



## The Honorable John Warner

Let me begin by thanking all of those who have spent so many hours preparing for this extremely important conference and for the invitation to participate. I offered to do several things and they took me up on two offers—to introduce Rear Admiral Philip Cullom for a few minutes and to serve on one of the symposium roundtables. But in introducing Rear Admiral Cullom, I want to go into a little bit of background regarding how I became involved in this general subject.

Over the course of my Senate career, I became keenly aware of how the climate was having an impact on our operations and on the budgets that came before me when I was Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. I talked it over with some of my colleagues, one of whom was a new member of the committee. I remember very well when this member joined the committee, because as chairman I had implemented a pretty firm rule. I said this committee is for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to serve the nation and the men and women of the armed forces and their families. We do not do much politics on this committee. That is the way we ran it. In the 30 years that I was on that committee, virtually all of my predecessors ran it the same way.

So this particular member, who was a really politically oriented individual, agreed to follow that rule. So, that is when then-Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and I became fast friends. She was a marvelous member of the committee. She said she wanted to learn a little bit more about national security; I said “I will be your professor.” And the rest is history. We even sponsored a piece of legislation together, which I will describe shortly.

In the annals of the Congress of the United States, there is a tremendous paucity of specific legislation related to the generic

subject of climate change, its connection to our nation's energy needs, and how both climate and energy are then connected to national security. A goodly number of members have sought answers to our national security concerns, and I thank them for their efforts. It is terribly important to understand these subjects and their relationship to each other and to our nation's security.

So, in 2008, Senator Clinton and I wrote a bill directing the Congress—I am just going to read one sentence of it —“to assess the risk of projected climate change to current and future missions of the armed forces.” When the *Quadrennial Defense Review* (QDR) came along in 2010, they had that as their guidance. They came out with some very definitive findings on the nexus between climate, energy, and national security. So how does this relate to the distinguished speaker about whom I am privileged to say a few comments?

Well, I will date back. I have had the privilege of being associated with the men and women of the armed forces for a half century-plus, beginning in 1945. It was January 10, 1945, when I enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Over the intervening years, I have learned far more from serving with the men and women in uniform, whether I was a sailor or a young Marine lieutenant on active duty or in the Marine reserves, than they ever learned from me. As a consequence, when I had the good fortune to come to the Senate I said to myself: “You know, you owe a tremendous payback to the U.S. military.”

So, I joined the Armed Services Committee and believe me, I tried as best I could in my 30 years on that Committee, 17 of which I spent as either Chairman (three times) or a ranking minority member (three times), depending on political shifts. I really had an opportunity to do things for the men and women of the armed forces. In the process I got to know the military. And my service in the Senate was preceded by 5 years, 3 months, and 2 days in the Navy Secretariat. So I know a little bit about Navy politics and how things operate.

And I would say that our next speaker is what they call a fast-track individual. He, in his earlier life, did the right thing and went to sea after having an extraordinary career at the Naval Academy,

where he majored in physics. He then went on to get another graduate degree in technology. Once on active duty, he became what we call a saltwater sailor. He commanded small ships, he was on large ships and aircraft carriers, and he commanded fleets. He has done it all. He is a real fast-track, what we call a black-shoe saltwater sailor.

Now, along comes this subject, and President Barack Obama, to his credit, began to put emphasis on the issues of climate and energy from the start. He was determined to lead the Executive Branch in the direction to do what we can to begin solving some of the challenges facing this country. Sure, I am an old rock-ribbed Republican, but I have always, on the issues of security and politics, focused solely on the national interest. So, I credit President Obama for his leadership.

His predecessor was a dear friend of mine, and I am deeply indebted to both George W. Bush and his father George Herbert Walker Bush. I served with both and worked with them many times, but climate and energy was not one of their top priorities. As a matter of fact, Senator Clinton and I put into the same legislation provisions for a position in the DoD for a person who was going to focus totally on energy. The law provided for that position, and it was confirmable by the Senate. But they never put up a nominee. But President Obama did, and that gave rise to a very good friend of mine, Ms. Sharon Burke, who is now in that position in the department, coordinating all of the functions of which I speak.

So, back to Rear Admiral Cullom. He is a top saltwater sailor, and suddenly he has chosen to take on this job. And he was chosen because the President and the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, whom I have had the privilege of knowing quite well through the years, decided they wanted one of the Navy's finest and best to take on this responsibility. And what does that do? That sends a signal all over the E-Ring. The President says we are going to do business and the Secretary of the Navy says we are going to do business, so we are going to pick one of the fast-track, top-flag officers to run it. Now need I say more? No. Rear Admiral Cullom, Petty Officer Third Class John Warner requests permission to leave the bridge and for you to take over.