



---

# Climate Change Impact on National Security

*Rich Engel*

*Maj Gen USAF (Ret.)*

*Director, Climate Change and State Stability Program  
National Intelligence Council*

**This Briefing is UNCLASSIFIED**



# Outline

---

- **Objective**
- **National Intelligence Priorities Framework**
- **Outreach Efforts**
- **Terms of Reference/Scope Note**
- **National Intelligence Assessment (NIA) Process**
- **Summary Observations**



# Summary Observations

---

- **Overall we judge**
  - **Global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for US national security interests over the next 20 years**
    - **Will aggravate existing problems—*such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions*—that threaten state stability.**
  - **Climate change alone is highly unlikely to trigger failure in any state**
  - **Out to 2030 it will potentially contribute to**
    - ***Intra-* or, less likely, *interstate* conflict**
    - **Possibly over access to scarce water resources**



# Summary Observations

- **Four** principle paths for GCC to impact national security
  - Changes in water availability – people move
  - Changes in agriculture productivity – people move

*Movements themselves may or may not be significant to state stability -- will depend upon local circumstances.*

- Damages to economically significant infrastructure from extreme weather events.
- **Change is disease patterns (human, plant, animal)**



# Follow-On Research

---

- **Arctic “Geopolitical Game” - Results**
  - **Arctic Council and International Maritime Organization are the preferred venues**
  - **Need better Arctic Situational Awareness**
    - **Ice sheets and movements**
    - **Weather**
    - **Shipping Traffic**
  - **Insurance and Search and Rescue may pace use of the Arctic**



UNCLASSIFIED

# Climate Change Impact on National Security

---

## *Questions?*

*[http://www.dni.gov/nic/special\\_climate2030.html](http://www.dni.gov/nic/special_climate2030.html)*

*“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”*

**Genesis 2:15**

UNCLASSIFIED

