Advancing Collaboration in Canada-U.S. Arctic Regional Security II (ACCUSARS II)

A Strategic Foresight Exercise for the U.S. and Western Canadian Arctic Regions

Invitational Workshop

25-26 March 2021

SUMMARY Workshop Information and Agenda

TRENT UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

NAADSN
North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network

ARCTIC DOMAIN AWARENESS CENTER
A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

As/of 11 February 2021

Advancing Collaboration in Canada-U.S. Arctic Regional Security II (ACCUSARS II)

A Strategic Foresight Exercise for the U.S. and Western Canadian Arctic Regions
25-26 March 2021
Via Virtual Conference

Current (In-Work) Summary

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Introduction and Overview

Interests in the North American Arctic rapidly increasing. News on and about the Arctic are on the increase in media across Canada and the United States.

Recent reporting from the fall of 2020 highlight the Arctic is accelerating in warming trends. Previously understood trends in Arctic warming outpacing lower latitudes at twice the rate, are now better understood at 3-4 times the rate of lower latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. Arctic warming is creating a cascading number of impacts that contribute to reducing Arctic sea ice, melting Greenland ice fields, thawing Arctic permafrost, all of which is affecting people and animal life who reside in the region. The community of Arctic science have been sounding concern on the changing Arctic environment for a considerable time and continue to advance knowledge in characterizing the physical changing Arctic at increasingly fine scale.

Media reports on activities of government and industry in the Arctic continues to rise as well. The Russian Federation continues to develop military power along its long Arctic shorelines. The People's Republic of China continues to advance its relationships and investment efforts with Arctic nations, to include co-development of Russian Arctic energy production. Reports on "Great Power Competition" between Russia, China, and the U.S. continues to catch attention across the military communities associated with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Meanwhile, reports on industry seeking to continue exploration and harvesting of mineral wealth and marine life along the Arctic periphery continue to signal that an opening Arctic is an opportunity for economic advantage.

Against the backdrop of both the changing physical and human terrain of the Arctic, forecasting where these changes lead in order to anticipate measures to mitigate hazard and risk, while leveraging opportunity is a potentially useful activity, that can benefit planners and decision makers. However, most forecast methodologies are mathematically derived and are principally useful predictors of future outcomes, as long as the future remains fairly consistent to trends historically

established. Conversely, strategic foresight activities in which a multidiscipline community of participants with unique and varied backgrounds, working together as a team, can bring such expertise together to 'foresight' vs forecast future conditions. As described by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management:

> "Strategic foresight is not about predictions of the future. In a complex and uncertain world accurate prediction is a fiction. Strategic foresight instead, is about being prepared for different futures that are all possible, plausible and preferred." Strategic foresight calls for detailed and systematic analysis of driving forces and trends of *change* before the development of strategies or plans. Strategic foresight is aimed at finding solutions and responses that are likely to best suit the (evolving) mission and/or organization. Strategic foresight activities enable better preparedness, because they generate explicit, contestable and flexible sense of the future and in so doing, makes it possible to identify and test assumptions we have about our current environment. Strategic foresight provides insight about the meaning of possible futures which enables organizations to capitalize on opportunities and develop new business strategies that emerge from understanding those opportunities."[1]

A rising number of government and industry teams are seeking to leverage the aspects of Strategic Foresight Assessments (SFA) to advance planning and support medium to long term decision making to prepare and posture for organization success, while seeking to also reduce vulnerabilities and risk. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has advanced efforts in SFA and future looking entities within the U.S. military, notably, Headquarters' U.S. Coast Guard's Future Concept Division (DCO-X) under the banner "Evergreen" leverage SFA methods and practices.

Building upon a June 2017 workshop on Security in the Arctic Borderlands Region, the North American Marine and Environmental Security Workshop in September 2018, the Alaskan Command's Arctic Symposium held in November 2019, and ACCUSARS I held in September 2020, NAADSN and ADAC are pleased to co-host a follow-on workshop to focus on specific initiatives that will improve understanding and enhance collaboration between Canada and U.S. Arctic security and defense professionals.

