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Proficiency in the Arctic: A vital aspect of global maritime strategy

By Mead Treadwell, Security and Defense Program, Institute of the North

Honolulu -- It is another sign that the U.S. is paying attention to security issues in the Arctic, where ice retreat presents America with newly accessible coastline. Rear Admiral Douglas McAneny, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, released a [podcast](#) Nov. 24, titled "The Importance of Arctic Operations."

"The Arctic region remains an important area of naval concentration," McAneny said. "The ocean borders multiple nations and remains an important waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The ability to operate our submarines in this dangerous climate at any time is imperative to our international interests and the continual safety of all international maritime concerns."

"While the importance of the Arctic region can not be overstated, the inherent difficulties of operating within the region are self-apparent. Through continual training and exercise, we maintain our ability to deploy and operate in every condition on Earth. Proficiency in the Arctic remains a vital aspect of our global maritime strategy."

Here in Honolulu, the Vanguard caught up with McAneny as he addressed the Honolulu Rotary Club, also Nov. 24. The newspapers that day were full of pictures and stories of the arrival of a new, Virginia class, submarine, the *USS Texas* making Pearl Harbor its new home port. The move of the submarine from the U.S. East Coast completes the Navy's commitment of having 60 percent of its submarine fleet based in the Pacific. McAneny has 41 submarines under his command - 31 attack subs, 2 guided missile subs, and 8 "boomers," capable of launching intercontinental ballistic missiles. [[Link to video](#) of McAneny's Nov. 24 address to the Honolulu Rotary Club. It works best to start the video and then stop to let it buffer. Once the blue line gets lighter, start the video.]

McAneny said that the *USS Texas* had come to Hawaii through the Panama Canal, rather than through the Arctic, which is thought to be a shorter, cheaper, more clandestine route. In our conversation, McAneny cited current ice conditions as a factor in choosing the submarine's route to Hawaii. The Chukchi Sea is shallow to the point that large submarines operating there must go carefully between the ice above and the ocean bottom below.

McAneny said the submarine's crew is trained for that route, however. In his podcast, the Rear Admiral said, "This month, *USS Texas* became the first Virginia-class sub to surface in the vicinity of the North Pole, building on the success of previous ice exercises. Technical operations such as this ICEX, conducted in conjunction with the Arctic Submarine Lab, are imperative to our continual mission readiness. ICEX allows us to test our communications, weapons and navigation systems in some of the most challenging real-world scenarios available."

In his talk to Rotarians, McAneny listed threats in the Pacific including instability, terrorism, trafficking in weapons and drugs, piracy, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He said Americans should continue to worry about the proliferation of foreign submarines in the Western Pacific that could threaten our homeland.

Recently, Admiral J.W. Greenert, the Navy's vice chief of Naval Operations released an "[Arctic Roadmap](#)," a 35 page "holistic, chronological list of Navy action items, strategic objectives, and desired effects regarding the Arctic" between now and 2014.

From the Wires this Week

Missile Defense

Defender of the Month: SFC Paul Donaldson (Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, 12/02/09)

http://www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org/news.aspx?news_id=2119

The Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance is putting forward a "Defender of the Month" series, which will culminate with a "Defender of the Year" award in December 2010. The first selection for the month of December 2009 is Sergeant First Class Paul Donaldson of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion stationed at Fort Greely, Alaska.

Commander outlines Global Strike Command mission, vision, values (U.S. Air Force News, 12/02/09)

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123180208>

The men and women of 20th Air Force and the 90th Missile Wing hosted the commander of Air Force Global Strike Command during an historic Air Force milestone as the command assumed responsibilities for the intercontinental ballistic missile mission Dec. 1. The new command gained three missile wings as the new higher headquarters for 20th AF, including all of the United States' 450 ICBMs.

U.S. to stop counting new missiles in Russia (Washington Times, 12/01/09)

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20091201_9641.php

The U.S.-staffed Votkinsk Portal Monitoring Facility operates under the terms of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) at the Votkinsk Machine Building Plant, about 600 miles east of Moscow - the site where all Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are built. The monitoring facility's present mandate ends with START's expiration Dec. 5, and the Obama administration has

decided not to seek another agreement allowing Americans to remain, administration and congressional officials said.

Opinion: Strengthening the reset (The Moscow Times, 11/27/09)

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/opinion/article/strengthening-the-reset/390457.html>

The Bilateral Presidential Commission provides a mechanism for engagement and to enforce follow-through on presidential commitments. Yet relations remain fragile and, unfortunately, little attention is paid to explaining or analyzing the complex issues that divide U.S.-Russian relations. Both sides need to ensure that the current wave of goodwill continues and does not end in sorrow, as similar ones did in the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. But three main goals have to be achieved to support this foundation in U.S.-Russian relations.

