

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
November 20 - 27, 2013

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1. DOD Wraps Climate Change Response into Master Plans (11-26-2013)

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 2013 – The effects of climate change are already evident at Defense Department installations in the United States and overseas, and DOD expects climate change to challenge its ability to fulfill its mission in the future, according to the first DOD Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap.

John Conger, the acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment told American Forces Press Service the roadmap was completed in 2012 and published early this year.

The document “had us do a variety of things,” Conger said. “But the piece that I think is the crux of the report is, rather than creating a stovepipe within the DOD organizational structure to deal with climate change, the document says we are going to integrate climate change considerations into the normal processes, the day-to-day jobs of everybody.”

Such language is going to be integrated into various guidance documents, he added, “and we’ve already started doing that.”

The department's action is part of a federal government effort to address the global challenge. In June, President Barack Obama launched a Climate Action Plan to cut carbon pollution, prepare communities for climate change impacts and lead similar international efforts.

Across the United States, local communities and cities are updating building codes, adjusting the way they manage natural resources, investing in more resilient infrastructure and planning for rapid recovery from damage that could occur due to climate change.

And on Nov. 1, the president issued an executive order on climate preparedness directing federal agencies to modernize programs to support climate-resilient investments, manage lands and waters for climate change preparedness and resilience, and plan for climate-change-related risk, among other things.

The order also forms an interagency council on climate preparedness and resilience, chaired by the White House and composed of more than 25 agencies, including the Defense Department.

The foundation for DOD's strategic policy on climate change began with the defense secretary's publication in 2010 of the Quadrennial Defense Review. The QDR, produced every four years, translates the National Defense Strategy into policies and initiatives.

In 2010, the QDR for the first time linked climate change and national security. It said climate change may affect DOD by shaping the department's operating environments, roles and missions, have significant geopolitical impacts worldwide, and accelerate instability or conflict.

The QDR said DOD also would have to adjust to climate change impacts on its facilities, infrastructure, training and testing activities and military capabilities.

As the acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, Conger also is the department's senior climate official, and his first job is to manage the installations and environment portfolio.

"That includes over 500 bases and 300,000 buildings and 2.2 billion square feet of space," he said. "The infrastructure has a plant replacement value on the order of \$850 billion. There's a lot of stuff out there that is all going to be impacted by changes in the climate."

Conger said the department has to plan for the contingencies that climate change poses just as it would plan for any other contingency, driven by any other force in the world.

"As I look at managing the infrastructure, I have to think about risk as well in that context," he said. "What is climate change likely to do? What are the major changes that will occur that will affect that \$850 billion real property portfolio?"

The obvious threats are things like a rise in sea-levels, storm surges and storm intensity, but there's also drought and thawing permafrost that affects bases in Alaska, the deputy undersecretary added.

"Similarly, on our installations we have over 400 endangered species," he said. "We manage those species through documents called integrated natural resources management plans and we manage them not through some degree of altruism ... but the fact is that if we don't manage those species effectively and they do appear more threatened, then other regulatory agencies will put limits on what we can do on our property and that will impact training."

Conger added, “We said, ‘Take climate into account. Make sure you have planned for this. Make sure you have thought about it and addressed it in your installation management plans.’”

“These are all, in my mind, sensible, reasonable steps that don’t cost very much money today and just require a little bit of forethought in order to reduce our exposure to risk tomorrow.”

The president’s June Climate Action Plan categorized recommendations for action in terms of mitigating or eliminating emissions that cause climate change, adapting to climate change, and working internationally on climate change, Conger said.

DOD has been looking at mitigation, or the energy problem, for a long time, the deputy undersecretary added.

Energy and climate are tied together, Conger said, because energy and emissions are tied together.

“We are working very hard and diligently to reduce our energy usage, to reduce our energy intensity and to increase the use of renewable energy, which doesn’t have emissions,” he said. “And we have done each of these things not because it is good for the climate or because it reduces emissions but because they provide mission and monetary benefits.”

Conger says the department’s \$4 billion annual utility bill drives the search for energy-efficiency, renewable-energy development projects and more. All have benefits from a mission perspective first, he said, and also turn out to be good for the environment.

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[2. Security Advisor Rice’s Meeting with Afghan President Karzai \(11-25-2013\)](#)

Readout of National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan

At the end of her three-day trip to Afghanistan to visit American troops and civilians and to assess conditions in the country, Ambassador Rice met with President Karzai, at his invitation, for a working dinner at the Palace.

Ambassador Rice conveyed to President Karzai that the United States welcomes the Loya Jirga’s overwhelming endorsement of the U.S.-Afghanistan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) and is prepared to sign the agreement in the coming days. Ambassador Rice underscored the opportunity provided by the BSA to sustain the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan to support Afghans in achieving lasting peace, security and development. In response, President Karzai outlined new conditions for signing the agreement and indicated he is not prepared to sign the BSA promptly.

