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Army: Sun, Not Man, Is Causing Climate Change

By Noah Shachtman June 03, 2008 | 1:46:00 PM Categories: [Science!](#)

The Army is weighing in on the global warming debate, claiming that climate change is not man-made. Instead, [Dr. Bruce West](#), with the Army Research Office, argues that "changes in the earth's average surface temperature are directly linked to ... the short-term statistical fluctuations in the Sun's irradiance and the longer-term solar cycles."

In an advisory to bloggers entitled "Global Warming: Fact of Fiction [sic]," an Army public affairs official promoted a conference call with West about "the causes of global warming, and how it may not be caused by the common indicators [sic] some scientists and the media are indicating."

In the March, 2008 issue of *Physics Today*, West, the chief scientist of the Army Research Office's [mathematical and information science directorate](#), wrote that "the Sun's turbulent dynamics" are linked with the Earth's complex ecosystem. These connections are what is heating up the planet. "The Sun could account for as much as 69 percent of the increase in Earth's average temperature," West noted.

It's a position that puts West at odds with nearly every major scientific organization on the planet. "The American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science all have issued statements in recent years concluding that [the evidence for human modification of climate is compelling](#)," *Science* magazine observes. So has the United Nations' [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, for their work on global warming.

West acknowledges that the IPCC and other scientific groups have "conclude[d] that the contribution of solar variability to global warming is negligible." He argues that these groups have done a poor job modeling the Sun's impact, however, and that's why they have "significantly over-estimated" the "anthropogenic contribution to global warming."

In recent days, the science and politics of climate change have once again taken center stage. NASA's Inspector General just issued a report, acknowledging that political appointees "[reduced, marginalized or mischaracterized climate change science made available to the general public](#)." Yesterday, the Senate began debating a bill that would cap carbon dioxide emissions -- considered one of the leading causes of man-made global warming.

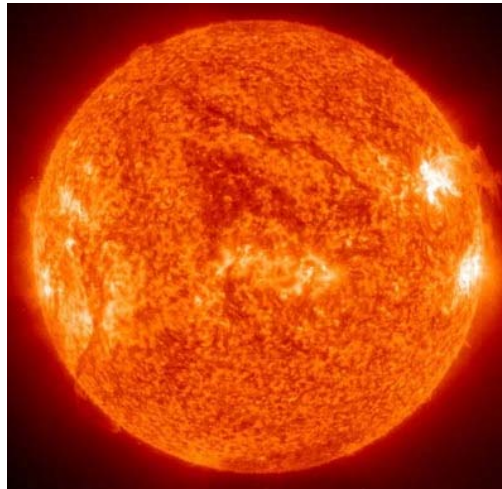
After the jump: the Army's full press release.

----- Forwarded message -----
 From: Dinklage, Lindy J. Ms OCPA <XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX.mil>
 Date: Tue, Jun 3, 2008 at 12:21 PM
 Subject: Army Blogger's Roundtable: Global Warming (UNCLASSIFIED)
 To:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Army Blogger's Roundtable



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Global Warming: Fact of Fiction

11 AM Thursday, June 5

Is global warming really caused by humans, or is it simply the result of different aspects of the sun's dynamics?

Dr. Bruce West, Chief Scientist, Mathematical & Information Science Directorate, Army Research Office, will discuss the causes of global warming, and how it may not be caused by the common indicators some scientists and the media are indicating. Research conducted by Dr. West contends that the changes in the earth's average surface temperature are directly linked to two distinctly different aspects of the sun's dynamics: the short-term statistical fluctuations in the Sun's irradiance and the longer-term solar cycles.

Please reply to this message if you are interested in participating.

Lindy Kyzer

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The real question should be, "Who cares what's causing it?" Whether or not climate change is man made is irrelevant, because the changes we would make if it were are the same changes we should make anyway. Energy independence, improved air quality, renewable energy sources, ending U.S. financial support of terrorist regimes -- all these things are incontrovertibly positive. Why the thinking public allow the Republicans to frame the debate as "Patriotic God-lovers vs. Commie Tree-huggers" is beyond me.

Posted by: **Conservative non -Republican** | Jun 3, 2008 11:05:14 AM

Of course the sun is responsible for providing the energy which is absorbed by greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. To bad our society is helping it along with such a dramatic increase in concentrations.

Posted by: **thousand sun** | Jun 3, 2008 11:16:05 AM

How about
 Caveat: "The author is not a climatologist, rather a physicist who has focused his recent work on nonlinear dynamics as applied to social phenomenon. The other author is his former student. This is an opinion letter, not a peer reviewed finding".
 I'm not a climatologist or physicist, either, but the actual 2 page OPINION referred reads like gobbledeygook to me...

It seems like what they are saying is "If you smooth the data and squint alot, you can assume that climate is somewhat coupled to solar behavior (sunspot cycles), because, well, it ocllates in the past consistent with

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