Arctic Senior Leader Summit 2021 (ASLS21)
A Virtual Summit on Arctic Security and Defense

University of Alaska
10 March 2021
Introduction and overview.

In support of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Alaskan Command (ALCOM) (a subordinate unified command reporting to USNORTHCOM) is hosting a two-(partial) day Arctic Senior Leader Summit 2021 (ASLS21) via a virtual event on 10-11 March 2021.

ASLS21 “Day 1” will be a half-day of keynote presentations by current Department of Defense (DOD) leaders and a focused set of panels addressing current and emerging challenges, risks, and opportunities affecting Arctic region Security and Defense interests. The purpose of ASLS21 Day 1 is to gain insights of new and existing Arctic leaders on the current and emerging defense and security policies & priorities of the Arctic region. While ASLS21 is principally a U.S. audience, U.S. Arctic Defense Allies and key regional partners are invited to participate.

An ASLS21 principal goal is to support the USNORTHCOM Arctic mission and to support Commander, Alaskan Command’s “USNORTHCOM Lead for Arctic Affairs” responsibilities as designated by Commander, USNORTHCOM. This will be accomplished by conducting a focused exchange of insights and associated discussion via a select and multidisciplined set of leaders, oriented on the Arctic. This includes senior DOD leaders and participating leaders from the U.S. interagency, Alaskan Congressional Delegation members, State of Alaska senior leaders, national policy institutions (such as the Woodrow Wilson Polar Institute), and Arctic Indigenous leaders (to include Alaska Federation of Natives leaders). Arctic industry, academics (with a focus on the University of Alaska), Canadian security and defense leaders, as well as Arctic experts, NATO allies, and partners are also included.

ALCOM will conduct ASLS21 as a virtual event. Pending successful implementation of a COVID19 vaccine, future Arctic Symposia and Arctic Senior Leader Summits will once again be planned and conducted as in-person events. Subsequent to ASLS21, the next planned event will be Arctic Symposium 2021, tentatively planned for late summer/early fall 2021 as an in-person event hosted in Alaska.

Administrative details

Conference structure: ALCOM Arctic Senior Leader Summit 2021 is planned for 10-11 March 2021 using virtual conferencing.

Conference Medium. ASLS21 Plenary Conferencing will be provided by Zoom. Specific connection to be provided via email. ASLS21 planners ask this participants and observers to not further share this link.

Event Hub: In order to support ASLS21 as a virtual activity, ASLS21 planners are providing an “Event Hub” to contain videos, documents and other resources useful to inform participants as comprehensively as possible. Please see: https://arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org/EventHub_ASLS21
Registration: Participants will be permitted to register at the following link on the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) website at the University of Alaska, please see: https://arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org/Events.

ALCOM ASLS21 registration is FREE.

Moderation/facilitation and recording: ASLS21 planners will provide moderation of all sessions, recorded by dedicated personnel. Note, permissions are included in the registration, and any/all reports will be used via Chatham House protocols.

Post Summit Executive Summary and Report: ASLS21 planners will provide a timely report summarizing key presentations, discussions, and conclusions. The scope of the summary will at minimum include: the date and location of the event, event agenda, major themes and messages, and scope of participants.

ASLS21 Day 1, 10 March 2021
Draft Summary ASLS21 Agenda Plenaries and Keynote Presentations

AST: Alaska Standard Time (Eastern minus 4 hours)
MST: Mountain Standard Time (Eastern minus 2 hours)
EST: Eastern Standard Time

Note: Alaska Standard is 10 hours behind Central European Time (i.e., 0700 Alaska is 1700 Central Europe)

9 March 2021
0730-0900 AST/0930-1100 MST/1130-1300 EST

Advance Communications and Connectivity Check: ASLS21 Planning team hosts a 90-minute session for participant supporting staff members to ensure their office is able to connect with ASLS21. Note, a 20-minute break will occur from 0800-0820 AST/1000-1020 MST/1200-1220 EST to conduct an MS Teams connectivity check for Day 2 activities. Connection instructions provided via separate correspondence.

10 March 2021
0700-0730 AST/0900-0930 MST/1100-1130 EST

Pre ASLS21 Communications check: ASLS21 Planning team will initiate Zoom call 30 minutes in advance of the actual meeting start in order to support any person/office with connectivity challenges.