Ambassador Rice stressed that we have concluded negotiations and that deferring the signature of the agreement until after next year's elections is not viable, as it would not provide the United States and NATO allies the clarity necessary to plan for a potential post-2014 military presence. Nor would it provide Afghans with the certainty they deserve regarding their future, in the critical months preceding elections. Moreover, the lack of a signed BSA would jeopardize NATO and other nations' pledges of assistance made at the Chicago and Tokyo conferences in 2012. Ambassador Rice reiterated that, without a prompt signature, the U.S. would have no choice but to initiate planning for a post-2014 future in which there would be no U.S. or NATO troop presence in Afghanistan. The United States will continue to work with Afghanistan to support a smooth security transition and to help ensure free and fair elections.

Ambassador Rice conveyed the overwhelming and moving support she found among all the Afghans with whom she met for an enduring U.S.-Afghan partnership and for the prompt signing of the BSA. In closing, Rice highlighted the American people's friendship and support for the people of Afghanistan as embodied in the extraordinary sacrifices of our service-men and women and the unprecedented investment Americans have made in Afghanistan.

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3. U.S. Envoy Davies on North Korea Policy in Japan (11-25-2013)

Remarks by Glyn Davies, Special Representative for North Korea Policy, Tokyo, Japan

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: What I would like to do very much – first of all, let me thank you all for coming out. I appreciate that very much. I would like to say something at the beginning since it's been a long visit here to North Asia and I've had good talks in Tokyo. First of all, I want to thank Director General Ihara and Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary Kanehara for giving me so much time today here in Tokyo. We had very in-depth and useful talks, and I believe that our visit here today and the talks I've had in Tokyo today demonstrate our close collaboration on North Korea.

We talked of course about the nuclear issue. Japan and the United States are in complete agreement, complete sync about that. We also talked about North Korean human rights – we'll do more of that in a minute at lunch – and touched on the abductions issue. And we'll again have more to say about that at lunch. I want to reiterate again, as I always do here in Tokyo, about how we in the United States share the pain and the suffering of abductee families and the Japanese people and pledge once again that we will work tirelessly in cooperation with Japan to try to resolve this important matter.

But as I wrap up a very productive week in the three key North Asian capitals – Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo – I want to report a strong convergence of views on North Korea. All of us are in quite close alignment, and I believe Russia, an essential partner in the Six-Party process, agrees that we will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapons state. There are of course some differences among the five – but not at all among the three allies, who are in complete solidarity – but some differences over secondary issues such as the precise threshold or timing of talks, but there is unanimity on

what North Korea must do: North Korea must abandon its nuclear weapons and agree to begin that process.

So we are looking for concrete indications from Pyongyang of its commitment to do that. This is because the core purpose of the Six-Party process is the complete, verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula on a clear and quick timetable.

North Korea, however, is moving in the opposite direction. They have made clear through words and actions that they reject that premise. We have heard them say repeatedly that instead they demand acceptance as a nuclear weapons state, that they demand prior lifting of sanctions, that they demand a weakening of the U.S.-ROK alliance, which has kept the peace on the Korean Peninsula now for 60 years. I've spoken – I did so in Beijing – about North Korea's "Byungjin" policy of prioritizing nuclear weapons development, which I call a dead end.

I also want to underscore that Pyongyang's attempts to engage in dialogue while keeping its program running are completely unacceptable. So it's understandable, we believe, after so many broken promises, after the nuclear and missile tests, the threats against its neighbors and the United States, that not just its negotiating partners in the Six-Party process, but the international community writ large would have high standards of evidence to measure North Korean intentions.

That's why the United States and its allies call on North Korea to make convincing indications, take concrete steps to demonstrate its seriousness of purpose. We will continue this process of joining with our partners – especially China, given its unique role – to keep the onus for action on North Korea.

With that, I'm very happy to take any questions that you have.

QUESTION: Could you be more specific about what is the concrete step you want North Korea to take?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Well, this is now a matter of diplomatic discussion among the diplomatic partners in the five-party process, so I don't want to go into a great deal of detail now. We're talking about this between governments. We commend China for its tireless efforts to try to move forward on this discussion of what the appropriate threshold for Six-Party Talks would look like. My friend and colleague Ambassador Wu Dawei was just in Washington, some weeks ago, and we had the opportunity there to talk about it, and of course I followed up in Beijing on that same subject. And of course the discussions we had in Washington with separately the ROK and Japan, and then we had a trilateral session, and then again out here in the region – all are meant to define to our collective satisfaction what the threshold for talks should look like. So with your permission I do not plan at this stage to go into a great deal of detail about it.

