



As/of 1 November 2019



W H I T E  
P A P E R

AAS19 is supported by moderators from the following organizations:



In support USNORTHERN Command's Arctic Security and Defense Mission

Alaskan Command hosts

# Arctic Symposium 2019 (AAS19)

*Advancing Strategic Partners in  
Securing America's Arctic Interests*

*University of Alaska Fairbanks  
13-15 November 2019*



## *Introduction.*



In support of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Alaskan Command (ALCOM) is hosting a 3 day Arctic Symposium from 13-15 November 2019 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The overarching goal of this Arctic Symposium is to support USNORTHCOM's Arctic mission, through convening a wide array of leaders and experts, very near the Arctic, during a time of year when the environment provides a solid reminder of the challenges faced in this austere and strategically vital region.

Accordingly, in support of USNORTHCOM's Arctic missions and associated tasks and requirements established in the U.S. Presidentially approved Unified Command Plan, ALCOM's Arctic Symposium 2019 (AAS19) is planned as a composite and complex event. AAS2109 includes multiple plenary sessions, breakout group electives and follow-on field activities, principally focused to advance greater understanding, improved networks and more effective approaches in discerning and developing solutions to address current and emerging concerns to U.S. national interests in the Arctic region. AAS19 provides ALCOM's senior command, USNORTHCOM, an opportunity to gain convergence in shared understanding and improved unity of effort from across policy and practices via a new and developing network of defense and security-minded professionals. Such convergence practically is gained by framing discussions from a cross agency and multi-disciplined approach to advance measures to deter, dissuade potential adversaries, while also protecting, securing and defending America's citizens, supporting allies and partners, protecting U.S. Sovereign Territory and U.S. National Interests. Importantly, we seek AAS19 to also discuss securing and defending mutual interests oriented to respective national interests of Allies and partners.

The principal outcome sought in AAS19 is to improve understanding of the challenges in the complicated risk environment that describes the new circumpolar north. Symposium planners anticipate AAS19 will create thoughtful discussions to gain needed solutions to address and potentially reduce the associated defense and security risks. AAS19 planners will create several important frameworks to facilitate dialogue. These are via plenary, electives, select VIP breakouts and field activities, oriented in ways and means to better secure and defend U.S. interests in the Arctic region. Complementing this focus are discussions centered to address defense "practitioner" needs to improve U.S. effective presence in the region through exercises, training, and other operational activities. Overall, the principal structure of AAS19 is Day 1 of plenary presentations, Day 2 of AM electives and PM plenary discussions, and with Day 3 comprising of morning plenary, followed afternoon of field activities.

## *Background.*

In support of USNORTHERN Command, Alaskan Command (a subordinate unified command) conducted an inaugural defense and security focused Arctic Maritime Symposium (AMS18) at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, 14-16 August 2018. This event included approximately 100



professionals, including U.S. Congressional, Federal, State of Alaska, Tribal, and international leaders from U.S. Allies and partners across the Arctic region, along with Arctic subject matter experts from across academia, industry, and institutions. AMS18 was oriented as a series of comprehensive panels and engagement activities, which included a ship visit aboard USS MOMSEN (DDG 92). The principal outcomes of AMS18 were to inform participants on a wide range of Arctic defense and security concerns, while establishing a new network of thought leaders to Arctic security and defense matters. Symposium planners delivered a summary knowledge product capturing key highlights from the event.

Following AMS, ALCOM conducted an Arctic Senior Leader Summit (ALCOM ASLS19) at Ft McNair, Washington D.C. The primary outcome of ASLS19 was to build on the success of AMS18 to expand and strengthen relationships between senior leaders within DoD and key leaders across the interagency, indigenous Arctic leaders and internationally. ASLS19 provided a venue to communicate USNORTHCOM and ALCOM upcoming opportunities for further engagement, training, and exercises that collectively advance U.S., Allied, and key partner respective national interest in the Arctic. ASLS19 participants gained strategic insights on the Arctic contrasted against the Global Security Environment from the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Posture. ASLS19 continued momentum from AMS 18 with specific presentations which identified the overall Arctic security environment, specific state and non-state threat, Service and unified command Arctic capabilities, and a focused look on Great Power competition within the circumpolar North. AMS18 and ASLS19 individually and collectively advanced understanding of the issues and awareness of the threats and risks, with a degree of comparative analysis to reduce and/or mitigate these risks. AMS18 and ASLS19 carefully articulated (through the combined series of discussions and presentations), that increasing U.S., Allied, and key partner cooperative presence and operational activities in the Arctic aligns and enables U.S. National Security Strategy to better protect U.S. interests and serve to help keep the common domain of the Arctic open and free.

ALCOM and the Arctic Domain Awareness Center, a DHS Science and Technology Center of Excellence in Maritime Research, hosted at the University of Alaska, maintain copies of the reports from AMS18 and ASLS19. These reports are located at [www.arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org](http://www.arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org).

