# **Australian and United States Military Responses to the Anthropocene, 2003-2024**



The Anthropocene is a term used to describe the current geological epoch, in which human activity is the dominant force shaping the planet's environment. Climate change is one of the most significant challenges of the Anthropocene, and it is having a profound impact on the world's military forces.

The Securitization of Climate Change: Australian and United States' Military Responses (2003 - 2024) (The Anthropocene: Politik—Economics—Society—Science Book 10)





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Australia and the United States are two of the world's leading military powers, and they are both facing the challenges of climate change. This article examines the military responses of Australia and the United States to the Anthropocene, from 2003 to 2024.

#### **The Australian Military Response**

The Australian military has been responding to the challenges of climate change since the early 2000s. In 2003, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) released its first climate change strategy, which outlined the ADF's commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Since then, the ADF has taken a number of steps to implement its climate change strategy. These steps include:

\* Investing in renewable energy projects \* Reducing energy consumption \* Improving waste management \* Developing new technologies to adapt to the impacts of climate change

The ADF is also working with other countries to address the challenges of climate change. In 2015, Australia joined the Global Coalition on Climate Change and Security, a group of countries that are committed to addressing the security risks of climate change.

#### The United States Military Response

The United States military has also been responding to the challenges of climate change for several years. In 2009, the US Department of Defense (DoD) released its first climate change strategy, which outlined the DoD's commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Since then, the DoD has taken a number of steps to implement its climate change strategy. These steps include:

\* Investing in renewable energy projects \* Reducing energy consumption \* Improving waste management \* Developing new technologies to adapt to the impacts of climate change

The DoD is also working with other countries to address the challenges of climate change. In 2016, the United States joined the Global Coalition on Climate Change and Security.

#### The Challenges of Climate Change for the Military

Climate change is posing a number of challenges for the military, including:

\* Increased risk of natural disasters: Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. These disasters can damage military infrastructure and

equipment, and they can also disrupt military operations. \* Sea-level rise: Climate change is causing sea levels to rise, which is threatening coastal military bases and infrastructure. Sea-level rise can also lead to flooding and erosion, which can damage military equipment and infrastructure. \* Changes in weather patterns: Climate change is also causing changes in weather patterns, such as increased temperatures and more extreme weather events. These changes can make it difficult for the military to operate, and they can also increase the risk of heat-related illnesses and other health problems for military personnel.

#### The Military's Role in Responding to Climate Change

The military can play a vital role in responding to the challenges of climate change. The military can help to:

\* Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: The military can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by investing in renewable energy projects, reducing energy consumption, and improving waste management. \* Adapt to the impacts of climate change: The military can adapt to the impacts of climate change by developing new technologies and by working with other countries to address the challenges of climate change. \* Provide humanitarian assistance: The military can provide humanitarian assistance in the event of a natural disaster or other climate-related emergency.

Climate change is a serious threat to the security of Australia, the United States, and the world. The military is playing a vital role in responding to the challenges of climate change, and it will continue to play a key role in the years to come.



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