

# Timeline of U.S. Arctic Policy Using Documents

Note: Key Documents are highlighted in yellow.

## President Richard Nixon-

- December 1971 - [National Security Decision Memorandum 144](#)<sup>1</sup>
- January 1973 - [National Security Decision Memorandum 202](#)<sup>2</sup>

## President Jimmy Carter-

- December 1978 - Proclamations [4614](#), [4617](#), [4621](#), [4624](#), and [4627](#) establishing Bering Land Bridge, Gates of the Arctic, Kobuk Valley, Noatak, and Yukon Flats National Monuments<sup>3</sup>
- December 1980 - [Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Remarks](#)<sup>4</sup>
- January 1980 - [National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska](#)<sup>5</sup>

## President Ronald Reagan

- April 1983 - [National Security Decision Directive Number 90](#)<sup>6</sup>
- January 1985 - [Executive Order 12501 - Arctic Research](#)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “National Security Decision Memorandum 144--United States Arctic Policy and Arctic Policy Group,” December 22, 1971, <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=750480>.

<sup>2</sup> “National Security Decision Memorandum 202: Arctic Program Review and Recommendations,” January 22, 1973, [https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsdm-nixon/nsdm\\_202.pdf](https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsdm-nixon/nsdm_202.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> “Proclamation 4614—Bering Land Bridge National Monument | The American Presidency Project,” December 1, 1978, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4614-bering-land-bridge-national-monument>; “Proclamation 4617—Gates of the Arctic National Monument | The American Presidency Project,” December 1, 1978, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4617-gates-of-the-arctic-national-monument>; “Proclamation 4621—Kobuk Valley National Monument | The American Presidency Project,” December 1, 1978,

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4621-kobuk-valley-national-monument>; “Proclamation 4624—Noatak National Monument | The American Presidency Project,” December 1, 1978, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4624-noatak-national-monument>; “Proclamation 4627—Yukon Flats National Monument | The American Presidency Project,” December 1, 1978, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4627-yukon-flats-national-monument>.

<sup>4</sup> “Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Remarks on Signing H.R. 39 Into Law. | The American Presidency Project,” December 2, 1980, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/alaska-national-interest-lands-conservation-act-remarks-signing-hr-39-into-law>.

<sup>5</sup> “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Statement on Proposed Legislation. | The American Presidency Project,” January 28, 1980, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/national-petroleum-reserve-alaska-statement-proposed-legislation>.

<sup>6</sup> “National Security Decision Directive Number 90: United States Arctic Policy,” April 14, 1983, <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/archives/reference/scanned-nsdds/nsdd90.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> “Executive Order 12501 -- Arctic Research” (Ronald Reagan Presidential Library - National Archives and Records Administration, January 28, 1985), <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/research/speeches/12885d>.

President William J. Clinton

- June 1994 - [Presidential Decision Directive/NSC-26](#)<sup>8</sup>
- October 1998 - [A National Security Strategy for a New Century](#)<sup>9</sup>

President George W. Bush

- January 2009 - [National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD-66, Homeland Security Directive/HSPD-25](#)<sup>10</sup>

President Barack Obama

- November 2009 - [U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap](#)<sup>11</sup>
- February 2010 - [Quadrennial Defense Review Report](#)<sup>12</sup>
- May 2010 - [National Security Strategy](#)<sup>13</sup>
- July 2010 - [Presidential Memorandum - Arctic Research and Policy Act](#)<sup>14</sup>
- May 2011 - [Department of Defense Report to Congress on Arctic Operations and the Northwest Passage](#)<sup>15</sup>
- May 2013 - [National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#)<sup>16</sup>
- May 2013 - [United States Coast Guard Arctic Strategy](#)<sup>17</sup>
- November 2013 - [Department of Defense Arctic Strategy](#)<sup>18</sup>
- January 2014 - [Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#)<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> “Presidential Decision Directive/NSC-26 United States Policy on the Arctic and Antarctic Regions,” June 9, 1994, <https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/pdd/pdd-26.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> “A National Security Strategy for a New Century” (The White House, October 1998), <http://nssarchive.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1998.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> National Archives, ed., “NSPD-66/ HSPD-25 White House Records,” January 13, 2009, George W. Bush Library(LP-GWB), <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/26082871>.

