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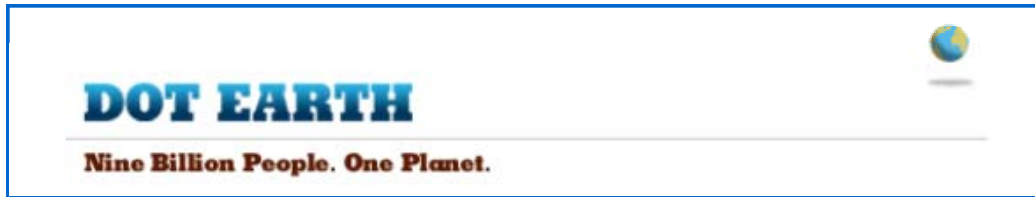
Thursday, February 4, 2010

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February 1, 2010, 2:41 pm

Growing Pentagon Focus on Energy and Climate

By [ANDREW C. REVKIN](#)

The Pentagon released its [Quadrennial Defense Review](#) on Monday, a wide-ranging report laying out rising priorities for keeping the peace and, when needed, waging war. For the first time, the report — at the request of lawmakers — considered [the significance of climate change for national security](#), both as a potential source of conflict and a factor in military operations.

A core conclusion:

Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation, and the further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and may spur or exacerbate mass migration.

The report also describes a longstanding, and now intensifying, focus on cutting the use of fuels, which is a huge cost and a security concern on the battlefield. There's yet another plea — particularly in light of [expanding shipping activity in the Arctic Ocean](#) — for ratification of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, which despite support from a series of presidents faces persistent resistance from a small cluster of influential senators. Here's the section on energy and climate:

Crafting a Strategic Approach to Climate and Energy

Climate change and energy are two key issues that will play a significant role in shaping the future security environment. Although they produce distinct types of challenges, climate change, energy security and economic stability are inextricably linked. The actions that the department takes now can prepare us to respond effectively to these challenges in the near term and in the future. Climate change will affect DoD in two broad ways. First, climate change will shape the operating environment, roles, and missions that we undertake. The U.S. Global Change Research Program, composed of 13 federal agencies, reported in 2009 that climate-related changes are already being observed in every region of the world, including the United States and its coastal waters. Among these physical changes are increases in heavy downpours, rising temperature and sea level, rapidly retreating glaciers, thawing permafrost, lengthening growing seasons, lengthening ice-free seasons in the oceans and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt and alterations in river flows.

Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation and the further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water

scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and may spur or exacerbate mass migration.

While climate change alone does not cause conflict, it may act as an accelerant of instability or conflict, placing a burden to respond on civilian institutions and militaries around the world. In addition, extreme weather events may lead to increased demands for defense support to civil authorities for humanitarian assistance or disaster response both within the United States and overseas. In some nations, the military is the only institution with the capacity to respond to a large-scale natural disaster. Proactive engagement with these countries can help build their capability to respond to such events. Working closely with relevant U.S. departments and agencies, DoD has undertaken environmental security cooperative initiatives with foreign militaries that represent a nonthreatening way of building trust, sharing best practices on installations management and operations and developing response capacity.

Second, DoD will need to adjust to the impacts of climate change on our facilities and military capabilities. The department already provides environmental stewardship at hundreds of DoD installations throughout the United States and around the world, working diligently to meet resource efficiency and sustainability goals as set by relevant laws and executive orders. Although the United States has significant capacity to adapt to climate change, it will pose challenges for civil society and DoD alike, particularly in light of the nation's extensive coastal infrastructure. In 2008, the National Intelligence Council judged that more than 30 U.S. military installations were already facing elevated levels of risk from rising sea levels. DoD's operational readiness hinges on continued access to land, air, and sea training and test space. Consequently, the department must complete a comprehensive assessment of all installations to assess the potential impacts of climate change on its missions and adapt as required.

