Arctic Collaborative Workshop Themes & Messages

**Purpose:**

Strengthen our collective ability to detect, deter, defend, and defeat threats/respond to hazards through a culture of continuous collaboration and cooperation in planning, training, and mission execution. We will advocate for required capabilities to mitigate Arctic capability gaps.

**Objectives:**

1. Identify processes and systems that facilitate the sharing of information, intelligence, and awareness to support mission accomplishment.

2. Strengthen our collective ability to provide appropriate, timely and effective support to civil authorities.

3. Identify key defense capabilities, both current and needed.

**Scenarios:**

1. **Environment and Response:** Alaska is a place of significant geological activity with concerns about natural disasters that continue to challenge requirements to protect life, property and the environment. Natural disasters often involve cascading failures that add elements which can result in a complex catastrophe. Communities and emergency management professionals are established with preparedness and resiliency, but time and distance factors affect operations throughout Alaska, greatly adding to the difficulty of emergency response. Agencies continue to improve the capacities necessary to effectively respond to isolated emergency. However, effects associated with climate change present new challenges. It is becoming increasingly necessary for stakeholder agencies and responders to be able to manage multiple events in different locations. Moreover, remote locations in Alaska remain vulnerable to incidents that would otherwise benefit from conventional, emergency-related infrastructure support. Under such circumstances, aviation assets often represent a key resource that enables effective emergency response. Unfortunately, air assets cannot be 100% reliable or available. As such, communities and agencies would likely benefit from exercises that test and decrease dependency on certain assets and resources while establishing and reinforcing proven processes and systems.

*Facilitator: Cameron Carlson*
2. **Defense:** The Sino-Russian energy cooperation in the Arctic has continued to grow, Chinese oil companies have invested significantly in Russian oil infrastructure allowing them access to significant oil reserves at reduced prices. China’s requirement for rare earth minerals has resulted in the development of an ice-breaker fleet of 8 ships. Consistent with China’s claim to be a near Arctic nation, China has over the past 10 years routinely sent navy warships through the Bering Sea into the Arctic ocean. In turn this has allowed China to conduct exploration of the Arctic sea-bed in search of specific resources. This has significantly strained relations in both the US-Canadian and European Arctic regions as these nations contend that China is in violation of international law. Attempts to enforce the law through maritime actions has caused China to send military escorts with its exploratory flotillas. This has greatly increased tensions throughout the Arctic as countries see China’s actions as a military threat and have in turn sent naval assets to match that threat.

*Facilitator: Jamie Knies*