The North Koreans know full well the kinds of things that we are looking for and talking about. We've been at this diplomacy now for a generation, through bilateral talks, trilateral talks, quadrilateral talks and Six-Party Talks, and we'll keep it up.

QUESTION: Ambassador Davies, what is the U.S. currently doing to pull its citizen out of North Korea, and did you discuss it with the allies?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Of course. This issue of the fate of American citizens who are in North Korean custody is one that we've raised – that I've raised at each stop, but particularly in Beijing, given their relationship with North Korea. I'm not going to get into, again, the specific discussion of

the measures that we're taking, but I will use this occasion to once again call on North Korea to make the right decision and to respect our concerns and let American citizens who are there go free. I also want to commend our Swedish protecting power. The Government of Sweden has been magnificent in trying every day to work on these issues in Pyongyang with the North Korean government, and that is very important. It is very important to us that this be resolved, that it be resolved quickly.

QUESTION: There have been reports that it is Mr. Newman who has been detained. Can you confirm that identity?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: I'm not at liberty to do that. We have a law that we take very seriously in the United States called the Privacy Act, and because there is no signed Privacy Act waiver, I'm not in position to speak specifically about that issue, out of respect for the law.

QUESTION: Ambassador, your opening remark was very strong, and it comes obviously after the deal with Iran. Is the United States ready to deepen the sanctions, to make the sanctions more strict, to make them more effective?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Well, look, I'm glad you raised that. I actually – since I knew you'd raise the issue of Iran, and this gives me an occasion to talk about it, so let me say some general things about that, since I know it's the topic of the moment. Other than the nuclear denominator, the cases could not be more different, frankly, between Iran and North Korea. The two states, simply put, are on opposite sides of the nuclear weapons divide. I would point you to the remarks just made by Secretary of State Kerry. He pointed out that there is the very significant difference on the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons that, as I think many of you know, North Korea is the only nation on earth to have first signed that treaty and then renounced its signature. Iran is a signatory of the non-proliferation treaty. Also North Korea has said repeatedly, with increasing frequency, has asserted that it is a nuclear weapons state. They have now placed provisions in their constitution to enshrine that. They've sought acceptance as a nuclear weapons state. Iran in contrast has pledged not to build nuclear weapons.

But the starkest contrast of all – and I think this is the most important point to make – is that in the 21st century, North Korea is the only nation on earth that has exploded nuclear devices. They've done it not once, not twice, but three times.

There are other differences between the two cases. North Korea walked away from its membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, the agency where I spent several years representing the United States, that is now under the direction of Director General Yukiya Amano. Iran is and has always been a very active and engaged member of the IAEA although we have often had differences with them in the past. I would also remind that I've alluded to this before, that North Korea has elevated the pursuit of nuclear weapons to one of its two strategic priorities in its "Byungjin" policy that I spoke to a minute ago.

One way the cases are similar – and I think this is very important – is that pressure, particularly in the form of sanctions, do play a critical role. Sanctions helped convince Iran to agree to this interim deal that's just been announced. We believe sanctions and pressure are key to sharpening the choices that Pyongyang faces. So given North Korea's continued flouting of its international obligations and international law, given its testing of nuclear devices, given its repeated threats of nuclear attack, its elevation of its nuclear weapons program pursuit to its highest national priority, we will continue to keep pressure on North Korea, to keep the screws to North Korea.

But it's pressure not for its own sake; it's pressure with a purpose, and this is important because what we seek is a negotiated, diplomatic solution to this long-running problem. Here we believe we are making progress with our partners to define an appropriate threshold for resumed multilateral talks, and we will keep that up.

QUESTION: There have been many rumors that the two countries, Iran and North Korea, have been cooperating on nuclear programs. How do you address these concerns?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Well, proliferation is a concern. It's a big concern, and it's something that we work on every day and about which we have conversations with our partners. I'm not going to get into what we do or don't know about the state of affairs between North Korea and Iran. That would dip into intelligence matters which I can't comment on, but this issue of proliferation of the spread of nuclear technologies, in particular from North Korea, remains an area of key concern to us, and of vigorous action.

QUESTION: Ambassador, regarding the sanctions, are you suggesting that we don't have the right level or the right mix as we stand?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Sanctions are always a work in progress. I mean, I think that there are always more sanctions we could put in place if needed. But what I want to put the emphasis on here is what I said at the end of my earlier remarks, that we want the sanctions to help clarify for Pyongyang the choices that they face. If they continue to defy the international community, pursue nuclear weapons and missile technologies, all they will do is continue to isolate themselves, quite frankly to impoverish their people, to keep North Korea outside the community of nations. So we're saying to North Korea – and we're doing this increasingly with one voice across not just the six parties, not just the northeast Asian region, but across the world – take a different approach; take a different decision; come in the direction of the concerns of the international community; give up your nuclear weapons; pledge to eliminate your nuclear program; stop this relentless pursuit of these technologies; stop threatening the outside world, testing weapons and declaring yourself at odds with the international community.

