Weekly Report
National Security Division
Week ending 26 July 2019

National Security Strategy:

1. **Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life**
2. **Promote American prosperity**
3. **Preserve peace through strength**
4. **Advance American influence**

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National Defense Strategy:

1. **Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force**
2. **Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners**
3. **Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability**

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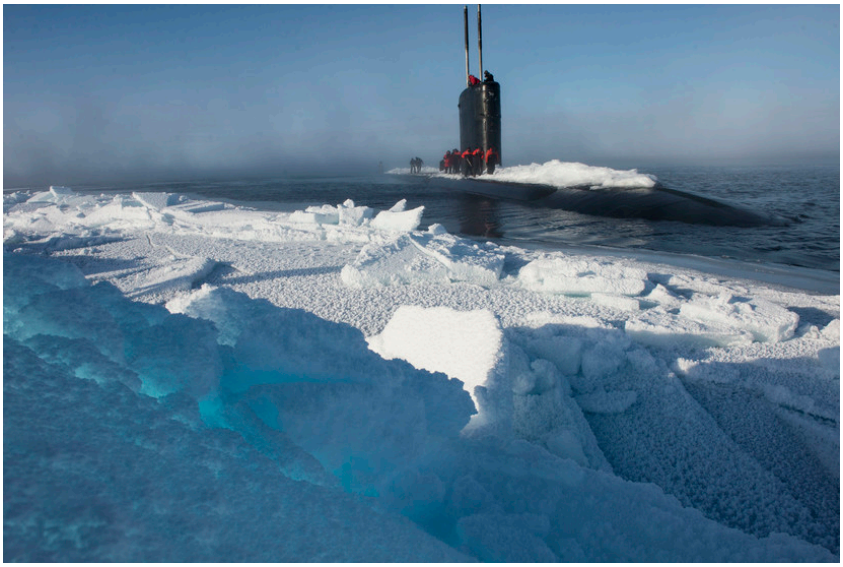
NORTHCOM Commander Cites Arctic as Area of Concern

(National Security Strategy, Line of Effort: Protect the Homeland)



Increased activity in the Arctic is a concern for national security and for U.S. Northern Command, the officer in charge of North American security said. Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and Northcom, told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington about the role both agencies play in homeland defense.

While he embraces cooperation in the Arctic, O'Shaughnessy said, care must be taken not to let potential adversaries take advantage of that cooperation. "The rules-based international order [that's] alive and well in the rest of the world has to be applied with that same template in the Arctic," he said.

"The Arctic is not just a place you can pick up and go to," he said. Unlike the tropical, temperate or desert environments where the U.S. military typically operates, the Arctic region requires specialized training and gear. Northcom is working with the services on how they operate and exercise in the Arctic, the general said.

Turning to missile defense, O'Shaughnessy said defense against cruise missiles is something that needs more attention. "The overall push to emphasize cruise missile defense is something that is gaining some traction," he said.

He noted that discussion of ballistic missile defense is common, and the United States spends as much as $12 billion a year on ballistic missile defense. There's also growing discussion on defense against hypersonic weapons, he said.

Officials must find a way to "flip the cost curve on cruise missile defense," he added, and as the cost for defense against cruise missiles is lowered, he said, the United States must be able to defend larger areas against them.

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China warns Australia, US over military build-up in Indo Pacific region

(National Defense Strategy, Line Of Effort: Strengthen alliances)

China has warned that a steady build-up of US and Australian military capability plus a deepening set of American-led alliance structures is contributing to strategic “uncertainties’’ in the Indo Pacific region.

As the number of US Marines stationed in Darwin reached 2500, the figure envisaged when the deployment was announced in 2011, Beijing issued a sharp warning about increased strategic competition in the region.

In its national defence white paper, *China's National Defence in the New Era*, Beijing cited an increasingly assertive US, the deployment of a missile defence system to South Korea and an outward-looking Japan as among the factors contributing to great power competition in the region.

"Australia continues to strengthen its military alliance with the US and its military engagement in the Asia-Pacific, seeking a bigger role in security affairs.''

Defense Minister Linda Reynolds said the current rotation of Marines was the most capable and operationally focused to date. "This milestone demonstrates the enduring nature of the Australia-US alliance and our deep engagement with the Indo-Pacific region,'' she said.

This year's exercise saw the mobilization of some 34,000 personnel, as well as the involvement of the Japanese Self Defense Force, the first time Tokyo has participated. The exercise emphasizes high-end warfighting against a peer adversary and is widely seen as a hedge against the growing sophistication and reach of the People's Liberation Army.

The 2019 Talisman Sabre attracted the keen interest of Beijing, which sent a spy ship to monitor the mock exercise.

Click to read more here.

Nominee for deputy defense secretary David Norquist has one word for you: Analytics

(National Defense Strategy, Line Of Effort: Reforming the Department)

The Administration's nominee for Deputy Defense Secretary wants the Pentagon to apply data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to tackle jobs as diverse as technology development.

David Norquist, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that the U.S. needs to more heavily invest in developing technology to execute the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The strategy focuses on competition with Russia and China.

The strategy will be "hampered without appropriate funding, development and timely fielding of emerging technologies, notably cyber, space, artificial intelligence, and missiles," Norquist said in written responses to questions posed in advance by the committee. He called modernizing the military to compete, deter and, if needed, prevail in a high-end fight one of the job's most significant challenges.

Per the 2017 defense policy law, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics was split between new undersecretaries of defense for research and engineering (R&E) and acquisition and sustainment (A&S). The R&E office was stood up specifically to push new technologies forward more quickly.

SASC Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., and SASC ranking member Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., cited the need to better manage the Pentagon's acquisitions bureaucracy, acknowledging that a pending bipartisan budget agreement has created new headroom and stability.

"Our overmatch in areas a decade ago was very clear. That overmatch has diminished," Reed said, adding that the Department of Defense must extend its tech development efforts into academia and the private sector.

"Artificial Intelligence is different because the potential benefits are less clear; you know what you're going to get with a hypersonic missile," he said. "But artificial intelligence has the potential to change a lot about how we use [unmanned aerial vehicles] and other items. That puts an emphasis on analytical skills, researching and prototyping."

Click to read more here.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 2 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
July 18, 2019
Pilot Accounted For From Vietnam War (Knight, R.)

July 18, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Middlekauff, R.)

Staff Activities

- This week staff continued to developed briefing and sponsor pages for National Security Commission programs. These sheets will be used by the Marketing Division to seek corporate donors to fund The American Legion's National Security programs that promote community service.
- Wednesday, staff attended a book launch (Break all the borders; Separatism and the reshaping of the Middle East) at the Woodrow Wilson Center. The author Ariel I. Ahram discussed separatism is symptomatic of the contradicts in sovereignty and statehood in the Arab World. Finding ways to integrate, instead of eliminate, separatist movements may be critical to rebuilding regional order.
- Thursday, staff accompanied the Auxiliary National President to the Pentagon for meet and greet with Army Congressional Liaison staff followed by a tour of the installation.
- Thursday, staff (Gold Star Coordinator) attended roundtable hosted by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Women Veterans' Task Force, and discussed issues facing women Veterans. Gold Star Coordinator also met with Sasha Georgiades from the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) Discussed women veteran issues and policies surrounding reproductive care and Military Sexual trauma (MST).

- Thursday, staff met with General (Ret.) Jin Ho Kim Chairman of the Korean Veterans Association. Plans for the National Commander to visit Seoul in the fall of 2020 were discussed which included participating in the Gyeryong World Military Culture Expo.

Frederick Gessner, Assistant Director
National Security Division