In this regard, DoD will work to foster efforts to assess, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Domestically, the department will leverage the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, a joint effort among DoD, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, to develop climate change assessment tools. Abroad, the department will increase its investment in the Defense Environmental International Cooperation Program not only to promote cooperation on environmental security issues, but also to augment international adaptation efforts. The department will also speed innovative energy and conservation technologies from laboratories to military end users. The Environmental Security and Technology Certification Program uses military installations as a test bed to demonstrate and create a market for innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies coming out of the private sector and DoD and Department of Energy laboratories.

Finally, the department is improving small-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at military installations through our Energy Conservation Investment Program. The effect of changing climate on the department's operating environment is evident in the maritime commons of the Arctic. The opening of the Arctic waters in the decades ahead which will permit seasonal commerce, and transit presents a unique opportunity to work collaboratively in multilateral forums to promote a balanced approach to improving human and environmental security in the region. In that effort, DoD must work with the Coast Guard and the department of Homeland Security to address gaps in Arctic communications, domain awareness, search and rescue, and environmental observation and forecasting capabilities to support both current and future planning and operations. To support cooperative engagement in the Arctic, DoD strongly supports accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As climate science advances, the department will regularly re-evaluate climate change risks and opportunities in order to develop policies and plans to manage its effects on the department's operating environment, missions, and facilities. Managing the national security effects of climate change will require DoD to work collaboratively, through a whole-of-government approach, with both traditional allies and new partners.

Energy security for the department means having assured access to reliable supplies of energy and the ability to protect and deliver sufficient energy to meet operational needs. Energy efficiency can serve as a force multiplier, because it increases the range and endurance of forces in the field and can reduce the number of combat forces diverted to protect energy supply lines, which are vulnerable to both asymmetric and conventional attacks and disruptions. DoD must incorporate geostrategic and operational energy considerations into force planning, requirements development, and acquisition processes. To address these challenges, DoD will fully implement the statutory requirement for the energy efficiency Key Performance Parameter and fully burdened cost of fuel set forth in the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The department will also investigate alternative concepts for improving operational energy use, including the creation of an innovation fund administered by the new Director of Operational Energy to enable components to compete for funding on projects that advance integrated energy solutions. The department is increasing its use of renewable energy supplies and reducing energy demand to improve operational effectiveness, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of U.S. climate change initiatives, and protect the department from energy price fluctuations.

The military departments have invested in noncarbon power sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energy at domestic installations and in vehicles powered by alternative fuels, including hybrid power, electricity, hydrogen, and compressed natural gas. Solving military challenges—through such innovations as more efficient generators, better batteries, lighter materials and tactically deployed energy sources—has the potential to yield spin-off technologies that benefit the civilian community as well. DoD will partner with academia, other U.S. agencies and international partners to research, develop, test, and evaluate new sustainable energy technologies. Indeed, the following examples demonstrate the broad range of Service energy innovations. By 2016, the Air Force will be postured to cost-competitively acquire 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel via an alternative fuel blend that is greener than conventional petroleum fuel. Further, Air Force testing and standard-setting in this arena paves the way for the much larger commercial aviation sector to follow. The Army is in the midst of a significant transformation of its fleet of 70,000 nontactical vehicles (NTVs), including the current deployment of more than 500 hybrids and the acquisition of 4,000 low-speed electric vehicles at domestic installations to help cut fossil fuel usage.

The Army is also exploring ways to exploit the opportunities for renewable power generation to support operational needs: for instance, the Rucksack Enhanced Portable Power System (REPPS). The Navy commissioned the USS Makin Island, its first electric-drive surface combatant, and tested an F/A-18 engine on camelina-based biofuel in 2009 — two key steps toward the vision of deploying a “green” carrier strike group using biofuel and nuclear power by 2016. The Marine Corps has created an Expeditionary Energy Office to address operational energy risk, and its Energy Assessment Team has identified ways to achieve efficiencies in today’s highly energy-intensive operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in order to reduce logistics and related force protection requirements. To address energy security while simultaneously enhancing mission assurance at domestic facilities, the department is focusing on making them more resilient. U.S. forces at home and abroad rely on support from installations in the United States. DoD will conduct a coordinated energy assessment, prioritize critical assets and promote investments in energy efficiency to ensure that critical installations are adequately prepared for prolonged outages caused by natural disasters, accidents, or attacks. At the same time, the department will also take steps to balance energy production and transmission with the requirement to preserve the test and training ranges and the operating areas that are needed to maintain readiness.