If you do that, there is hope going forward for diplomacy, but we've seen just the opposite. I've detailed that. I won't go back into that. And that's why we're so concerned, that North Korea seems uninterested in meeting the concerns of the international community, and that's where pressure and sanctions come into play. And so we will keep the pressure on North Korea, and if necessary if they cannot in the near term go in a different direction, we'll have to ramp up that pressure in order to continue to try to bring home to them that this is a mistake, it's not in their interest, and that if they wish a better relationship with the United States, their neighbors in the world, they have to give up the nuclear weapons.

QUESTION: What is the latest (inaudible)?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: I've talked about this before. I actually talked about it at length in Beijing, and I don't want to really repeat myself. What I said was that it remains a matter of some wonderment that they haven't understood that if, as they say, they want a better relationship with the United States, one thing they could do is release these Americans and answer our calls to take seriously our concerns about the fate of those being held there. And you know Kenneth Bae has been there for over a year. He's been in North Korean custody longer than any American in quite a while. His family is understandably concerned. We talk to them frequently. They are keeping their hope up, and I believe that's the case with the family of the other individual concerned. And we

want them to know that we're with them, and we're doing everything we can to convince North Korea to let these men go.

QUESTION: The current level of sanctions hasn't quite persuaded North Korea to think as you suggested. Is it time for a different tactic?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: Well, that time will come soon, but we're not there yet. There's still room for diplomacy. We'd like to get something going here, and that's why the pace of diplomacy has increased, to see if we can't agree on an appropriate threshold for Six-Party Talks. But at the same time, we keep up our pressure. We keep up our sanctions, and if we do not see signs of North Korean sincerity, if they do not act to demonstrate that they understand they must fulfill their obligations to give up their nuclear weapons, then there is more pressure that will be brought to bear on them.

QUESTION: Did you give them a deadline?

AMBASSADOR DAVIES: You know, I'm not in the business of giving deadlines. I'm not going to do that. Let me – if there's one more question, I'm happy to take it, but I've been invited to lunch by Director General Ihara, and I would not like to be rude. I want to show up for that lunch, so any other questions here? No? Excellent. Thank you very much for coming here and listening to me. I really appreciate it. I look forward to seeing many of you in the near future either in Washington or back here in Tokyo. Thanks again. All the best.

4. Obama: New Agreement Halts Iranian Nuclear Program (11-24-2013)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says an agreement reached between the six world powers and Iran in Geneva is an initial step that will halt progress of the Iranian nuclear program for the first time in a decade.

“These are substantial limitations which will help prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon,” Obama said in a nationally televised address November 23.

“Meanwhile, this first step will create time and space over the next six months for more negotiations to fully address our comprehensive concerns about the Iranian program,” the president said, adding, “If Iran does not fully meet its commitments during this six-month phase, we will turn off the relief and ratchet up the pressure.”

The initial steps agreed upon by six major powers and Iran will provide limited, temporary, targeted and reversible relief to Iran, senior administration officials said during a background briefing from Washington. This agreement does not recognize that Iran has a right to process uranium or plutonium, which is essential in building nuclear weapons.

Under the terms of the deal, Iran committed to halt certain levels of uranium enrichment and neutralizing part of its uranium stockpiles. Iran cannot use its next-generation centrifuges, which are used in the process for enriching uranium.

In addition, Iran cannot install or start up new centrifuges, and its production of centrifuges will be limited, the president said. Iran will halt work at its Arak plutonium reactor, and new inspections by

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will provide extensive access to Iran's nuclear facilities. These inspections will allow the international community to verify whether Iran is keeping its commitments, the president said.

"On our side, the United States and our friends and allies have agreed to provide Iran with modest relief, while continuing to apply our toughest sanctions," Obama said.

The breakthrough came at the end of five days of often tedious and detailed negotiations among six major powers – the United Kingdom, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States – negotiating with Iran in Geneva, and hosted by Lady Catherine Ashton, the European Union high representative for foreign affairs and security policy.

Secretary of State John Kerry and foreign ministers and representatives from the six nations joined in the talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif late November 22. The initial agreement was announced in Geneva early on November 24.

At a briefing in Geneva, Kerry told journalists that "the measures that we have committed to will remain in place for six months, and they will address the most urgent concerns about Iran's nuclear program."

The agreement, which contains a stringent verification and inspection process spearheaded by the IAEA, impedes progress that will roll back the stockpile of existing enriched uranium that would be necessary for development of nuclear weapons, Kerry said. Iran has agreed to suspend all uranium enrichment above 5 percent, and also has agreed to dilute or convert its entire stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium.

