

STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR ARCTIC HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S.





Contents

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| Foreword | 3 |
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| Introduction | 6 |
| Strategic Environment | 12 |
| Strategic Goals | 15 |
| Goal 1 Secure the Homeland through Persistent Presence and All Domain Awareness | 16 |
| Goal 2 Strengthen Access, Response, and Resilience in the Arctic | 18 |
| Goal 3 Advance Arctic Governance and a Rules-Based Order through Targeted National & International Engagement and Cooperation | 20 |
| Guiding Principles | 22 |
| Conclusion: Achieving Success | 23 |

Executive Summary

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 Nation-altering terrorist attacks of 9/11, DHS has grown and evolved during the past
 two decades to address all threats and hazards to the Homeland. While preventing the
 threat of terrorism by non-state actors like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and
 Syria (ISIS) continues to be a cornerstone of our homeland security strategy, DHS must
 also contend with Great Power Competition posed by nation-states such as the Peoples'
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 at its most acute point since the Department's creation. TcT0p45 (t)-1 (e a)-1.(r)16.5 (o)1212

challenges that DHS must be adequately resourced and positioned to tackle.

This strategic approach outlines DHS's unique role in the region and three goals the Department will endeavor to achieve in it:

1. Secure the Homeland through Persistent Presence and All Domain Awareness;
2. Strengthen Access, Response, and Resilience in the Arctic; and,
3. Advance Arctic Governance and a Rules-Based Order through Targeted National and International Engagement and Cooperation.

Investments in the Arctic region are critical to the Department's ability to protect the United States and its interests. The Strategic Approach for Arctic Homeland Security fully leverages the broad range of DHS authorities, capabilities, capacity and partnerships to achieve the goals laid out in this document.

1. Reference Presidential Memorandum on Safeguarding U.S. National Interests in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions, June 9, 2020.

Introduction

been an Arctic nation with extensive rights and responsibilities. Our regional national diminishing sea ice and increased accessibility the emergence of Great Power eroding, as the physical environment and economic development have brought more the rise in nation-state ambitions throughout the region, DHS must recalibrate and in close coordination with like-minded domestic and international partners to protect the sovereignty of the Homeland and our national interests.

The U.S. Arctic is dynamic; evolving environmental and strategic A challenging landscape and seascape, combined with the sheer vastness of distance from the mainland United States, austere communications, and limited infrastructure, exacerbate the harshness of Arctic operations and levels of commercial activity are also transforming, from a surge in oil and gas exploration nearly a decade ago to

cyber- and infrastructure-security region becoming increasingly entangled in global transactions and digital messaging.

TRADE & ECONOMIC SECURITY

As previously discussed, the changing physical environment will spur a plethora of economic opportunity and development in the region, including potential upticks in

marine safety, and maritime security—with Navy and Marine Corps capabilities
 —

and ice seals, and millions of migratory birds. Coastlines bordering the Arctic Ocean – Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States – as well as China, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union, further study can be carried out. However, changing operating conditions could lead

DHS activities in the region span the Department’s entire portfolio, from emergency management to maritime, aviation, and border security, to natural resource protection, and to the facilitation of commerce. This strategic approach, while broad in nature, is also

Strategic Environment

Arctic dynamics are acting indirectly as threat multipliers and highlight threats to national security. Consistent with the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR), the Department's highest priority is to protect the American people, our sovereign territory and rights, natural resources and all national interests in the region. The following three factors have the greatest impact on the formation of a strong Strategic Approach for Arctic Homeland Security:

Expanded Arctic access, caused by a changing Arctic geographic environment, has spurred tremendous opportunity and unprecedented activity in the region for both allies and adversaries alike. Unrestrained, geo-strategic adversaries will seek to undermine a fragile rules-based order to extract previously inaccessible resources, and, in turn, undermine global norms that the United States and its allies have worked to uphold.

