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In 2007, the CNA Corporation, a nonprofit, independent research organization, convened a Military Advisory Board comprised of twelve of the nation's most respected retired admirals and generals to discuss the effects of climate change on our National Security.

Their conclusion: "Projected climate change poses a serious threat to America's national security." - *page 6*

The attached CNA Corporation report, "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change," can be found in its entirety at <http://securityandclimate.cna.org/report/>.

Reading Points:

- "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."
- Military Advisory Board, *page 6*
- "We never have 100 percent certainty. We never have it. 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."
- General Sullivan (Ret.), Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, *page 10*
- "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."
- Military Advisory Board, *pages 9 and 11*
- "I wasn't convinced by a person or any interest group – it was the data that got me."
- Vice Admiral Truly (Ret.), U.S. Navy, former NASA administrator, *page 14*

- “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.”

- Admiral Lopez (Ret.), U.S. Navy, *page 17*

- On “smart energy choices”: “Focus on conservation and on energy sources that aren’t based in carbon... Solving the energy problem solves a real security problem. You get to choose your points of engagement. It’s like one of the things your grandmother told you. ‘Don’t go looking for trouble. If you find trouble, you have to deal with it – but don’t go looking for it!’”

- Lt. General Farrell, Jr. (Ret.), USAF, *page 26*

- “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 Zinni (Ret.), U.S. Marine Corps, *page 31*

- “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.”

- Military Advisory Board, *page 32*

- “The path to mitigating the worst security consequences of climate change involves reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving this outcome will also require cooperation and action by many agencies of government.”

- Military Advisory Board, *page 47*

- “A Wild Card: Abrupt Climate Change” – “For many years it was believed that climate changes have been gradual – that the earth gradually cycles between glacial periods and warm interglacial periods. We now know this is not always the case...”

Abrupt climate changes could make future adaptation very difficult, even for the most developed countries.”

- Military Advisory Board, *page 60*