<sup>11</sup> “U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap” (Task Force Climate Change/Oceanographer of the Navy, October 2009), [https://www.wired.com/images\\_blogs/dangerroom/2009/11/us-navy-arctic-roadmap-nov-2009.pdf](https://www.wired.com/images_blogs/dangerroom/2009/11/us-navy-arctic-roadmap-nov-2009.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> “Quadrennial Defense Review Report” (Department of Defense, February 2010), <https://archive.defense.gov/qdr/QDR%20as%20of%2029JAN10%201600.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> “National Security Strategy” (The White House, May 2010), [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/national\\_security\\_strategy.pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> “Presidential Memorandum--Arctic Research and Policy Act,” July 22, 2010, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-arctic-research-and-policy-act>.

<sup>15</sup> “Report to Congress on Arctic Operations and the Northwest Passage” (Department of Defense, May 2011), [https://archive.defense.gov/pubs/pdfs/Tab\\_A\\_Arctic\\_Report\\_Public.pdf](https://archive.defense.gov/pubs/pdfs/Tab_A_Arctic_Report_Public.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> “National Strategy for the Arctic Region” (The White House, May 10, 2013), [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/nat\\_arctic\\_strategy.pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/nat_arctic_strategy.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> “United States Coast Guard Arctic Strategy,” May 2013, [https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Strategy/cg\\_arctic\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Strategy/cg_arctic_strategy.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> “DoD Arctic Strategy” (Department of Defense, November 2013), [https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2013\\_Arctic\\_Strategy.pdf](https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2013_Arctic_Strategy.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> “Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region” (The White House, January 2014), [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/implementation\\_plan\\_for\\_the\\_national\\_strategy\\_for\\_the\\_arctic\\_region\\_-\\_fi....pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/implementation_plan_for_the_national_strategy_for_the_arctic_region_-_fi....pdf).

- February 2014 - [U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap 2014-2030](#)<sup>20</sup>
- March 2014 - [Quadrennial Defense Review](#)<sup>21</sup>
- April 2014 - [NOAA Arctic Action Plan](#)<sup>22</sup>
- January 2015 - [Executive Order 13689 - Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic](#)<sup>23</sup>
- February 2015 - [National Security Strategy](#)<sup>24</sup>
- September 2015 - [President Obama's Trip to Alaska](#)<sup>25</sup>
- March 2016 - [2015 year in Review: Progress Report on Implementation of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#)<sup>26</sup>
- December 2016 - [Report to Congress on Strategy to Protect United States National Security Interests in the Arctic Region](#)<sup>27</sup>

### *President Donald Trump*

- May 2017 - [Remarks by President Trump at United States Coast Guard Academy Commencement Ceremony](#)<sup>28</sup>
- December 2017 - [National Security Strategy of the United States of America](#)<sup>29</sup>
- January 2019 - [Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy \(notable because there is not one mention of Arctic\)](#)<sup>30</sup>

<sup>20</sup> "U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap 2014-2030" (Navy Task Force Climate Change, February 2014), [https://www.navy.mil/docs/USN\\_arctic\\_roadmap.pdf](https://www.navy.mil/docs/USN_arctic_roadmap.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> "Quadrennial Defense Review 2014" (Department of Defense, 2014), [https://archive.defense.gov/pubs/2014\\_Quadrennial\\_Defense\\_Review.pdf](https://archive.defense.gov/pubs/2014_Quadrennial_Defense_Review.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> "NOAA's Arctic Action Plan," Arctic Program NOAA, April 2014, <https://arctic.noaa.gov/Arctic-News/ArtMID/5556/ArticleID/308/NOAAs-Arctic-Action-Plan>.

