

NORAD and USNORTHCOM Arctic Collaboration Workshop

Due to the increasing human activity in the Arctic because of climate change, NORAD and USNORTHCOM held a collaborative Workshop at the National Defense University from 13-15 March 2012 to identify the roles, missions, capabilities, capacities, and processes of potential mission partners in the Arctic region. The Workshop generated tabletop exercises (TTX) that captured the answers to the above objective. The exercises were designed around a major oil spill response and a mass rescue operation in USNORTHCOM's area of responsibility.

The Workshop opened with the signing of the "Capabilities Assessment Working Group White Paper Endorsement," by ADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant, US Coast Guard and GEN Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM. ADM Papp then gave the keynote address.

The tabletop exercises involved key participants from various agencies:

- Department of Defense (NORAD and USNORTHCOM, USEUCOM, Task Force Climate Change, Joint Staff, OSD-Environmental and Readiness and Safety, US Army Staff, Joint Task Force-Alaska, 11th Rescue Coordination Center and Office of Naval Intelligence);
- State and Interagency (State of Alaska, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, US Coast Guard, and US Army Corps of Engineer);
- International (Canada Command);
- Industry (Shell Oil, American Petroleum Institute, Alaska Clean Seas, Quark Expeditions, and Center for Strategic and International Studies).

Participants discussed hypothetical scenarios that generated insight into plans, policies, and procedures, and assessed the systems needed to guide the prevention of, response to, and recovery from a defined incident. The Workshop was to employ TTX that would examine USNORTHCOM's roles and responsibilities attendant to a major oil spill response and organizing a mass rescue operation in the Arctic.

The summarized findings of the TTX was briefed to senior leadership from Coast Guard and Department of Defense, and an After Action Report is being written to help establish a "way ahead" for government and private partners. One of the way aheads will be an Arctic Senior Leadership Forum in November 2012.

The Workshop was sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense – Environmental Readiness and Safety Directorate. It was directed by LtCol Charles Cox, NORAD and USNORTHCOM Homeland Defense, Civil Support and Doctrine Branch; hosted by Dr.

Alenka Brown, NORAD and USNORTHCOM Chair at NDU and Mr. Christopher Mann, Center for Technology and National Security Policy, NDU; facilitated by the Center for Applied Strategic Learning, NDU; with CDR Frank Schenk as Lead, and supported by the Center for Transatlantic Security Studies, NDU.