"That means that whereas Iran today has about 200 kilograms of 20 percent enriched uranium, they could readily be enriched towards a nuclear weapon," Kerry said. "In six months, Iran will have zero – zero."

He added that "Iran has agreed to submit its program to unprecedented monitoring," to ensure that these commitments are met.

Kerry said this first step does not say that Iran has a right to enrichment of uranium or plutonium. It does say that Iran's nuclear program is subject to negotiation and to mutual agreement.

Under the agreement, the international community provides Iran with limited economic relief in return for these measures in the first step, Kerry said, but that relief is reversible if Iran fails to meet its obligations.

The international community will permit humanitarian transactions that already are permitted by U.S. law, Kerry said, and do not provide Iran with any new sources of outside funding. The core architecture of economic sanctions put in place by the international community remains in place during this six-month period, including sanctions on oil and financial services, he added.

Obama said diplomacy has opened up a new path toward a world that is more secure and a future in which the world can verify that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and cannot be used to build a nuclear weapon. The November 24 agreement, reached after extensive negotiations by senior diplomats from six nations and Iran, reflects Obama's commitment from 2009 when he began his presidency to see a diplomatic resolution to the threat posed by a nuclear armed Iran.

If the interim agreement holds and Iran meets its obligations, Obama said, then the six nations and Iran will begin negotiating “final-stage” agreements to halt Iran from building nuclear weapons, and to begin dismantling long-standing economic and political sanctions imposed by the international community, led by the U.N. Security Council, the United States, the European Union and others.

Related Sites:

[Statement by the President On First Step Agreement On Iran's Nuclear Program](#)

[Kerry's Interview on Iran Pact with ABC's George Stephanopoulos](#)

5. U.S., Canada Sign Asia-Pacific Cooperation Framework (11-22-2013)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Nov. 22, 2013 – The United States and Canada will increase their security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, American and Canadian defense leaders announced here today.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Canadian Defense Minister Rob Nicholson signed the Canada-U.S. Asia-Pacific Cooperation Framework today as both leaders take part in the Halifax International Security Forum. The forum continues through the weekend, but Hagel will return to Washington late today.

Hagel said that signing the agreement on America's day of remembrance for President John F. Kennedy reminded him of a speech Kennedy made to the Canadian parliament in 1961.

The secretary quoted from that speech: “The warmth of your hospitality symbolizes more than merely the courtesy which may be accorded to an individual visitor. They symbolize the enduring qualities of amity and honor which have characterized our countries' relations for so many decades.”

Canada has long been among America's most valued allies, Hagel said.

“Our bilateral defense relationship -- symbolized by NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command], the world's only true bi-national command -- is one of the strongest in the world,” the secretary said.

The new agreement, he said, “is another example of our two nations being able to leverage each other's strengths in order to help address global challenges.”

Canada and the United States are both Pacific nations, and each can benefit by working together, Hagel said.

“The United States and Canada will establish an annual strategic defense dialogue on the Asia-Pacific within the context of the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defense, which will meet for the 232nd time next month,” the secretary said.

Hagel added that the dialogue will help establish clear parameters for coordination of operations among the United States' Pacific Command, Canadian Joint Operations Command, and the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command.

“It will also help foster ties among our respective defense attachés in the region, as well as improve coordination for high-level visits and military-to-military activities where appropriate,” he said.

Hagel noted that an area of particular emphasis for both nations is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

“At a time when both the U.S. and Canadian armed forces are proud to be providing relief to the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, implementing this framework will help us coordinate these activities even more effectively going forward,” he said.

In response to a reporter’s question, the secretary reiterated that America’s rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is based on national interests, alliances and partnerships in the region.

“Our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is about more than just military-to-military relations,” Hagel said. “It’s economic, it’s trade, it’s social, it’s cultural, it’s education, it’s security, it’s stability -- all of these are part of relationships in an interconnected world.”

The Canadian minister said Canada has no greater or closer friend and ally than the United States.

“As the global security environment grows ever more complex, we also continue to seek ways to work together beyond the hemisphere,” he added.

Nicholson said Canada recognizes the importance of maintaining security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure its continued peaceful growth.

“Both Canada and the United States share with our Asian partners an interest in promoting stability,” Nicholson said.

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[6. Hagel Announces Arctic Defense Strategy \(11-22-2013\)](#)

By Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Nov. 22, 2013 – The Defense Department’s new Arctic strategy is an 8-point approach to maintaining peace and security in a new frontier that climatic forces are poised to open in the coming years, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said today.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivers the keynote address at the Halifax International Security Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Nov. 22, 2013. Hagel and his defense counterparts met to discuss key global defense-related matters. DOD photo by Glenn Fawcett (Click photo for screen-resolution image);high-resolution image available.