### ***AAS19 Overview.***

The 2019 ALCOM Arctic Symposium will continue the momentum established in AMS18 and accelerated in ASLS19. Part of the need to conduct ASLS19 is simply based on the need to revisit and refresh key leader understanding, due to turnover of key leaders and staff personnel across the DoD and other government agencies. Another key aspect is to keep senior leaders and staff current on the Arctic, in what has become an increasingly dynamic region in terms of a changing physical environment and adaptive human terrain.

*ALCOM supports USNORTHCOM in Arctic advocacy* and maintains operationally relevant capability to address security and defense concerns to U.S. Citizens, U.S. sovereign territory, and U.S. national interests in the Arctic. AAS19 is a part of an overall “campaign” approach, which iteratively supports CDRUSNORTHCOM in creating a series of workshops and activities which bring together



interdisciplinary thought leaders to advance understanding of the array of relevant issues and concerns impacting the security dimension of the Arctic region. AAS19 contributes to ALCOM's ability to support USNORTHCOM by convening experts and select Arctic leaders to address new and emerging issues from ever more sophisticated competition by great powers and non-state actors who increasingly are leveraging easier access with associated increased opportunity of a diminishing ice Arctic.

AAS19 provides ALCOM an opportunity to conduct a series of discussions which support future engagements and exercises to advance Arctic joint interoperability across the military Services, to include the U.S. Coast Guard, while also increasing whole of government collaboration to better secure U.S. Arctic interests. Additional outcomes of AAS19 include advancing discussions that support multinational cooperation among like-minded Arctic nations, and to increase awareness of the unique challenges faced on the "western Arctic" (oriented to and North of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas) contrasted against the "eastern Arctic," (oriented to and North of the Greenland, Norwegian and Barents Seas). Additionally, AAS19 helps to broaden opening of the discussions (from the original "maritime" focus of AMS 2018) to strengthen a comprehensive approach to land, sea, and air domains of the Arctic.

### ***AAS19 Theme, Goal, and Objectives.***

AAS19 will provide an important venue for building partnerships within the defense and security communities and select international, governmental, nongovernmental, academic, industry, State, local, tribal, and private sector Arctic Communities Of Interest (COIs).

The proposed symposium theme is: **Advancing Strategic Partners in Securing America's Arctic Interests.**

The broad goal of this Arctic symposium will be to develop approaches to adapt to the growing challenges to safety, security, and defense operations within the Arctic. Accordingly, the ALCOM Arctic Symposium 2019 will increase understanding and awareness of the Arctic region by utilizing an array of professional Arctic subject matter experts (SMEs) to increasing knowledge and enhancing interagency, international, and academic partnerships in order to best synchronize terminology, objectives, and operations and to most efficiently leverage our combined Arctic capabilities to meet anticipated contingencies

Symposium content includes aspects on adapting to the direct and indirect impacts of the changing dynamics of the region (thawing permafrost, rising sea level, increasing health risks, altered climatologically events, increasing human activity) and their association and associated impact to U.S. national security. As a designated follow-up from AMS18 and ASLS19, and in context with the overall "campaign" approach as described, ALCOM's AAS19 will seek to advance the following objectives:

- Convene approximately 200 senior leaders and subject matter experts oriented to the security and defense challenges associated with the opening Arctic.
- Describe the current strategic environment of the Arctic region;
- Understand the physical attributes of the Arctic based on the array of dynamic environmental elements;



- Sketch the current and emerging human terrain of the Arctic;
- Outline insights from leaders from the Alaska Native community;
- Discern new dynamics in Great Power Competition affecting Arctic peace and stability;
- Update on the economic drivers affecting communities across the circumpolar North;
- Outline new opportunities for exercises and activities to improve cooperation between within the U.S. Federal government, with State, local and tribal leadership and with like-minded Arctic nations;
- Present and discuss policy matters which may advance improved cooperation between leaders across the U.S. Federal, State, local, tribal, multinational, industry, and academia oriented toward U.S. and like-minded nation's Arctic security interests;
- Provide an opportunity for discovery in the participating security and defense community of understandings developed from other disciplines.
- The Arctic Symposium may also explore potential areas of public and private partnerships and other cooperative efforts which would enhance DOD homeland defense (HD) and by extension the defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) mission areas— supporting the citizens of our U.S., Allied and Partner countries.

Symposium planners are advancing an agenda that structures AAS19 via a series of briefings and facilitated panel discussions with a follow-on field event, to focus the symposium on obtaining a common understanding, data collection and sharing among defense, public and private organizations in order to address a changing Arctic security environment, and to further understand the area of operations and future requirements.

Symposium planners acknowledge a critical outcome of the event is to focus on participants to meaningfully advance enhancing cooperation between defense and the public and private sectors. Accordingly, AAS19 planners believe that getting a broad array of panelist for both plenary and breakout sessions, coupled with gaining select thought leaders as participants from the communities as outlined previously will greatly advance building strong ties among all stakeholders to enable utilization of aggregate strengths to mitigate individual gaps while maximizing the return on investment for all stakeholders.

