



Arctic Air Power Seminar

Virtual Arctic Air Power Seminar 14 July 2021

Theme: European and North American Perspectives on the Arctic

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Goal of the Arctic Air Power Seminars – the goal of the Arctic Airpower Seminars is to exchange ideas, practical applications, and build relationships that enhance airpower projection and domain awareness in the high north. The quarterly series sits between the strategic and tactical levels, examining operational-level challenges associated with agile basing. Each seminar is dedicated to a deep investigation of a specific element associated with planning, executing and sustaining agile basing solutions in a rapidly changing environment. One key difference between the Arctic Air Power seminars and other defense fora is that defense and security objectives are viewed through an integrated lens that considers non-defense factors, such as the concerns of indigenous communities, climate science realities, and commercial/economic development.

Context - As more world-wide attention turns to the Arctic, more vessel and aircraft traffic is expected. At the same time, climate change means that more requests for assistance in the Arctic by various levels of government will be made of both the U.S. and Canadian militaries. With these considerations in addition to the background great power competition in which NORAD seeks to project joint airpower into the Arctic, the Canadian and U.S. militaries need agile (moveable) bases/operating locations, and the right equipment and personnel need to be in the right place at the right time.

The aim - Bi-lateral seminar series at the action officer lever (O6 or equivalent). Participants currently include Canadian NORAD Region (CANR) Members, U.S Soldiers, Airmen, CJOC, SJS, JTF-North, and Extreme Cold Industry Innovators, and related stakeholders focus on innovation and proposing multi-domain solutions for projecting joint airpower in an extreme cold environment. This seminar concentrated on all domain awareness

The BLUF: The Arctic is divided into regions (North American, Russian and European) each with different challenges, perspectives and expectations. This seminar seeks to understand the North American and European Perspectives.

For links to past Air power seminars, see <https://umanitoba.ca/centres/cdss/papers/2190.html>

Speakers

BrigGen Edward “Hertz” Vaughan

Brig. Gen. Edward L. “Hertz” Vaughan is the Senior U.S. military officer in Canada and serves as Deputy Commander, Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Region, and Deputy Joint Force Air Component Commander for 1 Canadian Air Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba. He assumes command of coalition forces assigned to Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command Region in the Canadian commander's absence. Brig. Gen. Vaughan leads force employment of airpower, while ensuring that the region's battle staff, air operations center, flying units, radar sensors, intelligence and joint, all-domain command-and-control assets provide joint air, space and maritime warning and control.

Dr. Andrea Charron

Dr. Charron holds a PhD from the Royal Military College of Canada (Department of War Studies). She is now Associate Professor in International Relations and Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Charron has two main areas of research interest: 1) peace and security (especially involving the UN Security Council, the application of sanctions and NATO) and 2) Canadian foreign and defence policy (especially related to the Arctic and NORAD).

Mr. Mathieu Boulègue

Mr. Boulègue is a research fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Program of the famed Chatham House in London. Before joining Chatham House, Mathieu was a partner at the risk management and strategic

research consultancy AESMA, where he worked as director of Eurasian affairs. In his research, Mathieu focuses particularly on Eurasian security and defence issues as well as on Russia's domestic and foreign policy.

Col Clifford Souza

Colonel Clifford A. Souza is the commander of the 109th Operations Group, 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard Base, Schenectady, New York. As Operations Group Commander, Colonel Souza oversees LC-130 and C-130 tactical aircrews, aeromedical evacuation crews, and operations support personnel to achieve Department of Defense objectives in the Polar Regions and across the globe.

BrigGen Derek J. O'Malley

Brig. Gen. Derek "Maestro" O'Malley is the Senior U.S. military officer in Canada and serves as Deputy Commander, Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Region, and Deputy Joint Force Air Component Commander for 1 Canadian Air Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba. He assumes command of coalition forces assigned to Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command Region in the Canadian commander's absence. Brig. Gen. O'Malley leads force employment of airpower, while ensuring the region's battle staff, air operations center, flying units, radar sensors, intelligence and joint, all-domain command-and-control assets provide joint air, space and maritime warning and control.

Presentations

Mathieu Boulègue

(For further reading, see <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2019/06/russias-military-posture-arctic/2-perimeter-control-around-bastion>)

If Moscow is indeed militarizing the Russian Arctic, the military build-up and the Kremlin's intentions are, at least for now, defensive in nature.

The Arctic is a fragile environment and a contested political space because of more interest in the Arctic for resources and shipping. There are 2 Russian Arctic – one in Europe and one in the Pacific - but they form one, strategic continuum. Russia has 2 priorities – protect the Bastion and control access to the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (AZRF).