0730-0735 AST/0930-0935 MST/1130-1135 EST:

0735-0755 AST/0935-0955 MST/1135-1155 EST:
0755-0800 AST/0955-1000 MST/1155-1200 EST:

In-place break

0800-0820 AST/1000-1020 MST/1200-1220 EST:

ASLS21 Canadian Keynote Address: LGen Chris Coates, RCAF, Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command, Ottawa, Ontario (Confirmed). Canadian reflections of the changing Arctic Security situation. As the commander of Canada’s sole Unified/combatant command, for the globally engaged Canadian military, and as the Canadian command partnered with NORAD and USNORTHCOM for the defense of North America, LGen Coates has the advantage of viewing the Arctic, in context with his overall global mission.

0820-0840 AST/1020-1040 MST/1220-1240 EST:

The “Western Arctic” emerging security environment. Lt Gen David Krumm, USAF, Commander Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and 11th Air Force, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK. As the senior U.S. military commander stationed in Alaska, Lt Gen Krum has the ability of understanding “Great Power Competition in the Arctic...from his current insights as a theater commander. Through these remarks, Commander ANR, ALCOM, and 11AF provides an opening operational set of reflections of the current defense environment of the U.S. Arctic region.

0840-0900 AST/1040-1100 MST/1240-1300 EST:

The “Eastern Arctic” reflections on Arctic security from a recent Naval Forces Europe vantage. James Foggo, Admiral, USN, (Ret) former commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) (Confirmed). Recently retired NAVEUR Commander, Admiral Foggo, championed strong maritime defense of U.S. and NATO security interests in the Norwegian and Barents Seas and included a number of exercises and training in the European theater that bolstered readiness and defense capability for the NATO Alliance. His remarks provide context of the developing Arctic environment in the European theater.

0900-0920 AST/1100-1120 MST/1300-1320 EST:

VIP Introductions and brief reflections roundtable. A short 20-minute roundtable of quick introductions of the VIPs who participating and do not already have a planned speaking role in the Day 1 ASLS21 proceedings. ASLS21 Moderator Church Kee will briefly queue with a request for each VIP to consider providing one aspect of the Arctic that is an interest, concern or opportunity to explore. In order to get each participating VIP a chance to make an introduction, reflections are requested to be intentionally brief.

0920-1000 AST/1120-1200 MST/1320-1400 EST:

ASLS21 Panel #1: U.S. Arctic Intergovernmental Leaders. The dynamic Arctic, insights on the changing conditions of the Arctic from the physical environment to the human terrain. A multidiscipline panel of experts who shape policy, strategy and/or direct activities that influence U.S. national interests emanating within or through the Arctic region. Panelists are asked to describe from their current position and/or recent experience, near- and medium-term view of
challenges, needs, and opportunities as relates to U.S. national interests emerging in and across the Arctic region. In sum, what are the key issues/policy drivers and what are the emerging characteristics of the Arctic (from a multidiscipline view) that should inform security and defense plans, postures and activities?

**Moderator:** Dr. Mike Sfraga, Director, Polar Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington D.C. (Confirmed).

**Planned Panelists:**
- Mr. James DeHart, U.S Department of State Arctic Coordinator, Washington D.C. (Confirmed).
- Mr. John Murphy, Chief of Operations, National Weather Service Washington D.C. (Confirmed).
- Dr. Larry Hinzman, Assistant Director of Polar Sciences, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Executive Director of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, Washington D.C. (Confirmed).

**Desired panel discussion:** Arctic experts provide respective views of the developing geopolitical and physically changing aspects across the Arctic. Panelists remark on about vulnerabilities to great power competition and a changing Arctic region as a result of increasing warming temperatures, that are creating a remarkable amount of physical change, which are exceeding predictive models and indicate greatly reduced Arctic Ocean pack ice summer ice extents, increased melting of the Greenland ice sheet and thawing Arctic region permafrost years ahead of prior estimates.

**Desired panel outcomes:** Compared and contrasted views of policy/policy priorities addressing the changing physical and human terrain of the Arctic region as relates to addressing and improving U.S. National and allied/partner safety and security interests in the Arctic.

**Associated Poll:** What facets of the presentation on challenges, needs, and opportunities do participants and observers see as most significant (i.e., what should be the top, or at least, among the top priorities of U.S. allied & partner efforts?