### *Logistics and administrative details*

#### **AAS19 Logistics.**

##### Transportation:

- **Recommended airport:** Fairbanks International. Serviced by several major airlines with connections to Anchorage and direct to several west coast U.S. airports.



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- **Ground movement:** AAS19 has coordinated passenger movement via motor coach for surrey pickup to/from hotels and symposium and associated field activities. Rental Cars are not recommended for AAS19.

Billiting/Hotel accommodations: Symposium planners are arranging hotel blocks in the greater Fairbanks area to support AAS19 participants. The following are the locations with associated details:

***Bridgewater Hotel (50 rooms are being held)***

723 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701, (located downtown Fairbanks, AK)

907-452-6661

For reservations: email [rob.hanson@jhotelgroup.com](mailto:rob.hanson@jhotelgroup.com) and request the Alaska Command Arctic Symposium group rate.

**Reservations need to be made no later than October 28, 2019**

***Pike's Waterfront Lodge (75 rooms are being held)***

1850 Hoselton Dr.

Fairbanks, AK 99709, (located near the airport in Fairbanks, AK)

907-456-4500

For reservations: go to the following website ([www.pikeslodge.com](http://www.pikeslodge.com)), and select the "book now" option at the top of the page. Once there, select your dates (November 11-15) and put in the group code "ACAS2019"—then continue making the reservation!

**Reservations need to be made no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

***SpringHill Suites by Marriott (25 rooms are being held)***

575 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701, (located downtown Fairbanks, AK).

For reservations please use the following link and see the below information:

ALASKA COMMAND ARCTIC SYMPOSIUM

Start Date: Monday, November 11, 2019

End Date: Friday, November 15, 2019

Last Day to Book: Monday, October 28, 2019

**[Book your group rate for ALASKA COMMAND ARCTIC SYMPOSIUM](#)**

***Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center (75 rooms are being held)***

813 Noble Street

Fairbanks, AK 99701, (located downtown Fairbanks, AK)

For reservations please call 907-456-7722 and ask for the Government rate of \$75.00

No last day to book; can give the rate until no longer available

Additionally, military accommodations are available at Ft Wainwright (in the local Fairbanks area) and Eielson Air Force Base (approximately 30 minutes southeast of Fairbanks).



Conference location: Symposium planners are arranging plenary and electives for AAS19 on 13-15 November at University of Alaska Fairbanks, Davis Concert Hall and Great Hall.

Catering/reception/meals. Symposium planners are arranging UAF catering for conference breakfasts and lunches. Note, on 12 November, there is a planned invitation only event from ALCOM with Alaska Native leaders. There is a planned icebreaker reception and dinner at the on 13 November hosted by ALCOM and a conference dinner hosted by ADAC on 14 November, at locations to be announced. Payment for meals will be made simultaneous via workshop registration.

### ***AAS19 Administration.***

Conference structure: following an Arctic Domain and Security Orientation-Executive Seminar (led by the UAF School of Management) on 12 November 2019, the ALCOM Arctic Symposium is planned for 13 November as a series of plenary briefs to address objectives as outlined previously. 14 November starts with a series of electives and small group discussions in the morning sessions, with the afternoon in a series of capstone plenary discussions. 15 November starts with a culminating series of plenary presentations followed by field activities.

Field activities: Symposium planners are coordinating field activities for UAF Poker Flat Research Range, a multi-function field research location for potential rocket launch in support of aurora research. Planned dates for field activities are 15 November.

### Symposium registration

Participants can register at the following link on the ADAC website active since 30 August 2019: <https://www.arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org>. On the homepage of the site, the registration site is depicted via the below banner:



Symposium registration is planned at \$225 per person to cover all the meals and beverages

Participant welcome packages. Symposium planners will provide participants welcome packages. Welcome packages will include lodging information, badges, and directions to the venue, transportation information, the symposium agenda, and bios of key speakers (as available/applicable).

Agenda and guest presenters: Symposium planners will provide this via separate correspondence.

Moderation/facilitation and recording: Symposium planners will provide moderation of all sessions, recorded by dedicated personnel. Planners will also arrange photography, to include



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symposium group photos.

Post symposium Executive Summary: Symposium 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.

Post symposium analytical report: The post Arctic Symposium analytical product will provide recommendations on how Commander, Alaskan Command could more fully utilize the benefits of public private collaborations (PPC) as the USNORTHCOM Lead for Arctic Affairs with the aim of enhancing cooperation between defense and the public and private sectors. Building strong ties among all stakeholders will enable utilization of aggregate strengths to mitigate individual gaps while maximizing the return on investment for all stakeholders.

### *Conclusion*

AAS19 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. AAS19 will continue the momentum started with AMS18 and advanced through ASLS19, setting the stage for the next Arctic Senior Leader Summit in early 2020.

