**Introduction**

Alaskan Command is hosting a ½ day Arctic Senior Leader Summit, (SLS) at Cerjan Conference Room, National Defense University on Friday morning, 18 January 2019. The Arctic SLS seeks to advance defense and security minded discussions on the Arctic in an era of rising competition between Great Powers and other nations seeking to advantage the diminishing ice environment of the circumpolar Arctic region. ALCOM’s Arctic SLS seeks to convene experts from the Department of Defense, our defense allies and partners in the Arctic region, and select Arctic oriented thought leaders from across the interagency, think tanks and academia. The Arctic SLS chief anticipated outcome is advancing dialogue on associated and relevant policy in support of securing and defending U.S. interests in the Arctic region and defense “practitioner” recommendations to improve U.S. effective presence in the region through exercises, training, and other operational activities.

The conference concludes at 12 noon, but a follow-on lunch is planned. The Arctic SLS seeks to advance defense and security minded discussions on the Arctic in an era of rising competition between Great Powers and other nations seeking advantage in the diminishing ice environment. The ALCOM Arctic SLS seeks to convene experts from the Department of Defense, our defense allies and partners in the Arctic region, and select Arctic oriented thought leaders from across the interagency, think tanks and academia. There is no registration fee for Arctic SLS, but there is a cost for the provided lunch.
Background

Alaskan Command (a subordinate unified command reporting to United States Northern Command, USNORTHCOM) conducted an inaugural Arctic Maritime Symposium (AMS-2018) at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 14-16 August 2018.

Aligned with Strategic U.S. National Defense and Security Strategies, and Department of Defense (DoD) Arctic Strategy, AMS 2018 included U.S. Congressional, Federal, State of Alaska, Tribal, and international leaders, along with Arctic subject matter experts from across academia and institutions. AMS 2018 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 AMS 2018 were to inform participants on a wide range of defense and security concerns, while establishing a new network of thought leaders to Arctic security and defense matters.

Such a network serves to bridge Arctic-minded professionals across government, public and private organizations and academia to the defense community on matters of mutual interest in better securing U.S. and like-minded nations’ interests in the Arctic.

Overview

With AMS 2018 as a foundation, ALCOM is now planning and preparing a series of engagement meetings and exercises to bring greater awareness, presence, and capability to address the rising need to better secure and defend U.S. and her allies’ interests in the Arctic. ALCOM is uniquely suited to this role, aligned and in support of USNORTHCOM’s assigned task to defend the U.S. Arctic region and to provide Arctic capabilities advocacy, as outlined in the U.S. Unified Command Plan.

The key outcome of the planned series of engagements and exercises is 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 include advancing 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 to the “eastern Arctic,” (oriented to and North of the Greenland, Norwegian and Barents Seas). Additionally, onward efforts to broaden opening of the discussions (from the original “maritime” focus of AMS 2018) will now include a comprehensive approach to land, sea, and air domains of the Arctic.

As a designated follow-up from AMS 2018, and in context with the overall “campaign” approach as described, the Commanders of USNORTHCOM and ALCOM are now leading a plan to host a focused, invitation-only Arctic Senior Leader Summit (Arctic SLS) at National Defense University, Fort McNair on 18 January 2019. This follow-up meeting from AMS 2018 seeks a select group of senior leaders who affect U.S. efforts in the Arctic in the following manner:

- Shape and determine policy;
- Apportion and allocate resources;
• Decide preparedness and response activities;
• Make operational decisions that affect U.S. security interests in the Arctic.

**ALCOM Arctic SLS planned overall objective:** Expand and strengthen relationships between senior leaders in DoD and key leaders across the interagency and internationally. Additionally, the forum will provide 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.

An implied longer-term objective that ALCOM Arctic SLS supports is dialogue, which can result to increasing U.S., Allied and key partner cooperative presence and operational activities in the Arctic. Increasing such presence aligns with U.S. National Security Strategy to keep the common domain of the Arctic open and free.

