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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CLIMATE CHANGE TABLETOP EXERCISE II

PARTICIPANT UPDATE
OCTOBER 2023



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

October 29, 2023

Dear Tabletop Exercise Participants,

Thank you again for joining us for the Department of the Navy (DON) Climate Change Tabletop Exercise II in collaboration with the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability this past Spring.

The exercise aimed to identify potential concrete actions and outcomes to propel the DON's climate priorities and sustainability initiatives forward, focusing on energy, water, and coastal resilience. As outlined in the After Action Report, I directed the Department to develop Plans of Action and Milestones (POAMs) to achieve three concrete deliverables:

Deliverable 1: Establish a partnership agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Port of San Diego to add the sharing of data and testing to improve climate resilience using the Port's Blue Economy project.

Deliverable 2: Ensure installations have personnel identified to develop, manage, and advance their water policies with a focus on looking across the fenceline and viewing water as a shared resource.

Deliverable 3: Develop a master plan framework that directly connects climate risk with readiness and mission assurance.

Since the TTX, we have made great progress on these and other initiatives.

Deliverable 1:

- Our regional teams in the Southwest have redoubled their collaboration with the Port of San Diego, and projects initiated through the Port's Blue Economy Incubator can now be implemented on Navy lands, in addition to Port of San Diego lands, so Navy bases can be part of the expanded test bed of coastal resilience and we can improve resilience throughout a larger portion of the San Diego Bay.
- The Port and Navy Region Southwest are also updating their natural resource management plans and increasing their focus on coastal resilience.
- The Navy, the Port, and other local partners have applied for the San Diego Bay and Tijuana Estuary to be designated as a Sentinel Landscape. If designated, this would provide a funded coordinator position and create a powerful convening entity that could organize coastal resilience efforts in the region and foster collaboration on coastal innovation and science.

Deliverable 2:

- Currently, within the Department of the Navy, while there are numerous efforts focused on water throughout the Department, there is no integrated program or department tasked with managing water resources holistically. Following the TTX, stakeholders came together and shaped a plan of action and milestones to holistically address water security across the Department of the Navy.

- The team collected data related to groundwater, stormwater, and land management that will help inform the development of a program that will address: ensuring adequate supply and access to water resources, upgrading water infrastructure, effectively planning for contingency responses, and accounting for critical installation needs.

Deliverable 3:

- Stakeholders from across the Navy and Marine Corps came together to examine current resilience-related processes and assessments – from energy, to water, to natural resources, master planning, and mission assurance – to identify gaps and overlaps in these processes and kick off a process to streamline approaches to better arrive at the common goal of ensuring secure, reliable, redundant resources and plans and outcomes and processes to support those objectives.
- The team will begin a detailed planning process to implement this vision.

Department of Navy and Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Collaboration

- NPS and the Stanford Doerr School have initiated a joint Climate Security Fellowship which will feature students from both schools working together on issues of climate security and sustainability. Applications are currently being accepted and the fellowship will begin in November.
- Researchers at Stanford and NPS have initiated collaborations in several areas, from oceans to polar research, to water resilience, to operational and on-base energy.
- NPS, working with the Office of Naval Research, has established a Decarbonization Research Consortium, of which Stanford is a member. The consortium is a public-private collaboration that is developing solutions to help the Department of the Navy meet the complex challenges of decarbonizing its tactical platforms, with a focus on ships and aircraft.

We are proud of these initiatives and are continuing full speed ahead to realize these objectives and others. We appreciate the time each of you spent with us helping make our Climate TTX II a success. Please feel free to reach out to my senior advisor for climate change, Ms. Deb Loomis (Deborah.loomis@navy.mil), if you see opportunities for further collaboration.



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