As established by the baseline report from the at the Advancing Collaboration in Canada-U.S. Regional Security (ACCUSARS) I Workshop on 17-18 September 2020, workshop participants helped create a practical characterization on the North American Arctic region that in sum, represents an important international crossroads where issues of a warming impacts on the environment, international trade, and global security intersect. Focusing on security risks, a baseline description generated as a result of expert presentation indicate state-sponsored and commercial actors from around the world seek to share in the long-term benefits of an accessible Arctic and that some of this increased activity in the region has the potential to challenge and potentially risk U.S. and Canadian sovereign interests, including activities outside of the traditional military realm, such as increased growing foreign investment, tourism and scientific research.

[1] https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/human-capital-management/strategic-foresight/

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Led by ACCUSARS co-hosts at the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network at Trent University at Peterborough Ontario and the Arctic Domain Awareness Center at the University of Alaska, ACCUSARS II is planned as a virtual follow-up on 25-26 March 2021.

Inviting ACCUSARS I participants and other invited guests to rejoin this important Canada-U.S. discussion on Arctic regional security, ACCUSARS II seeks to examine the emerging trends in the medium- and long-term aspects in the North American Arctic security environment to create a useful Strategic Foresight Assessment oriented to the U.S. and Western Canadian Arctic regions (Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories). Via gathering of academics and practitioners at this workshop, organizers will seek to anticipate potential North American Arctic futures via using SFA methods in order to better identify and codify the understood capability gaps and shortfalls when it comes to identifying future risks, challenges and opportunities in cross Canada-U.S. security collaboration to better protect Canada and U.S. sovereign interests in the Arctic. Workshop participants and panelists will also assess the challenges of achieving domestic security in a region that remains sparsely occupied by security forces and infrastructure.

Workshop Day 1 will purposely relook the ACCUSARS I intersections of regional focus from current baselines **towards a 10-15 year Strategic Foresight** (oriented to the U.S. Arctic and Canada's Western Arctic) in terms of trying to establish (from a vantage of science and practitioner viewpoints) the security implications stemming from a projected changing physical environment and climate; uncertain futures of economic opportunities; anticipated needs and likelihood of investments in surface and maritime transportation networks; infrastructure and communication needs; and the security risks from traditional and non-traditional foreign economic and military interests impacting Western Canada and the U.S. High North. This analysis seeks to include symmetrical and asymmetrical threats to North American security.

Workshop Day 2 will aggregate day 1 activities to **create several potential foresight future alternatives** focused to examine the potential macro-trends that cut across the foresight futures for the U.S. and Western Canadian Arctic in order to frame gaps and shortfalls. The activities of Day 2 will in seek to illustrate and evaluate gaps and threats designed to inform useful knowledge products to support policy makers, as well as defense and security communities. The culmination of Day 2 and for the overall ACCUSARS II workshop will be to create a baseline SFA for the U.S. and Western Canadian Arctic oriented to multidiscipline and multidimensional risk.

Chatham House protocols will be in effect for the entire workshop. The workshop will also be recorded in order to gain accurate understanding of the discussions. However, this recording will not be released to the public.

Notes taken during the meeting will be formed into a summary report which will be shared with NAADSN and ADAC networks, including DND/CAF, DHS, and the broader community of CANUS Arctic security professionals.

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Proposed Workshop Agenda

ACCUSARS Day 1: Thursday, 25 March 2021
0730-1230 Alaska Standard Time (AST) / 0930-1430 Mountain Standard Time (MST)/1130-1630 Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Workshop Day 1

0730-0745 AST/0930-0945 MST/1130-1145 EST

Welcome and orienting remarks.

Administrative remarks by **Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer**, Network Lead, North American Arctic Defence and Security Network, Trent University, and **Maj Gen (Ret), Church Kee,** USAF, Executive Director, Arctic Domain Awareness Center, University of Alaska

0745-0810 AST/0945-1010 MST/1145-1210 EST:

Opening address. **Understanding the developing landscape of the North American Arctic.** Speaker Confirmed, to be announced.

0810-0920 AST/1010-1120 MST/1210-1320 EST

Unclassified Trends in developing Arctic security risks to the Arctic, with a specific focus towards Alaskan and Western Canadian Arctic region: What is common and what is distinct?

