Col Petteri Seppälä
Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attache of Finland for the US and Canada
FACTS ABOUT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL AND RECENT NEWS

May 2019: At the 11th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, Ministers of the eight Arctic States, leaders from the six indigenous Permanent Participant organizations and the Chairs of the six Working Groups of the Arctic Council met to mark the passing of the Chairmanship from Finland to Iceland.

May 2019: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday sharply warned China and Russia against “aggressive” actions in the Arctic.

May 2019: The Arctic Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Arctic Economic Council in Rovaniemi, Finland. The aim of the MoU is to provide a framework for cooperation and to facilitate collaboration between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council.

Arctic Council Nations:
- Canada
- The Kingdom of Denmark
- Iceland
- The Russian Federation
- Norway
- Sweden
- Finland
- United States
FINLAND: Population 5.5 M

FINNISH LAPLAND
182,000 inhabitants.
10% of FIN exports
19% of int’l travelers
THE FINNISH MODEL

Comprehensive security
General conscription
Large reserve
Will to defend Finland

High technology
Cost-effectiveness

Bilateral cooperation
Multilateral cooperation
The United States and Finland, as members of the Arctic Council, want to maintain the Arctic as a region of cooperation and low tension. Security, sustainable development, environmental protection, the well-being of the people living in the Arctic, and cooperation in this important region are essential to us. Arctic governance, guided by applicable international law, is the responsibility of Arctic nations, particularly through the Arctic Council.

The Arctic provides new economic opportunities, but environmental changes such as the diminishing of sea ice raise environmental concerns. The United States and Finland share a commitment to clean air and water and environmental protection, including the reduction of particulate matter, and with it, black carbon. Our two countries will use our cold-weather proficiency, understanding, and technology to advance our cooperation in the Arctic, including with respect to the production of new icebreakers.
BUILDING SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE

Puolustusvoimat
Försvarsmakten • The Finnish Defence Forces