General Wald spelled out the energy impacts; I’d like to touch briefly on the climate issue.

Our first report outlined the ways in which climate change poses a serious national security threat. In the two years since, a National Intelligence Assessment on global climate change confirmed our findings. And the scientific community has begun issuing reports showing that climate change is occurring at a much faster pace than originally believed. The Arctic is a case-in-point. Two years ago, scientists were reporting that the Arctic could be ice-free by 2040. Now, the scientists are telling us it could happen within just a few years.

Some will look at this changing analysis as a reason, or an excuse, for delay. We believe that would be the wrong path. As military professionals, we were trained to make decisions in situations defined by ambiguous information and little concrete knowledge of the enemy intent. We based our decisions on trends, experience, and judgment, because waiting for 100% certainty during a crisis can be disastrous. And in this case, the trends are clear. The climate trends continue to suggest the globe is changing in profound ways.

There is a relationship between the major challenges we’re facing. Energy, security, economics, climate change – these things are connected. And the extent to which these things really do affect one another is becoming more apparent. It’s a system of systems. It’s very complex, and we need to think of it that way.

The solutions will need to be connected as well. It will take the industrialized nations of the world to band together to demonstrate leadership and a willingness to change – not only to solve the economic problems we’re having, but to address the issues related to global climate change. And here, I’d say the U.S. has a responsibility to lead. If we don’t make changes, then others won’t. We need to look for solutions to one problem that can be helpful in solving other problems. That’s one of the things we uncovered in our work – there are steps that can help us economically, militarily, diplomatically. And those steps fit with the direction the world is heading in considering climate solutions. Those are good connections.

Now, I’d like to introduce my colleague, the former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John Nathman.