

Pros of Increasing US Military Presence in the Arctic

1. Securing Interests: An increased military presence in the Arctic could help the US secure new shipping routes and natural resources. Demonstrating strength in the region becomes more important as human activity in the Arctic increases. Sources: [Army University Press: [Link](#)] & [American Security Project: [Link](#)].
2. Increased Interoperability: The US could gain interoperability and the ability to share more in areas where it is needed in the Arctic. This could enhance the effectiveness of its military operations. Sources: [RAND Corporation: [Link](#)].
3. Increased Security: An increased military presence, with aviation and naval assets, could enhance security in the Arctic. This is particularly important given the increased activity in the region. Sources: [Air University: [Link](#)].
4. Collaboration with Allies: The opening of the Arctic offers the US military a chance to work collaboratively with allies to maintain security in the region. Sources: [Department of Defense: [Link](#)].
5. Enhanced Military Presence: The White House Arctic strategy calls for an enhanced US military presence to deter threats. Sources: [Defense News: [Link](#)].

Cons of Increasing US Military Presence in the Arctic

1. Worsening Prospects: The US has a small military presence in the Arctic that could worsen the prospects of US involvement in the region if it were to increase. Sources: [American Security Project: [Link](#)].
2. Climate Change Impact: As climate change warms the Arctic, the Defense Department is expanding its mission to meet a new territorial conflict. This could have significant environmental impacts. Sources: [NPR: [Link](#)].
3. Counterproductive to Cooperation: Bringing military security into the Arctic Council is counterproductive and may spoil the existing cooperation in the Arctic. Sources: [The Arctic Institute: [Link](#)].
4. Geopolitical Competition: Issues such as geopolitical competition in the region between the United States, Russia, and China could be exacerbated by an increased military presence. Sources: [FAS Project on Government Secrecy: [Link](#)].
5. Russian Response: Russia has invested significantly in its military presence in the Arctic over the last decade. An increased US presence could provoke a response, escalating tensions. Sources: [White House: [Link](#)].