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1 .

[harrywr2](#)

Issaquah, wa

February 1st, 2010

2:05 pm

We have to watch out for circular reasoning here.

The EPA concluded it's 'Endangerment' finding largely based on accepting the IPCC reports as 'Absolute Facts'.

The fact that some of what was in the IPCC reports was nothing more than myth and speculation gives reason to doubt any report that relied on the IPCC reports.

(I.E. Since the Himalayan glaciers will be around for a long time then concerns about water scarcity in the region due to the Himalayan glaciers disappearing are unfounded as well)

NASA was repeating the Himalayan false hood no more than 1 month ago, why would DOD doubt NASA conclusions, or EPA conclusions.

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[Chris Dudley](#)

Maryland

February 1st, 2010

2:06 pm

One of the places where renewable energy gives a tactical advantage is in very high efficiency solar cells. This article describes on aspect: <http://www.solar.udel.edu...>

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[Mike Roddy](#)

Yucca Valley, Ca.

February 1st, 2010

2:06 pm

As the son of an Army colonel, I appreciate the hardheaded and objective military analysis here. DOD is used to making decisions based on life and death impacts, so there's no time for games (hello, deniers). Policy here is congruent with science.

Now, if we would only cut the DOD budget by 25%, and use that money to fund alternative energy development....

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[wmar](#)

usa

February 1st, 2010

2:06 pm

It would certainly be nice to see the next report, the one made after the many revelations of the recent past, the final report where the assumptions made by the IPCC, et al, are subject to the rigorous scientific examination they should have been initially and all along. The one where these assumptions, (model inputs for the current failed modeling), can be properly appreciated for the manipulated guesstimates that they are. Energy is a real issue and very well-worth understanding and preparing for, why allow diversions away from the things that actually have merit.

'What can we learn from the IPCC climate models based upon their ability to reconstruct the global average surface temperature variations during the 20th Century?

While the title of this article suggests I've found evidence of natural climate cycles in the IPCC models, it's actually the temperature variability the models CANNOT explain that ends up being related to known climate cycles. After an empirical adjustment for that unexplained temperature variability, it is shown that the models are producing too much global warming since 1970, the period of most rapid growth in atmospheric carbon dioxide. This suggests that the models are too sensitive, in which case they are forecasting too much future warming, too.'

<http://www.drroyspencer.com...>

A closer view as to how the IPCC drops the ball and how much that really matters, it is this same dropped-ball that ends up with assertions that turn into conclusions of reports that were never given full or accurate information.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com...>

From England:

'THE lies, the untruths, the paranoid statements, the political point-scoring, the abuse of power, the secretive communications and the cover-ups - not to mention the huge cost to the taxpayer.'

The Sun

'Pachauri fails to get UK support over 'unsubstantiated' climate report claims

Chair of IPCC facing allegations that claims made in key reports did not have required standard of scientific review'

The Guardian

'The UN's climate change panel has been caught making unfounded claims for the third time in just two weeks.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change used a student's essay and an article from a climbing magazine to make claims about reductions in ice on mountains.

The IPCC has also been found to have used data that had nothing to do with global warming to warn of looming catastrophe in the Amazon rainforest.'

The Daily Mail

'The Hottest Hoax in the World

It was presented as fact. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, led by India's very own RK Pachauri, even announced a consensus on it. The world was heating up and humans were to blame. A pack of lies, it turns out.'

Open the magazine

'Global warming science implodes overseas: American media silent

Rick Moran

The revelations have been nothing short of jaw dropping. Dozens - yes dozens - of claims made in the IPCC 2007 report on climate change that was supposed to represent the "consensus" of 2500 of the world's climate scientists have been shown to be bogus, or faulty, or not properly vetted, or simply pulled out of thin air.

