



## Climate and U.S. National Security

Climate threats, risks, and hazards directly impact our national security by destroying infrastructure, hurting our economy, and undermining the security and wellbeing of our fellow Americans. From energy and food security to our military and economic competitiveness, no industry or individual will be unaffected by climate change, making it a key component of our national security.

### Climate Impacts on Americans

-  Climate change exacerbates poverty, contributes to environmental degradation, and damages and destroys livelihoods.
-  Americans face climate threats like extreme heat, sea-level rise, increases in severe weather, and stronger storms every day.
-  From home insurance rate increases to worsening air quality and impacts on health, climate change is making life in America more expensive.

In 2021, extreme weather cost  
the U.S. more than

**\$145 billion**

in damages and repairs.

By the end of the century,  
climate change could cost the  
federal budget

**\$2 trillion**

every year.

# Climate and the Military

Climate change is a **threat multiplier**. It exacerbates existing threats, risks, and hazards, while simultaneously creating new ones. It directly impacts military readiness, operations, and missions. From military communities at home to the shores of our partners and allies abroad, climate is changing the nature of when, where, why, and how militaries train and operate.



## ★ Readiness

Soldiers, sailors, and airman have had to contend with extreme heat, which impacts their ability to be able to maintain proficiency and readiness. Extreme and severe weather linked to climate change has already impacted the ability to train, either by causing a delay or destroying training infrastructure altogether.

## ★ Operations

Melting Arctic glaciers has resulted in a new operating domain for great power competition, which requires specialized skills, resources, and plans, as well as new partnerships and strategies.

## ★ Missions

Climate change is increasing extreme weather and severe weather events, which impacts partner capacity, supply chains, and strategic objectives. Military resources are increasingly executing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) and other non-combat missions.

## ★ Installations Impacts

Military bases both at home and abroad are already facing financial and operational impacts from climate change.

- ★ A 2019 Department of Defense Climate Effects report highlighted climate as a primary operational and readiness concern for 79 installations which are at risk of severe climate impacts.
- ★ In 2018, Hurricane Michael caused approximately **\$4.7 billion** in damages to Tyndall Air Force Base and the surrounding Florida community.
- ★ Also in 2018, Hurricane Florence caused approximately **\$3.8 billion** in damages to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina.





# Climate Risks and Hazards



## Water security

- [Colorado River Basin Water Shortage](#)



## Food security

- [Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System](#)



## Sea level rise and coastal degradation

- [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit Sea Level Rise](#)
- [NOAA 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#)



## Extreme weather events and weather-related disasters

- Record setting [Wildfires](#)
- ["Off-Season" Storms](#)
- [Extreme Heat](#)



## Climate-related migration

- [2022 World Migration Report](#)



## Public health

- [U.S. Global Change Research Program Climate and Health Assessment](#)



## [Combating violent conflict](#)