

**Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development 2012
EESC, Brussels 1st October 2009**

**TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY SERIOUSLY:
Can we do so by 2012?**

Tom Spencer

**Vice Chairman, Institute for Environmental Security
Project Co-ordinator “Climate Change & The Military”**

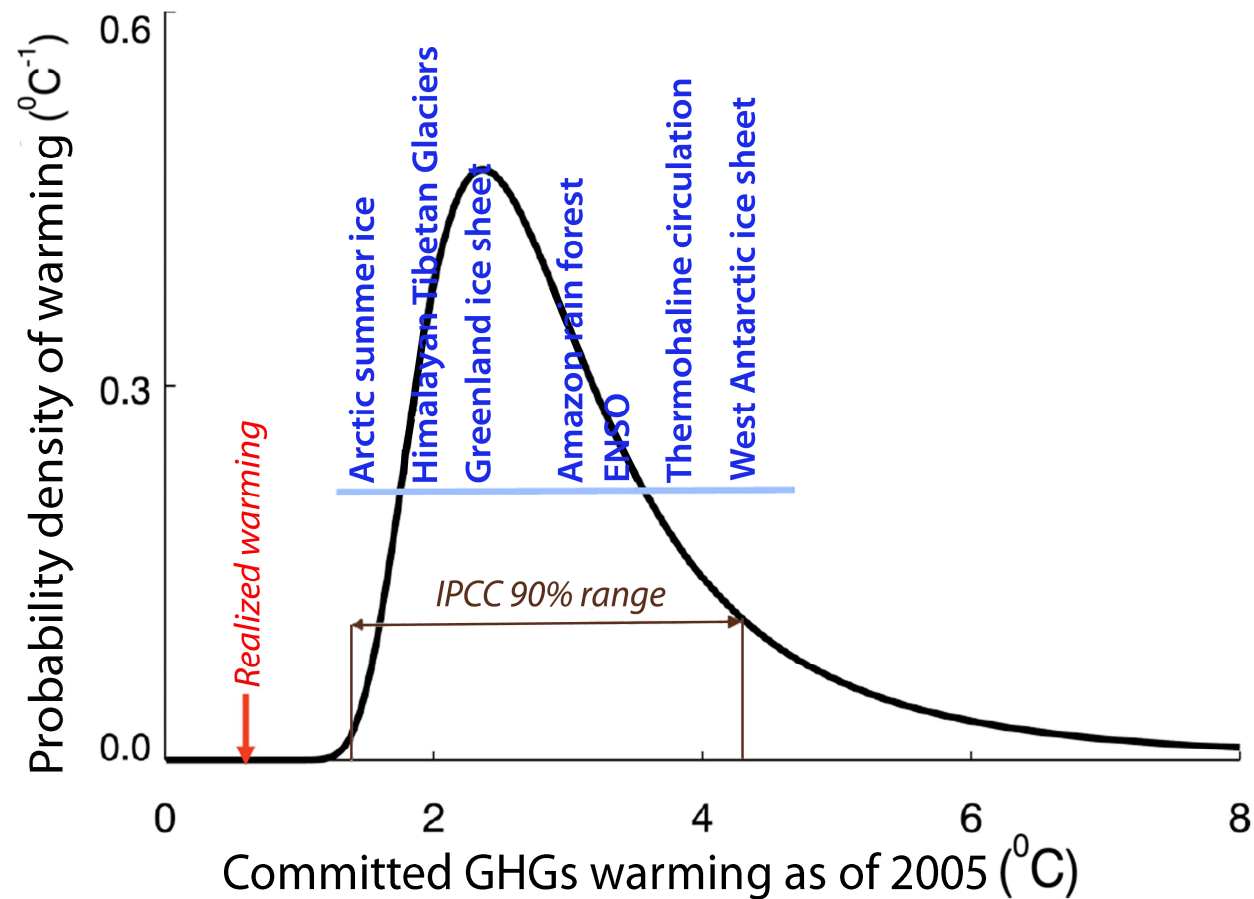
THE NEED FOR INTEGRATED THINKING

- False dawns for Environmental Security
 - the danger of over-claiming
- A mixture of disciplines
 - academic jealousies & the contest for budget
- “Environmental Security” or “Environment & Security”?
 - the fear of “securitization”
- Development Policy - Foreign Policy - Military Policy
- Food Security - Energy Security - Climate Security

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE MILITARY I

- CNA Report *“National Security & the Threat of Climate Change”*
 - Delayed by Bush Administration
 - “Big Military v Big Oil”
- CNAS Report *“The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change”*
 - The nasty stuff happens after 2050?
- Abrupt Climate Change – timing is all

TIPPING POINTS & “SQUEALING”



Source Durwood Zaelke, IGSD, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

Climate Governance Brief August 2009 www.igsd.org

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE MILITARY II

- Montreal Protocol - Ozone Depleting Substances
 - The untold story of global military co-operation
- Stephen Andersen & the EPA
 - “The fully burdened cost of fuel”
 - GHG emissions / solar power / managing military land
 - Mindset / analysis / research / action

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY MILESTONES

- Drought in the Amazon – Drinking water in Sao Paolo
- Darfur
- Katrina
- Peruvian glaciers
- Failing states & terrorism
- The Arctic – sea ice & the Greenland glacier
- The UN Secretary General's Report on Climate Change & Security

THE LOSS OF THE “THIRD POLE” GLACIERS?

- 22% of humanity rely on summer melt water from the Hindu Kush / Himalayan / Tibet glaciers
- The great rivers of Asia:
Yangtze-Brahmaputra-Ganges-Huang Ho-Indus-Mekong-Salween
- Flooding as the glacial dams burst
- Loss of summer melt water
- Loss of hydro-electric power schemes
- Changes to the Monsoon? Earthquakes? Extra sea level rise
- Damage to Tibetan permafrost

THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS

- Unrest in rural China
 - political stability of China
- Afghanistan & Pakistan
 - impact on existing wars
- India & Bangladesh
 - displacement & migration
- The diversion of the Brahmaputra
 - a casus belli?

WHEN?

- By 2050? By 2035? By 2020?
- The political impact can be delayed by denial
 - but the military may want to apply the precautionary principle!

THREAT MINIMIZERS

- Reduce Black Carbon
 - Indian cooking stoves, scrubbers on Chinese power stations, marine fuel & diesel, reduce the burning of forests
- Talk to each other honestly – share research
- Involve the global military now and highlight at Rio+20 in 2012

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

- www.envirosecurity.org
- “Climate Change & The Military: The State of the Debate”
- “Climate Change & Security at Copenhagen II”
IES Conference 7th - 8th October, Brussels