



**[BRIEFING: CNA MILITARY ADVISORY BOARD
“National Security and the Threat of Climate Change”]
2007**

report available at <http://securityandclimate.cna.org/report/>

CONCLUSION *“Projected climate change poses a serious threat to America’s national security.”*

“The predicted effects of climate change over the coming decades include extreme weather events, drought, flooding, sea level rise, retreating glaciers, habitat shifts, and the increased spread of life-threatening diseases. These conditions have the potential to disrupt our way of life and force changes in the way we keep ourselves safe and secure.”

“Drought and decreased rainfall is projected to also affect the central southern U.S. That could have significant impact on food production and sources of water for millions. The Ogallala aquifer ... provides water for 27% of the irrigated land in the country and supplies about 30% of the groundwater used for irrigation. In fact, three of the top grain-producing states – Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska – each get 70-90% of their irrigation water from the Ogallala. Human-induced stresses on this groundwater have resulted in water-table declines greater than 100 feet in some areas. This already difficult situation could be greatly exacerbated by a decrease in rainfall predicted for the region.”

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

“Military leaders see a range of estimates and tend not to see it as a stark disagreement, but as evidence of varying degrees of risk. They don’t see the range of possibilities as justification for inaction. Risk is at the heart of their job: They assess and manage risks to America’s security. Climate change, from the Military Advisory Board’s perspective, presents significant risks to America’s national security.”

Admiral Lopez (Ret.), U.S. Navy - “Climate change will provide the conditions that will extend the war on terror. You have very real changes in natural systems that are likely to happen in regions of the world that are already fertile ground for extremism. Droughts, violent weather, ruined agricultural fields – these are the kinds of stresses we’ll see more of under climate change.”

THE U.S. MUST ACT NOW

General Zinni (Ret.), U.S. Marine Corps - “We will pay for this one way or another. We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today, and we’ll have to take an economic hit of some kind. Or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives. There will be a human toll. There is no way out of this that does not have costs attached to it. That has to hit home.”

General Sullivan (Ret.), Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army - “If you wait until you have 100 percent certainty, something bad is going to happen on the battlefield... The Cold War was a specter, but climate change is inevitable. If we keep on with business as usual, we will reach a point where some of the worst effects are inevitable.”

Military Advisory Board Members • General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.) • Admiral Frank “Skip” Bowman, USN (Ret.) • Lieutenant General Lawrence P. Farrell Jr., USAF (Ret.) • Vice Admiral Paul G. Gaffney II, USN (Ret.) • General Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret.) • Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, USN (Ret.) • Admiral Donald L. “Don” Pilling, USN (Ret.) • Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, USN (Ret.) • Vice Admiral Richard H. Truly, USN (Ret.) • General Charles F. “Chuck” Wald, USAF (Ret.) • General Anthony C. “Tony” Zinni, USMC (Ret.)