We know this because newspapers in Great Britain are doing their job; vetting the 2007 report item by item, coming up with shocking news about global warming claims that formed the basis of argument by climate change advocates who were pressuring the US and western industrialized democracies to transfer trillions of dollars in wealth to the third world and cede sovereignty to the UN.

Glaciergate, tempgate, icegate, and now, disappearing Amazon forests not the result of warming, but of logging. And the report the IPCC based their bogus "science" on was written by a food safety advocate according to this Christopher Booker piece in the Telegraph :'

The American Thinker

Best Wishes

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5 .

[Elizabeth Tjader](#)

Ferndale, California

February 1st, 2010

2:06 pm

As usual, this is unbelievable to me. So now that the Pentagon is "officially" on board acknowledging there really is such a thing as climate change, the green light is on to forge ahead with innovative renewable energy projects,

green development and technology, all under the auspices of better defense and tighter security. We want a "green" military so that now, when we bomb a country to and blow it to smithereens, it will at least be done with an environmentally conscious explosive. I love it.

I guess this means more money for the already under funded Defense Department. (yeah, just what we need; more money funneled into our defense and military).

I do have one observation that intrigues me: the references to weather and climate. When one reads the following excerpt, how is it that the Pentagon can assign weather related disasters and/or incidents to climate change, and interchange the two, but we cannot.

"The U.S. Global Change Research Program, composed of 13 federal agencies, reported in 2009 that climate-related changes are already being observed in every region of the world, including the United States and its coastal waters. Among these physical changes are increases in heavy downpours, rising temperature and sea level, rapidly retreating glaciers, thawing permafrost, lengthening growing seasons, lengthening ice-free seasons in the oceans and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt and alterations in river flows.

If I asked someone how the weather was in his/her area, and that person responded by describing heavy downpours, hotter or colder temperatures, droughts, or a longer growing season, wouldn't it be perfectly reasonable to say, "the WEATHER here is changing, it points to climate change"?

When IS it appropriate to tie a weather related incident to climate change? They are inextricably linked, or am I still one of the people in need of, "Climate Change for Dummies"?

I totally understand how people continue to be confused. The confusion is perpetuated daily by paragraphs such as the one I quoted.

Elizabeth Tjader

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[Gene G](#)

New Jersey

February 1st, 2010

2:07 pm

I quote, "Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation and the further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and may spur or exacerbate mass migration.

Heaven help us. Now our intelligence community is warning us about Climate Change. Since no one really knows, it is a betting game. Based on past performance in other arenas it is a good bet they are wrong in the short term. I have delayed my bet against climate change hoping for better odds in the short term, but the odds appear to be going the other way. If a long term bet made sense for me I would bet on climate change; our intelligence community gets it right every once in a long, long while.

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7 .

[Chris Dudley](#)

Maryland

February 1st, 2010

2:48 pm

Sir David King suggests in an interview that spies were involved in stealing emails on climate from a UK university: <http://www.independent.co.uk...> Gavin Schmitt provides a few more details about the attack against

the Real Climate site as well.

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[PondHawk](#)

Londonderry, NH

February 1st, 2010

2:48 pm

The first DOD assessment? They presented a report to Pres. Bush 2 or 3 years ago, after which he changed his tune on global warming.

Yes, enough global warming has happened so that our military has to plan for commotions due to it. So do businesses, etc.

No, harrywr2 #1, and other deniers, the science of global warming does not depend on the IPCC report. In fact, the IPCC report surveys the science (or should have, the Himalayan lapse was just sloppy).

NASA scientists have known for 40+ years about anthropogenic global warming, although not in so much detail, and nobody originally expected it to happen so fast.

Our military is fortunately much smarter than the purveyors of hot air here.

The

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[jp](#)

Philadelphia, PA

February 1st, 2010

5:21 pm

We are screwed.

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[Mark](#)

Dallas Tx

February 1st, 2010

5:21 pm

This is excellent news. A deeper commitment to the challenges of climate change are welcome in this camp. The impact our military can have locally and globally is huge. As always, their large budgets can move green innovation and commerce forward like no other single entity.

