Updated Draft: North American Arctic Maritime & Environmental Security Assessing Concern, Advancing Collaboration

A partnered workshop
18-20 September 2018
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska

Workshop Goal

The overall objective of the North American Arctic Maritime and Environmental Security Workshop is to gather Arctic minded experts from government, operators, academics and industry principally from Canada and the U.S. to collaboratively assess security in the North American Arctic maritime region, including environmental security. Planners will work to establish a series of plenary panels and breakout discussions to facilitate assessment.

As workshop participants gain common views of shared concerns...workshop participants then seek to describe suitable pathways supporting increased collaboration towards improved security for the North American Arctic. Following the workshop, a report providing government strategists, planners and policy makers informed perspectives useful for their onward use. This same report can be leveraged by academics for further research, publication and potentially useful for educational purposes.

Workshop host and lead Canadian planner:
Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) and DHS Science and Technology Center of Excellence in Maritime Research, hosted by the University of Alaska and Trent University at Peterborough Ontario, Canada.
Workshop Background – the Arctic Environment

The North American Arctic and circumpolar North are strategically vital to Canada and U.S. National Interests. Preserving and protecting U.S. and Canadian national Arctic interests, include securing borders and ensuring safety and security in adjoining Arctic waterways, remains an important task but a resource challenge for both Canada and U.S. federal agencies.

The Arctic region is facing an unprecedented amount of change in terms of environment, weather and human activity. As reported through many U.S. and Canadian research and data tracking sources over the past several years, the Arctic Ocean icepack has broken records in seasonal retreat, while recorded Arctic temperatures are rising far faster than temperatures at lower latitudes.

Reduced Arctic Ocean sea ice has been accompanied by seasonal increases in storm severity, with significantly stronger winds and coastal storm surges battering Arctic shores across the North American Arctic.

Arctic warming is reducing the amount of shore-fast ice that has historically served as a protective barrier from the sea for native villages and critical infrastructure along the coastal Arctic. As the Arctic warms, coastal regions frozen for centuries are now thawing. This recent “unfrozen” terrain is proving vulnerable to erosion, which is of particular impact in coastal Arctic regions.

Enabled by a changing environment, human activity across the Arctic is increasingly dynamic. Arctic warming (resulting in opening waterways and reduced sea ice) across the Arctic marine and coastal regions is creating conditions for increased human activity, in particular, adventure tourism, marine shipping and resource extraction. This also draws other influences to the region, and can contribute to unconventional security threats including increased trafficking, as well as increased traffic. With the rise of Russia, China, and other nation’s Arctic interests in the era of a diminishing ice Arctic, the threat of conflict in the Arctic – while low – remains present, and potentially more challenging.

Arctic warming (resulting in opening waterways and reduced sea ice) across the Arctic marine and coastal regions is creating conditions favorable for adventure tourism, marine shipping, fishing, and extraction of petrochemicals and other mineral resources. Bering Sea traffic, in particular, through the narrow Bering Straits region continues to rise, creating a new and potentially waterways management challenge to the U.S. Coast Guard. The narrow and shallow Northwest Passage of Canada’s High Arctic also is a difficult marine route, which is an increasing draw for maritime tourism.

While a depression in global crude oil prices continues to temporarily dampen Arctic oil exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, recent changes in U.S. government policies and increasing crude oil prices raise anticipation that oil and gas exploration activities will expand across the U.S. and Canadian Arctic in the coming years.
Transportation networks across the North American Arctic are principally limited to air and seasonal marine conveyance. Economic development is limited due to remoteness, lack of infrastructure, cost and difficulty of establishing new roads, ports and facilities, plus a range of complementary factors. There is a need to consider how economic development can be undertaken in ways which support sustainable development practices and goals, as well as meet broad strategic goals for regional security.

An increasingly dynamic Arctic is affecting populations whose ancestors have inhabited the region for generations. Subsistence lifestyles proudly continue, but are threatened by increased global activity (such as marine shipping and resource extraction), which affect marine mammal activities and populations. Correspondingly, Arctic residents strive to retain culture and traditional ways of life, ancient traditions, and cultural fabric of Arctic lifestyles while engaging with global activities to suitably accomplished with appropriate mitigation and environmental measures. Migration is also an issue. There is a need to factor local populations’ lifestyles, practices and security interests into the development and conduct of new legal and security activities.

The changing physical environmental factors, including reduced ice and thawing permafrost, diminished shore-fast ice, increased storm frequency and severity coupled with increased human activity...equates to increased demands for both deliberate and emergency response by Canadian and U.S. communities of planners as well as first responders.

