



# OPERATION ★ FREE

Secure America with Clean Energy

## Operation Free Statement by Uduak Ntuk

CARB Meeting – January 26th

Hello, my name is Uduak Ntuk. I'm here today with Operation Free, a coalition of veterans who recognize climate change and energy dependency pose serious threats to our national security. We believe it is our duty to protect America by advocating for clean, domestic energy production. While I did not serve in the military, I do come from a military family in Long Beach, CA. I was raised by my grandparents. My grandfather served in Navy during World War II and was stationed at the Long Beach Naval Base. My grandmother worked on the bomber assembly line at the McDonnell Douglas Plant, now owned by Boeing. They taught me the values of personal responsibility, shared sacrifice, and working collaboratively to solve our family problems.

I work in our local Petroleum Industry as an Engineer at the Wilmington Oil Field in Long Beach. While I'm involved in domestic production of Oil and Gas, I know that our future and the security of our nation depend on us becoming less dependent on fossil fuels.

- Californians spend about \$150 million a day on petroleum fuel. Far too much of that money is sent overseas to terrorist front groups and countries that do not share our values. Those dollars could be much better spent at home, growing our economy, and developing American made alternative sources of energy.

To cut their own emissions, the military is buying alternative fuels and renewable technology. The U.S. Navy just made the largest purchase of biofuel, 450,000 gallons, ever made. India Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Marines out of Camp Pendleton, also known as "Dark Horse," has used technologies like solar powered generators, and biofuels in the field in Afghanistan, and they are asking for more. The question becomes, who will they be buying from? California should be developing and selling this technology to the military.

The military believes that climate change will continue to destabilize nations. History has shown that humans will fight over scarce resources, as we've recently seen in Darfur, Somalia and other regions of the world. When those developments cause conflict, it's the US military that responds. Put quite simply, if we refuse to fight climate change, we're choosing to put more American military men and women in harm's way.

It is absolutely necessary to invest in clean energy to save our children and grandchildren the burden of future strife.

I am here today to encourage you to continue California's tradition of leadership and implement robust emission standards that will help reduce our dependency of oil, cut heat trapping emissions, and make our country more secure.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.