Their lack of equivocation is welcome as well. They understand the probabilities game better than anyone, even wall street. They are trained to foresee and act on unclear threats. They don't need perfect science, they just need to estimate the size of the threat and the probability, to come to attention.

I cant wait to see what they develop in small mobile solar PV.

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[Bob](#)

NYC

February 1st, 2010

5:21 pm

#5 "As usual, this is unbelievable to me."

Not to me, the Pentagon is never divorced from politics and depend on government money just like so many other entities. They will play politics and be creative to make sure the funding keeps going their way.

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[James](#)

Nevada

February 1st, 2010

5:21 pm

Re #8: "Our military is fortunately much smarter than the purveyors of hot air here."

Unfortunately, that's not much of a recommendation. I can only quote Terry Pratchett: "Fred, so's yeast".

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[leifknutsen](#)

Port Townsend, WA

February 2nd, 2010

7:08 am

. Our eyes have been focused on the hardest portion of the equation to visualize when we look at "warming," as in global warming. (Average 0.5C world over. Kind of hard to tell the difference in Minnesota from -20F to -19F in the winter.) The oceans, being a huge "heat sink," assures that effects of heat will lag the effects of "energy." When more energy is in the system however, oscillations, jet streams, storms, floods etc. all become noticeably vigorous. The oceans have absorbed the majority of the energy, like the big efficient battery it is. Look at the noticeable effects an El Nino, with changes of only a degree or two, can have on weather systems. Now visualize the whole worlds oceans a degree warmer. And added humidity from increased evaporation to fall as rain or snow in the winter. If I were a prudent sailer I would be battening down the hatches about now. As my ancestors would say- "Never go to sea in a boat you would not be proud to have as your coffin."

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[14](#) .

[spalding craft](#)

north carolina

February 2nd, 2010

7:09 am

Looks like the generals were shown Al Gore's movie. Just about every alarmist statement has found its way into Pentagon planning. It also seems that the Pentagon must have hired Al as a consultant for an assessment of the perils of climate change and of the use of alternative fuels. Just look at some of these ground-breaking ideas:

Particularly intriguing is the potential use of "compressed national gas". Where do you suppose they get the stuff - I hope not from some national wildlife refuge like ANWR. Is it already compressed when it comes out of the ground?

Also, the "green carrier strike group" powered by camelina biofuel will certainly strike great fear in the hearts and minds of hapless enemies, who wouldn't dare respond with fossil fuel-based weaponry for fear of offending Greenpeace and other environmental groups. Another stroke of genius.

And, I see that 30 U.S. military installations "are already facing elevated levels of risks from rising sea levels". I'd like to see that list, but probably most of the bases have been inundated by now by Al Gore's rogue waves and glacier melt-induced tsunamis. But hey, don't we already have enough supercarriers to house the entire U.S. armed forces? Now I see the method to their apparent madness.

And finally, how much do you want to bet that Al has an interest in the company that's supplying 4000 "low speed electric vehicles" for domestic installations. You mean golf carts for base golf courses? Sounds pretty radical to me. And 500 hybrid vehicles? Wow!

But seriously folks, read this stuff carefully. My personal favorite is the "green carrier strike group". Would someone please look into the Rucksack Enhanced Portable Power System (REPPS)? They must really be pulling our collective leg on that one.

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[JD](#)

Ohio

February 2nd, 2010

7:09 am

"James No. 12 Re #8: "Our military is fortunately much smarter than the purveyors of hot air here."

Unfortunately, that's not much of a recommendation. I can only quote Terry Pratchett: "Fred, so's yeast". "

This from someone who doesn't know of Tom Friedman or Paul Krugman.

See post # 87 in previous thread. <http://community.nytimes.com...>

JD

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[fred moore](#)

Sydney Australia

February 2nd, 2010

7:10 am

The growth of human numbers (overpopulation) from 6.5 to 9 billion big fat first world aspiring footprints will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and ABSOLUTELY WILL (not may) spur & exacerbate mass migration.

As Tina Turner would say: What's climate change got to do with it?

This is pure PENTAGON PROPAGANDA.