The physical environmental changes of the Arctic are a factor in the challenges faced by security agencies. While a relatively new term, the need to better understand and factor “Arctic environmental security” in the context of protecting national interests, advancing regional cooperation, addressing civil support to citizens, ensuring human security, providing defense and law enforcement is timely and necessary. In fact, in terms of scale and intensity, the relatively rapid advance of a warming Arctic is seeing a marked increase in severity of weather and weather-related impacts (such as coastal storm surge and quickly accelerating erosion of soils), resulting in negative impacts to infrastructure and creating an increasingly complex physical maritime environment. Further, increases in ocean acidification of highly productive fishing regions, such as the Bering Sea, puts the harvest of much needed fish-related proteins at increasing risk.

Canada and U.S. roles and responsibilities across the North American Arctic region are complex, operationally risky, and logistically straining. As human activity increases in the North American Arctic, the communities of security professionals in Canada and the U.S. will likely need to increase their ability to respond to the region and partner with other Arctic organizations and communities.

National strategies for Canada and U.S. (CANUS) federal agencies entities drive policy and resource decisions. As strategies continue to evolve in the current U.S. and Canadian national leadership, knowledge-products, which capture insights and perspectives, and bi-national
collaboration, provide a unique opportunity to inform planners and policy makers alike as they revise and develop new federal strategies and policies in Ottawa and Washington D.C. for respective national actions in the Arctic.

Equally important, such collaboration is to include participation of security professionals from CANUS Arctic regional and tribal governments. Security needs to be considered in broad and holistic fashion, so as to anticipate the impacts of changing environments and conditions, as well as changing responses to these influences.

Workshop Discussion

A word about “Traditional” Security: In terms of defining traditional security, the workshop planners offer a broad view: Security includes law enforcement (both national and internationally agreed) as well as defense and associated non-security aspects and human factors that contribute to security. This entails aspects such as the ability to reconsider and protect sovereign territory, ensuring human security, enforcing waterways management, and as agreed to internationally (for example, as consistent by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) includes enforcing national laws within a nation’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ). While offering this broad view and recognizing defense as a component to security, the workshop will intentionally not seek to duplicate, but instead, complement CANUS “homeland defense” mission area, as this topic is well-represented in other organizations and their forums (e.g., the North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Northern Command and Canada Joint Operations Command Framework). Towards this end, the workshop, will, strive to explore ways to improve, in what tends to be a seam between defense and non-defense security communities in the North American Arctic.

A word about “Environmental” Security: As discussed in the preceding paragraphs, the North American Arctic is facing unprecedented changes in the physical environment. Rapid Arctic warming, diminishing sea ice, ocean acidification, increasingly frequent and violent weather resulting with storm surges, and increased coastal flooding and erosion…all of which impacts the food-web and in particular, Arctic marine fisheries and marine mammal populations.

Arctic resident inputs are critical. Additionally, the workshop will strive to integrate key insights from select representatives from Alaska native communities from Arctic Alaska and the First Nations communities in the Canadian High North. Such representatives who represent a “PhD in Arctic living” will be asked to provide their expertise in describing the impacts of a changing Arctic environment and the impacts of these changes in context of security.

Accordingly, conducting a CANUS bi-national workshop specifically focused towards improved understanding and enhanced collaboration between the communities of Canada and U.S. Arctic security professionals provides an opportunity for proactive measures, which would hopefully, be well in advance of any future and major Arctic security event.
The workshop will be jointly facilitated by Canada’s Trent University and Arctic Domain Awareness Center, (a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of University Program Center of Excellence in Maritime Research) hosted by the University of Alaska.

Communities who should be included in such discussions are the following (this is an initial draft):

- Canada Department of National Defense
- Canada Joint Operations Command
- Canada Joint Task Force North
- Canadian Rangers
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Canadian Border Services Agency
- Public Safety Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Regional Security Professionals from Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of the Interior (in particular, the Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Transportation Security Agency
- U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service
- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- State of Alaska Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (including the Alaska National Guard)
- State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- State of Alaska Department of Transportation
- Alaska State Troopers
- Alaskan Command
- U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces
- Arctic Native leadership from Alaska and Canada’s High North

**The current workshop planning team includes professionals from the following institutions:**
Trent University, University of Alaska Anchorage and Waterloo, Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC), HQ U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Center for Arctic Study and Policy (CASP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and a community of security and Arctic experts.
Workshop venue. The workshop title offered is “North American Arctic Maritime & Environmental Security: Assessing Concern, Advancing Collaboration. The University of Alaska Anchorage is planning to conduct the workshop at UAA’s Gorsuch Commons. This venue can accommodate approximately 60-70 participants with limited, but sufficient space for breakout groups.