U.S. Missile Defense Agency to combine GMD contracts (Space News, 11/27/09)

<http://www.spacenews.com/contracts/091127-missile-defense-agency-combine-gmd-contracts.html>

In a change of direction, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) now intends to combine the contracts for the development and the operations and sustainment of the nation's primary strategic missile shield and competitively award a single contract expected to be worth around \$600 million a year, according to a Nov. 25 posting on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site.

Homeland Security / Emergency Management

Homeland Security chief warns of threat from al-Qaeda sympathizers in U.S. (The Washington Post, 12/03/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/02/AR2009120204062.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

Al-Qaeda followers are inside the United States and would like to attack targets here and in other countries, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in addressing the America-Israel Friendship League in New York. "The fact is that home-based terrorism is here. And like violent extremism abroad, it is now part of the threat picture that we must confront," Napolitano said.

DHS to miss 2012 deadline to scan containers for radiation (Federal Computer Week, 12/02/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/12/02/DHS-cargo-radiation-scanning-extension.aspx>

The Homeland Security Department will miss a July 2012 deadline for radiation scanning of all containers bound for U.S. seaports, and will have to seek an extension, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said. The 100 percent requirement was imposed in a 2007 law and allows for the possibility of extensions on the deadline. The requirement has raised logistical, technological and diplomatic concerns from shippers, carriers, port and terminal operators and foreign governments.

Related article: [U.S. Homeland Security: Ports are top concern.](#)

U.S. health-threat response to be reviewed (The Washington Post, 12/02/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/01/AR2009120101288.html>

Citing the balky swine flu vaccination campaign and other shortcomings in the nation's medical defenses, a top Obama administration official has announced a major review of the government's efforts to develop new protections against pandemics, bioterrorism and other health threats. Health

and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said that she ordered the evaluation in part because the H1N1 vaccine shortage had highlighted the nation's dependence on antiquated technology.

Oklahomans get Red Dirt Ready (Tulsa World, 11/29/09)

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20091129_11_A2_AWeb305385

The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security is calling on all Oklahomans to get "Red Dirt Ready" as part of a new emergency preparedness initiative that encourages citizens from across the state to log on to the Red Dirt Ready Web site to answer a few simple questions and learn how to be prepared for any crisis. The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security is the state administrative agency for U.S. Department of Homeland Security funding. To date, the state has been awarded more than \$171 million in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant funding.

Nevada emergency and security operations all under one roof (Nevada Appeal, 11/28/09)

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20091128/NEWS/911279950/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

The Nevada governor's decision to unify homeland security and emergency management functions literally under one roof - the Emergency Operations Center in the Nevada National Guard complex in southeast Carson City - has already fixed many of the problems officials say have plagued the state's efforts in those areas since Sept. 11, 2001. Not only is the communications and operations center for emergency management housed there, the so-called "fusion center" which is responsible for intelligence gathering and interpretation is there along with northern command Nevada Highway Patrol dispatch, the National Guard's joint operations center and the administration for the Division of Forestry, the lead agency when there is a wildfire.

Homeland Security highlights the use of forensic cameras (The Gov Monitor, 11/26/09)

http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/united_states/homeland-security-highlights-the-use-of-forensic-cameras-16751.html

The latest Department of Homeland Security demonstration project began when state and local officials expressed a need to replicate the black box concept of the airways on railways and highways. They wanted some sort of video record to provide information in the event of a crash. The challenge: to repurpose hardened data-storage technology for mass production at a reasonable price.

Satellite Technology

Japan launches 5th spy satellite (Associated Press, 11/28/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gBIJ8T69mtFaIpWSrsNGuUIoPWsgD9C88C600>

Japan launched its fifth spy satellite Nov. 28 in a bid to boost its ability to independently gather intelligence, the government said. The domestically developed H-2A rocket carrying the \$565 million satellite lifted off from a space center on the southern island of Tanegashima, said Hisashi Michigami, an official at the Cabinet Office. "The satellite will gather intelligence for our defense and diplomatic purposes," Michigami said. Japan has long relied on the United States for intelligence, but it launched its first pair of spy satellites in 2003, prompted by concerns over North Korea's missile program.

Russian Space Forces launch Cosmos MilSat (Satnews Daily, 11/23/09)

<http://www.satnews.com/cgi-bin/story.cgi?number=1950362417>

Russia's Space Forces launched a Soyuz-U carrier rocket Nov. 20 with a Cosmos-series military satellite, a spokesman said. Some experts believe the Cosmos series with the identification of 2411 and upwards could be part of Russia's Oko (Eye) orbital missile early warning network. The Cosmos 2441 (launched on July 26, 2008) is believed to be the first in a new series of spy satellites (Persona), featuring updated imaging technology and an extended lifetime span of up to seven years.

