

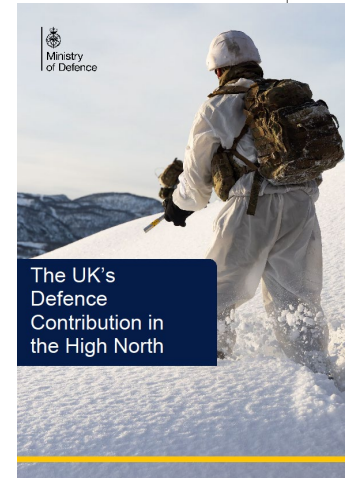
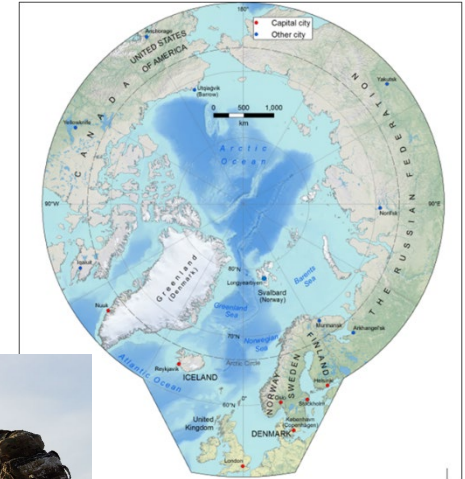


# Strategic Competition in the Arctic A UK Perspective

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- UK is not an Arctic state
- Arctic and High North of increasing strategic importance
- Responsibility to preserve the stability and security of the region
- New Defence Arctic Strategy, March 2022
- UK Defence Objectives:
  - Protect our Critical National Infrastructure and other national interests
  - Ensure our freedom to navigate and operate
  - Reinforce the rules-based international system
  - Contest malign and destabilising behaviour



- Russia has legitimate claims and rights
- Has steadily increased its activity in the region:
  - Increasing activity in the Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK) Gap and the Baltic
  - Increased submarine activity in the North Atlantic



- The UK will:
  - Defend our Arctic Allies if needed
  - Contest malign and destabilising behaviours and activity
- Working with partners, we will:
  - Build on long-standing Royal Marine Commando Force co-operation with Norway and the USA
  - Focus on deep interoperability in developing our next generation Anti-Submarine Warfare frigates
  - Enhance the British Army's cold weather training
  - Increase our emphasis on exercising and operating in the High North



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