



**CHAIRMAN OF U.S. MILITARY ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES
NEW WHITE HOUSE AND OTHER INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE;
REMINDS G-8 LEADERS TO CONSIDER SECURITY THREATS WHEN CONSIDERING
ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

Statement by General Gordon R. Sullivan (ret.), former U.S. Army Chief of Staff:

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (May 31, 2007): As chairman of the Military Advisory Board on National Security and Climate Change, I welcome the announcement today that President Bush is calling on 15 major nations to agree to limit greenhouse gas emissions by next year.

Leaders at the G-8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, should seriously consider this proposal, along with plans offered by other G-8 member nations. Climate change threatens not just the environment but also the national security of both industrialized and developing nations.

As ten colleagues and I -- all senior retired generals and admirals -- noted in a report recently released by the CNA Corporation, climate change can act as a "threat multiplier" in volatile regions around the world. By adding new stresses on already fragile governments, climate change can intensify conditions which foster the spread of terrorism. Put simply, the fight against climate change is one battle in the world's larger fight against terrorism and extremism.

I am encouraged by President Bush's new speech calling for talks to limit greenhouse gases, and by his State of the Union address where he stated the need to "confront the serious challenge of global climate change." My colleagues on the Military Advisory Board and I are also pleased that the Bush Administration has already begun an intelligence assessment of the security implications of climate change. We hope the United States will continue these positive steps at home and assume a strong international and leadership role to fight climate change. We welcome the President's call to include China, India and the greater international community in this effort.

As the Military Advisory Board noted in our report, "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change," world leaders should not wait as scientists narrow any few remaining uncertainties about climate change. As a former military commander, I've learned that waiting for 100 percent certainty to begin planning an appropriate response can lead to disastrous consequences on the battlefield.

World leaders must begin planning to address climate change now. The G8 Summit in Heiligendamm is an ideal place to start.

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan (USA, ret.)
Chairman, Military Advisory Board
President of the Association of the United States Army
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan was the 32nd chief of staff of the United States Army, from June 1991 to June 1995. He is currently president of the Association of the United States Army and serves as chairman of an eleven-member Military Advisory Board for the CNA Corporation's recent report, "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change." CNA is a non-profit research and analyses center based in Alexandria, Va. The full report is available at www.SecurityAndClimate.cna.org.

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