Iran fed up with Italians + Russians; will launch their own (Satnews Daily, 11/23/09)

<http://www.satnews.com/cgi-bin/story.cgi?number=1981648336>

Iran plans to launch a communications satellite by late 2011 with no outside help, a top Iranian official said, after Italy and Russia declined to launch the satellite it into orbit. This move reflected Tehran's frustration with the two countries as it tries to push ahead with an ambitious space program, which has worried world powers as the same rocket technology used to launch satellites can also be used for military purposes.

EMP

Opinion: Reasons to worry about our future (Scripps New Network, 11/25/09)

<http://www.scrippsnews.com/node/49283>

The Heritage Foundation recently convened a meeting of experts to discuss "Weapons of Mass Destruction and America's Communities," the various ways terrorists might attack our allies and us in the future, and what might be done to stop them. Among the experts attending this conference, all agreed that the use of such terrorist weapons as an electromagnetic pulse attack is a more serious and imminent threat than is "global warming." Yet no summits are being organized to decide how the United States and other targeted nations can best defend themselves.

Communications / Information Security

California county upgrades law enforcement data sharing (Government Computer News, 12/02/09)

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/12/01/county-of-san-joaquin-updates-warrant-and-court-systems.aspx>

The County of San Joaquin's Information Systems Division (ISD) has improved the county's ability to manage arrests, issue warrants and maintain crime histories with a custom-built, Web-based system that links 1,600 users and 18 agencies countywide. As a result, San Joaquin, a California county with a population of more than 600,000, has saved more than \$1 million by eliminating the need to deploy and maintain the application on individual desktops, according to the lead architect on the project.

Cybersecurity consortium tackles problems of the future (Government Computer News, 12/02/09)

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/12/02/northrop-cybersecurity-research-consortium.aspx>

Northrop Grumman Corp. is funding collaborative research programs at three universities in an effort to address cybersecurity issues plaguing an increasingly online world. The consortium's research will be forward-looking in the initial five-year cycle through 10 projects at Carnegie Mellon University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Purdue University.

Survey shows cyberattacks are getting more disruptive (nextgov.com, 12/01/09)

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091201_5149.php

Cyberattacks that seek to penetrate computer networks or disrupt online services are increasing significantly, according to a survey of public and private sector information security and technology professionals released Dec. 2. San Francisco-based Computer Security Institute noted that reports of malware infection are likely to continue climbing as attackers “spend more energy customizing malware to make it more effective in targeted attacks.” *Related article: [Many more government records compromised in 2009 than year ago, report claims.](#)*

Europe extends antiterrorist data-sharing deal with U.S. (The New York Times, 11/30/09)

<http://www.nytimes.com/external/idg/2009/11/30/30idg-europe-extends-antiterrorist-data-sharing-deal-with-23527.html>

Europe's Council of Ministers extended a controversial program that hands over information on international financial transactions to the U.S. for antiterrorism purposes. Under the extension, the U.S. Treasury will be able to continue to request specific data from SWIFT, a cooperative of 8,300 banking organizations that has a proprietary communications platform used to exchange financial data, according to information published by the Council of Ministers.

Transportation Security/Infrastructure

Global positioning systems improve helicopter safety (U.S. Department of Defense News, 11/30/09)

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=56865>

Global positioning system technology is being applied to older rotary-wing aircraft to help save lives, a senior helicopter pilot based at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., said. Air Force Col. Peter Mapes and other pilots at Andrews will install and test advanced GPS units, designed originally for airplanes, in some of the 316th Wing, 1st Helicopter Squadron's UH-1N “Huey” helicopters. The new GPS systems, he explained, turn each helicopter into a sort of “mini radar station.” In addition to providing data on obstructions and terrain, it also tracks weather patterns - including lightning strikes, wind flow and rain - and other aircraft in the area.

TSA launches Airport Security Innovations Project (Aviation News, 11/30/09)

http://www.aviationnews.net/?do=headline&news_ID=173927

Working with AAAE, ACI-NA and Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network, TSA has clarified that this project is not an inspection, a vulnerability assessment, a special emphasis assessment or a compliance and enforcement tool. The agency emphasized that the intent is to identify innovative security measures currently in use throughout the industry.

National Guard

National Guard executes President's Afghan agriculture initiative (National Guard Bureau, 12/02/09)

<http://www.ng.mil/news/archives/2009/12/120209-Execute.aspx>

Eight National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams are currently on the ground in Afghanistan, and more teams are preparing to deploy, Guard officials said. The National Guard ADTs partner with land grant colleges, state farm bureaus and federal departments to help Afghans improve agricultural

practices. Agriculture provides a majority of Afghanistan's gross domestic product and employs more than 70 percent of its citizens, said Army Col. Martin A. Leppert, who oversees the ADT program for the director of the Army National Guard.