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[17](#) .

[fred moore](#)

Sydney Australia

February 2nd, 2010

7:10 am

Its important to fight propaganda wherever and whenever it arises.

The sole purpose of PROPAGANDA is to give people in power a time, a window of opportunity, to do things that they KNOW they ought not be doing ... Adolph Hitler.

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[Dale R. McIntyre, PhD](#)

Bartlesville, Oklahoma

February 2nd, 2010

7:11 am

Just a few weeks ago the blogosphere was entertained by the display of a declassified CIA report from 1974, with the exact same litany of "destabilizing" factors, all vouched for by consensus science, which was predicted to soon send the world as it was then into chaos, due to ... you guessed it...global cooling.

I have the most profound respect for patriotic agents who actually go out into Badmanistan and gather intelligence at the risk of their lives.

But as for the chair-bound paper-pushers who recycled that 1974 "global cooling" report into this latest "climate

change" foolishness, whatever we are paying them, it is too much.

When I contemplate the US government intelligence analysis failures I just want to weep.

Consider the Christmas 2009 underwear bomber, the state of the Iranian nuclear program, WMD in Iraq, the Sept. 11, 2001 plot, the bombing of the USS Cole, the African embassy bombings, the fall of the Soviet Union, Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, the fall of the Shah, etc etc all the way back to Stalin's A-bomb.

I hope I will be forgiven if I confess some small degree of disenchantment with the collective ability of the relevant US government agencies to analyze the intelligence they collect in any way that gives timely, accurate and relevant guidance to policy makers.

Given this track record, why should I regard their opinion on climate change as any more authoritative than, say, the latest prognostications from the Farmer's Almanac?

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[Ivan Carter](#)

Wash, D.C.

February 2nd, 2010

7:11 am

#1 writes:

""""""The fact that some of what was in the IPCC reports was nothing more than myth and speculation gives reason to doubt any report that relied on the IPCC reports.

(I.E. Since the Himalayan glaciers will be around for a long time then concerns about water scarcity in the region due to the Himalayan glaciers disappearing are unfounded as well)

NASA was repeating the Himalayan false hood no more than 1 month ago, why would DOD doubt NASA conclusions, or EPA conclusions. """"""

DOD is based upon risk assessment. The issue with Himalayan Glaciers was and is the risk, not a somewhat meaningless prediction as to the time when they will be gone. It's hard to even predict the weather 12 days from now. Those glaciers may be gone sooner than 2035, they may be gone later. What is known is that they are melting, that glaciers around the globe are undeniably melting on average, and that the trend (not one year to the next, but TREND) is accelerating.

As for the scientist himself whom that report was based upon, Syed Hasnain, here's what he actually said: ""I have not made any prediction on date as I am not an astrologer but I did say they were shrinking fast."

Notice, he suggestion he is not an 'astrologer.' And astrology is what predicting a date would constitute.

the UN foolishness in not really relevant to the issue, but it does help to show how this issue has been clouded by our desire to put in much more certainty than we can ever have about a future process that really only brings broad categories of risk and likelihoods, and attach our arbitrary desire for timeline precision to it.

The quoted comment above, when looked at in full (comment #1) seems to represent more ideologically driven desire to jump all over anything one can find since Fox or whatever has convinced them that the basics of climate change are not real. And of course, six recommends.

Wmar, back at it again (# 4), you posted a long string of what seem to be painstakingly cherry picked and meaningless author opinions with nothing other than editorializing and an absence of fact, apart from contextless assertions, that show an extremely misleading picture of the issue. Why.

Elizabeth (#5)

Good point on pentagon and likely climate effects, the pentagon can make such only because its clearly a radical organization, h*ll bent upon a UN controlled world government, like that radical Krugman or anyone else who suggests that we're burying our heads in the sand. (Actually, we're burying our heads in the sand of propaganda that is fox news, et al). But also note that what the Pentagon seems to be referring to is general ties to changes, and not necessarily specific events -- though clearly when "heavy downpours" are referred to, the two can be a little intermingled.