Russia's posture in the European Arctic

Protecting the *Bastion* - ambitions of control

Bastion Defence concept

Perimeter control and sovereignty enforcement over 'new Arctic border'



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Perimeter defence of the Kola Peninsula, to ensure the survivability of second-strike nuclear assets, is key for Russia. Hence it adopts a Bastion posture – this maximizes defence-in-depth as well as Russia's forward positioning. Control is ensured through sea denial and interdiction capabilities at sea and in the air

Russia's posture in the European Arctic

Controlled access - ambitions of denial

- Ensure access for the Northern Fleet
- Out-of-area layer of defence for the *Bastion*
- Pressure on the GIUK-N region and the North Atlantic SLOC



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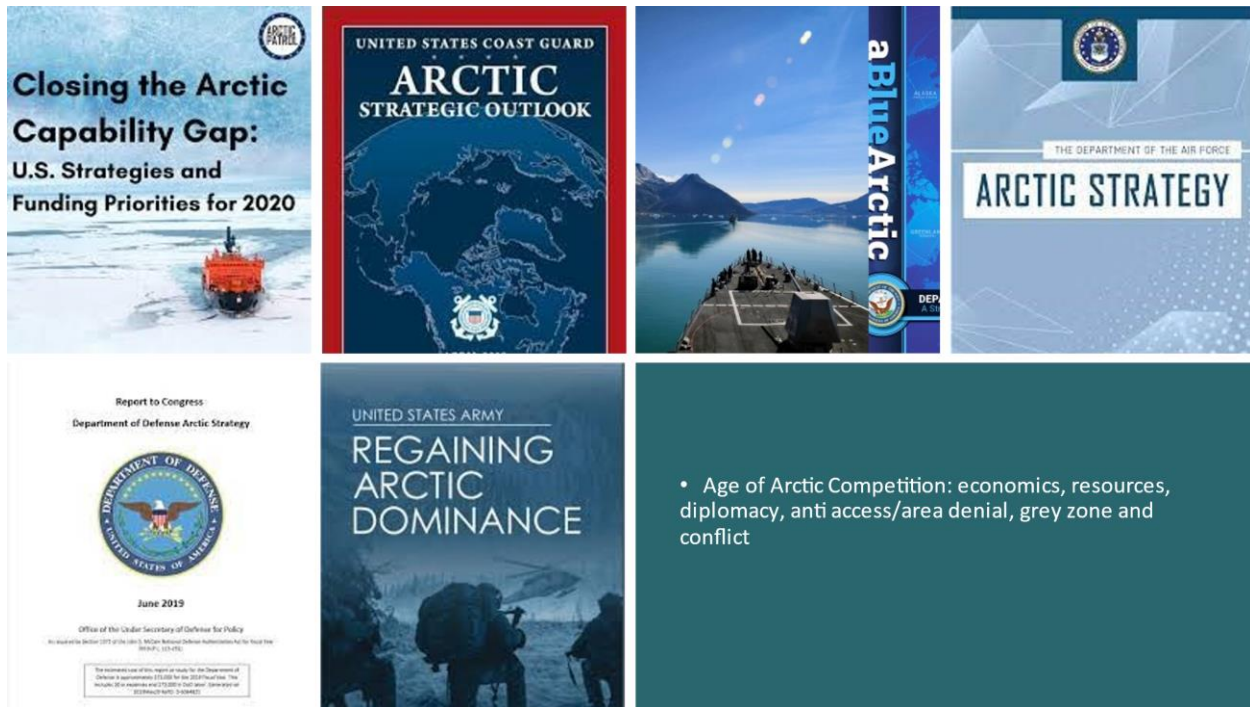
Since 2007, Russia has been expanding the scope of its military activities in the AZRF and beyond.

From Europe's perspective, Russia is the main competitor because what happens in one Arctic region has a spillover effect/direct impact on all the other Arctic regions and beyond. A lot of the signaling in the Arctic (from Russia), originates from Russia's security dilemma and complex around the presence of NATO and Allied forces close to its new border. Based on this Russia adopts a defensive outlook with a lot of offensive means/contour to be ready for all contingencies and move the tension away from Russian borders.