Speaking to hundreds of representatives from some 25 nations at the Halifax International Security Forum here, Hagel outlined the American military's role in carrying out the nation's Arctic strategy, announced last May.

The secretary pointed out that climate change is "new to the modern world." While it doesn't cause conflict directly, he noted, climate change can add to the challenges of global instability, hunger, poverty, and conflict.

"Food and water shortages, pandemic disease, disputes over refugees and resources, more severe natural disasters – all place additional burdens on economies, societies, and institutions around the world," he said. "Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines is a reminder of humanitarian disaster brought on by nature. And climatologists warn us of the increased probability of more destructive storms to come."

At the same time, he noted, global energy demands will place more emphasis on emerging sources of energy from new frontiers, including the Arctic.

Rising temperatures in the Arctic are transforming the region from a frozen desert to "an evolving navigable ocean, giving rise to an unprecedented level of human activity," Hagel said. "Traffic in the Northern Sea Route is reportedly expected to increase tenfold this year compared to ... last year."

As global warming accelerates, the secretary said, Arctic ice melt will cause a rise in sea levels that could threaten coastal populations around the world -- but it could also open a transpolar sea route.

Hagel said that expanded tourism, commercial shipping, migrating fish stocks and energy exploration in the region will affect the eight Arctic nations -- Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, along with the United States -- most closely. All, he said, "have publicly committed to work within a common framework of international law and diplomatic engagement."

The secretary noted that President Barack Obama's national Arctic strategy is based on keeping it peaceful, stable and free of conflict. He added DOD's eight lines of effort supporting the strategy, emphasizing cooperation and collaboration with other nations, are designed to ensure the Arctic stays conflict-free.

Hagel described the eight lines of effort the strategy lists:

-- Remain prepared to detect, deter, prevent and defeat threats to the United States, and continue to exercise U.S. sovereignty in and around Alaska.

-- Work with both private and public-sector partners, including the state of Alaska and Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, to improve understanding and awareness of the Arctic environment "so that we can operate safely and effectively."

The Arctic, he said, “is the first new frontier of nautical exploration ... since the days of Ericsson, Columbus, and Magellan, and it provides a clear opportunity to work together ... to ensure we have accurate observations, maps, and models of the Arctic’s atmospheric, oceanic, and sea ice conditions.”

-- Help preserve freedom of the seas throughout the region, within existing frameworks of international law.

-- Carefully evolve U.S. Arctic infrastructure and capabilities at a pace consistent with changing conditions.

To that end, DoD will continually re-evaluate its needs as activities in the Arctic increase, Hagel said, “as we balance potential Arctic investments with other national security priorities.”

-- Comply with existing agreements with allies and partners, while also pursuing new avenues of cooperation.

“By taking advantage of multilateral training opportunities with partners in the region, we will enhance our cold-weather operational experience, and strengthen our military-to-military ties with other Arctic nations,” he said. “This includes Russia, with whom the United States and Canada share common interests in the Arctic, creating the opportunity to pursue practical cooperation between our militaries and promote greater transparency.”

-- Be prepared to help respond to man-made and natural disasters in the region.

“Our support will extend not only to civil authorities in Alaska and around its coast, but also to cooperation with allies and partners through humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations,” Hagel said.

-- Work with other agencies and nations, as well as Alaska natives, to protect the environmental integrity of the Arctic.

“DoD will use existing capabilities to help address safety-related challenges, including international search-and-rescue missions as well as incident and disaster response,” the secretary said. “We will work closely with our Canadian partners on emergency response operations that help save lives.”

-- Finally, “We will support the development of the Arctic Council and other international institutions that promote regional cooperation and the rule of law.”

DoD will work with the Department of State in new initiatives like the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable and the recent meetings of the Northern Chiefs of Defense, the secretary said. He added that such engagements “will help strengthen multilateral security cooperation throughout the region, which will ultimately help reduce the risk of conflict.”

Hagel noted the strategy is a long-term effort that will unfold not in days and weeks, but over years and decades.

“Even as we grapple at home with near-term challenges, including steep, deep, and abrupt defense budget reductions and continued budget uncertainty, this kind of long-range thinking is vital for our future,” the secretary said. “... As shifts occur in the strategic landscape, the United States and its

allies must be prepared to adjust their defense institutions and capabilities to meet these new challenges.”

Hagel said that throughout history, “Mankind has raced to discover the next frontier. And time after time, discovery was swiftly followed by conflict. We cannot erase this history. But we can assure that history does not repeat itself in the Arctic.”

In closing, he quoted American explorer Frederick Cook, who searched for and thought he had found the North Pole in 1908.

