to sustain the mission when traditional supply chains, utilities, transportation networks, and critical infrastructure are disrupted. This session will explore how the Department of Defense and its industry partners are strengthening mission assurance through resilient logistics, distributed capabilities, infrastructure modernization, and innovative technologies. The discussion will focus on practical strategies for reducing operational vulnerabilities, maintaining continuity in degraded environments, and ensuring installations can continue to support the warfighter when access to conventional resources is constrained.

11:45 12:4 Lunch/Networking with Exhibitors

12:45 1:30 Session 3: Advancing Dual-Use Technologies for Mission Assurance

This session explores how the defense innovation and venture communities can work together to accelerate dual-use technologies that strengthen mission assurance. Panelists will examine how emerging technologies move from research and commercial markets into deployed capabilities. Learn about the partnerships, capital, and transition pathways required to get them there.

12:45 1:45 Session 4: Modernizing Facilities & Critical Infrastructure

Mission readiness depends on infrastructure that can keep pace with an evolving operational environment. This session will examine how the Department of Defense is approaching the modernization of aging facilities and critical infrastructure while balancing mission requirements, funding constraints, security, resilience, and the need to deliver projects faster. The discussion will explore how government and industry can work together to identify priorities, accelerate project delivery, introduce new technologies, and build facilities that are more resilient, adaptable, and capable of supporting tomorrow's mission.

2:00 2:45 Session 5: Partnerships & Innovation

Innovation thrives when the right organizations, resources, and expertise come together. This session explores how federal laboratories, technology accelerators, and small-business support organizations can form effective partnerships to move emerging technologies from research and development into real-world applications. Panelists will discuss pathways for accessing federal capabilities, connecting innovators with government and industry partners, accelerating technology commercialization, and overcoming barriers to market entry. Attendees will leave with practical insights into building partnerships that turn promising ideas into deployable solutions and economic opportunities.

3:3 4:10 Session 6: Powering the Mission: Installation Energy Priorities & Opportunities

What do military installations need from industry and what are the solutions that are needed to strengthen the mission? This session brings together installation energy and infrastructure leaders from across Northwest Florida to discuss today's energy challenges, emerging requirements, resilience priorities, and opportunities for industry collaboration. Panelists will share perspectives from their respective installations and discuss where innovative technologies, public-private partnerships, and

4:10 4:30 Closing Remarks

4:45 6:00 Power Down Networking Reception (Details TBD)



Steve Loken
U.S. Air Force



Matthew Haupt
All Threats Considered



Anthony J. Pugliese
U.S. Department of Energy



Peter A. Santori
U.S. Air Force



Dave Harden
Outpost Ventures



COL Scottie Moore
(U.S. Army Ret.),
Sand Mountain Global



Shawn Nolan
U.S. Navy



Paul A. Sohl
Florida High Tech Corridor
Rear Adm., U.S. Navy (Ret.)



Tonya Neaves, PhD
Global Connective Center



George Keil
AECOM



Teresa Harrington
DEFENSEWERX



Dave Robau
National Energy USA



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<https://www.gulfcoastenergynetwork.org/>

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TRAVEL & LODGING

Northwest Florida is serviced by three airports: Pensacola International Airport (**PNS**), Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport/Valparaiso (**VPS**), and Northwest Florida International Airport/Panama City (**ECP**). The event will be held at the Doolittle Institute located 1140 John Sims Parkway, E., Suite 1, Niceville, Florida 32578.



VENUE DETAILS & PARKING

The event venue is the Doolittle Institute located 1140 John Sims Parkway, E., Suite 1 in Niceville, Florida 32578.

Event Parking: *Power Up Pop Up* attendees are asked to park behind the building. Look for the Power Up directional signage.

HOTELS NEAR THE DOOLITTLE INSTITUTE

CONVENIENT STAYS FOR POWER UP POP UP 2026



TOWNEPLACE SUITES®
BY MARRIOTT
HOST HOTEL

100 Niceville Avenue
Niceville, FL 32578

 **2 minutes**
(0.6 miles)



Holiday Inn
AN IHG® HOTEL

1200 E John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578

 **3 minutes**
(0.8 miles)



HOME 2
SUITES BY HILTON

792 E John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578

 **3 minutes**
(0.9 miles)

POWER UP RATE
\$146-159

<https://www.gulfcoastenergynetwork.org/>