NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

SUPPLEMENTAL TO DEFENSE ANALYSIS CAPSTONE REPORT

(3 OF 12: APPENDIX C)

USSF CAPABILITY GAP IN THE ARCTIC

by

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APPENDIX C. CAPSTONE EVENT EXSUMS

A. HQDA ARCTIC WARGAME (10-16 FEB, 2022)

10th SFG(A) officers influence Army Arctic Strategy at the inaugural HQDA Arctic Wargame

MAJs Devin Kirkwood, Barrett Martin, and Mike Tovo, current 10th SFG(A) officers serving at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), represented USASOC during Arctic Dominance 2028 at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA from 10-16FEB22. During the HQDA G-35 led wargame, they planned and briefed USASOC's role throughout future competition, crisis, and conflict in the Arctic. They focused on SOF integration in Army Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) while generating options for senior leaders to implement SOF across multiple OPLANS and nested with the Army's "Regaining Arctic Dominance" strategy. During the Wargame, they worked alongside and briefed nine General Officers and numerous senior leaders from FORSCOM, TRADOC, USARAK, USARNORTH, USARPAC, USAREUR-AF, USASOC, AFC, AMC, AWC, USACE, HQDA G-5, CIA, MDTF, NGIC, AKNG, USASMDC, and ERDC, to ensure USASOC capabilities were integrated into future Army strategy and policy. The SOF integration capabilities with MDO in the Arctic will be part of a brief on 03MAR22 to inform SecArmy and CoSArmy of the results of the wargame and recommendations for updating the Army's Arctic strategy.

B. EXERCISE ARCTIC EDGE 22 (7-18 MAR, 2022)

MAJs Barrett Martin and Michael Tovo, observed exercises ARCTIC EDGE and ARCTIC WARRIOR across Alaska from 07-13 MAR 22 in support of our USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. We observed SOTF command and control operations headquartered in Ft. Wainwright Alaska as ODAs operated across Northern Alaska, conducting a wide range of SOF operational tasks. In Anchorage, our group observed SOCNORTH's JFSOC operations center as it conducted liaison with Alaska command (ALCOM) and exercised operational control of all SOF elements across Alaska. Separate discussions were also held with select members of the SOCNORTH staff to better understand SOCNORTH exercising, campaigning, and operational goals in the North American Arctic and high north. We also observed elements participating in ARCTIC WARRIOR, the conventional Army exercise at the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC). During our time at the exercises, we also conducted a wide range of engagements with entities from the Northern Warfare Training Center (NWTC), Cold Regions Testing Center (CRTC), and a key leader engagement with MG Eifler, the commanding general of US Army Alaska (USARAK). Additionally, we had the opportunity to meet with BG Brown, the commanding general of the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF), as well as leadership from the Alaska National Guard. Both commands gave us capabilities briefs and highlighted vulnerabilities and shortfalls and discussed how they envisioned SOF could best be employed in Alaska to conduct training and support defense of the homeland priorities. Highlights of these engagements included a deep dive into the NWTC courses and their programs of instruction both current and historical. This provided good insight into critical Arctic warfare skills as well as converging interests and collaboration opportunities between conventional and SOF winter warfare and arctic warfare instructors.

C. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS (14-15 MAR, 2022)

MAJs Barrett Martin and Michael Tovo, conducted engagements with professors from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) from 14-15 MAR 22 in support of our USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. Our team met with three professors at UAF: Dr. James Morton (prior service Special Forces officer and reserve LTC serving in ALCOM), Troy Bouffard (reserve MSG serving in ALCOM), and Sam Watkins (prior SF officer). These three individuals currently run the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience (CASR) and are in the midst of a Canadian-sponsored SOF Arctic project focused on research into future SOF requirements in the Arctic. They briefed their experiences in Alaska and the North American Arctic, provided an overview of Native Alaskan-related topics, and discussed their current research project. Our team presented our current research scope and discussed our proposed way ahead and potential collaboration points with the UAF team.

D. WINTER WARFARE SYMPOSIUM (9-12 MAY, 2022)

MAJs Barrett Martin, Michael Tovo, and Devin Kirkwood, participated in the 10th Special Forces Group Winter Warfare Detachment (WWD) symposium on Winter Warfare from 09-12 MAY 22 in support of our USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. The symposium consisted of international representatives of the Danish Army Winter Schoolhouse, the Swedish Sub-Arctic Warfare Training Center, and the Norwegian Army. The stated goal of the symposium was to share knowledge across the different counties to address specific logistical, organizational, and equipment issues currently being faced by 10th Special Forces group and to help validate and revise the current 10th SFG(A) WWD training approach. Each nation briefed its current Arctic/Winter Warfare training courses and the general programs of instruction. The 10th Group WWD then presented current USSF training progressions and then provided an in-depth walkthrough of all current US-issued winter and arctic equipment. The final day of the conference concluded with round-table discussions of different focus areas for further collaboration and improvement (medical, logistics, unit of action organization, communication, etc).