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- Russia

Russia is a geo-strategic competitor in the region whose regional interests are compounded by economic reliance on the Arctic for natural resource extraction (such as oil, gas, and mineral), and control over zones, such as the Northern Sea route. Russia is seeking to regain Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (AC) in July 2021 through 2023 and could leverage its leadership in this capacity to advance its goals in the region. Its expansive military presence in the Arctic has grown in the last decade with large investments in capabilities and infrastructure including air bases, ports, weapons

military capability, capacity and shore infrastructure in the Arctic to support its national ambitions.

- China:

The PRC continues to use nefarious methods to undermine international norms and institutions governing the Arctic to elevate its standing as a dominant global

power. The PRC continues to use nefarious methods to undermine international norms and institutions governing the Arctic to elevate its standing as a dominant global power. To carry out its intentions, the PRC has invested in foreign infrastructure to include air and sea ports, developed plans to include nuclear-powered vessels, and has two icebreakers with plans to construct more, to include nuclear-powered vessels. With continued investment, China could outpace U.S. military capabilities in the Arctic region.

- Like-minded Partners (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom):

These nations share a common interest in maintaining Arctic stability, security, and in the case of Arctic Nations, their rightful economic stake. Absent a strong, visible DHS presence, a leadership vacuum could allow a new de facto governance system to take hold, favoring Russian and Chinese strategic intent.

The changing geographic environment is elevating the risks to American citizens

The changing geographic environment is elevating the risks to American citizens in the Arctic. This risk includes increased frequency and severity of storms, coastal erosion, and thawing permafrost. The changing environment also continues to unlock previously inaccessible resources and trade route opportunities for both Arctic and non-Arctic states. If left unchecked, increased human activities across the U.S. Arctic and under-governed maritime spaces could outpace DHS to detect, deter, prevent, and respond to those changes and activities. As the Arctic region continues to

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The opening of the Arctic region has given way to increased access to waterways,

The Department will meet the opportunities and challenges presented in the region

PERMANENT AND ALL-DOMAIN PRESENCE AND ALL-DOMAIN AWARENESS

U.S. sovereignty, through robust domain awareness, persistent presence, and leadership (particularly in the maritime space) is critical to advancing U.S. national and economic security while curbing malign activity by Great Power Competitors. This goal requires additional DHS capabilities and capacities, both assets and people, equipped and trained to operate and lead in this austere environment. To accomplish this goal, DHS will:

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to expand awareness and foresight of physical developments that drive changes in the types, location, and timeframe of both commercial activity and geostrategic interests and actions. Proactivity will enable the Department to shape the Arctic as a secure, stable region that promotes responsi

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RESILIENCE IN THE ARCTIC

The Department must build the capability and capacity which will enable its Components, and other interagency and private sector partners, to protect, respond to, and recover from both natural and man-made threats and hazards in the Arctic. This threats from multiple layers of government and society. To achieve this goal, the Department and its Components will:

- While some DHS Components to foresee possibilities for their traditional mission sets as opening Arctic waters create opportunity for increased human activity. As such, DHS Components will assess and report to the Secretary their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding to be necessary, and how they will meet national expectations for their services. This environment. The Department will use these studies to inform future resource decision-making.
- on leveraging partnerships and infrastructure in a surge capacity, DHS and its Components will be able to focus on prevention and response, rather than overall footprint. In particular, DHS will lead engagement with Alaskan Natives representing generations of experience and critical links in the security of the United States government-to-government relationships” with federally recognized tribes and bolster Arctic Governance through Targeted, Enhanced National and International Engagement and Cooperation.
- As a critical representative that nation-state competitors, for example the PRC, are expanding their foreign

necessary to promoting stability and prosperity in the Homeland and international spaces. To accomplish this goal, DHS will:

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U.S. Arctic Policy

U.S. Arctic Policy is a national security priority. It is a Departmental responsibility to the Nation in the Arctic.

To accomplish these goals, DHS will execute a planned, carefully reasoned, whole-of-Department approach, through close c

ABBREVIATIONS USED

