



Truman National Security Project

When we rely on oil, we fund both sides of the war.

“Drill Baby Drill” is like trying to bail out the Titanic with buckets. We just don’t have enough oil at home.

We need to invest in alternative energy like we invested in getting to the moon, for our security and our economy alike.

Fuel-Efficiency Saves Lives and Dollars: DoD is the largest energy consumer in America

- **Protecting Convoys instead of Fighting Enemies.** We need a better ratio of combat troops to support personnel. 70% of our convoys in Iraq and Afghanistan are carrying fuel and water; this puts our troops at risk and reduces combat effectiveness.
- **DoD spends \$20 billion per year on energy.** When the price of oil increases by \$10 per barrel, the DoD is forced to spend another \$1.3 billion on fuel. That is the equivalent of the Marine Corps’ entire annual procurement budget.

Oil Addiction Means the U.S. must fight just to keep the lights on

- **Protecting Oil States.** The longer the U.S. remains dependent on fossil fuel, the more the U.S. will have to engage in tough fights just to ensure our access to energy resources. The U.S. gets nearly 70% of its oil from foreign sources, which means that our reliance on foreign oil risks forcing us into otherwise unnecessary foreign entanglements.
- **Oil States are Failed States.** Of the top ten holders of oil reserves in the world as of April 2008, all but one are considered to be failed states or in danger of becoming failed states. If and when major oil-producing states fail, that is where the U.S. military will have to go next.
- **Patrolling Sea Lanes for Petroleum.** The United States is responsible for patrolling the world’s sea lanes and ensuring safe passage for seaborne commerce, much of which is oil products. The U.S. Navy budgeted \$28.1 billion for operations alone in FY2009.

Climate Change Hits the Homeland

- **Tropical Storms and American Cities.** Climate Change causes tropical storms, like Hurricane Katrina, which displaced 1.1 million Americans and destroyed a great city.
- **Drought and Water Supplies.** Climate Change causes drought, which threatens to dry up the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies 70%-90% of the irrigation water used by major grain producing states such as Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas.
- **Water Scarcity and Migration.** Climate Change melts glaciers and reduces drinking water. This presents anywhere between 7 million to 77 million people in Latin America with a shortage of water. By the 2050s the number could climb to 100 million or more. Drought and water scarcity is a one-two punch that will lead millions to try to make it into the United States.



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Climate Change is a “Threat Multiplier” Increasing Conflict

- **The Long War Gets Longer.** Climate Change creates the conditions that will make the “Long War” even longer.
- **Resource Wars – Darfur is the tip of the iceberg, and it’s the only iceberg that isn’t melting.** Competition over resources can lead to conflict, as we have seen in Darfur, and it can lead to fragile or failed states where terrorists and extremist groups can step into the vacuum. This instability provides an opportunity for terrorists to exploit the situation and establish safe havens for operations, i.e. Afghanistan in the 1990s and Somalia today.
- **Mass Migration and Safe Havens.** Climate change causes drought, the disappearance of drinking water, and rising sea levels. Billions of people live near coastal plains that could end up underwater. This would cause the mass-migration of millions and create instability with ungoverned spaces where extremists and terrorists can flourish.

Fossil Fuels as Achilles’ Heel: Enemy targets our weakness

- **Consuming too much, controlling too little.** The U.S. consumes 25% of the world’s oil production, but controls less than 3% of the supply.
- **Terrorist Attacks on Oil Infrastructure.** In 2006, al Qaeda staged an attack against the oil processing facility at Abqaiq in Saudi Arabia. Although the attack failed, it caused a 3.6% spike in global oil prices and proved that the world’s oil infrastructure is an Achilles’ heel through which terrorists can strike at American interests and security. Less than 50 attacks against oil and gas occurred before 9/11. By 2005, 265 major attacks took place; by 2006 that number reached 344.
- **Osama bin Laden targets the oil infrastructure:** “One of the main causes for our enemies’ gaining hegemony over our country is their stealing our oil; therefore, you should make every effort in your power to stop the greatest theft in history.”

Reality of Climate Change is Already Forcing U.S. Military to Divert Resources

- **The World’s “First Responder.”** Increasing natural disasters and storms will raise the demand for a U.S. response. Indonesia was hit by a tsunami in 2004, and the U.S. military responded with logistics aid, ships, planes, and helicopters. Costing \$5 million per day, only the U.S. military had the capacity to respond so quickly to a disaster of such magnitude.
- **Hurricane Katrina.** Climate change increases the intensity and frequency of tropical storms where military units are the first responders. They were needed to respond to Hurricane Katrina, and the cost of repairing the damage to the Pascagoula Naval Station in Mississippi reached several billion dollars. These resources could have been better spent on improving intelligence, hunting down terrorists, or sending equipment to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **Rising Sea Levels – Putting Gas in the Car puts the Military Underwater.** Rising sea levels threaten to put critical U.S. island bases underwater. Diego Garcia, a major U.S.-British logistics hub for the Middle East, is a prime example. Climate change will thus force the military to relocate equipment, will require longer range lift and strike capabilities, and will increase the military’s energy needs.