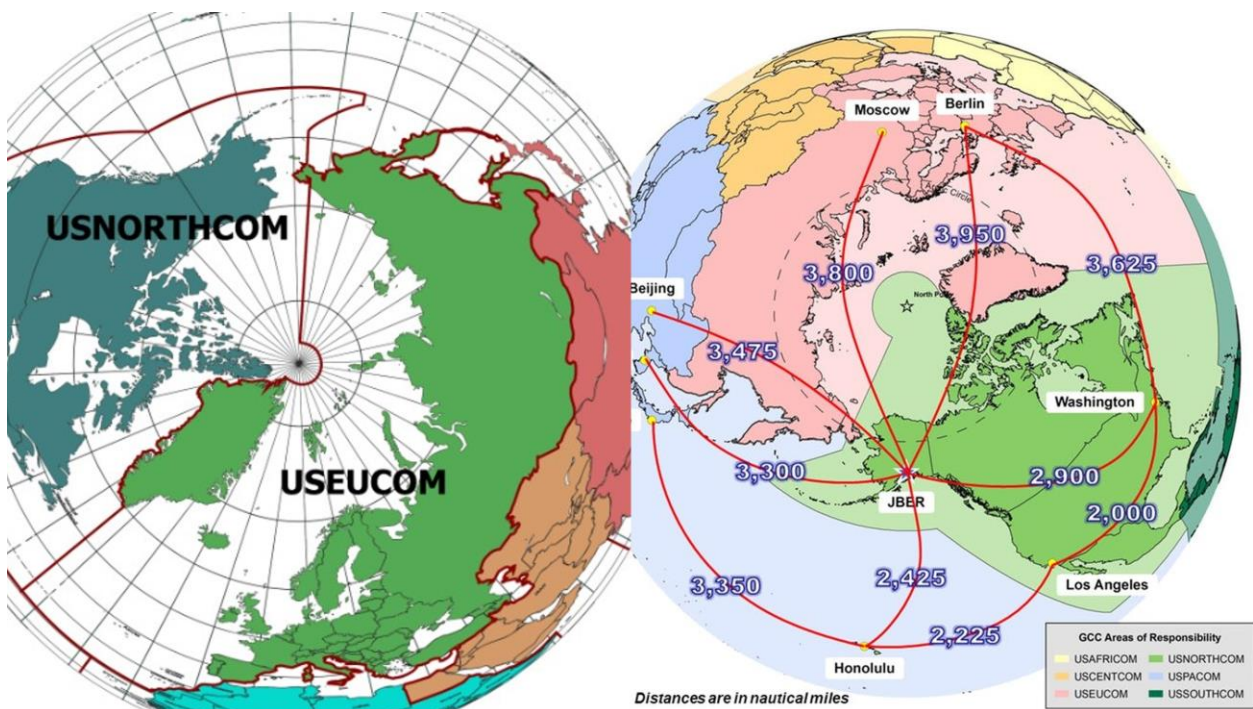
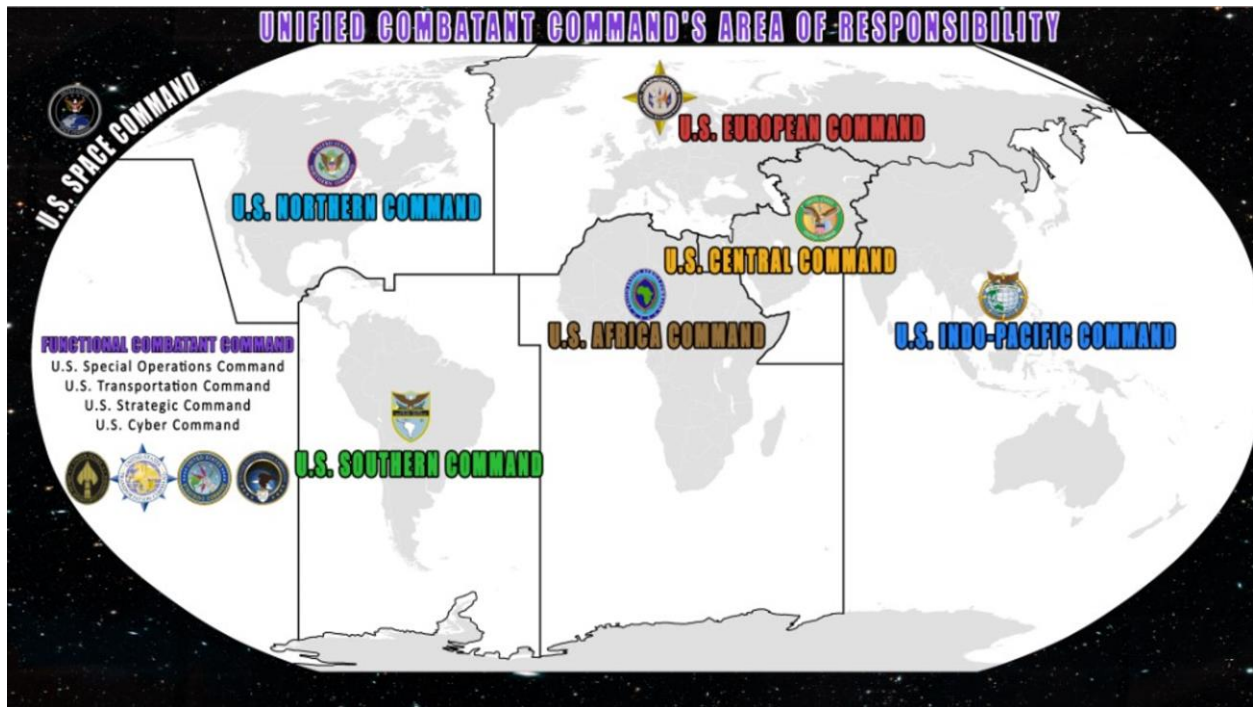
The risk of horizontal escalation births the risk of miscalculation and the risk that incidents and accidents at sea would be misunderstood/mismanaged, which might degenerate into more tension in the Arctic. There is a self-fulfilling prophecy in the Arctic that needs to be managed. Regular Track 2 and Track 1.5 discussions on military security matters should be initiated. An Arctic Military Code of Conduct is needed. Mil-mil contacts should focus on deconfliction, transparency and predictability. Most importantly Russia needs to be engaged.

