

but a transportation trade website has said Trump's "assertions have repeatedly proven to be hollow and now it is becoming clear that the program's price tag has actually leaped considerably."

Other, more familiar threats to the system are just as difficult to manage. Drought can reduce the electricity produced by hydroelectric generation, and the West has experienced two long, major droughts in the last 30 years.

There were issues Gunn raised without seeming to realize they are hot buttons in Nevada. Fracking and the drone killings have drawn criticism in the state. Gunn spoke of the need for both. Both state and federal Nevada legislators have introduced language to curb fracking. And drones—which are guided to their human targets from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada—have been protested and picketed at Creech.

Gunn said Nevada's location and the progressive approach of its state government to renewable energy issues deserve praise.

In an interview the day after his speech, Gunn said the best protection the U.S. has against an EMP attack is the "disincentive" other powers have to use such weapons. If Russia employed one against the United States, he said, it would cripple Russia's own financial system, which is interlocked with the U.S. East Coast financial sector.

He was also asked if the military community has dealt with climate skepticism in its ranks as other sectors of society have. He said there were climate skeptics when the

military first started coming to grips with the problem, and there still are. But he said the military's task was made easier because climate change itself had to be dealt with, and military officials could avoid the whole issue of whether it is caused by humans.

That's a matter for policymakers, who must decide whether to try to reduce climate change. The military must cope with its already present effects.

For instance, coastal military bases in the U.S. and overseas locales like Guam must cope with rising water levels that threatened to submerge existing facilities at 128 sites in the United States and around the world. Thus the Pentagon can move ahead with dealing with the effects of climate change and leave its prevention to other agencies.

Gunn: "The first question that they needed to answer was 'Is the climate in fact changing fast enough so that the national security apparatus will have trouble keeping up?' And they spent a while satisfying themselves that, yes, the scientific evidence was sufficient to convince them that not only was it changing quickly, it was going to continue to change quickly. And there were going to be effects that the military had to deal with in organizing training and equipping and in organizing operations as well." □

A paper, "Energy Security in Nevada" by Maureen McCarthy, can be read at tinyurl.com/yyxkfua5.

One down



News coverage this week gave heavy attention to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report, which said no evidence was found of Donald Trump's campaign cooperating with Russia interference in the 2016 U.S. election but gave a less conclusive judgment on whether Trump obstructed justice. Trump still faces at least 26 other investigations by state and federal prosecutors, state and federal regulators, and congressional committees into charges of improper use of a charitable foundation, Trump's personal taxes, his business taxes, his use of undocumented workers, hush money payments, abuse of power, improper security clearances, campaign finance violations, preferential loans, whether Trump foreign investments are undercutting the nation's foreign policy, and whether he and his family are profiting from the presidency in violation of the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution.

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