13 November 2019

Welcome to ALCOM Arctic Symposium 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you in advance for the gift of your time and effort to join us for our Arctic Symposium. As we are approaching the end of quite a remarkable calendar year, we in Alaskan Command, Alaskan NORAD Region, and the 11th Air Force have noted the remarkable rise in focus on the Arctic region across the Department of Defense, the U.S. Federal Government and internationally. It has become clear to many, as Arctic sea ice continues to diminish, access barriers to the Arctic also subside. Correspondingly, the geo-political interest of the Arctic continues to rise, fueled by increased access to resources, shorter transportation routes and tourism. Arctic Nations seek to better secure their interests in the Arctic, while non-Arctic nations seek to expand their posture and influence across the circumpolar North.

In sum, the dynamically changing Arctic and the increasingly complex security and defense dimension of the Arctic, create a need to for improved understanding and thoughtful discussion in assessing and addressing challenges and opportunities.

As U.S Northern Command's security and defense team focused on the U.S. Arctic region, Alaskan Command remains committed to understand, plan, and prepare to defend U.S. sovereign territory and national interests in the Arctic, while also supporting allies and partner's defense needs.

With rising activities in the Arctic, there is particular need to advance understanding in regards to the multiple facets of new dynamics across the region...from the physical environment, to Arctic residents, commercial interests along with the developing security and defense dimension. Such discussions should consider collaboration with Allies and partners aligned to mutual interests.

We hope you find the Arctic Symposium 2019 informative and helpful.

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