Workshop method. Panel presentations followed by breakout group reflections, captured and disseminated via a comprehensive report.

Workshop preparations. Plan the workshop via a series of teleconferences, developing Literature Review, then assess and invite participants, establish facilitators and recorders. ADAC will develop the Literature Review, and serve as lead in coordinating the Anchorage-based logistics.

Workshop planning considerations. Gain insights from workshop participants for their professional and informed perspectives in order to create a report of concerns, opportunities, recommendations and inquiries to address anticipated challenges to the medium and longer-term North American Arctic security environment.

A pivotal factor...is creating a combined operator and researcher forum that not only studies and discusses the challenges, but develops proposals that could help solve the discussed challenges.

Notes taken during the meeting will be formed into a summary report, allowing coordination across the community of planners. Once finalized, the report will be provided to the community of CANUS Arctic security professionals. The report will also be shared with the workshop planner’s respective Arctic Research Community of Interest.

A desired Arctic Domain Awareness Center takeaway is gaining unique science and technology gaps or shortfalls discovered during the workshop that limit mission accomplishment. This further investigation could then be sponsored via a subsequent funded research solicitation.
A tailored journal article and/or other deliverables may also be suitable follow-on considerations.

**Workshop logistics.** Overall, workshop planners anticipate a workshop sized at approximately 50-70 people. Following Labor Day (3 September), costs of lodging and logistics in Anchorage decrease significantly.

- **Workshop Invitations:** Planning team is underway in providing invitations to a wide array of desired participants.
- **Visitor Information:** To be provided.
- **Workshop supporting materials:** ADAC will develop a Literature Review and workshop discussion questions in order to facilitate structured discussions in breakout groups.
- **Workshop Timeline:** To be provided.
- **Workshop registration:** ADAC volunteers to handle for the workshop.
- **Finances:** Participation is principally self-funded (or funded via the participant’s parent organization). Workshop planners are striving to include a small number of travel stipends for select speakers.
- **Attire:** Workshop planners recommend Business Casual (Sports jacket and open collar) for the venue.

**Agenda themes areas:** (Planners anticipate these themes will be accomplished via a series of plenary and breakout sessions).

1. Opening, with select panels/speakers addressing the “Why” for the North American Arctic Regional Security workshop
   - **Traditional Security:**
     - Safety and Law Enforcement professionals.
     - Waterways management services.
     - Canada and U.S. Defense professionals.
     - Select organizations to address non-traditional aspects (such as emerging “Human factors” affecting traditional security).
   - **Environmental Security:**
     - Science and Social Science Research community.
     - Canada and U.S. Atmospheric and Weather Services, fisheries and wildlife management, and ocean and energy management services.
     - Canada and U.S. National Ice Services.
     - Alaska Native and Canadian First Nations.

2. Assessing the current environment. This is in terms of physical changes, environmental indicators, human activities, emerging economic drivers and evolving Arctic geopolitical factors.
4. Assessing the impacts (from the operator’s perspective) of a changing Arctic physical environment towards accomplishing assigned missions.
5. Understanding and accounting for the perspectives of the residents of the North American Arctic, in particular Alaska Natives and Canadian First Nations.
6. Understanding emerging patterns of nation-state and non-state entities in the Arctic.
7. Describing shortfalls and limitations for operators.
8. Creating solutions…which includes practitioner, policy, science & technology aspects.
9. Approaches for increased collaboration.
10. Conclusions and way ahead.

Draft workshop schedule:

18 Sep 2018:
Travel and welcome reception at UAA or local area restaurant (such as 49th State Brewery). Note, reception details will be provided not later than 4 weeks prior to the workshop. Reception planned from 1800-2000.

19 Sep 2018: Day 1.
0730-0800: Registration and continental breakfast: Gorsuch Commons Center, UAA

0815: Welcome and introductions.

0830-0930: Plenary panel. Strategic overview panel. Panel provides participating strategic leaders the opportunity to reflect challenges, needs and recommendations to consider in developing a pathway to improved security (from both traditional and environmental vantages) in coastal and maritime regions collaboration for the North American Arctic.

0930-0945: Comfort break.

0945-1100: Plenary panel: Canadian Arctic: Challenges and emerging concerns in maritime security. This panel seeks to present and discuss expert views of current and likely future security challenges, in the Canadian Arctic, principally focused on coastal and maritime regions. Panelists are chiefly from the security sector of the Canadian Security community.

1100-1115: Comfort break.

1115-1230: Plenary panel: U.S. Arctic: Challenges and emerging concerns in maritime security. This panel seeks to present and discuss expert views of current and likely future security challenges to address in the U.S. Arctic, principally focused on coastal and maritime regions. Panelists are chiefly from the security sector of the U.S. Security community.
1230-1330: Lunch.