<sup>23</sup> "Executive Order 13689 --- Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic," January 21, 2015, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/21/executive-order-enhancing-coordination-national-efforts-arctic>.

<sup>24</sup> "National Security Strategy" (The White House, February 2015), <http://nssarchive.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2015.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> "President Obama's Trip to Alaska," The White House, 2015, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/node/346361>.

<sup>26</sup> "2015 Year in Review: Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region" (Arctic Executive Steering Committee: Executive Office of the President, March 2016), <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/Progress%20Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20the%20National%20Strategy%20for%20the%20Arctic%20Region.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> "Report to Congress on Strategy to Protect United States National Security Interests in the Arctic Region" (OUSD (Policy), December 2016), [https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016\\_ArcticStrategy-Unclass.pdf](https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016_ArcticStrategy-Unclass.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> "Remarks by President Trump at United States Coast Guard Academy Commencement Ceremony," The White House, May 17, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-united-states-coast-guard-academy-commencement-ceremony/>.

<sup>29</sup> "National Security Strategy of the United States of America" (The White House, December 2017), <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=806478>.

<sup>30</sup> "Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy" (Department of Defense, 2018), <https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>.

- January 2019 - [Chief of Naval Operations The United States Navy Strategic Outlook for the Arctic](#)<sup>31</sup>
- June 2019 - [DoD Arctic Strategy](#)<sup>32</sup>
- April 2019 - [U.S. Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook](#)<sup>33</sup>
- June 2020 - [Memorandum on Safeguarding U.S. National Interests](#)<sup>34</sup>
- July 2020 - [The Department of the Air Force Arctic Strategy](#)<sup>35</sup>
- January 2021 - [United States Army: Regaining Arctic Dominance](#)<sup>36</sup>

*President Joseph Biden*

- January 2021 - [Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#)
- May 2021 - [Secretary Antony J. Blinken Intervention at the Arctic Council](#)
- September 2021 - [Biden-Harris Administration Brings Arctic Policy to the Forefront with Reactivated Steering Committee & New Slate of Research Commissioners](#)<sup>37</sup>
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<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/11/1116608415/the-arctic-is-heating-up-nearly-four-times-faster-than-the-rest-of-earth-study-f>

<sup>31</sup> “Strategic Outlook for the Arctic” (Chief of Naval Operations The United States Navy, January 2019), [https://www.navy.mil/strategic/Navy\\_Strategic\\_Outlook\\_Arctic\\_Jan2019.pdf](https://www.navy.mil/strategic/Navy_Strategic_Outlook_Arctic_Jan2019.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> “2019-DOD-Arctic-Strategy” (Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, June 2019), <https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jun/06/2002141657/-1/-1/1/2019-DOD-ARCTIC-STRATEGY.PDF>.

<sup>33</sup> “United States Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook” (United States Coast Guard, April 2019), [https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Images/arctic/Arctic\\_Strategic\\_Outlook\\_APR\\_2019.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Images/arctic/Arctic_Strategic_Outlook_APR_2019.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> “Memorandum on Safeguarding U.S. National Interests in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions,” The White House, June 9, 2020, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-safeguarding-u-s-national-interests-arctic-antarctic-regions/>.

<sup>35</sup> “The Department of the Air Force Arctic Strategy” (Washington, D.C., July 21, 2020), <https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2020SAF/July/ArcticStrategy.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> “United States Army: Regaining Arctic Dominance” (US Army, January 19, 2020), <https://api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/2021/03/15/9944046e/regaining-arctic-dominance-us-army-in-the-arctic-19-january-2021-unclassified.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> “Biden-Harris Administration Brings Arctic Policy to the Forefront with Reactivated Steering Committee & New Slate of Research Commissioners,” The White House, September 24, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/09/24/biden-harris-administration-brings-arctic-policy-to-the-forefront-with-reactivated-steering-committee-new-slate-of-research-commissioners/>.