Reflecting upon activities of concerning rises/intensification of military activities, such as the Russian military exercises and Long-Range Aviation, Chinese research cruises, other flag nation activities, and law enforcement trends towards illicit trafficking and other illegal activities, this panel will inform workshop participants on potentially important and emergent areas of security risks as related by operational-level leaders of U.S. security and defense forces and activities.

From personal and professional reflection, presenters are asked to consider the challenge and the challengers (and the associated risks) to counter in preserving Canada and U.S. security in the Arctic, and specifically (as applicable) to the Alaskan and Western Canadian Arctic. Based on such reflection, presenters are asked to consider their "projections" of current activities that may/could negatively impact Canadian-U.S. national security interests towards a 10–15-year distant future.

Items to consider (anticipated and potentially unanticipated):

- Military exercises from a variety of nations.
- Complications and risks in rising maritime traffic in the Bering, Chukchi, Beaufort Seas and Western portion of the Northwest Passage.
- Security impacts from industry efforts in resource extraction and marine life harvest.
- Changes in types of commercial ventures. (e.g., rapid rise in Arctic tourism)
- Impacts of environmental change in terms of causing crisis response.
- Political developments that result in impacts to providing Arctic security .

Panel Moderator: Church Kee

Panelists to be announced.

0920-0930 AST/1120-1130 MST/1320-1330 EST
Break

0930-1040 AST/1130-1240 MST/1330-1440 EST
The Arctic Economic Security Environment: Navigating Uncertainty

This panel brings together diverse perspectives from industrial strategists, corporate leaders, Arctic technology experts, and academics to discuss emerging challenges to Economic Security in an increasingly dynamic Arctic environment.

Shifting dynamics in the Arctic include increased political and economic uncertainty surrounding Petroleum exploration, northward moving fisheries, mining and mineral extraction, Infrastructure development, and the potential for new Arctic communications and other innovations to drastically reshape the technological landscape.

Panel Moderator: Whitney Lackenbauer

Panelists to be announced.

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1040-1050 AST/1240-1250 MST/1440-1450 EST

Introduction to Strategic Foresight Activity

- Orientation by Expert SFA Team (to be announced)

- Goal: to introduce SFA concepts and trends to North American Arctic defense and security futures, to support the development of coordinated strategies that anticipate and respond to potential risks, as well as taking advantage of opportunities that arise from a rapidly changing, complex security environment.

1050-1100 AST/1250-1300 MDT/1450-1500 EST
Break

1100-1200 AST/1300-1400 MST/1500-1600 EST
Strategic Foresight Activity: Converting Themes and Trends into Indicators of Threat/Risk

- Over the last 12 months, the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN) has applied the NATO Strategic Foresight Analysis (SFA) findings to Canadian Arctic defence and security policy and to help frame a conceptual model that anticipates and conveys an understanding of the future Arctic security environment. The Arctic Domain Awareness Center has drafted a U.S Arctic Region SFA that leverages NAADSN's findings and outlines complimentary strategies.
    - In advance of the ACCUSARS II workshop, participants will be provided with this draft SFA whose narrative outlines relationships between NAADSN SFA trends and Arctic defence and security implications across multiple scales, national), and, ideally, identifies key indicators that might suggest changing risk or threat calculations in the defence and security domains.
    - Do participants agree with the assumptions and projections? Do they apply to the North American Arctic as a whole?
    - Based on these observations and discussions, what are the primary indicators of changing risk or threat levels to the North American Arctic?

- In four (4) planned breakout groups, ACCUSARS participants will assess regional components of the North American Arctic defence/defense and security implications of one theme described in the 2017 NATO SFA (political, human, economics/resources, and environment) in detail.
- Each breakout group targeting one of the major themes identified by the 2017 NATO Strategic Framework Assessment (SFA) as particularly relevant to defence/defense and security implications for a regional component of the North American Arctic (specifically, the Alaskan, Yukon and Northwest Territories Arctic regions). Brief descriptions of each theme will be provided by the workshop planners, as well as placemats for each respective theme, which provide a description of the ***risks, threats, and challenges*** associated with each theme as they relate to the most recent U.S. documents on Arctic strategy. These placemats provide complementary information to the SFA report, which

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details the Canadian perspective. The 4 breakout themes, including the planned breakout group moderator as listed below .