**Arctic SLS planned method:** SLS planners crafted Arctic SLS with a combination of opening keynote address, two I Arctic thought leader panels, facilitated discussions, and closing address. The event seeks to produce a summary of conclusions that describe the proceedings, key insights, and overall recommendations.

**Arctic SLS planned participants:** by invitation, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. interagency and international leaders, along with select Arctic thought leaders from academic and research communities.

**Arctic SLS suggested attire:** is Service dress for military and business attire for civilians.

**Lunch and beverage information:** Coffee, tea and water mess provided during breaks. Planners have arranged to provide a hot buffet lunch following Arctic SLS ($20.00 payment is planned to be received at the registration desk).

**Location:** Cerjan Conference Room, National Defense University.

(Note, early versions of Arctic SLS where planned for Hill Conference Room, National War College)

Fort Lesley J. McNair
300 5th Avenue
Building 64
Washington, DC 20319

Directions to Ft McNair: https://www.ndu.edu/About/Map-Directions/

**Planned Agenda.**

07:30-07:50: Registration. **Cerjan Conference Room, National Defense University,** Ft McNair Washington D.C.

07:50-08:00: Participants take seats at Cerjan Conference Room.

08:00-08:05: Welcome and brief Arctic SLS overview, **Arctic Domain Awareness Center Executive Director, Maj Gen (Ret) Randy “Church” Kee, USAF.**

08:05-08:25: U.S. National, Allied, and Partner Interests in the Arctic: Why it matters and why it matters more now? **Commander Alaska NORAD Region, Alaskan Command and 11th Air Force, Lt Gen Tom Bussiere, USAF.**

Arctic SLS...advancing strategic discourse on the High North
08:25-08:55: Senior military reflections on threat, risk, U.S. National Security Interests and the Arctic. **General Paul Selva, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff**

08:55-09:25: **Panel #1.** Policy-focused: Achieving NSS, NDS and DoD Arctic Strategy …what is needed to advance U.S. security interests in the Arctic in an era of rising Great Power competition?

**Moderator, Dr. Mike Sfraga,** Co-Director, Institute for Arctic Policy, University of the Arctic, Affiliate Professor, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Co-Lead Scholar, Fulbright Arctic Initiative II

**Planned panelists:**
- **HON Robert “Bob” Salesse,** Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Homeland Defense Integration and DSCA.
- **HON Laura Cooper,** DASD for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia.
- **HON Dr. Tim Gallaudet, RDML USN (Ret)** Acting Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). *(Awaiting confirmation)*
- **Sherrie McCandless, Brig Gen, ANG,** JS J5 Deputy Director, Western Hemisphere Pol-Mil Affairs (DDWHEM).

**Panel Executive Summary:** A panel of distinguished U.S. government leaders 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, their near and medium term view of challenges, concerns, needs, and opportunities as relates to great power competition in the Arctic and associated effect such competition creates on U.S. national interests in the region. 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.

**Desired panel discussion:** Key policy leaders address their concerns and ideas that may help to address what is perceived by many of an Arctic region now vulnerable to great power competition.

**Desired panel outcomes:** Compared and contrasted views of policy/policy priorities as relates to addressing and improving U.S. National Security and defense interests in the Arctic.

09:25-09:40: **Break.** Coffee, Tea and Water is served

09:40-10:10: Strategic DoD reflections addressing U.S. security interests and concerns in the Arctic. **Dr. James Anderson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities.**

10:10-11:15: **Panel #2.** Practitioner-focused. Gaining and sustaining improve presence and posture in the Arctic. Better harnessing the power of operations, exercises, and training to advance strategic interests.

