For Immediate Release

April 15, 2011

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Engineering Environmental Security
Seminar to Explore Potential Links Between Environmental Issues and Global Stability

Manhattan, Kan. -- Can environmental issues, natural or manmade, destabilize or cause conflict in the world? That question will be addressed by Retired Brigadier General Wendell Christopher King, Dean of Academics of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, in “Strategic Environmental Security: What in the World is worth fighting for?” Dr. King’s presentation will be held on Tuesday, April 19 beginning at 11:05 a.m. at Fiedler Auditorium in the Engineering Complex at Kansas State University. It is open to the public.

Using a geographic analytic model, Dr. King will demonstrate how issues such as climate change, water scarcity, and population growth rates could create environmental insecurity and possibly lead to tension between nations or regions of the world. The seminar will conclude by considering options that our nation and the world community could pursue to mitigate the destabilizing effects of key environmental degradation issues.

“The idea that through modeling engineers can show how certain environmental issues could impact national security is an intriguing one,” said Bradley Kramer, professor and head of K-State’s Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Department, sponsor of the presentation. “I think Dr. King’s presentation will be of interest to engineers and non-engineers alike.”

Dr. King has authored two books and 13 book chapters with his most recent manuscript being, Understanding International Environmental Security: A Strategic Military Perspective. He has published more than 30 journal articles, dozens of scientific reports, and lectured at more than 40 professional conferences including the technical sessions of the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009. Dr. King represents the US on an international military advisory council on security and climate change.

He earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering and M.S. in civil Engineering (environmental) from the Tennessee Technological University. Dr. King received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (environmental) from the University of Tennessee. He also holds a M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Dr. King served for more than 32 years of active service with assignments including determining the health risk to US troops exposed to the smoke from the Kuwait oil fires, as a member of the crisis action team for the Rwanda relief mission as the medical operations planner, and
assisting with the development of the new Afghanistan Military Academy. He retired from active duty with the rank brigadier general in August 2006.

Dr. King currently serves as the chief academic officer for the United States Army’s Command and General Staff College located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The college has a 125 year tradition of educating military officers on national security and the art of war. Dr. King directs a college faculty of more than 400 personnel, organized into four separate schools, all with the mission of developing Army leaders for service to the Nation.

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