Changes in US (10-15 yr) – Affect Arctic Policy

(1) Arctic sea ice changes
(2) 1982 Law of the Sea Treaty (US only Arctic nation has not ratified)
(3) Increased natural resources exploration & expected exploitation (increase in fuel prices)
(4) 9/11 attacks & focus on homeland and national security
(5) Hurricanes Katrina & prevention and response focus - “all hazards, all threats” environment
(6) Evolving security relationships with other nations.
Why is Maritime Presence needed in the Arctic?
Arctic Territorial disputes & U.S. Claims (sovereignty)

Two Ways to Split Up the Arctic Ocean

1. The median-line method
   - The median line divides the area proportionally to the amount of coastline countries have.
   - The United States could claim this area.

2. The sector method
   - The sector method includes areas adjacent to territory.
   - The United States could claim this area.

CONTINENTAL SHELF
- Sovereign rights for exploring and exploiting non-living resources of the sea bed and subsoil in areas beyond 200 nautical miles.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE
- Sovereign rights for exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing living and non-living resources of the waters, sea-bed, and subsoil.

TERITORIAL SEA BASELINE
- The baseline for the maritime boundary is the coastline of a state.
Arctic Sea Ice Changes – Why Icebreakers?

Arctic sea ice more dynamics?

Arctic winter sea ice conditions?
Sea Ice Dynamics

Sail: A 10’ ridge indicates that the keel is probably ~ 50’ deep.

Keels: 7/8 of ridge is below water