1330-1445: **Plenary panel: Canadian Arctic:** Emerging patterns of environmental security in maritime regions. This panel seeks expert views of current and likely future challenges of the developing Canadian Arctic’s physical environment, with associated impact to security. Panelists are chiefly from Canadian government environmental sectors and Canadian academic and industry research communities.

1445-1500: Comfort break.

1500-1615: **Plenary panel: U.S. Arctic:** Emerging patterns of environmental security in maritime regions. This panel seeks expert views of current and likely future challenges of the developing U.S. Arctic physical environment, and associated impact to security. Panelists are chiefly from U.S. government environmental sectors and U.S. academic and industry research communities.

1615-1630: Comfort break.

1630-1800: **Plenary panel: A View from North American Arctic Residents** (Focus is Alaska Natives and Canada First Nations). This panel seeks expert “Arctic resident” views of current and emerging concerns in safety, security and sustainability. Panelists are distinguished members chiefly from the U.S. and Canadian Arctic communities and Native governance.

1800: End of day one.

1900-2100: Workshop reception/dinner.

**20 Sep 2018: Day 2.**

0730-0800: Continental breakfast/Coffee

0800-0830: **Strategic Analysis and Review of Day 1:** Workshop Recorders

0830-0945: **Plenary panel. A look to the future. What can/should we expect?** Combined panel of select experts in traditional and environmental security. This combined Canada-U.S. panel will examine converging trends of traditional and environmental security, and attempt to project scenarios towards the North American Arctic. Workshop moderators will pose questions to a composite panel of Arctic residents, Canadian and U.S. security and environmental experts to respond with their expert knowledge.

0945-1000: Comfort Break.
1000-1230: **Breakout Sessions.**  *Focus: Teams describe, and list concerns of the affecting North American Arctic from Traditional and Environmental Security.*

- What are “gaps, seams and shortfalls” negatively impacting North American Traditional and Environmental Security?
- What are recommended policies to close gaps, seams and shortfalls?
- What new collaborations will reduce risk and improve effectiveness between Canada and the U.S. at federal, state/province and communities?
- What knowledge products are needed to enhance understanding and reduce risk in traditional and environmental security?
- What are new technologies that can reduce risk in traditional and environmental security?
- How can the community of research be used to assist?

1230-1330: Lunch

1330-1400: **Plenary from AM breakout session.** Moderators and Recorders describe and synthesize the session.

1400-1515: **Breakout Sessions.** Breakout groups will reconvene to prioritize the AM session, using modified Delphi techniques

1515-1530: Comfort Break.

1530-1630: **Breakout conclusion reporting.**

1630-1700: **Strategic conclusions and the way forward.**

**Workshop Logistics Information**

Hotel Accommodations:
- Springhill Suites (on campus at UAA) Primary (room block):  *Block is planned to be active from 15 Aug to 10 Sep 2018*  
  http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=IoNS%202017%20Workshop%5EANCUM%60IONION%7CIONION%6099.00%60USD%60false%604%6010/22/17%6010/26/17%6010/6/17 &app=resvlink&stop_mobie=yes

- Numerous Anchorage area hotels (including downtown Sheraton, Hilton, Captain Cook, and name brand Hotels in Anchorage “mid-town”)

Meals and beverages:  

[ADAC: Research for the Arctic Operator...For Today and For the Future]
• Continental Breakfast and light lunches along with coffee, water and snacks are planned to be offered during the workshop.
• Welcome Reception for 18 Sep and reception/dinner planned for 19 Sep 2018.

Transportation:

• Air: Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA). Major airlines with international connections to continental United States in late September: Alaska and Delta Airlines. Flights from Europe: Icelandic Airlines (via Seattle). Flights from Washington DC normally connect via Minneapolis, Seattle, or Portland, OR.

• Ground: UAA Shuttle, rental cars (via TSAIA), taxi and now Uber (although limited).

Weather:

• 18-20 September is early fall for Anchorage area. Likelihood of rainy weather is high. Mean temperature is approximately 50 °F (10 °C) for a high and 40 °F (4 °C) for a low.
• Sunrise: 0737
• Sunset: 2008

Conclusion

The number of CANUS workshop forums organized by researchers that invite operators to help define the challenges of the Arctic are limited. The proposed North American Arctic Maritime and Environmental Security, “Assessing Concern, Advancing Collaboration” workshop provides a new opportunity to create synergy from the community of operators and researchers in addressing the emerging Arctic from both a physical environment and human perspective.