

Department of Political Science

**THE FUTURE OF MARITIME ACTIVITY IN
THE ARCTIC:**

THE RETURN OF THE GREAT GAME

Maritime Security Challenges 2016: Pacific Seapower

Panel V

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**CENTRE FOR MILITARY
AND STRATEGIC STUDIES**

















Understanding the New Arctic Maritime Era

- The Return of the Great Game
 - War Deterrence/War Fighting
 - Power Projection
- The need to provide for new constabulary capabilities
 - New Navigations Routes
 - New Resources Development
 - New Environmental Needs

Problems in Understanding

- Normative Overlay
 - Public and Decision-makers want/wish region remains a zone of cooperation
- Secrecy

US-Canada Submarine Cooperation in NWP

Date	Boat	Route	Available Evidence of Canadian Participation or Concurrence
1960	USS <i>Seadragon</i>	East – West transit of Parry Channel.	Sought Canadian concurrence. Commodore O.C. Robertson on board. Stopped in Resolute where a Canadian delegation came aboard.
1960	USS <i>Archerfish</i> (SS-311)	Hudson Bay, Ungava Bay, Hudson Strait, Foxe Basin, Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Sound.	Conducted experiments in partnership with Canadian agencies. Canadian technicians aboard.
1960	USS <i>Sargo</i>	Entered McClure Strait briefly on route to North Pole.	Commodore O.C. Robertson was aboard briefly.
1962	USS <i>Skate</i>	West – East transit of Perry Channel.	Notified Canadian authorities.
1977	USS <i>Flying Fish</i>	Transit to Arctic Ocean via Prince Gustaf Adolf Sea, Byam Martin and Austin Channels.	Tests with CF in Robeson Channel. Provided service to Canadian research personnel.
1978	USS <i>Pintado</i>	Unknown	None available
1979	USS <i>Archerfish</i> (SSN-678)	East – West transit of Perry Channel by way of Crozier Channel, Fitzwilliam Strait, Hazen Strait and Prince Gustaf Adolf Sea.	A joint Cdn-UK-US exercise. CF aircraft and HMCS <i>Ojibwa</i> opposed northbound transit in Labrador Sea and Davis Strait.
1981	USS <i>Silversides</i>	Transited Eureka Sound, Nansen Sound, Hassel Sound, Wellington Channel and Parry Channel.	A joint Canada-US-UK exercise. Provided tracking services to Canadian listening arrays in the Northwest Passage.
1983	USS <i>L. Mendel Rivers</i>	Likely operated in Jones Sound, M’Clintock Channel and Norwegian Bay	Tested magnetic sensors in Barrow Strait and acoustic sensors in Nares Strait.
1984	USS <i>Spadefish</i>	Prince of Wales Strait, Fitzwilliam Strait and Ballantyne Strait	None available

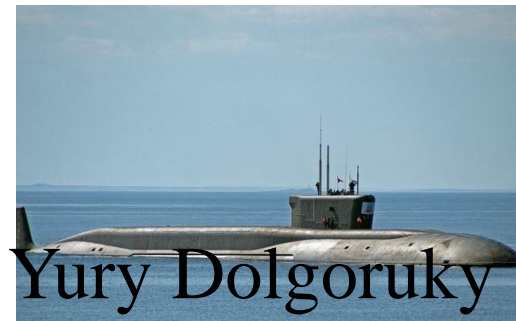
From: Adam Lajeunesse, *Lock, Stock, and Icebergs* (2016)

The Foundation of the New Maritime Strategic Arctic Reality

- New Resources and New Access to Resources
- Core Strategic Interests of Russia and US
 - Russia:
 - Nuclear Stability, Stopping US ABM
 - Limiting NATO
 - Power Projection
 - US:
 - Protecting homeland – Build-up of ABM
 - Support of NATO
- Developing Interests of “Others” – China, Japan, South Korea

Growing Military Assertiveness of Russia in Arctic and renewed military strength

- 1990's Period of Extreme Reduction
 - AMEC/G8
- 2000's Renewal
- Russian State Rearmament Program 2007-15
- Focus on Submarines
 - 3(+4 building) new Nuclear Missile Subs
 - 2(+3 building) new attack Subs



Yury Dolgoruky

Russia Resumes Arctic Exercises mid 2000s

- Twin Submarine Test Missile Launch near North Pole 2009
 - 2 Delta IVs SSBN plus several SSNs
 - Resumption of SSBN patrols ~2003
- Large Military Exercise in Arctic Region 2007+
- Largest Exercise in 2015 40,000+ troops

US Arctic Forces

- Submarine Forces:
 - US – Seawolf and Los Angeles Class; Virginia Class
 - Cooperation with UK
 - ICEX March 2009 – 2 LA class SSN
 - ICEX March 2011 – 1 Seawolf and 1 Virginia
 - ICEX March 2011 – 1 Virginia and 1 LA
 - ICEX March 2014 – 1 Virginia and 1 LA
 - ICEX March 2016 – 2 LA



ICEX 2011



HMS Tireless 2007 after accident

Chinese Navy and Arctic

- 5 PLAN vessels (People's Liberation Army Navy) ships reported off Aleutian Islands Sept 2015
- 3 PLAN vessels (Fleet 152) 1st visit to Sweden, Denmark, Finland Oct 2015
- Will the new Subs (SSN/SSGN) be arctic capable?



PLAN Jinan

Source: Diplomat

Russia Core Strategic Interests and Arctic

- Nuclear Stability – Maintenance of Deterrence
 - Focus on SSBN
 - Build-up Northern Fleet
- Limit Expansion of NATO
 - Growing interest of Sweden/Finland
- Stop/Limit US ABM
 - Will look to Alaska

US Core Strategic Interest and Arctic

- Protect against Attack on US Homeland
 - North Korea Missile Threat – increase of 14 more interceptors Ft Greely AK
- Meet and Contain Rising Power of China (Asian Pivot)
 - Need to use Alaska as pivot point
 - China and Arctic Governance

Conclusion

- Will continue to be a disconnect between rhetoric of cooperation and reality of core security requirements of Russia, US and China
- Short and Medium Term - Rising need to develop Arctic Seapower for Constabulary Roles as new economic activity develop
- Long Term - The key maritime issues will be
 - War deterrence/war fighting
 - Power Projection
 - Sea Denial