**Poll options:**
1. Characterizing the changing Arctic physical environment: research, studies and analysis that advance understanding of marine, terrestrial and atmospheric environments, to include assessing the changing dynamics of the Arctic ice pack and Greenland ice sheet.
2. Responding to the changing dynamics of the developing Arctic geopolitical environment. Is the growth of Arctic military power by the Russian Federation and Arctic economic investments by the People’s Republic of China having a significant (and negative) impact on U.S., Allied and partner interests across the region?
3. Advancing mechanisms that respond to the opening opportunities of a warming Arctic in terms of advancing U.S., Allied and partner interests. Should U.S., Allies and partners seek to strengthen the elements of Arctic multilateralism such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organization efforts oriented to the Arctic as a top priority?

1000-1030 AST/1200-1230 MST/1400-1430 EST:

**ASLS21 Panel #2: Arctic Congressional Leaders. Summary Reflections on Arctic Security from Capitol Hill:** Congressional leaders provide ASLS21 an “update on Arctic Security and Defense Priorities for the 117th Congress.” Arctic oriented Congressional leaders from Alaska and Maine provide their reflections on Arctic related defense and security legislative measures for the new Congress. This is a series of quick remarks intended to inform ASLS participants the current priorities under consideration by the new Congress.

**Moderator:** Dr. Mike Sfraga, Director, Polar Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington D.C. (Confirmed).

**Planned Panelists:**
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) (Confirmed).
- Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) (Confirmed).
- Senator Angus King (I-ME) (via Video message).
- Congressman Don Young (R-AK) (via Video message).

**Desired panel outcomes:** Arctic oriented members of Congress articulate their legislative plans as relates to Arctic defense and security, to include new and sustaining issues as relates to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and associated appropriation measures.

**Associated Poll:** What are new and/or continuing Arctic security and defense issues that should be included as a top priority in the 2022 NDAA?

**Poll options:**
1. Continued authorizations and corresponding appropriations for more Arctic capable platforms and equipment such as Polar Security Cutters.
2. Establishment and build out of a DoD Ted Stevens Center of Arctic Security Studies, that advances professionalizing Arctic Service, Pan-Arctic Engagement and associated studies and analysis. A new, pan-Arctic RC would nominally leverage best practices from the existing 5 regional centers such as the bi-national aspects of the Marshall Center of European Security Studies and the indigenous oriented programs associated with the Inouye Center of Asia Pacific Security Studies.
3. Authorizations and appropriations to address the factors that limit Arctic operational activities such as communications, connectivity, domain awareness, and ability to detect hazards to operations.
1030-1140 AST/1230-1340 MST/1430-1540 EST:

**ALS21 Panel #3, U.S. Arctic Security and Defense Leaders. Understanding the risks, assessing context and advancing efforts to secure U.S. Arctic interests.** A panel of distinguished U.S. defense leaders who assess risks of the Arctic in context of global challenges, develop regional defense policy, advance security cooperation and address the very real challenges of supporting crisis response in the Arctic. Panelists are asked to describe from their current position, a near- and medium-term view of challenges, concerns, and opportunities as relates to U.S. and associated allied and partner security risks now emerging across the Arctic. Panelists will consider comparing and contrasting views of policy/policy priorities to address U.S. national interests in the Arctic in light of demands, concerns, and corresponding interests from other regions.

**Moderator:** Randy “Church” Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret) Arctic Domain Awareness Center, University of Alaska and U.S. Arctic Research Commissioner (Confirmed).

**Planned Panelists:**
- Mr. Spencer Boyer¹, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, for European and NATO Policy, Pentagon, Washington D.C. (Confirmed).
- James (Jim) Ballas, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Cooperation (Confirmed).
- VADM Linda Fagan, USCG, Commander, USCG Pacific Area, Alameda California (Confirmed).

**Desired panel discussion:** Panelists outline the Arctic defense concerns in context to the challenges.

**Desired panel outcomes:** Compared and contrasted views of policy, strategy and planning priorities associated with Arctic region as relates to meeting U.S. military defense missions, addressing and improving overall U.S. National and allied/partner security and defense interests in the Arctic.

