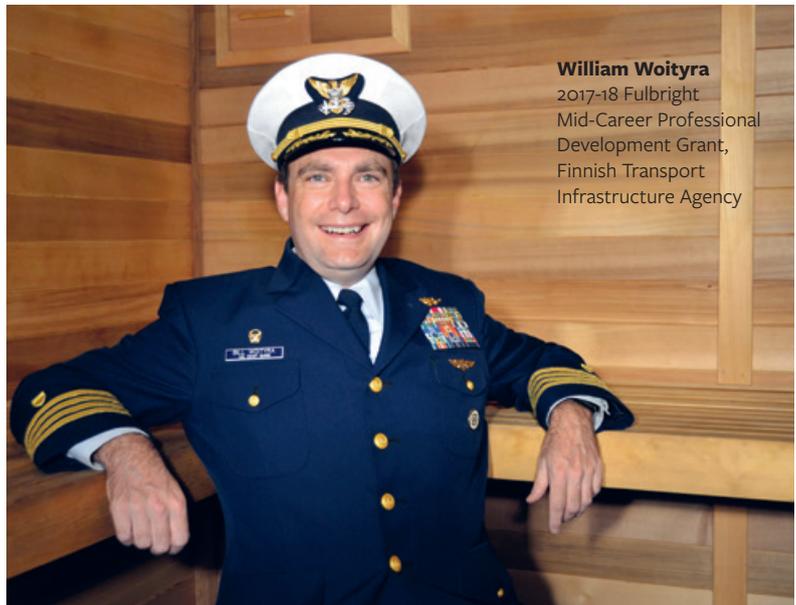


Sauna on an Icebreaker

Captain **William Woityra**, 2017-18 Fulbright Mid-Career Professional Development program grantee, is wrapping up two years in command of the only U.S. heavy icebreaker, *Polar Star*. A career Coast Guard officer, Bill spent the spring 2018 in Helsinki studying the Finnish ice-breaking value chain: design, construction, operations, and management.

As part of his program, he also had the opportunity to spend seven weeks at sea breaking Baltic ice aboard the Finnish icebreakers *Polaris* and *Turva*. Among his many key findings was the importance of a sauna to icebreaker culture. In his first act as Captain, he directed the installation of a 2.5m×2.5m sauna aboard *Polar Star* for the crew. It is now a very popular part of the ship's fitness facilities and gets frequent use, enjoyed by all hands, and even by



William Woityra
2017-18 Fulbright
Mid-Career Professional
Development Grant,
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the occasional crewmember who had never used a sauna before.

During his two years in command of *Polar Star*, Bill led the ship on two record breaking missions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Under his leadership, the icebreaker set the world record for the southernmost navigation by a ship, reaching 78°44.0221'S on Feb 17, 2022, a mere 400 yards off the front edge of the Ross Ice Shelf in the Bay of Whales, Antarctica. In July, Captain Woityra will be transferred to a role at USINDOPACOM, as the division officer for Oceania.

www.fulbright.fi/us-mcpd

From U.S. Coast Guard to World's Capital of Ice-breaking article by William Woityra (Fulbright Finland News magazine 1/18)
www.fulbright.fi/news-magazine/us-coast-guard-to-worlds-capital-icebreaking

It All Started with *The Year*

"I have taught hundreds of students, co-founded technology startups, lead my own research group in the university, and participated in dozens of research projects that have produced huge amounts of openly available scientific knowledge and tools. Through life's mysterious ways, I now lead bioinformatics technology teams in one of the biggest U.S. based diagnostics companies, helping hundreds of thousand of rare disease patients each year to get answers and better treatments. My teams are spread across Finland and USA, continuing the cross-Atlantic collaboration that is in the heart of the founding principles of the ASLA-Fulbright scholarships. I truly believe that none of this would have happened without *The Year*," says **Jussi Paananen**.

Read Jussi's powerful story about what made him apply for an ASLA-Fulbright Grant and what followed from that decision: www.fulbright.fi/news-magazine/the-year

Jussi Paananen
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