

Special Issue on Arctic Security

The Arctic region is growing in strategic importance in global great power competition. With a warming climate and emerging technologies allowing increased human activity in the Arctic, several nation-states are amplifying their military presence there. For decades, the USMC has conducted training on NATO's Northern Flank in the Arctic, but mostly with small units. Additionally, with a pivot to the Indo-Pacific and a new force design, *Force Design 2030*, along with a new concept in expeditionary advanced base operations (EABO), it remains to be seen to what degree they are prepared for operations in cold weather littoral terrain.

As a major Arctic power, Russia is continuing to upgrade and modernize their military installations in the Arctic even as the war in Ukraine continues. This includes deployment and testing of advanced weapon systems such as hypersonic missiles, silent submarines, and autonomous maritime platforms. Russia is also expanding its gray zone activities, utilizing tools sometimes characterized as "hybrid threats" or "hybrid levers of influence." At the same time, China is also seeking to expand both its capabilities and presence in the Arctic, for example through scientific activities and potential dual use infrastructure.

With Russia's war on Ukraine, the Russian Northern Fleet and its second-strike nuclear capability is likely to have gained more importance for Moscow. This is likely due to the extensive Russian losses of conventional forces on the battlefields since February 2022 that are likely to take several years to recover from. With escalating tensions between Russia and the West, and a hot war on the European continent, the uncertainty about the future of the East-West relationship in this region is very high. One concern is the risk of escalation on NATO's Northern Flank: the North Atlantic region from the Greenland-Iceland-UK gap to the Arctic Ocean, with its littoral areas and Arctic Islands.

Thus, with this precarious situation of enhanced strategic competition in the Arctic, there is a need to improve U.S. Joint force, U.S. Marine Corps, and allied operational capabilities in the Arctic. This includes the capability to project power and cooperate in Arctic winter conditions as well as with regional national forces, particularly with new regional Arctic members of NATO such as Finland and likely, in the near future, Sweden. From this perspective, NATO's newly accepted concept for multidomain operations (MDO), and the U.S. Joint All Domain Operations

(JADO) concept serve, in addition to EABO, as relevant baseline approaches to improve higher interoperability and capability development in the region.

Relevant article topics for the special edition of JAMS on Arctic security include, but are not limited to:

- The need for new military/strategic thinking related to NATO's Arctic defense, including NATO's expansion with Finland and Sweden as new member states.
- Analyses of military activity (deployments, exercises, tests, etc.), possible synergies related to civ-mil activities related to existing and planned infrastructure from the seabed to space.
- Capability development through expeditionary warfare, discussions of EABO relevance, such as those pertaining to integrating local forces as "inside"/"stand-in" forces in a U.S. Joint force/NATO context. How does a nation train, staff, and build amphibious operation capabilities for cold weather theaters?
- Strategic great power competition, innovation, and future warfare in the Arctic.
- How should NATO meet the long-term challenge from a more militarized and authoritarian Russia in the Arctic, especially in a post-Ukraine war era?
- The potential long-term challenges to peace, stability, and a rules-based order in the Arctic posed by China.

Dr. Njord Wegge, professor at the Norwegian Defence University College and Dr. Lon Strauss, associate professor at the Marine Corps University will serve as guest editors of this special issue.

Submission deadline: 1 September 2024.

JAMS is a peer-reviewed journal on the Commandant's Professional Reading List, and submissions should be 4,000–10,000 words, footnoted, and formatted according to *Chicago Manual of Style* (17th edition). Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are encouraged to submit. MCUP is also looking for book reviewers and historiographers from international studies, political science, and contemporary history fields. To receive a copy of the journal or to discuss an article idea or book review, please contact MCU_Press@usmcu.edu.