



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

APR 12 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference -- Defense Science Board Task Force on Trends and Implications of Climate Change for National and International Security

Changes in the weather and the resulting physical environment that impacts the human condition create potentially profound effects on populations in parts of the world and present new challenges to global security and stability. Changing weather patterns can shift historical areas of flooding, drought, temperature and wind patterns which can impact agricultural output, change disease vectors, and alter geographical features, to name but a few of the effects. These changes will not occur overnight but they have important long-term implications for national security in that they can bring new or increased competition for resources (e.g., food, water, fuel, transportation paths, etc.), create potential for large population displacement and mass migrations, and possibly substantial increased population in previously barren areas that benefit positively from climate change. Failure to anticipate and mitigate these changes increases the threat of more failed states with all the instabilities and potential for conflict inherent in such failures. Of particular near-term concern is the African continent, where 2/3 of the states are identified internationally as fragile.

There is information available in U.S. government agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations on some of these changes and their impact. However, there is no comprehensive set of data describing the extent of the changes, the trends, and realistic projections. There is no policy in the Department of Defense (DoD), no information sharing environment, no accepted set of analysis tools, nor an overall mitigation strategy pertaining to the implications to instability and human security caused by climate change. In addition, the roles DoD may be asked to play, and should play, in helping African militaries develop capabilities and capacities to address these issues or to mitigate the consequences of climate change as it regards their national security need to be outlined and understood.

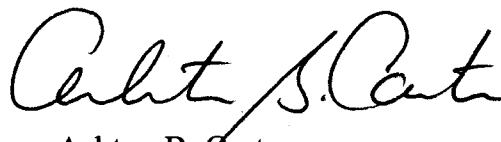
The Defense Science Board is therefore directed to create a task force with the following purposes:

- Bring together the information and views from multiple government and other organizations to provide a comprehensive picture of the current situation, known unknowns and emerging trends.

- Review and understand potential consequences of current change in the physical environment, identify potential analytical tools, and project example consequences of major trend lines on African national and international security.
- Make recommendations on the role that DoD should play in dealing with other agencies in the U.S. Government (USG) to mitigate potential consequences of environmental change in areas important to U.S. national security.
- Recommend steps to engage other government agencies in developing a shared understanding of the consequences of climate change for US national security, and determine where DoD may be best suited to address the relevant effects caused by changing weather patterns and physical environments.
- Recommend an overall structure and DoD process to populate a government-wide database to capture effects on USG programs to aid decision making to mitigate the effects on U.S. national and African partner security.

The study will be co-sponsored by me as the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), and the Commander, United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). General Larry D. Welch, USAF (Ret), and Dr. John Deutch will serve as the Task Force Co-Chairmen. Mr. Mike Owens, AFRICOM, will serve as the Executive Secretary and Major Michael Warner, USAF, will serve as the DSB Representative.

It is not anticipated that this Task Force will need to go into any “particular matters” within the meaning of Section 208 of Title 18, United States Code; nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of acting as procurement official.



Ashton B. Carter