South Dakota National Guard trains to avoid mental problems (Rapid City Journal, 12/01/09)

http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/article_10711063-2455-53fe-87f8-9329307fa846.html

The South Dakota National Guard will undergo training to prepare them to deal with stress and other mental problems during combat, said state Adjutant General Steven Doohen at a mental health summit hosted by the South Dakota Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Lt. Col. Harvey Fitzgerald, head of the South Dakota National Guard's program for Soldier and Family Support, said the resiliency training helps service members avoid problems so they can be more effective while on active duty.

Energy Security

Lockheed expands its smart grid wings (Greentech Media, 12/02/09)

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/lockheed-expands-its-smart-grid-wings/>

Utilities want to implement smart grid technologies, and are being incentivized to do so by the Federal Government. Utilities, though, are far more concerned about reliability and quality of service than price or even upgrade-ability. It is not like selling IT equipment to internet startups. Enter defense contractors, who've spent years preparing for worst-case scenarios and undertaking massive construction projects.

Diplomacy

Commentary: United States leadership in the Arctic Ocean (SanLuisObispo.com, 12/02/09)

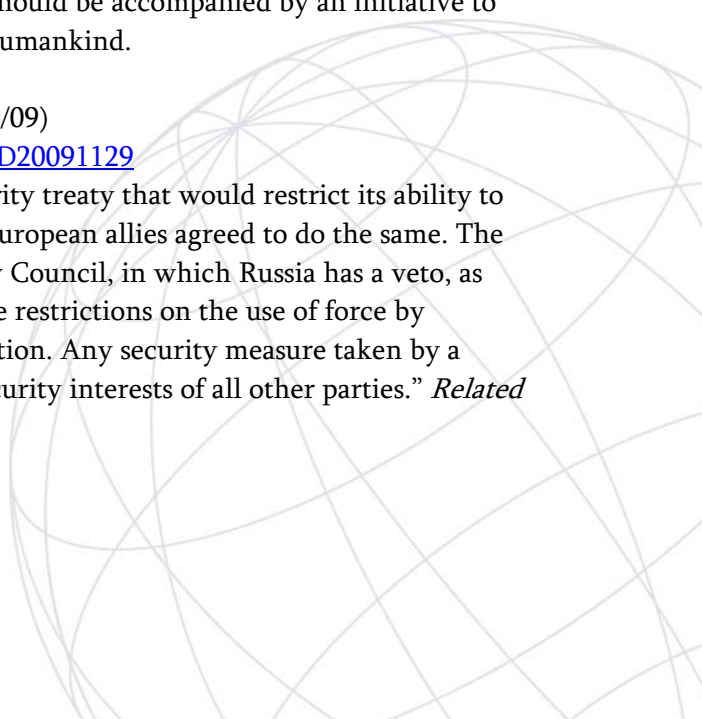
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/528/story/941367.html>

The United States needs to assert leadership now to promote ecologically sound, productive and peaceful management of the Arctic Ocean. U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the urgent first step in this regard but it should be accompanied by an initiative to make the central Arctic Ocean a peaceful preserve for all humankind.

Russia drafts "post-Cold War" security pact (Reuters, 11/29/09)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE5AS1QD20091129>

Russia published its proposal for a new Euro-Atlantic security treaty that would restrict its ability to use military force unilaterally if the United States and its European allies agreed to do the same. The document reaffirms the role of the United Nations Security Council, in which Russia has a veto, as the ultimate arbiter of international conflict. It would place restrictions on the use of force by signatories and create a new mechanism for conflict resolution. Any security measure taken by a signatory country would have to pay "due regard to the security interests of all other parties." *Related article: [Russia proposes new Euro-Atlantic security treaty.](#)*



Announcements

Missile Defense and the Role of the States

In February 2007, the Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute published a report on *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*, a survey of Adjutants General on questions regarding missile defense and electromagnetic pulse. The report is available online:

<http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=304>.

To view the IWG report

The Institute of the North's Defense and Security program is a member of the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, & the Twenty-First Century, a non-partisan group of defense experts who meet regularly to discuss issues and projects related to missile defense. To view the 2009 report online, please visit: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=564>.

To submit material

We are always looking for well-written editorials on the impact of national security at the state and local level. If you would like to submit an editorial for publication in the Vanguard newsletter, please forward factual and relevant articles of 500-750 words in length to the [Institute](#).

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About the program

The Security and Defense program at the Institute of the North conducts research and educates policymakers on strategic issues relating to the defense of the United States that particularly concern decision makers in Alaska and at the state and local level throughout the nation.

The Institute of the North, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1994 by former Secretary of the Interior and twice Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, focusing on strategic and natural resource issues.

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