Alaskan Command

ALCOM Overview: Arctic Roles and Responsibilities

DOD Arctic S&T Synchronization Workshop

David Martin

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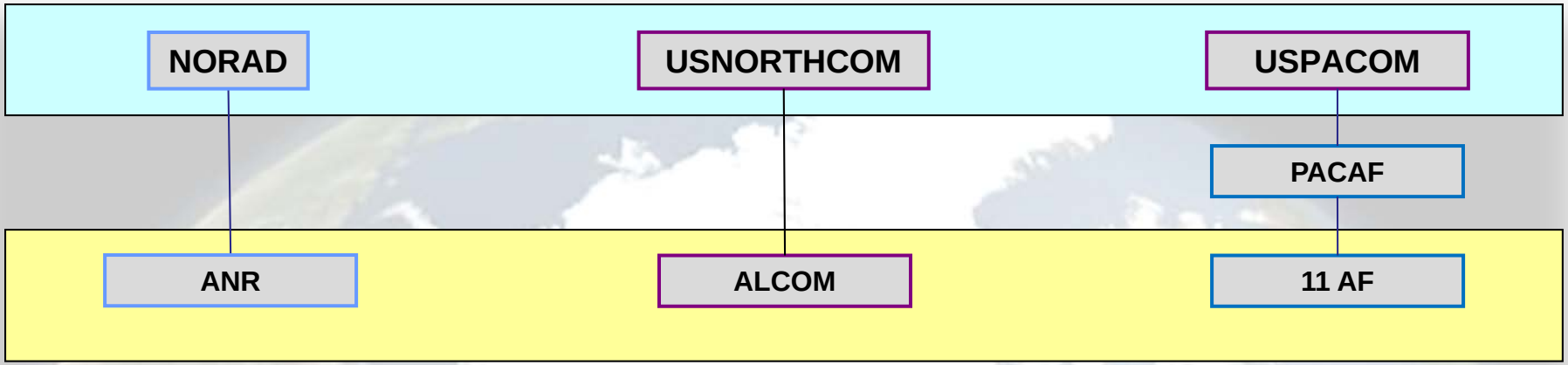
Overview

- Three Commands
- Alaska's Strategic Importance
- Campaign Plan and Command Priorities
- Military Footprint
- Major Training Exercises
- Arctic Role
- Takeaways

Three Commands



Alaskan NORAD Region
Bi-National (US and Canada)

- Provide continuous warning/assessment of aerospace attack
- Maintain aerospace control to include air sovereignty and air defense of North America

Alaskan Command
U.S. Joint Subunified

- Mission assurance of Alaska forces
- Plan, execute and assess homeland defense/civil support operations
- Assist USNORTHCOM/Services with identifying Arctic requirements and capability shortfalls
- Maintain key homeland partnerships

Eleventh Air Force
U.S. Service

- Organize, train, equip
- Provide forces to unified commanders
- Logistics and infrastructure support throughout Pacific

PRIMARY MISSION PARTNERS

Army (USARAK) Coast Guard (USCG D17) National Guard (AK/HI/Guam) Reserves (AK) Federal/State Interagencies

Alaska's Strategic Importance

4,000 NM Radius from
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska
Approximate Range of USAF Aircraft flying 450 knots (.75 Mach) for 9 hrs

"Alaska is the most strategic place on earth" – BG William "Billy" Mitchell, Testimony to Congress 1935

Campaign Plan and Command Priorities

Mission: ***Alaskan Command, in coordination with trusted partners, conducts homeland defense, civil support, mission assurance, and security cooperation within the ALCOM Joint Operations Area to defend and secure the United States and its interests.***

Lines of Effort	Objectives	Center of Gravity
Mission Assurance	Force Readiness	Unified Action
Homeland Defense and Civil Support Preparedness	Defense of North America and Support of Civil Authorities	
Arctic	Arctic Initiatives – Build Capacity in Concert with Allies	
Homeland Partnerships	Expand and Strengthen Federal, State, and Tribal Partnerships	