**Associated Poll:** What facets of the defense policy, strategy and planning do participants see as most significant for the Arctic, i.e., what would be among the top priorities Security and Defense leaders should consider when forming and directing policies, plans and capabilities?

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¹ Due to a late breaking White House meeting, Ms. Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia is unable to attend, and ASLS21 planners are honored that DASD Boyer will speak in her place.
Poll options:
1. An integrated U.S. Arctic military strategy implementation framework, that leverages the DoD, DHS and associated military service Arctic Strategies.
2. Direction to establish a family of plans for the Unified Command(s) and associated subordinate units to address risks to national, allied and partner risks in and across the Arctic region that range from support in large scale search and rescue, humanitarian crisis, countering transnational threats and armed conflict.
3. Measures that advance training, exercises, and interoperability between U.S., allied and partner militaries across the Arctic region.

1140-1150 AST/1340-1350 MST/1540-1550 EST:
Break

1150-1240 AST/1350-1440 MST/1550-1640 EST:
ASLS21 Panel #4: Arctic Indigenous leaders. “Reflections on Arctic Security Challenges from a Millennia of Arctic Insights”: A panel of Arctic Indigenous leaders, who relate their informed perspectives of changing Arctic security...from changes in the Arctic corresponding to emerging dynamics of economic, environmental and geostrategic security.

Moderator: Dr. Liza Mack, Executive Director, Aleut International Association, Anchorage, AK. (Confirmed)

Panelists:
- Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council – Alaska, Anchorage, AK. (Confirmed)
- Dr. Rosita Worl, President Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau, AK. (Confirmed)
- Eugene “Gene” Peltola, Jr. Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of Interior, Alaska, Anchorage, AK. (Confirmed)
- Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage, AK. (Confirmed)

Desired panel discussion:  Alaska Native and other Arctic Indigenous leaders address their perspectives of near and emerging concerns.

Desired panel outcomes:  Arctic Indigenous leader’s views of policy/policy priorities as relates to addressing and improving U.S. National plus allies and partners security and defense interests in the Arctic. Panelists providing participants clearer understanding of the risks or vulnerabilities of security from an Arctic indigenous leader’s vantage, which may perhaps not well understood by U.S., Allied and partner security and defense leaders.

Associated Poll:  What reflections by the speaker(s) present the participants a new risk or previously unidentified issue for security and defense leaders to consider?
1. A priority need for studies to identify Arctic infrastructure that advances safety and security for Arctic people/residents?
2. Measures to reduce risks and mitigate impacts of manmade catastrophic events in the remote regions of the Arctic. Are measures put in place in wake of Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989 (such as oil spill response organizations) as relevant as they should be in 2021? Should new studies be taken to update disaster risks and mitigations be made a priority?
3. A priority to identify mechanisms to identify and mitigate security and defense risks to Arctic peoples/residents. Perhaps a priority to establish a standing voluntary planning group of community-based people who periodically meet with security and defense personnel to assess and address emerging concerns, such as unusual activities by non-local/regional entities (for example, a non-announced stop of a foreign flag cruise ship).

1240-1330 AST/1440-1530 MST/1640-1730 EST: 
ASLS21 Panel #5, Arctic Defense Allies & Partners. “Allies and partners: assessing changes and advancing opportunities for the High North.” As environmental changes continue across the pan-Arctic region and the rise of non-Arctic national activities and associated sovereign presence continues to develop, what is driving defense and security strategy, plans, and policies in/across the Arctic with U.S. allies and partners? Included in this panel is the U.S. Executive for the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR), who is vested as a senior leader of a multinational Arctic (and Polar) defense research collaboration.

**Moderator:** Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer, Network Lead, North American and Arctic Defense and Security Network (NAADSN), Trent University, Ontario. (Confirmed).

**Panelists:**
- Col Petteri Seppälä, Defence, Military, Naval and Air Attaché Embassy of Finland, Washington, D.C. (Confirmed).
- BGen Patrick Carpentier, Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command Joint Task North, Yellowknife NWT (Confirmed).
- RADM Lorin Selby, USN, Chief of Naval Research and U.S. Executive of the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) (Confirmed).

**Desired panel discussion:** Defense and security members of the Canadian and European region Arctic-oriented NATO allies and partners, describe their current position on what is driving the defense and security strategy, planning, and policies of their respective capitals. Included in the discussion are reflections on the environmental impacts of a warming Arctic in defense strategy and planning.

