

General Sullivan:

My name is Gordon Sullivan. I have served America as a Soldier since 1955. My last duty position was as Army Chief of Staff – 1991 to 1995. I retired from active service in 1995 and have been President of the Association of the United States Army – Army’s professional Association – since 1998. Thus, I have been in or involved with the Army for over 50 years.

I'm here as the chairman of the Military Advisory Board for CNA.

The Military Advisory Board consists of retired three- and four-star flag officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

We were charged with looking at the emerging phenomenon known as global climate change through the prism of our own experience, and specifically looking at the national security implications of global climate change.

Having said this, I must admit I came to the Advisory Board as a skeptic and I'm not sure some of the others didn't as well.

After we listened to leaders of the scientific, business and governmental communities, both I and my colleagues came to agree that global climate change is and will be a significant threat to our national security. The potential destabilizing impacts of global climate change include reduced access to fresh water, impaired food production, health issues, especially from vector and food-borne diseases, and land loss, flooding and so forth, and the displacement of major populations. And overall, we view these phenomena as related to failed states, growth of terrorism, mass migrations, and greater regional and inter-regional instability.

The findings of the board are:

- First, projected climate change poses a serious threat to America's national security. Potential national threats to the nation -- potential threats to the nation's security require careful study and prudent planning.
- Second, climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world.

- Third, projected climate change will add to tensions even in stable regions of the world.
- Fourth, climate change, national security and energy dependence are a related set of global challenges.

The recommendations of the board are, first, that we cannot wait for certainty. In this issue, there maybe a lack of certainty for some, but there is certainly no lack of challenges. And in our view, failing to act because a warning isn't precise would be imprudent.

Second, the United States should commit to a stronger national and international role to help stabilize climate changes at levels which will avoid significant disruption to global stability and security, and third, we should commit to global partnerships to work in that regard.

Climate change, national security and energy dependence are all inter-related. Simply hoping that these relationships will remain static is simply not acceptable given our training and experience as

military leaders. I think hoping that everything's going to be great probably won't work, at least in our view.

I would say that most of us on the Military Advisory Board were in the military service of the United States of America for over 30 years, most of it during the Cold War. High levels of catastrophe could have occurred if we didn't invest in military preparedness and awareness of the threats we faced.

In conclusion, you never have 100 percent certainty on the battlefield. We never have it. If you wait until you have 100 percent certainty, something terrible is going to happen. As such, now is the time to act on the critical issue of climate change.