



# **United States Arctic Policy**

**Evan T. Bloom**

**Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs  
U.S. Department of State**

**Presentation to  
Third Symposium on the Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing  
Arctic on Naval and Maritime Operations  
U.S. Naval Academy, 11 June 2009**

# Developments Since 1994

- Climate change; IPCC reports
- Demand for resources, especially energy
- Ice retreat, impact on indigenous and other residents
- New political structures





# Arctic Region Policy

- National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD – 66 and
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD – 25
- Issued January 9, 2009
- Supersedes 1994 policy with respect to Arctic, but not Antarctic



# Overarching U.S. Arctic Policies

It is the policy of the United States to:

1. Meet national security and homeland security needs relevant to the Arctic region;
2. Protect the Arctic environment and conserve its biological resources;
3. Ensure that natural resource management and economic development in the region are environmentally sustainable;
4. Strengthen institutions for cooperation among the eight Arctic nations;
5. Involve the Arctic's indigenous communities in decisions that affect them; and
6. Enhance scientific monitoring and research into local, regional, and global environmental issues.



# NSPD Policy Areas

- National and homeland security
- International governance
- Extended continental shelf & boundaries
- Promoting international scientific cooperation
- Maritime transportation
- Economic issues, including energy
- Environmental protection and conservation of natural resources



# Governance

- Arctic Council
- No “Arctic Treaty”
- Law of the Sea Convention as Arctic legal framework
- Consistent with Ilulissat Declaration



