



OPERATION ★ FREE

Secure America with Clean Energy

2010 Quadrennial Defense Review

On February 1, 2010, the Department of Defense released the *2010 Quadrennial Defense Review Report*. The QDR emphasizes specific areas where departmental reform is imperative, including energy security and climate change. Climate change and energy security have consequential effects on the military's ability to adequately resource, execute, and sustain operations. Below is a brief summary on the 2010 QDR's climate change and energy security findings.

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."¹

Climate Change

According to DoD, climate change will affect the Department in two ways:

1. "[C]limate change will shape the operating environment, roles, and missions that we undertake."² Climate change contributes to global poverty, degrades the environment, and weakens fragile governments. Furthermore, the military will face increased pressure to support civil authorities in disaster response scenarios resulting from extreme weather events. DoD has, accordingly, termed climate change as "an accelerant of instability or conflict."³
2. "DoD will need to adjust to the impacts of climate change on our facilities and military capabilities."⁴ The military's operational readiness is reliant upon access to land, air, and sea training and test space. Climate change is negatively affecting the military's access to space. For example, the QDR states that over 30 military installations are at risk from rising sea levels.

The Department has developed a number of initiatives to respond to climate-induced threats:

- I. *The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program*: A Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency joint effort to develop climate change assessment tools.
- II. *The Environmental Security and Technology Program*: A program that tests energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies on military installations to demonstrate their utility and create a market for technologies.
- III. *Energy Conservation Investment Program*: A program at military installations to improve small-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

¹ The Department of Defense, *The Quadrennial Defense Review Report*, February 2010, p. 84.

² *Ibid*, p. 84.

³ *Ibid*, p. 85.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 85.

Energy Security

“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.”⁵ The Department is increasing its use of renewable energy and investigating alternative concepts for improving operational energy use. Increasing the use of renewable energy reduces energy demand, improves operation effectiveness, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and protects the military from volatile fluctuations in energy prices.

In the QDR, DoD refers to energy efficiency as a force multiplier: “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.”⁶

Each of the Military’s four branches are taking individual steps to improve energy security:

- I. Air Force: By 2016, 50% of the fuel used domestically will be an alternative blend that is greener than conventional petroleum fuel.
- II. Army: Has currently deployed 500 hybrids. Plans to transform its fleet of 70,000 non-tactical vehicles and acquire 4,000 low-speed electric vehicles.
- III. Navy: Plans to deploy a Green Carrier Strike Group by 2016. The carrier group will run on biofuel and nuclear power.
- IV. Marines: The Expeditionary Energy Office is tasked with addressing operational energy risk. The Energy Assessment Team is tasked with identifying ways to achieve efficiencies in energy-intensive operations such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Operation Free

Operation Free is a coalition of military veterans and national security organizations that understand the national security threats posed by climate change and dependence on fossil fuels. The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review has confirmed our views and as a result we call on Congress and to enact strong, comprehensive climate and energy legislation.

*Operation Free is a project
of the*



Truman National Security Project

⁵ The Department of Defense, *The Quadrennial Defense Review Report*, February 2010, p. 87.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 87.