*Arctic SLS...advancing strategic discourse on the High North.*
**Desired panel outcomes:** A brief discussion of the strategic defense and security insights by U.S. allies and partners oriented on the Arctic.

**Associated Poll:** What aspects of allied and partner defense priorities and initiatives to better secure and protect respective national interests most resonate with the participants, (and should be made a priority effort in policy and/or resourcing).

1. Measures to advance U.S., Allied and partner interoperability among maritime, air, space and land forces exercising and operating in the Arctic region.
2. Professionalizing Arctic service within the U.S. in order to better establish long-term working relations among Allied and partner nations operating in and across the Arctic region.
3. Establishing and resourcing a multi-year effort to plan and conduct multinational training and exercises (both simulation and field activities) among Allies and partners in and across the Arctic region. Such measures would span the range from large scale Search and Rescue, disaster response, and confronting adversaries in securing and defending sovereign territory.

1330-1340 AST/1530-1540 MST/1730-1740 EST:  
**ALCOM Commander Closing ASLS21 reflections:** with thanks and appreciation for speakers and panelist presentations and encouragement to remain on for the **ASLS21 Roundtable discussion “Extracurricular event.”**

1340-1430 AST/1540-1630 MST/1740-1830 EST: **ASLS21 Extra Curricular Event: “Perspectives on ASLS21 Points and Priorities”:** Following the formal close of ASLS21 Plenary, ALCOM’s ASLS21 planners and organizers will remain on-line to conduct an organized roundtable to facilitate discussion for participants to address questions, provide clarifications and discuss/elaborate on important points raised during the plenary session. **This session includes a review of polling details from prior ASLS21 panels.**

**Roundtable Concept: A Facilitated discussion, moderated jointly by available ASLS21 Panel Moderators.** This session provides participants an opportunity to reflect on their various perspectives on security and defense priorities in the near term. Roundtable facilitators provide a short number of questions to elicit responses on concerns and opportunities to improve U.S., allied, and partner security in and across the Arctic region.

**ASLS21 Planned Roundtable Organizational Sequence:**

1. **U.S. Federal Departments and agencies participating representatives.**
   a. Department of State.
   b. Department of Defense.


d. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee.

e. Other participating government agencies.

2. **Arctic Indigenous/Alaska Native participants.**

3. **Academic and Policy organization participants.**

4. **Industry participants.**

5. **Military participants: U.S. DoD Service HQs:** HQ USAF, HQ Dept of Army, OPNAV, HQ USMC and HQ USSF participating representatives.

6. **Military participants: U.S. Geographic Unified Commands.**

   a. NORAD and USNORTHCOM: participating representatives.

   b. USNORTHCOM participating representatives:

      1. ARNORTH.

      2. AFNORTH.

      3. MARFORNORTH.

      4. Fleet Forces Command (via designated reps, 2nd and 3rd Fleet).

      5. SOCNORTH.

   c. ALCOM, ANR and 11 AF participating representatives.

   d. USINDOPACOM and participating components

      i. PACAF

      ii. USARAK

   e. USEUCOM participating representatives.

      i. USAFE

7. **Military participants: U.S. Coast Guard:** HQ USCG, USCG Pacific Area, USCG District 17, USCG District 17 Sector Anchorage

   a. HQ USCG participating representatives.

   b. USCG Pacific Area participating representatives.

   c. USCG District 17 participating representatives.

   d. USCG District 17 participating representatives.

8. **Canadian and Nordic Allied and partner military:**

   a. CJOC/CJOC Joint Task Force (North) (JTFN) participating representatives.

   b. Canadian and Nordic Allies and partners serving in Washington D.C.

   c. Danish Arctic Command in Nuuk Greenland.
9. **Military participants: U.S. National Guard**: participating representatives.

**Conclusion**

ASLS21 will improve participants’ understanding of the challenges in the complicated risk environment that describes the new circumpolar north. This will be accomplished via a series of thoughtful discussions and activities to gain insights for needed solutions to address and potentially reduce the associated defense and security risks. ASLS21 will continue the momentum started with AMS18 and advanced through ASLS19 and AAS19, setting the stage for the next Arctic Symposium later in 2021.