

What Can You Do? *Insights from Teaching Climate Change and National Security*

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“Think Global, Act Local”

For most people, understanding climate change is local and personal.
That’s ok—it will take compounding community-level efforts to bring about bigger changes.

Ask yourself—how will the changing climate affect your AOR, your platform, your base?
What will you have to do to adapt?

Whatever your job field—
how can you help to bridge climate science with strategy, policy, and operations?

“Just add climate” to any security discussion!¹
Understanding climate impacts should be cross-cutting and mainstreamed.

‘Continuity of Operations’ (COOP) is for everyone—
what will you, your unit, and your family do in a crisis?

Think strategically!
Climate change will affect our allies and partners as well as our adversaries.

Talk about it! Talking about this key security issue can be considered taboo or political.
It should be neither. It is science, risk assessment, and strategic planning.
You do not need to debate the causes to adapt, build resilience, and plan for the future.

Not comfortable talking about climate change—then talk to what you do care about—decreasing mission impact from extreme weather events, improving fuel efficiency, living in a healthy environment, maximizing training opportunities, or helping families deal with disruptions.

Follow the science! Learning about the science is easy: recommended resources are [NASA Global Climate Change](#), [NOAA Climate](#), and the [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) that produces the National Climate Assessment.

Have courage—understanding climate change can cause fear, denial, indifference, helplessness, and despair. Who better to understand and face risk than the national security community!

Never underestimate the power of human creativity to deal with a changing climate!
Our best scientists will continue finding ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Keep learning and building resilience in your life—you’ll be ready to handle anything!

¹ Caitlin E. Werrell and Francesco Femia. “The Thirty Years’ Climate Warming: Climate Change, Security, and the Responsibility to Prepare.” Setan Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations, Winter/Fall 2018, 21-38.