

Building Climate Resilience: DoD Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

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Climate change is increasing the demand and scope for military operations at home and around the world. At the same time, it is undermining military readiness and imposing increasingly unsustainable costs on the Department of Defense (DoD). DoD is responding to climate change in two ways: adaptation to enhance resilience to the effects of climate change; and mitigation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Both adaptation and mitigation are required to achieve resilience and work towards the desired climate end state as outlined in the Department's landmark Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP): ensure that DoD can operate under changing climate conditions, preserve operational capability and enhance the natural and man-made systems essential to the Department's success. Adapting to manage unavoidable climate change impacts and mitigating to avoid unmanageable climate change impacts are both necessary components of achieving resilience.

DoD has incorporated and continues to incorporate climate considerations into relevant strategy, planning, and processes to enable climate-informed decision-making. Climate considerations and energy resilience are now included in key DoD strategy and planning documents such as the National Defense Strategy, in forums that bring together DoD leadership, and across DoD data and analytic tools.

Building on the Department's CAP and the Military Department strategies released in 2022, the Department is developing a plan to reduce GHG emissions.