

The Foreign Policy Association
of Harrisburg, Inc.
P.O. Box 60665
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Geopolitics of Climate Change

Scribed by Patrick T. Maxwell
Student of Global Studies and International Business and Economics
Lebanon Valley College

David W. Titley, an expert in the related field of climate and national security, says climate change is a proven science, whether one believes in it or not. He spoke on December 15 at the regular monthly meeting of the Foreign Policy Association of Harrisburg, attended by more than 120 members and guests.

Dr. Titley, a retired naval rear admiral who teaches the practice of meteorology and international affairs at Penn State, said climate change is vitally important because it involves people, water, and change.

He said climate change impacts people, not just polar bears. Further, he noted that water is the "nexus of life," and that water will be affected in some manner. Lastly, he warned that the consequences brought on by global climate change will be beyond anything humans have experienced throughout history.

Dr. Titley presented several examples, including rising sea levels, which not only will put many currently inhabited land areas under water but will complicate national security issues and bring about food shortages.

Regarding climate intervention, Dr. Titley contended that the fight against climate change is too important to be left to environmentalists. He said the United States is destined to transition from fossil fuels to a dependency on non-carbon based energy sources, but the question remains to which sources and when.

Commenting on the upcoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, a climate-change skeptic, Dr. Titley predicted a future prioritization of geo-engineering. He said climate-change intervention must occur soon, although he believes there's still time to make the corrections needed to ensure our safety and security.

Dr. Titley is the founding director of Penn State's Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk, which assists organizations and citizens to prosper and succeed in today's environment by taking advantage of weather and climate forecasts.

He served as a naval officer for 32 years, including a stint as commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

2016-17 Program Topics / Schedule

- Jan. 26** Update on Arab - Israeli Conflict
- Feb. 23** Cuba Today and After the Castro Brothers
- March 23** Russia and the West
- April 27** South China Sea Geopolitics
- (Please note the switch between the March and April topics.)**
- May 18** Future of U.S. - Iranian Relations
- May ??** Embassy Trip (to be determined)

2016-2017 FPA Officers

- President:** Dr. Michele Sellitto 717-968-1995
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2geegee@msn.com
- Treasurer:** Frank Matunis 717-526-4747
frankx912@verizon.net

Membership: Ann Glasscock 717-695-2738
hglasscock07@comcast.net

Newsletter: John L. Taylor 717-545-5027
jolata@pa.net

Web Editor: Lou Thieblemont 717-763-0522
lou.lynn@comcast.net