Andrea Charron

Canada, via NORAD, thinks of the Arctic as an air domain problem more so than a maritime issue. NORAD is a crucial player in ensuring air control in the Arctic and has 63 years of experience surveying the Arctic. NORAD modernization is one of the key drivers of defence policies both in Canada and the United States. Modernization involves several issues – everything from rethinking command and control, to capabilities, to increased surveillance, to new infrastructure and FOLs etc.). As the priority of the US military is Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2), Canada is trying to position itself to contribute, but it will be a challenge (both resource and personnel-wise). With all domain awareness, the NORAD Commander can achieve information dominance and decisions superiority to outthink/outpace competitors or adversaries (decision superiority).



The Arctic has been primarily a zone of cooperation – mainly because of the success of the Arctic Council and inclusion of the United States and Russia. New technology is both a boon for all domain awareness but also a threat. (e.g., quantum radar versus hypersonic weapons). The key is deciphering the “pivot” by the United States to the Arctic. It is not as significant at the pivot to the Pacific and gaps and seams continue to be a challenge for the US military (especially in the Arctic) notwithstanding the recent decision to drop the adjectives “geographic” and “functional” from the Unified Command Plan.



For Canada, there are 2 competing pressures. The first is to be a good ally, hence the more concerted attention to NORAD modernization by the Canadian government. The second, is the continued disparity

of services, health outcomes, housing, and infrastructure in the Arctic. Any military activity and investment in the Canadian Arctic must:

- 1) Align with UNDRIP and Canada's efforts to achieve reconciliation with indigenous peoples
- 2) Be dual use. The Canadian Arctic is too big and too expensive to have stand alone military infrastructure. E.g., improved communication must also benefit local communities.

Colonel Clifford Souza

The 109th is one of the few commands with ski planes. The 109th a high demand low density unit. However, efforts to expand the fleet to add additional aircraft and personnel as well as to modernize, are underway.

The 109th have been vital to the resupply efforts from Thule Greenland to Alert in Nunavut. Airmen are equipped to meet state and national objectives. Most of the operations currently focus on national and Danish science ice programs in partnership with the Danish Joint Arctic Command (JACMD) and Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC).

The 109th operates from a variety of geographical locations – anywhere from frozen sea and lake ice to glaciers, to glacial blue runways and open field operations where they do not need to have any preparations, they just need to be able to land. This is important because it enables them to expand their operational reach for US joint and allied operations. Working on redefining the thickness of ice they can land on although permafrost is proving a constant challenge. Arctic airlift really means agile infrastructure to help extend the reach into the high Arctic and ensure domain awareness.

BrigGens Vaughan and O'Malley

BrigGen O'Malley will replace BrigGen Vaughan as Deputy-Commander CANR and BrigGen Vaughan is deployed to EUCOM. The airpower seminars have been a great success and the intention is for them to continue under BrigGen O'Malley.