Climate Change Impact on National Security

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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
Climate Change
Impact on National Security

Questions?

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