No one event or storm or weather series can be blamed on "climate change" really (nor any up or down temperature shifts, etc.). But at the same time, nothing can be fully separate from it either. Something that is being missed is that it is an incontrovertible fact, based in physics, that <http://newsaffair.org/?p=287> are affecting the weather right now. (But it is our activities in the past that is affecting the climate, and thus the weather more right now than more recent additions, but both play a role).

The real issue, and separate, is how much in general, and how likely and to what degree in the future. So while specific weather events or shorter patterns are of course related inextricably, those events may still have occurred anyway in the absence of AGHG changes.

Gene (#6)

We don't know the precise affects, or how much feedback or acceleration will occur, but we know as a matter of incontrovertible fact that the greenhouse effect is responsible for life as we know it, that levels of GHC are about 29 percent higher in the case of co2, around 125% higher in the case of methane (and infinity in the case of fluorocarbons), than what we know based upon ice core samplings of the past three quarter of a million years. We know that there is a lag -- likely very large -- between most of the cause and effect of an increase in chemically stable atmospheric heat trapping gases, and we know that we have started to observe empirical evidence of the slow beginnings of what we would tend to guestimate, at high variability, would be the effects of such a forcing, including the slow but potentially (over the longer term, ten years is close to meaningless) increasing warming, likely increased weather variability, possibly more shorter term unpredictability, slowly shifting ocean patterns (less on this one that I know of) and certain otherwise relatively stable stasis sub climate system breakdowns or signs of accelerating processes.

All that is known.

Pondhawk (#7) is right, the IPCC report, though often relied upon, is not what climate change is based upon, and is fairly imperfect, & in fact, ironically, s-conservative, and very linear in its thinking.

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[Brad Arnold](#)

Mpls, MN

February 2nd, 2010

7:11 am

I didn't read anything about abrupt climate change. When a complex system is forced, it resists change, then abruptly changes to a stable state. We are clearly forcing the climate with our greenhouse gas and heat emissions. Obviously, abrupt climate change would present another set of severe problems to our national security. By the way, with the temperature rise predicted by climate models that in my opinion are severe underestimating future warming, it is predictable that ecosystem collapse and natural methane emission will be major feedback mechanisms, leading to abrupt climate change.

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Colorado

February 2nd, 2010

7:11 am

This is nothing new -

<http://www.nytimes.com...>

Ben Shapiro would like to blame it on Pres. Obama though obviously it has been in the works long before Obama came along.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/59345>

..but then, so has carbon credits, outsourcing, illegal immigration & bank bailouts. Call it what you will; multilateral compartmentalism or compartmental multilateralism. Definately bipartisan politicisim.

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UK

February 2nd, 2010

7:12 am

Top Brass Core Conclusion: "Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation, and the further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and may spur or exacerbate mass migration."

Military intelligence meets IPCC, result nonsense.

Ever heard of the phrase "Lions led by donkeys?"

<http://en.wikipedia.org...>

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Australia

February 2nd, 2010

7:12 am

The Australian defense force produced a paper in October 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/09/2709035.htm>

That stated "The data on what's really happening in climate change was looked at pretty closely and the main judgment reached was that it was pretty uncertain - it wasn't clear exactly what was going on". "When you look at the data, it really does suggest that there hasn't been a major change in the last decade or so and certainlt no major increase." "So the sort of judgments that were required have to be fairly open at this stage".

Perhaps the Australian defence force is either a) Ignorant in comparrison to America or

b) Independent in comparrison to America

I make no judgment on this however find the difference interesting

Love to hear some American views

warmly

Gordon Smith

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Harvard University

February 2nd, 2010

7:12 am

It's not like this is the first report on national security and climate change released by the Pentagon - they have been discussing the implications of global warming and environmental degradation for over a decade and already released various unofficial reports hypothesizing the impact.

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Mountain View, CA

February 2nd, 2010

7:12 am

Right after they finish cleaning up the WMD's in Iraq, The Pentagon will save the world from global warming.