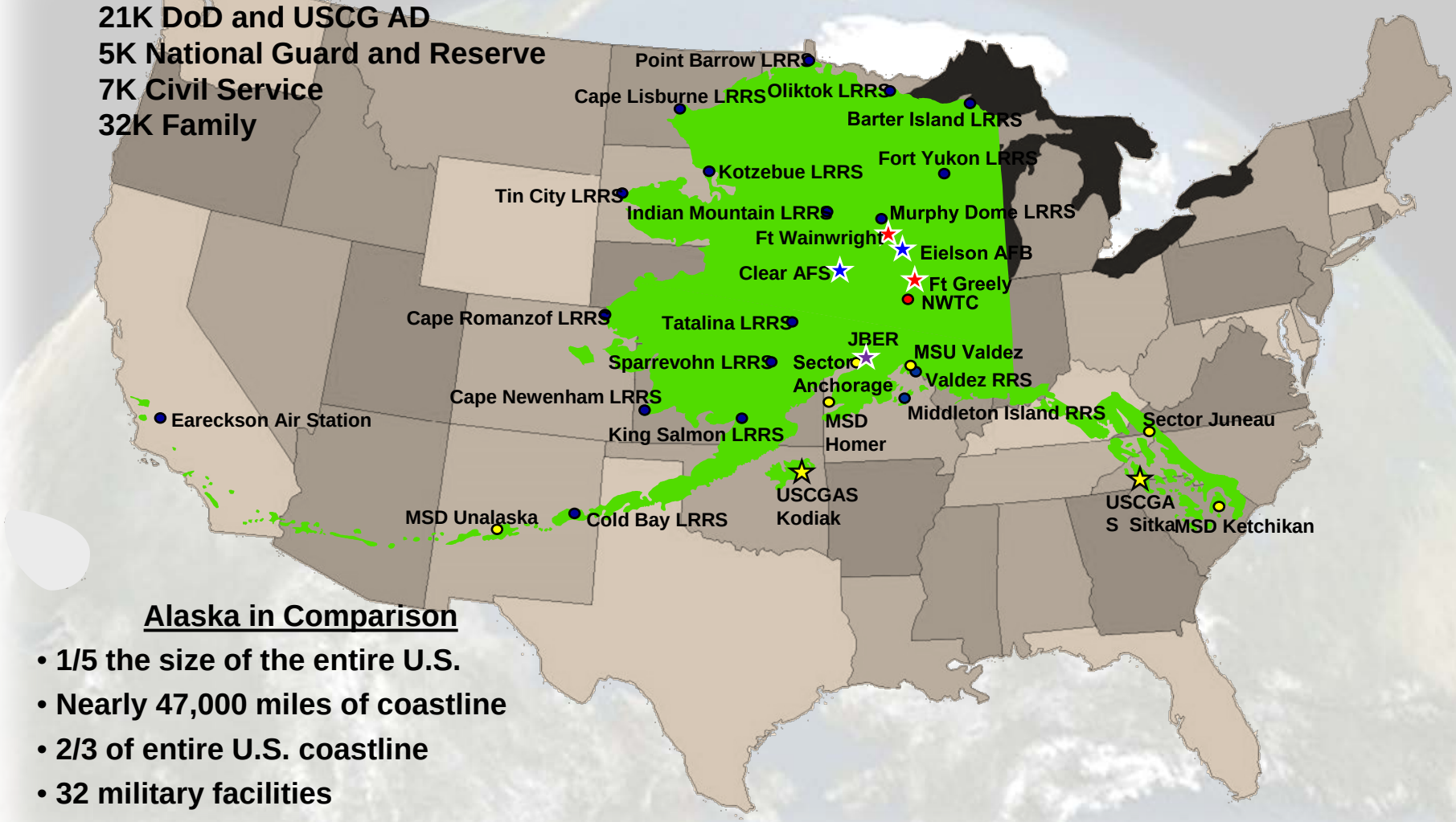
Command Priorities

- Mission Readiness
- Arctic Advocacy and Security Cooperation
- Innovation and Modernization

