AIR FORCE ALTERNATIVE FUELS: THE LOGISTICIAN’S PERSPECTIVE

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This presentation will provide the perspective of the “voice of the customer” for the Air Force logistics, installations and mission support considerations of relevance to any proposed Air Force use of alternative fuels. Providing the ability to utilize and manage any additional or non-standard (e.g., alternative) fuel for servicing Air Force needs presents many logistical challenges. There are several considerations that must be made before an alternative fuel presents a viable alternative to existing fuels paradigms, including: military standard fuel specifications to ensure interoperability; fuel storage and delivery systems operations and construction standards; fuel systems lifecycle maintenance; training of maintainers and fuel systems operators; fuel stabilization and shelf-life requirements; weapons systems lifecycle maintenance; access to major supply and distribution points; and environmental impacts and management. This presentation will touch upon the experiences of the U.S. Air Force—the largest consumer of energy and fuel in the Federal government—in managing the logistical elements of alternative fuels. This information should be useful to the research and development community in considering desirable and “make-or-break” attributes of alternative fuels for military aviation.