



Educating Arctic-minded leaders at the U.S. National War College

Dr. David Auerswald

Professor of Security Studies

National War College

Fort McNair, Washington DC

November 2019

Disclaimer: The views in this presentation are those of the author and not of the National War College, the Department of Defense, or any other entity of the US government.



Arctic education at the National War College



Focus: Security Strategy for the Arctic

Review Background Assumptions

- Regional characteristics and sub-regional differences
- Ramification of climate change
- Perception/bias for regional cooperation, competition, conflict

Conduct Assessments

- Regional trends and entities
- Great power strategies, capabilities and actions
- Smaller power maneuvering within region

Learn by Doing

- Write alternative strategies
- Exercises/simulations on today's Arctic challenges



Three Examples

Arctic Strategy Development (AY 2012-13)

- Clean-sheet Arctic strategy at request of J-5 staff
- Seven month effort by Joint and Interagency student group
- Informed some DOD inputs into Obama's 2013 Arctic Strategy
- Briefed to then-Senator Mark Begich

Arctic Security in European-Atlantic Theater (Spring 2017)

- Sub-regional focus
- Assessment of A-8 strategies, regional flashpoints
- Deliverable: Short exercises with policy recommendations

Geopolitical Competition in the Arctic (Spring 2020)

- Focus on U.S., Russia, China
- Exercises: NSR, Chinese investment, Svalbard contestation, Cruise Missiles
- Deliverable: Writing alternative strategies