**Moderator, Randy “Church” Kee, Maj Gen, USAF, (Ret),** Executive Director, Arctic Domain Awareness Center, University of Alaska.
Planned panelists:
- **Brian D. Beaudreault, LtGen USMC**, HQ USMC Deputy Commandant PP&O
- **Dan Abel, VADM, USCG**, HQ USCG DCO
- **Dan Hokanson, LTG, Army National Guard**, Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau
- **Chris McPadden, MG, USA** Director of Strategy, Plans, and Policy HQ Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7
- **Brian “Smokey” Robinson, Maj Gen, USAF**, HQ U.S. Air Force Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, (A3)
- **Mark O’Neil, MG**, Commander, US Army Alaska
- **Fred Pyle, RDML, USN**, USEUCOM Deputy J5
- **Dr Phil Brown, USNORTHCOM Deputy J7**

Panel Executive Summary: A distinguished panel principally of flag and general officers, representing DoD Unified Combatant Commands, responsible for U.S. military activities or DHS Security missions across the circumpolar Arctic region, or lastly, service providers to Unified Combatant Commands. Panelists will consider describing (from current position), their view of challenges, concerns, needs, and opportunities that could better orient operations, exercises, and training activities to create sustaining effects of increased presence and posture in the Arctic.

Desired panel discussion: Combatant commands and Service providers relay ways to orient operations, exercises, and training activities that create sustaining effects of increased presence and posture in the Arctic.

Desired panel outcomes: Convergence between combatant commands and Service providers to sustainably address Arctic activities, which better prepare and posture defense and security forces.

11:15-11:40: **Open Forum**: to meet and greet/exchange business cards (purposely “intermixing people) in order to address two specific thoughts on the Arctic: What is most concerning from each vantage…and what should “we” do to address the concern?

11:40-11:55: Strategic way forward, summary conclusion. Commander ANR, ALCOM, and 11 AF, **Lt Gen Tom Bussiere, USAF**.

1200-1330: **Buffett Lunch for all guests. Buffet served in the atrium outside of Cerjan Conference Room. (DV Code 5 code and higher, please join Lt Gen Bussiere in adjacent room 155 “C”)...all other guests, please enjoy lunch and discussions hosted by ALCOM staff and Maj Gen (Ret) Kee back in Room 155 A & B.**

   **Lunch menu**
   - Roasted Chicken, (with roasted potatoes and optional rosemary Alfredo sauce)
   - Strawberry walnut salad
   - Dinner rolls with butter
   - Assorted desserts
   - For vegetarians (in lieu of chicken): Stuffed quinoa vegetables (with roasted potatoes and carbonate)
   - Ice tea, coffee/tea and water

Washington DC logistics information.

Airport suggestion: For participants flying in for the SLS, planners suggests using Washington Reagan (DCA), as this airport gives you ready access to the DC Metro...an easy and economical way to travel in town.

Transportation suggestions: Rental car/Taxi/Uber/Lyft, available and can provide transportation to Ft McNair. Planners recommend to check in advance if these drivers have access onto Ft McNair. DC Metro: Ft McNair is accessible via metro on the Green Line/Waterfront station, approximately one mile from the station to base access point.

Accessing Ft McNair. Please notify ALCOM and ADAC Planners (principally, LCDR Grant Bryan, USN or Maj Gen (Ret) Kee, USAF, if a participant does not have a U.S. government issued Common Access Card (CAC), Personal Identification Validation (PIV) card or other U.S. government issued identification card (such as military retiree card). Credentialed International guests, (such as Attaché members who have military base privileges, should have ready access.
Phone: 907 552-4114 (LCDR Bryan) or 907 885-8324 (Maj Gen (Ret) Church Kee)
Email: grant.bryan@us.af.mil or rakee@alaska.edu

If there are unresolved access issues, below information may prove helpful

Paul Delacruz
Security Assistant
Visitor Control Center (VCC)
Physical Security Branch
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH)
usarmy.jbmhh.asa.mbx.visitor-control-center@mail.mil
JBM-HH VCC: 703-696-0185/0186
Fort McNair VCC: 202-685-7762/7785

Conclusion:

Arctic SLS provides a unique opportunity to address defense and security concerns and opportunities aligned with rising competition and increasing threat and risk to U.S. and allies’ security interests across the Arctic. Arctic SLS planners appreciate the investment of time and effort by all participants in the increasing importance of addressing Arctic security in light of a diminishing sea ice environment.