

Environmental Change and Security Program

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to U.S. national security interests. "It's easy to disregard that and portray the environment as something that's not a hard security issue as something that perhaps the right doesn't embrace the way that the left does." And I wanted to show that that's not necessarily the case. Visionary people recognize its importance.

So to achieve the end state, the United States typically uses its four elements of national power. Certainly, how we teach it at the War College to senior leaders who are going to go out and wear four stars and try to maintain our interests around the world: Economic, diplomatic, informational and the military. People typically dedicate one resource to a given problem instead of saying, how might all four of these be used with synergy and synchronized to give us the best effect?

So the national security strategy gives rise to each agency's effort to contribute to achieving the objectives of the national security strategy so the United States military develops a national military strategy, national defense strategy, the quadrennial defense review that lay out how environmental issues, and they do, affect security around the world. And then it's up to the theater, security cooperation plan as managed by that four-star, think General Schwarzkopf in the first war or General Abizaid in Iraq, too. How do they use this issue to promote goodwill or to head off conflict?

Our national security issues have been portrayed in the national security strategy over the year. Quote in the middle that it's contributing to political conflict came from President Bush the first. And the idea of using the environment to shape international affairs came out during the Clinton administration, where Secretary Perry spoke of pr

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These are difficult issues if they occurred in the United States. When they occur in developing countries, how will you solve those without the military or some of these issues? Climate change is coming, irrefutably. We can predict changes over the next 10 years in parts of the world that are important to U.S. national security where stability is already threatened, where governments are strained or failing. How do we address that? And the answer is, quite often, with great difficulty.

Typically, environmental issues are considered last. Apply Maslov's Hierarchy of Needs to a developing country and its efforts to meet the needs of the people. Can it provide food and shelter? Do we have health and physical security? If not, how do you think in terms of economic growth where only 15 percent of the people may be employed in the performance sector? And the feeling of nationalism, David and I were talking last night, about six o'clock, about the nationalism as an issue in Africa and which countries could be called nation-states, had to achieve that feeling of not -- of being from Zaire, Congolese and not Bemba or Shona or Ndebele.

So environmental concerns are typically addressed last when, in fact, they are essential to success in addressing each one of those issues as one moves up that hierarchy of needs. And increasingly, we have recognized that. And then the question is, how do you use all elements of power to achieve this? Because as the sustainable development model demonstrates, sustainable means that you have focused on the environmental issues, not just the economic issues. And that they are equitably distributed across all parts of the country, as Geoff described how water can and has led to conflict intrastate because of a particular part of a country that feels disenfranchised from the largesse that's developed by the government.

And I would argue that the military has a very strong role in helping to address that at minimal cost. Quite often, developing countries will have unusually large militaries that are able to determine the longest of a government. That's why they haven't been downsized, at least in part; 40,000-man Army left over from the cold war era, reduce the size of that military at your own risk. How do we get them to use their good communications, their presence on the frontier?

And ask yourself, those of you who are familiar with developing countries, how large is their ministry of the environment or energy or interior? And what kinds of resources do they have? Can they even drive to the frontier, much less have any a presence? But you can have the military out there monitoring diseases as they come across, not just the transmission of

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between urban dwellers and the elite and other religious groups such as the Muslims down on Mindanao.

So the military was quite successful in doing that. They developed a stewardship program. They took one of their officers, a Harvard graduate, and sent him to Mindanao with a brigade to reconstitute reforests. And it's not something that's just to turn off conflict as has been done on Jolo Island and Basilan Island and now Mindanao. But it's also being used by countries that are dealing with climate change issues to build good legitimacy with the people.

This is Mexico where they have 46 military forest nurseries. I got these facts from a student of mine at the War College. Planting trees, the PLA has done reforestation for millions of

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