Military Footprint

65,000 Direct Military Influence

21K DoD and USCG AD
5K National Guard and Reserve
7K Civil Service
32K Family



<u>Alaska in Comparison</u>

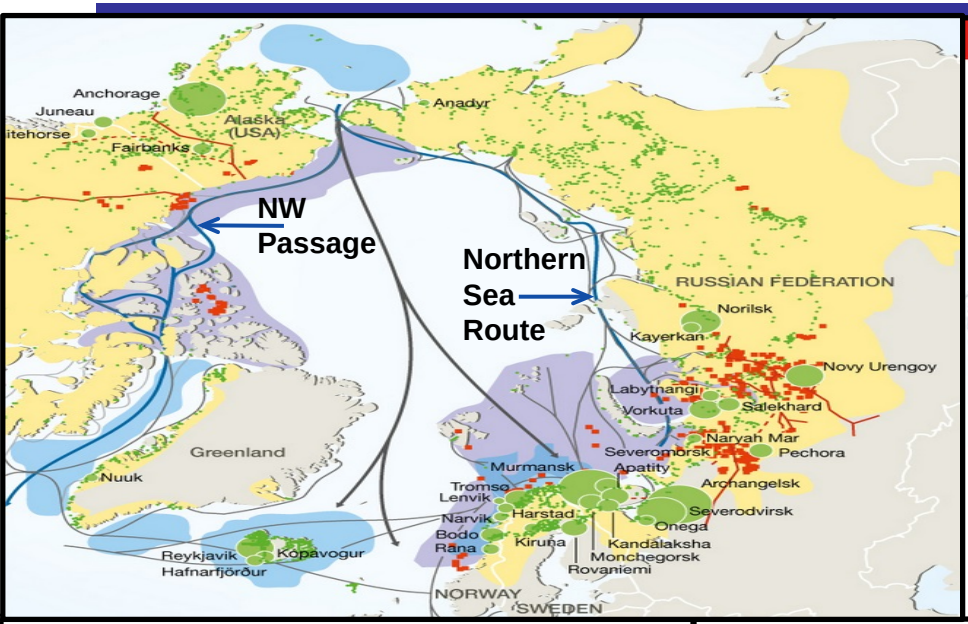
- **1/5 the size of the entire U.S.**
- **Nearly 47,000 miles of coastline**
- **2/3 of entire U.S. coastline**
- **32 military facilities**
- **12 major military installations**

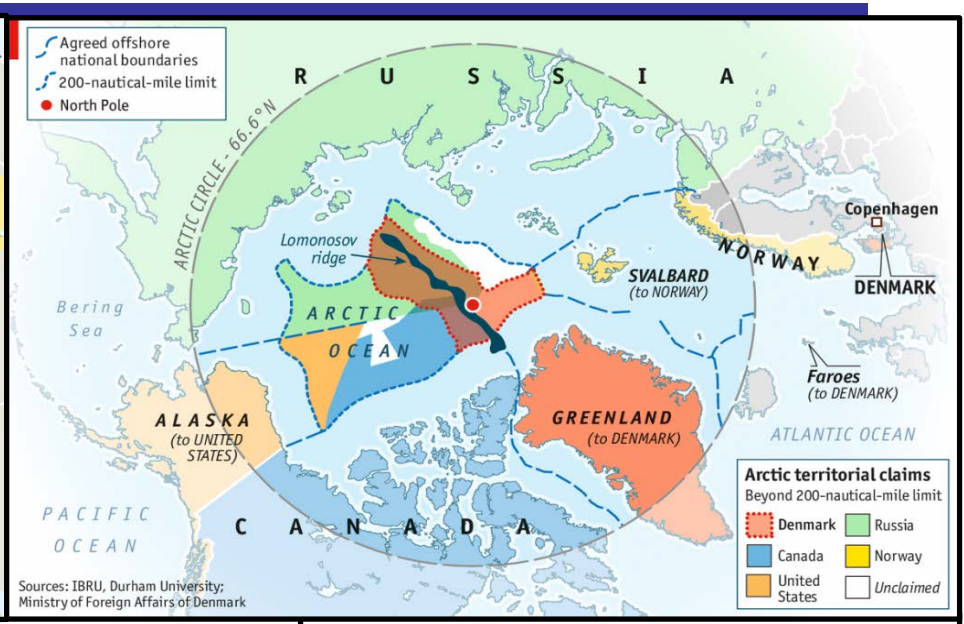
Major Training Exercises

- **VIGILANT SHIELD (NORAD and USNORTHCOM)**
  - **Annual homeland defense command post exercise**

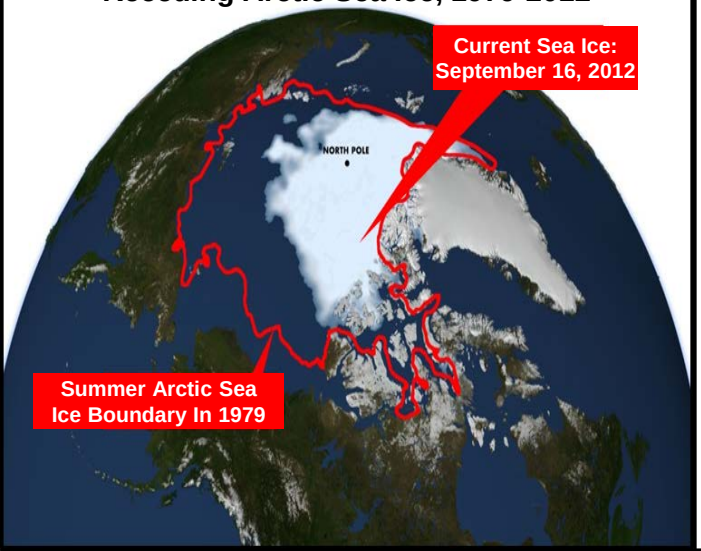
- **ARCTIC EDGE (USNORTHCOM)**
  - **Biennial homeland defense and/or defense support of civil authorities field training exercise linked with joint, interagency, State of Alaska Arctic exercises**

