



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAR 09 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Climate Working Group

On Jan 27, 2021, the President of the United States issued Executive Order (EO) 14008 establishing the administration policy that climate considerations shall be an essential element of United States foreign policy and national security. I fully support the President's direction.

Climate change presents a growing threat to U.S. national security interests and defense objectives. The changing climate is altering the global security and operating environments, impacting our missions, plans, and installations. As I stated when the EO was issued, the Department will act immediately to include the security implications of climate change in our risk analyses, strategy development, and planning guidance. We will incorporate climate risk analysis into all of our work from installation planning; to modeling, simulation, and war gaming; to the National Defense Strategy and all other relevant strategy, planning, and programming documents and processes including those supporting decision making in the Military Departments.

Whether it is increasing platform efficiency to improve freedom of action in contested logistics environments, or deploying new energy solutions to strengthen resilience of key capabilities at installations, our mission objectives are well aligned with our climate goals. The Department will leverage that alignment to modernize the force, strengthen our supply chains, identify opportunities to work closely with allies and partners, and compete with China for the energy technologies that are essential to our future success.

In furtherance of these objectives, I direct the establishment of the Department of Defense Climate Working Group as the primary forum to (1) coordinate Department responses to EO 14008 and subsequent climate and energy-related directives, and (2) track implementation of climate and energy-related actions and progress against future goals. I designate the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Joe Bryan, to Chair the Working Group.

Membership of the Working Group will be the Under Secretaries of Defense for Policy, Research and Engineering, Acquisition and Sustainment, and Comptroller, as well as the Secretaries of the Military Departments, Chiefs of the Military Services, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. Other components will participate to provide specialized advice. Members shall designate a representative at the Assistant Secretary or 3-star equivalent level to serve as their direct representative on the Working Group.

The Working Group may be augmented by detailees and subject matter experts from across the Department. The Working Group will consult with Congress on a bipartisan basis and work with interagency partners to ensure our efforts support a whole-of-government approach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd J. Austin III", is located at the bottom right of the page.