CNA has an extensive body of work related to energy, water and/or climate change. It is widely known for the work of its Military Advisory Board (MAB), a group of retired three- and four-star officers. A small sample of related work done for the Navy and others includes:

- National Security and the Threat of Climate Change
- U.S. energy security and water
- Analysis of the Navy’s energy strategy
- Energy and water efficiencies at Navy installations
- Maritime oil chokepoints
- Climate change and Naval operations in the Arctic
- Future security threats for the Marines
- Reducing the energy footprint on the battlefield
- Sustainable building standards
- The economics of solar, wind and geothermal energy
- Climate change, water and conflict
- India-China relations, with a focus on water
- Implications of climate change in China

Energy, Water & Climate
CNA’s Institute for Public Research

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Energy, Water & Climate

Projections of energy futures for the U.S. suggest that electricity generation will grow by about 30 percent by 2035. Some studies suggest that expansion of conventional thermoelectric power production and economic growth will be constrained because water supplies may be insufficient.

Competing water and energy demands can be intensified by poor water-management policies, climate change, and energy and other policies crafted without consideration of water constraints. Key energy models used for policymaking in the U.S. assume that water is free and infinitely abundant.

The Institute for Public Research at CNA has launched a new area of analysis focused on integrated analysis of energy, water, and climate linkages. Understanding the implications of these linkages will support the development of sound policies and programs that will improve energy security, foster efficiency and improve the likelihood of a secure, climate-friendly energy future.

New Work

The Energy-Water Nexus in China, the E.U., India and the U.S. Increasingly limited water supplies are becoming a major resource constraint that should be recognized in resource selection by power planners. The study will identify policies that could minimize water and energy conflicts, as well as the production of air pollutants and greenhouse gases from power production. A key aspect of the research is to identify policies that provide flexibility for adaptation given future uncertainties. The primary audience includes electricity and water providers and regulators.

Estimating the Future Environmental Impacts from Shale Gas Development. The purpose of this project is to inform the public debate concerning fracking by providing a comprehensive, long-term environmental impact assessment of natural gas fracking using a geospatial approach. A related purpose is to test policies for their ability to mitigate potential environmental impacts and bring the results into regulatory discussions, thereby supporting environmentally sound extraction policies and practices.

The Security Implications of New Dams on Asia’s Rivers. About twenty percent of the world’s population lives in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan (HKH) Mountains and river basins. Eight countries in the area are experiencing or approaching water scarcity. China is planning many new dams in the HKH for water supply and hydropower. The reduction in water in the international rivers could pose economic and security risks downstream. The research includes hydrological analysis, policy and political analysis, and identification of possible responses by regional governments and aid agencies.

Related CNA Centers

China Studies
Providing in-depth analyses of China’s emerging role in the international order, important issues in U.S.-China relations, and critical developments within China itself.

Resource Analysis
Providing analytical services to help develop, evaluate, and implement policies, practices, and programs that make people, budgets, and assets more effective and efficient.

Strategic Studies
Identifying “the issue after next” in the research and analysis of a wide range of strategic, regional, and policy issues.

Safety and Security
CNA Safety and Security is a national leader in supporting homeland security, public safety, and emergency operations at all levels of government.