Hagel said, “After many attempts to discover the North Pole – and after believing he had found it – he wrote: ‘It occurred to me ... that, after all, the only work worthwhile, the only value of a human being’s efforts, lie in deeds whereby humanity benefits.’”

The secretary added, “That is why we look to the Arctic – this new frontier – to help make a better world for all mankind.”

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7. At Naval Academy, Carter Details Strategic Tasks for 21st Century (11-22-2013)

By Cheryl Pellerin

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 2013 – During an address on national security leadership today in Annapolis, Md., Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter detailed for 250 midshipmen four strategic tasks facing the Defense Department as the 21st century unfolds.

Carter spoke at the U.S. Naval Academy, and as he began his remarks told the midshipmen that after nearly five years serving President Barack Obama and defense secretaries Chuck Hagel, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates, first as undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics and for two years in his current position, on Dec. 4 he will return to private life.

“There is no higher calling and no job on the planet more satisfying than serving our sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, DOD civilians and contractors, who together make up our total force, as well as our veterans and military families,” the deputy secretary said.

Carter, trained as a physicist, told the midshipmen he was honored to address them in a hall named for a personal hero of his -- four-star Adm. Hyman Rickover, who directed the development of naval nuclear propulsion and today is known as the father of the nuclear Navy.

The deputy secretary added, “It was 50 years ago today that another personal hero of mine ... was assassinated. Two years before he was killed, President Kennedy spoke here at the Naval Academy. And in a speech to the midshipmen of his time, he told them, ‘The answer to those who challenge us so severely in so many parts of the globe lies in our willingness to freely commit ourselves to the maintenance of our country and the things for which it stands.’”

Carter said Kennedy’s call to action is why the deputy secretary was speaking at the Naval Academy today, to give the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps a sense of the security challenges and opportunities ahead for the world and what will be asked of them in the years to come.

The four strategic tasks Carter described involve maintaining a technological edge over U.S. adversaries, rebalancing defense resources and attention to the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening the nation’s web of international alliances, and internalizing lessons learned from the past decade of war.

“Because, now more than ever, maintaining a technological edge over our competitors is the surest way to deter conflict,” Carter said of the first task. “We must continue to invest in technologies that will be essential to 21st century defense.”

That is why Obama and Hagel have insisted that DOD go out of its way to protect critical investments, even in times of budget austerity, he said, adding that DOD is increasing its investments in the cyber domain because of the growing threat cyber poses to national security and critical infrastructure.

And in the space domain, Carter said, the department is rebalancing its portfolio “to improve our capabilities to defend against threats, degrade enemy space capabilities and operate in a contested environment.”

The defense department is requesting funds for more sensors to increase space situational awareness and investing in jam-resistant technologies and new operating concepts to enhance the survivability of U.S. satellites, he added.

DOD is also investing in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and unmanned assets, including platforms that launch from land and sea, and operate well above the earth’s surface and deep under the sea, Carter said.

On the second task, the deputy secretary said, along with civilian counterparts from across the government, the department must fully implement Obama’s strategy to rebalance resources and shift attention to the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia is home to 60 percent of the world’s population, and countries bordering the Pacific Ocean account for more than half the global economy. The United States has been a Pacific nation for much of its history and will remain a Pacific power far into the future, the deputy secretary said.

“The logic of our rebalance is simple,” Carter explained. “The Asia-Pacific theater has enjoyed relative peace and stability for over 60 years. This has been true despite the fact that there’s been no formal overarching security structure there, no NATO, to make sure historical wounds are healed.”

During those years, first Japan then South Korea rose and prospered followed by many other countries in Southeast Asia. Today India and China are rising politically and economically and the United States welcomes all, he added.

While the Asian political and economic miracle was realized first by the hard work and talent of the Asian people, it was enabled by two critical American contributions, Carter said.

-- One is enduring principles the U.S. has stood for in the region, including commitment to free and open commerce, a just international order that emphasizes rights and responsibilities of nations and fidelity to the rule of law, open access by all to the shared domains of sea, air, space, and now cyberspace, and the principle of resolving conflict without using force.

-- Two is the pivotal role of U.S. military power and presence in the region that provided a critical foundation for U.S. principles to take root.

Carter said the third task facing the department is continuing to strengthen the web of international alliances that have underwritten global security since World War II, and deepening new partnerships that will advance American interests and a just international order in the years to come.

“Working with allies and partners takes constant attention and hard work,” Carter said.

“As with any relationship, sometimes differences of opinion emerge and those differences must be worked through,” the deputy secretary added. “But remember this: the United States is the security partner of choice for the vast majority of nations around the world. This is a state of affairs that our adversaries and competitors don’t enjoy, and that gives us and our partners a tremendous advantage -- one worthy of our continued investment.”