- Group 1: Political: National and Regional Governance Challenges -
- Group 2: Community Security and Resilience [or "Social"] -
- Group 3: Environmental -
- Group 4: Economic / Resources –

1200-1220 AST/1400-1420 MST/1600-1620 EST
Strategic Foresight Activity - reports and discussion

1220-1230 AST/1420-1430 MST/1620-1630 EST
Daily Wrap-Up and Agenda for Day 2 (Led by Whitney and Church)

ACCUSARS Day 2, Friday, 26 March 2021
0800-1230 AST / 1000-1430 MST/1200-1630 EST

Workshop Day 2

0800-0810 AST/1000-1010 MST/1200-1210 EST
Administrative remarks by Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer, Network Lead, North American Arctic Defence and Security Network, Trent University, and Church Kee, Executive Director, Arctic Domain Awareness Center, University of Alaska

0810-0930 AST/1010-1130 MST/1210-1330 EST
Arctic Residents of Alaska and Western Canada: Arctic Security starts here.

This panel brings together Public Safety professionals, biologists, Native Health researchers, and Arctic Leaders to discuss security challenges to Arctic Residents.

Arctic residents face a uniquely dynamic convergence of threats from pandemics, subsistence species migration, health and Food security challenges, and local foreign influence.

Panel Moderator: by Shannon Nash, NAADSN

Panelists to be announced.

0930-0940 AST/1130-1140 MST/1330-1340 EST
Break

0940-1050 AST/1140-1250 MST/1340-1450 EST:
Insights into Maritime operations and environmental change

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This panel brings together Naval, Coast Guard, defense strategy professionals to discuss emerging risks/threats to waterways caused by environmental and geopolitical change.

- What are the emerging roles of sea operations forces, (oriented to Alaska and Western Canadian Arctic regions) as well as other government departments/agencies, in demonstrating sovereignty, enforcing laws, and exercising deterrence against activities that undermine or threaten to undermine CANUS interests in the North American Arctic?

- What forms and level of information needs are required? How do we operate in this environment to achieve these effects? How can CANUS practitioner's better share "best practices"?

Panel Moderator: Troy Bouffard, Center for Arctic Security and Resilience, UAF, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Panelists to be announced.

1050-1100 AST/1250-1300 MST/1450-1300 EST
Introduction to Strategic Foresight Activity 2

- A ten (10) Min overview of Activity 2 by Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer, Network Lead, North American Arctic Defence and Security Network, Trent University, and Dr. Lil Alessa, President's Professor, University of Idaho, Moscow Idaho.

1100-1200 AST/1300-1400 MST/1300-1400 EST
Proposed **Strategic Foresight Activity: Addressing and Prioritizing security concerns.**

- In four (4) breakout groups, ACCUSARS participants will identify key priorities for North American defence/defense and security collaboration, oriented to Alaska and Western Canada. Given the changing nature of the threats through/to/in the North American Arctic, are ***we investing in the right capabilities***? How can research & development help to identify and develop other capabilities that would support CANUS objectives in the Arctic? Breakout group monitors:
    - Group 1: Political aspects -
    - Group 2: The Roles of Remote Communities
    - Group 3: Environmental aspects
    - Group 4: Economic / Resources

1200-1220 AST/1400-1420 MST/1600-1620 EST
Arctic Research Priorities Activity - reports and discussion

1220-1230 AST/1420-1430 MST/1620-1630 EST
Final workshop wrap-up remarks by Church Kee and Whitney Lackenbauer

Workshop venue - Online via Zoom.

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Day 1 (25 March 2021)

Link to be provided.

Day 2 (26 March 2021)

Link to be provided.

Workshop method - Panel presentations followed by breakout group reflections, which is captured and promulgated via a comprehensive report.

Workshop objective - Workshop planners seek 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 (oriented to Alaska and Western Canadian Arctic).

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 tailored journal article and/or other deliverables may also be suitable follow-on considerations.

Subsequent Workshops - September 2021 – ACCUSARS III: Developing a regionally focused SFA oriented to Eastern Canadian Arctic and Greenland.

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