

Centre for Military and Strategic Studies

Domestic Ops in the Arctic:

“Or when it is easier to conduct foreign ops than staying at home”

Rob Huebert

Canadian Reserves on Operations: Lessons Learned

CDFAI/CMSS

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Canadian Defence
& Foreign Affairs
Institute

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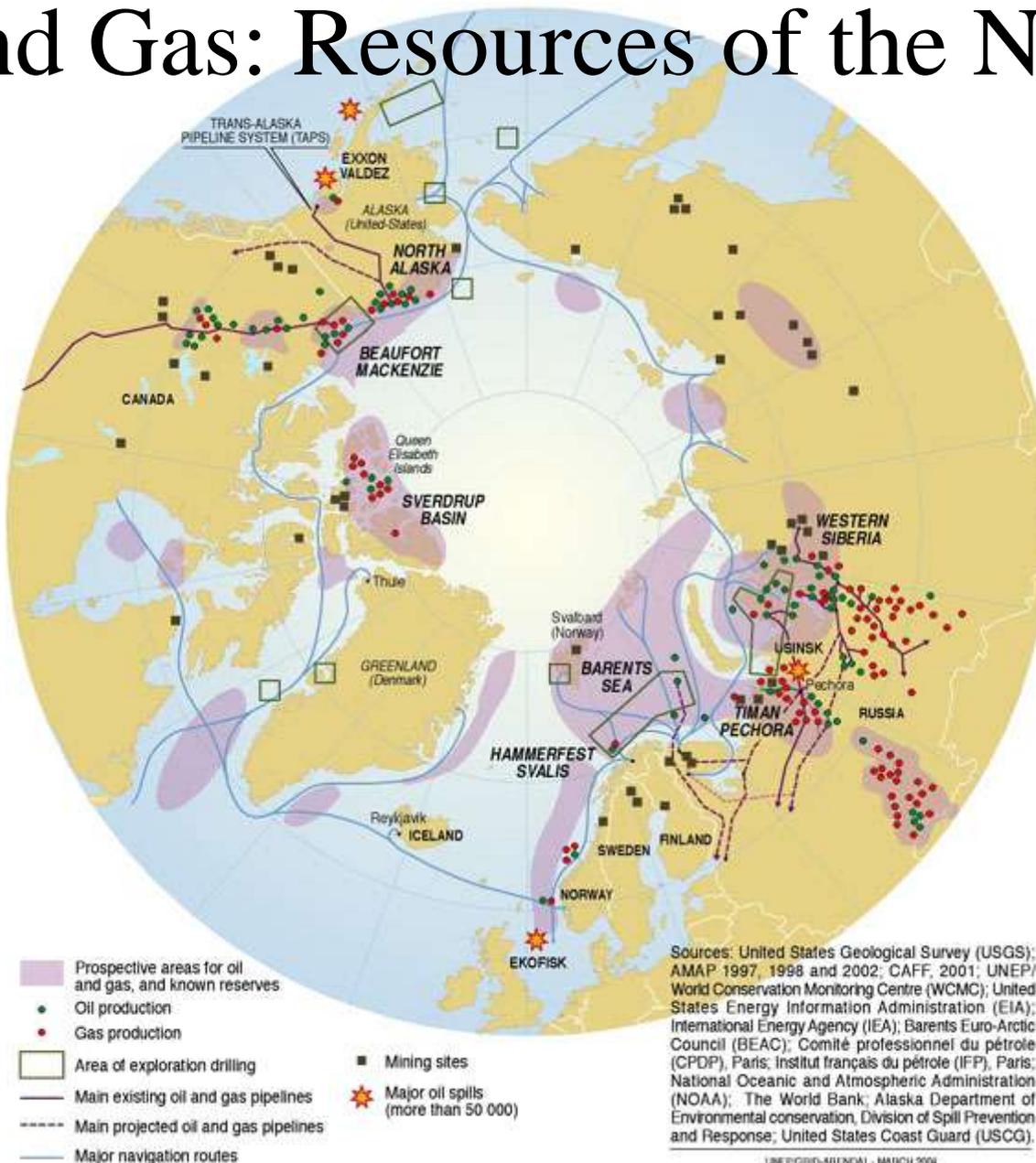
Main Themes

- Canada is still learning how to conduct Ops in the Arctic – both regular and reserves
- All Ops must be “Whole-of-Canada” by virtue of the Arctic Reality
- The role played by Canadian Rangers is both unique and essential
- The Arctic is in a state of massive transformation –need for CF in Arctic will be increasing



Diplomatic Threats: Canadian Arctic Sovereignty Issues

Oil and Gas: Resources of the North



Source: AMAP

Maritime jurisdiction & boundaries in the Arctic

www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/resources/arctic



New Geopolitics of the North

- Russia
 - Renewed Assertiveness
 - Petrodollars
- United States
 - Multi-lateral reluctance/emerging concern to act
 - International Role as remaining Superpower
- Norway
 - Refocus on North
 - Growing Interest (Concern?) with Russia
- Denmark
 - Issues with Greenland – social; energy
 - New Naval capabilities
- Iceland
 - Economic melt-down
- Finland/Sweden
 - NATO – Loyal Arrow
- China
 - Large Increase of Infrastructure

Source: *Newly Emerging Arctic Security Environment* - CDFAI

<http://www.cdfai.org/PDF/The%20Newly%20Emerging%20Arctic%20Security%20Environment.pdf>