E. SOCNORTH COMMANDING GENERAL ENGAGEMENT (13 MAY, 2022)

MAJs Barrett Martin, Michael Tovo, and Devin Kirkwood, conducted a key leader engagement with the SOCNORTH CG, BG Satterfield on 13 May 22 in support of our USASOC Force Modernization Cell sponsored capstone project. We briefed BG Satterfield on our Arctic capstone project and outlined our projected deliverables, as well as provided a description of our observations at exercise ARCTIC EDGE. BG Satterfield described the overall perspective of SOCRNOTH on SOF in the Arctic from a homeland defense perspective as well as current SOCNORTH operations and exercises related to the Arctic. We also had a lengthy discussion of the SOF value proposition in the Arctic and the current capability gap faced by SOF in general and ARSOF in particular.

F. NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION ENGAGEMENTS (10-16 FEB, 2022)

MAJs Michael Tovo, Barrett Martin, and Devin Kirkwood conducted several key leader engagements throughout the National Capitol Region from 10-16 FEB 22 in support of our USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. During the visit to the Pentagon, we met with several entities from the Joint Staff with equity in the Arctic region, to include the Deputy Directorate for Special Operations, JS J23 Ms. Amanda Miller, Framework Secretariat JS J5 CDR Joachim Roed (NOR), LTC Matt McCloskey (CAN), Special Operations Low Intensity Conflict COL Keith Snook, Information Operations JS J39 Lt Col Jeff Nunez, Arctic Policy JS J5 DR John Goodin, Air Force Arctic Strategy AF J7 Ms. Kelly Reese and MAJ Josh Martin, Army Arctic Strategy Ms. Elizabeth Felling USA G5, and LTC Mark Lee USA G3 Special Operations Division. These engagements provided an opportunity to gain insight as to the prioritization of the Arctic at the strategic and policy level. In addition, we were able to inform other services not familiar with Special Operations and discuss the value of collaboration with SOF operations in the Arctic. It is important to note that the Coastguard was the only service at the time that had allocated funds towards the Arctic problem set.

Following the visit to the Pentagon we traveled to visit with Senator Dan Sullivan and Congressman Jimmy Panetta's office to help inform their offices of current Arctic operations, exercises, activities, and the value proposition of ARSOF in the Arctic. In addition to providing information, we were able to gain a better appreciation of their respective Arctic priorities, to include power generation, infrastructure development, and indigenous population engagements.

Additionally, we had a meeting at the CIA in Langley where we received numerous briefings from Arctic focused analysts to better understand the operational environment in each geographic region of the Arctic. We then traveled to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to receive capability briefings on satellite ISR in the Arctic region.

G. KINGSTON CONSORTIUM INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (10-14 OCT, 2022)

MAJs Michael Tovo and Devin Kirkwood served as panelists at the Kingston Consortium on International Security (KCIS) Conference on International Competition in the High North from 10-14 OCT 22 in support of their USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. We presented our recently published article in the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs titled *The Unconventional Approach to Arctic Security: Increasing Domain Awareness through the US Army Special Operations Forces' Indigenous Approach* as well as providing a brief presentation on the SOCOM enterprise in general and the ARSOF core pillars of value in particular. Over the course of the conference, we conducted a myriad of engagements and networking opportunities with presenters from Canada, the U.S., Norway, and representatives of indigenous communities in the North American Arctic.

H. SOCNORTH ARCTIC SYMPOSIUM (17-21 OCT, 2022)

MAJs Michael Tovo and Devin Kirkwood, participated in the inaugural SOCNORTH Arctic Security Symposium from 17-21 OCT 22 in support of their USASOC Force Modernization Cell-sponsored capstone project. The conference was attended by over two hundred personnel representing over one hundred organizations and six different nations. The event was also attended by multiple GO/FOs and SES leaders including the NORTHCOM Commander, NORTHCOM J3, and SOCNORTH Commander. Over the course of the week, there were a myriad of presentations from tactical level issues experienced by the individual operators through operational and strategic concerns, to presentations on better understanding the human terrain of both the North American and European Arctics. Throughout the week we conducted multiple informal engagements with allied SOF entities from Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark in order to identify potential collaboration points as well as identify national strengths, weaknesses, requirements, and operational approaches to Arctic Warfare. The final day of the conference focused on working groups each focused on a different component of the SOCNORTH approach to conflict in the Arctic. Both members of our group played key roles within our respective working groups to help educate and shape the working groups based on our research into the SOF in the Arctic problem set.