

# National Security Impacts of Climate Change

April 6, 2018

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Harraseeket Inn, Freeport

America's military and intelligence communities increasingly see climate change as a serious national security risk. Sea-level rise already threatens infrastructure at U.S. military bases, food and water scarcity is causing political instability, and resource constraints will increase the risk of conflict and war. Join us to discuss these issues with:



**Lt. Gen. John Castellaw (Ret.)** led Marines around the world while flying more than two dozen different aircraft. During his 36-year career, he served with the UN during the Siege of Sarajevo, commanded the American force in the multi-national security and stability operation in East Timor, and was the chief of staff for the U.S. Central Command at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also commanded Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 (REINFORCED), Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing. Castellaw, a recognized national security expert, is a member of the USGLC National Security Advisory Council, serves

on the Nuclear Security Working Group, the American Security Project Consensus, and the Climate Security Working Group. He also consults with major defense firms. His honors, in addition to several military decorations, include membership in the UTM Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Hall of Fame and selection as the 1990 Marine Aviator of the Year. He was awarded the Order of Timor Leste (East Timor) by Prime Minister de Araujo for his service in restoring peace and security to that country. Following his return to his Tennessee family farm, Castellaw co-founded the non-profit Crockett Policy Institute, where, as president of the organization, he created the "SOLDIER 2 CIVILIAN" program to help veterans find jobs in precision agriculture.

**Lt. Donald Kim Erskine (Ret.)** served in the United States Navy as a member of SEAL Team SIX. Among his awards, Erskine received a Silver Star for his role commanding an assault element in Operation URGENT FURY in Grenada on October 25, 1983. Lieutenant Erskine successfully secured a target within an environment of dense enemy concentration. Determined to hold his position, he twice engaged the enemy and eliminated their combat effectiveness, taking 10 wounded prisoners of war without casualty to his team. Although painfully wounded himself, he successfully directed his men in evasion and escape maneuvers which resulted in the safe extraction of his entire force. Following his military service, Erskine served as the Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he led the first Regional Risk Assessment Program for Casco Bay specific to climate change. Retired from government service, he serves as a consultant on issues related to resiliency and infrastructure. Kim Erskine lives in Maine.



**Roger Sorkin** is an award-winning producer, writer and director specializing in the nexus between environment, energy and national security. As Executive Director and Producer for the American Resiliency Project, he produced the film *Tidewater*, which documents the vulnerability to sea level rise of the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, affecting military readiness and national security. The area is home to 14 military installations, with \$1 billion in urgent infrastructure repairs to address permanent flooding risks. He also produced *The Burden*, the first film examining how America's

dependence on fossil fuels poses immediate and long-term national security threats, and how the military is taking a lead role in support of clean, renewable energy. He is an alumnus of the U.S. Army War College's National Security Seminar and a fellow with the Truman National Security Project. Sorkin has served as a communications advisor to the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, as a delegate to the Electric Infrastructure Security Council, and he currently serves on the Climate and Security Working Group at the Center for Climate and Security. He began his career in broadcasting as the founding producer of a daily public affairs radio program in 1993, and then received a master of communication from Stanford University with a focus in documentary film before moving to Washington, DC, where he worked as a freelance writer, producer and editor for a variety of production companies before starting his own.

**This event is free, but space will be limited. Please RSVP by Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> at: [www.tinyurl.com/ntlsecurity](http://www.tinyurl.com/ntlsecurity) or by contacting Kristin Jackson at [kjackson@nrcm.org](mailto:kjackson@nrcm.org) or (207) 430-0114.**

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