Understanding the Arctic





Receding Arctic Sea Ice, 1979-2012



Arctic Evolution

- Decrease in seasonal sea ice
- Increase in human activity
- Access to natural resources
- Proximity to national interests
- Russian trends & sovereignty implications

....Arctic understanding is a global challenge

Russian Claimed Territory & Arctic Bases

ALCOM Arctic Line of Effort Purpose and End State

- **Purpose**
  - **Support USNORTHCOM Arctic objectives**
  - **Assist in Arctic capability advocacy**
  - **Expand partnerships with academia and the private sector to increase situational understanding of Arctic developments and potential solutions**

- **End State: ALCOM is the recognized DOD operational-level Arctic subject matter expert, mitigating Arctic capability shortfalls, maintaining enduring partnerships with key Arctic stakeholders, synchronizing Arctic exercises, and sharing Arctic knowledge and situational understanding in support of NORAD/USNORTHCOM Arctic objectives.**

Current Initiatives
Capability Advocacy

- Arctic Capability Advocacy Working Group contributor (N&NC/J8)
- Arctic capability focus areas
  - Arctic Sustainment Package
  - Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV) replacement

Focus: Enabling capabilities to support defense, safety, and security missions

Current Initiatives
Academic Support, Education, and KM

- **Teaming with academia**
  - **Arctic Domain and Security Orientation Course**
  - **Arctic Speaker Series**
  - **Arctic Maritime Symposium**
- **Arctic Knowledge Web Presence**

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

SharePoint Site in Development. Aims to be a storefront for collaboration and a one stop shop for Arctic knowledge

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Paul Cocker (left) ALCOM deputy chief of future operations and Operation Colony Glacier project officer with aircraft debris from the 1952 C-124 Globemaster II accident

Arctic Speaker Series Aug 2015: Admiral Robert Papp (Ret.) U.S. Special Representative for the Arctic

Focus: Enabling capabilities to support defense, safety, and security missions

Current Initiatives
Security Cooperation

- **Bilateral – Canada**
  - **Arctic Security Working Group**
  - **Tri Command Staff Talks**
  - **Bilateral and Multilateral Exercises**
- **Multilateral – Northern GO/FO Summit**

April 2018 – Northern GO/FO Summit Representatives by Trans Alaska Pipeline

Canadian and U.S. forces, Op NUNALIVUT 2014

Ice Camp Skate, ICEX 2018

Focus: Enabling capabilities to support defense, safety, and security missions

Research Requirements
Communications | Infrastructure & Equipment

- **Communications**
  - **Technologies to improve communications equipment performance in geographically and environmentally unique space**
- **Infrastructure and Equipment**
  - **Expeditionary and rapid construction methods, techniques, and materials for the Arctic**
  - **Effect of climate change on spread and/or degradation of groundwater contamination**
  - **Energy alternatives to coal-fired power generation**
  - **Improved methods for construction on permafrost in era of climate change**
  - **Ground mobility – Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV) replacement**

Research Requirements
Domain Awareness | Human Factors

- **Domain Awareness**
  - **How UAS technologies may be leveraged with emerging sensor technologies to underwrite tundra/wildland fire detection and monitoring**
  - **Improved sensors for low radar cross section targets**
  - **Domain awareness in specific domains, multi-domain, and cross-domain**
- **Human Factors**
  - **Mitigating cold environment effects on cardiac and respiratory function**
  - **Soldier cold weather protective gear and equipment**

U.S. Army Extreme Cold Weather/High Altitude Symposium
Fort Drum NY and Fort Wainwright AK

Takeaways

- Defense of the homeland and our citizens is our #1 priority
- The strategic significance of Alaska to our Nation will continue to grow as the Arctic evolves
- ALCOM can't tackle Arctic requirements alone, partnerships are key
- Defining our requirements to the science and technology community is difficult