Maintaining this advantage means continuing to invest in NATO and urging the United States’ closest European allies to do the same, Carter added, so as NATO winds down its Afghanistan operations it stands ready to address 21st century threats ranging from ballistic missiles to piracy to cybersecurity.

“It means reinvigorating crucial alliances in Northeast Asia, such as those we enjoy with Korea and Japan and breaking down bureaucratic barriers to increase security cooperation and defense trade with new powers such as India, an effort I’ve dedicated a significant amount of my personal attention to in the last several years,” he said.

Maintaining the advantage also means growing DOD participation and support for new multilateral forums like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to increase regional trust, transparency and cooperation, the deputy secretary said.

And, he told the midshipmen, “it demands that each and every one of you take personal ownership for strengthening our partnerships by being uniformed ambassadors for the United States everywhere you serve.”

The fourth task, Carter said, “even as we rightfully focus on and invest in the future, we must take care not to lose lessons gained through the last decade of war.”

Such lessons include the tremendous competencies developed and honed by our special operations forces, and the capabilities brought to bear by innovations in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and intelligence-operations fusion, he said.

“We must also institutionalize what we’ve learned about quickly responding to urgent warfighter needs -- for example, our rapid fielding of MRAPs and other roadside bomb countermeasures -- and

ensure that in the future the department's acquisition processes stay as focused on today's fight as tomorrow's," Carter said.

The adversaries always adapt so the department must maintain a focus on agility, the deputy secretary said.

"This means constant personal attention from senior leaders on enabling rapid acquisition of new technology, it means maintaining flexible funds that can move emerging capabilities quickly from the laboratory to the field, it means identifying disruptive threats as early as possible, and it means rapid validation and assessment of solutions," he said.

The focus on agility already has paid dividends, Carter said. The department has begun to use processes designed for Iraq and Afghanistan to upgrade munitions and targeting systems for operations over water to respond to the potential use of speedboats by Iran to swarm U.S. naval vessels in the Persian Gulf.

DOD also has developed and made prototypes for improvements to a penetrating bomb that would allow it to target hardened, deeply buried facilities, the deputy secretary added.

Last year the department decided to build the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System, he said, a transportable system that can destroy chemical weapons stockpiles wherever they are found.

It was developed months before the United States knew it would be discussing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, he said, adding, "It is now ready for deployment whenever required -- a capability that enabled our government to include this possibility in its recent negotiations with Damascus."

As he came to the end of his remarks, Carter told the midshipmen that they've chosen an exceptional time to become ensigns and second lieutenants in the greatest maritime force the world has known.

"The road ahead will not be an easy one," the deputy secretary said, "yet the very fact that you're sitting here today tells me the easy path isn't what motivates you. The challenges of tomorrow will require all your talent and determination, and I'm confident you're up to the task. This is what our sailors and Marines have the right to demand."

(Follow Cheryl Pellerin on Twitter: @PellerinAFPS)

Biographies:
[Ash Carter](#)

8. Hagel Urges Signing of U.S.-Afghan Agreement by Year's End (11-21-2013)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT, Nov. 21, 2013 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said today that any U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan past 2014 can only be discussed after the proposed bilateral security agreement between the United States and Afghanistan is signed and put into effect.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him en route to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he will attend the Halifax International Security Forum tomorrow, Hagel said “That’s all going to be defined ... after the final approval” of the agreement.

Hagel noted that Afghan President Hamid Karzai spoke this morning to the loya jirga, or council of elders, that he called together to consider the document. If the loya jirga approves the draft agreement, it will then go to Afghanistan’s parliament for ratification.

The document spells out each side’s roles, rights and responsibilities in Afghanistan’s post-2014 security; one point of contention has been the stipulation, which the United States puts into all such agreements, that it retains legal jurisdiction over its service members. Hagel and other officials have repeatedly stated that provision is not negotiable.

“We believe by the end of this year, we should have that agreement signed,” he said. “We need to have that agreement signed by the end of the year -- I think President Barack Obama has been clear on that.”

Hagel said NATO allies and other nations contributing to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan are also waiting for the U.S.-Afghan agreement, which is expected to serve as a model for a similar, NATO-Afghanistan security agreement.

“We continue to plan for a post-2014, train, assist and advise and counterterrorism role,” the secretary said. “But until we get that BSA, we can’t do any more than train. It really needs to be done by the end of this year.”

Hagel responded to a reporter’s question on whether an extended delay in signing the document would be a “deal-breaker.”

“I don’t make deal-breaker decision,” he said. “But I think it would put the United States in a very, very difficult position -- because until we have a signed bilateral security agreement, ... we don’t have the assurance that we need to go forward.”

U.S. forces must be assured of protection, Hagel said, calling that security a “critical element.”

“We have to have assurances that our forces would be protected in every way,” he said. “Without a bilateral security agreement, I don’t think we could go forward.”

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