My role is to wrap up, and I’ll do that by doing two things. First, I want to again note the context, or the stakes. Global climate change will pose serious threats to water supplies and agricultural production. At the same time, we’ll see increasing demand for the dwindling supply of fossil fuels. These factors mean an intense competition for key resources – and that leads to conflict. The U.S. cannot assume that we will be untouched by these conflicts. We have to understand how these conflicts could play out, and prepare for them.

Second, I’ll refer back to an earlier conflict. And this will highlight something very different about this report – different from the first report and different, I believe, from other reports involving military leaders. That is because we make a direct appeal to the American people.

We talk in this report of the amazing sacrifices the American people made during World War II. They planted Victory Gardens, cut down on fuel use, and saved metal scraps and old rubber. These were sacrifices – a word we tend to avoid these days. Or maybe they were just examples of frugality or lifestyle changes. Whatever you call them, these steps taken by the American people shortened the war and saved lives.

The same can be said today. There are individual steps every American can take. Using less energy, being more efficient with energy, supporting new policies to help our country take a new energy path – these are the steps that can help us avoid or shorten wars in the future. These are steps that can save lives. They’ll cost money, yes. But if we don’t spend that money now, we’ll still pay, and much more. We’ll just pay in American lives.

American civilians played an important role in World War II because they understood the stakes, and because they were asked. General Wald made the stakes clear, and our report makes the stakes clear – Our current energy posture poses a significant and urgent threat to our national security. Hopefully, more Americans will understand the stakes. Hopefully, more of them will hear the very direct request – from our Commander in Chief, and from a dozen retired admirals and generals. The American people – all of us – through our energy choices can contribute directly to the security of our nation.

Returning to General Wald’s opening remarks – to achieve the end state – a transformation of the way we generate and use energy in America – requires a national effort and leadership from the highest levels of government.

And there is a tremendous benefit if we do this. It is a triple win: It reduces our dependence on oil, it reduces our impact on the climate, and it makes our nation much more secure.

And now I’d like to turn this back to Sherri Goodman, who will moderate the question and answer period.