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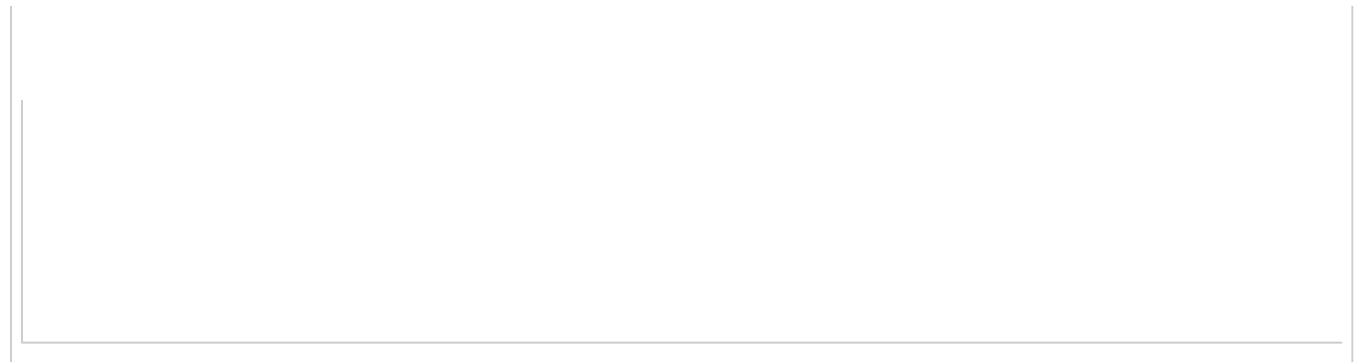
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By 2050 or so, the world population is expected to reach nine billion, essentially adding two Chinas to the number of people alive today. Those billions will be seeking food, water and other resources on a planet where, scientists say, humans are already shaping climate and the web of life. In Dot Earth, reporter Andrew C. Revkin examines efforts to balance human affairs with the planet's limits. Conceived in part with support from a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Dot Earth tracks relevant news from suburbia to Siberia. The blog is an interactive exploration of trends and ideas with readers and experts. You can follow Mr. Revkin on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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New Options Needed



Access to cheap energy underpins modern societies. Finding enough to fuel industrialized economies and pull developing countries out of poverty without overheating the climate is a central challenge of the 21st century.

- [Africa's Energy Gap](#)
- [The Power of Green](#)
- [The Energy Challenge series](#)
- [How to Spark an Energy Quest](#)

Climate

The Arctic in Transition



Enshrined in history as an untouchable frontier, the Arctic is being transformed by significant warming, a rising thirst for oil and gas, and international tussles over shipping routes and seabed resources.

- [The Big Melt series](#)
- [Postcards from the Arctic](#)
- [The North Pole Was Here \(book\) and teaching tools](#)
- [The Arctic Rush](#)

Society

Slow Drips, Hard Knocks



Human advancement can be aided by curbing everyday losses like the millions of avoidable deaths from indoor smoke and tainted water, and by increasing resilience in the face of predictable calamities like earthquakes and drought.

- [Times Topics: Disasters](#)
- [Thirsty Giant, India and water](#)
- [The Future of Calamity](#)

Biology

Life, Wild and Managed



Earth's veneer of millions of plant and animal species is a vital resource that will need careful tending as human populations and their demands for land, protein and fuels grow.

- [Managing Planet Earth](#)
- [South America Seeks to Fill the World's Table](#)
- [Tracking the Imperiled Bluefin](#)
- [A Movable Beast](#)

Slide Show



[A Planet in Flux](#)

Andrew C. Revkin began exploring the human impact on the environment nearly 30 years ago. An early stop was Papeete, Tahiti. This narrated slide show describes his extensive travels.

Video



[Dot Earth on YouTube](#)

Many of the videos featured here can be found on Andrew Revkin's channel on YouTube. Recent reader favorites:

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An inside look at the intensifying fight over climate information using Freedom of Information laws.

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The Pentagon's latest review of priorities includes a plea for the Law of the Sea and warnings about warming as a contributor to conflict.

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Lessons from a new study that blames swings in water vapor for boosting, and slowing, warming over the last two decades.

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