National Security and Climate
Current Perspectives

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CNA’s Leadership on Climate Change & National Security

CNA -- Research organization providing in-depth analysis and solutions for government leaders

MAB -- 2007-2014 Over 30 Members (Rotational)

- General Gordon Sullivan, USA (Ret)
- General James Conway, USMC (Ret)
- Admiral “Skip” Bowman, USN (Ret)
- General Paul Kern, USA (Ret)
- General “Chuck”. Wald, USAF (Ret)
- Rear Admiral Dave Titley, USN (Ret)
- Vice Admiral Ann Rondeau, USN (Ret)
- Sherri Goodman
Climate change is a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world.

Projected climate change will add to tensions even in stable regions of the world.

Projected climate change poses a serious threat to America’s national security.

Climate change, national security, and energy dependence are a related set of global challenges.
“The update serves as a bipartisan call to action. It makes a compelling case that climate change is no longer a future threat—it is taking place now… The update makes clear that actions to build resilience against the projected impacts of climate change are required today. We no longer have the option to wait and see….

We commend its reading in full and its recommendations to the Administration, to Congress, and to the American people.”

Michael Chertoff
Former Secretary of Homeland Security

Leon Panetta
Former Secretary of Defense
What is New

• We now observe that climate change risks are accelerating

• In some areas climate change is serving as a Catalyst for Conflict

• Climate change is happening today - it's no longer a future threat

• Action is required today – it’s no longer an option to wait and see
International Implications of Climate Change

1) We are seeing the effects of climate change -- now a catalyst of conflict
   i.e. Arab Spring, Syria, Mali

2) Climate change is accelerating, especially in the Arctic

3) Scientists are coalescing around causes and predictions

4) Population has grown by more than half a billion people and are more vulnerable
   a. Urban areas and low lying areas
   b. Water-food-energy nexus more of a concern

5) Security landscape is more complex
   a. Moving away from nation state
   b. Increasing interdependence and vulnerable to cascading effects across regions
Major Changes in the Arctic

• 1000 fold increase in shipping -- saves 13 days, 4000 miles

• 1/3 world’s gas reserves

• Russian flag at North Pole
More Vulnerable Population

- More people live in cities than not
- 16 of top 20 urban areas are on coast
- 1 Billion people live in urban slums
Domestic Implications of Climate Change

1) Will increase demands on military
   a) Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, both at home and abroad
   b) Greater demand to respond to conflict

2) Threatens military training and readiness – base resilience

3) Threatens our economy, infrastructure and information systems, and social support systems like first responders
Recommendations

- The United States should take a leadership role in preparing the world for the projected impacts of climate change.

- Supported by national intelligence estimates, the U.S. military’s Combatant Commanders should factor in the impacts of projected climate change across their full spectrum of planning and operations.

- The United States should accelerate and consolidate its efforts to prepare for increased access and military operations in the Arctic.

- Climate adaptation planning should consider the water-food-energy nexus to ensure comprehensive decision-making.

- The projected impacts of climate change should be integrated fully into the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and the Strategic National Risk Assessment.

- In addition to DOD’s conducting comprehensive assessments of climate change on mission and operational resilience, the Department should develop, fund, and implement plans to adapt and place a greater emphasis on the projected impacts of climate change on both DOD facilities and associated community infrastructures.
CLIMATE SUMMIT

What if it's a big hoax and we create a better world for nothing?

- Energy independence
- Preserve rainforests
- Sustainability
- Green jobs
- Livable cities
- Renewables
- Clean water, air
- Healthy children
- Etc. etc.
Back-up