Geographic Size Of Canada's North



Source: CMJ collection

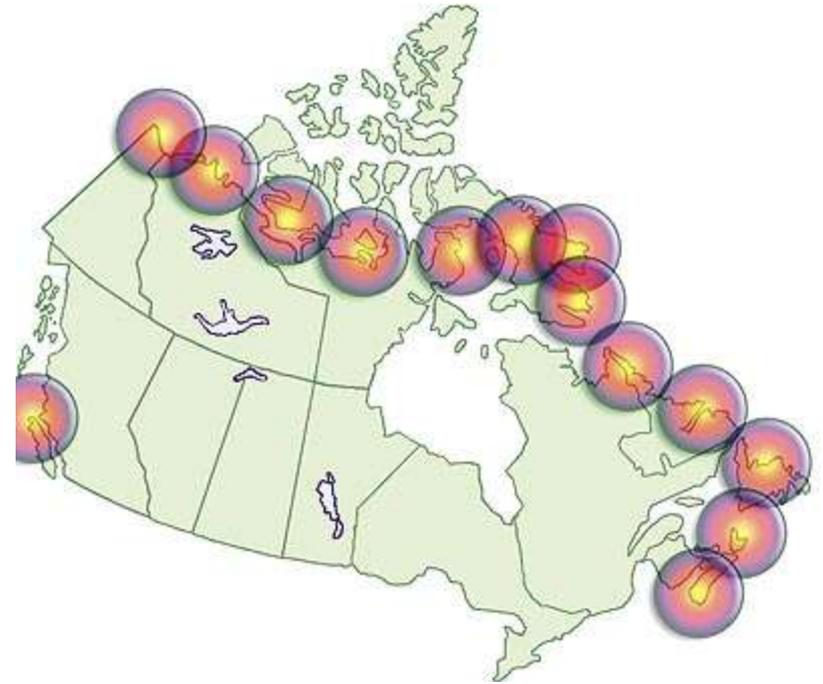
Some Sample Straight Distances “as the crow flies”

- St. John’s - London 3,742 km
- St. John’s - Alert 3,737 km
- St. John’s - Resolute 3,607 km
- Whitehorse - Yellowknife 1,108 km
- Whitehorse - Iqaluit 3,309 km
- Trenton - Alert 4,306 km

Base Location



Forward Operating Locations; North Warning Sites



Source:CMJ map by Monica Muller

Arctic Ops 2002-2008

Year	Name	Vessels	Location	Other
2002	Narwhal	Goose Bay, Summerside, (Pierre Radisson fuel)	Kimmirut Harbour to Resolution Island	Assist Ranger Patrol
2004	Narwhal	Montreal(Henry S. Larson fuel)	Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island	Simulate Cosmos 954, interdication simulation
2005	Hudson Sentinell	Glace Bay, Shawinigan (Pierre Radisson fuel)	Hudson's Bay	PR with locat communities
2005	Beaufort Sentinel	RCMP vessel with Navy observers	Mackenzie River Delta, Beaufort Sea	
2005	Fisheries Patrol	Fredericton	Above Baffin	
2006	Lancaster	Montreal, Goose Bay, Moncton (Henry S. Larsen fuel)	Lancaster Sound	Van-Doos, interdiction simulation
2006	Coastal Ranger	Goose Bay, Moncton	Northern Labrador	5-CRPG, Northern Warning System inseption, before LANCASTER
2007	Nanook	Fredericton, Summerside, Comer Brook (Martha L. Black fuel)	Hudson Strait, Baffin Island	Interdiction
2008	Nanook	Toronto, Shawinigan (Pierre Raddisson fuel)	?	Interdiction, disaster response, outbreak of disease, hostage situation

Source:
M. Horne

Arctic Neighbours Exercises

- Russia
 - 8-9,000 troops 09; 2 Delta's IV 09; Bomber Patrols
- United States
 - Northern Edge – 1993-09; 8-10,000 troops
- Norway
 - Cold Response -2006-2010; 7-8,000 troops
- Canada
 - Op Narwhal-Nanook 2002-2009 – 750 troops
- Finland/Sweden
 - Loyal Arrow 2009 - 3000 troops

The Rangers

- 4,200 to be increased to 5,000
 - 163 Patrols
- 5 Ranger Patrol Groups (CRPG)
- 1 CRPG – Yukon, NWT, Nu
 - 58 patrols
 - 1575 Rangers

Role of the Rangers

- Conduct territorial, coastal and inland water surveillance as required/tasked.
- Provide local knowledge and expertise
- Provide assistance to other government departments.
- Provide local assistance and advice to Ground Search and Rescue operations
- Provide support in response to natural disasters and humanitarian operations.
- Are not to be used in war-fighting roles

Regular Forces and Rangers Re-taking Hans Island 2005



Source: DND photo 2005-0114-42a by Corporal David McCord, Canadian Forces Joint Imagery Centre

Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessel: New Role for the Naval Reserves?

General Arrangements – Upper Deck



Source: Canadian Navy

New Reserve Unit NWT

- Announced Sept 5, 2008
- Company size reserve unit to be set up in Yellowknife
- “The Army is expanding its Reserve footprint across the North by establishing a permanent land force reserve unit presence in this increasingly important region of the country,” - MacKay

Lesson Learned

- The Arctic is a very unforgiving environment
 - Climate is severe
 - Must carry all supplies
 - Non-existent infrastructure
 - Communications Challenges
- The Role of the Rangers remains central
- DND must work with other Government Agencies/ Territories/ Industry

Conclusion

- Canada is not yet capable of Arctic Ops 12 months of the year – Except for Rangers
- Canada will need to respond to the internationalization of the Arctic