

As/of 24 Apr 2022



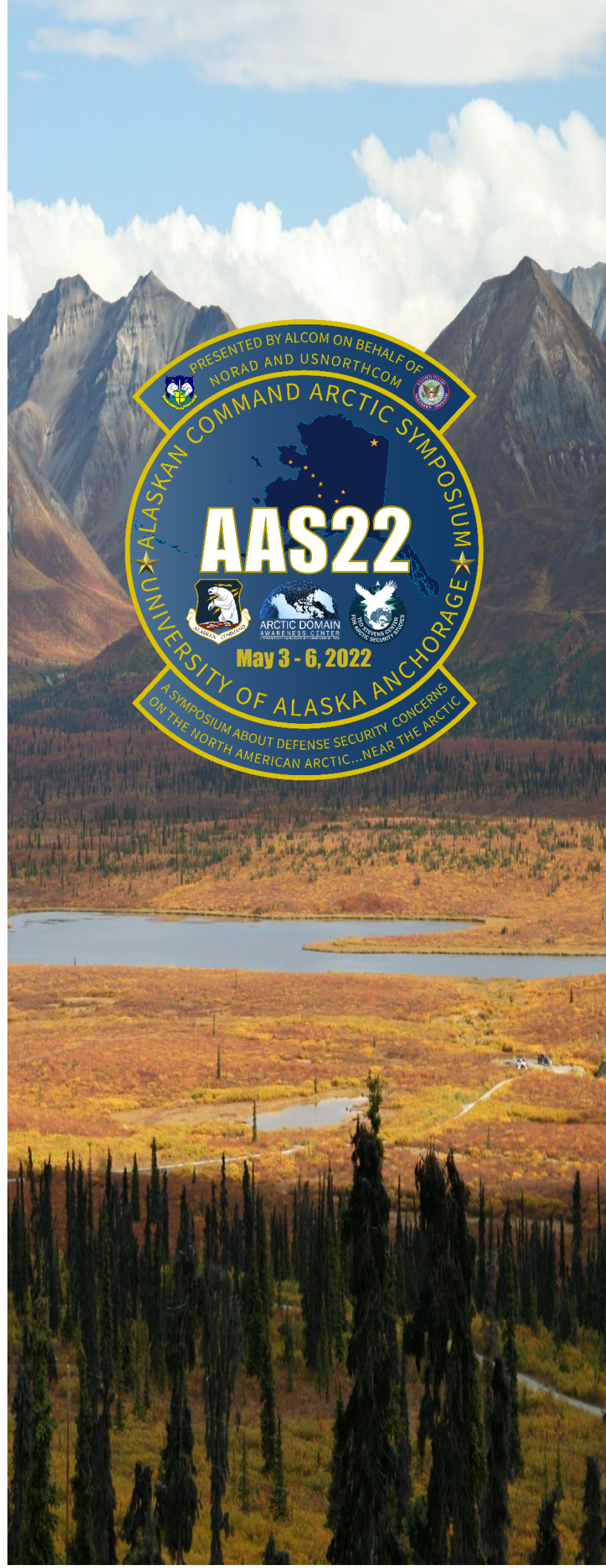
**Presented on behalf of
NORAD and USNORTHCOM**

Alaskan Command hosts

**Arctic Symposium 2022
2/3-6 May 2022
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Unclassified Tabletop Exercise
Plan**

Plus, Associated Guidance





Introduction and Overview



In support of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Alaskan Command (ALCOM) (a subordinate unified command reporting to USNORTHCOM), located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Alaska, is honored to host ***Arctic Symposium 2022*** (AAS22) a symposium about the Arctic, conducted near the Arctic. ALCOM AAS22 is planned principally as an in-person event but will have a number of virtual participation options from 3-6 May in Anchorage Alaska.

Additionally, there will be two advance events hosted on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) on 2 May. Accordingly, 2 May is considered AAS22 “Day Zero.”

Detailed planning, organizing, and support for ALCOM’s Arctic Symposium 2022 is provided by the Department of Defense’s newest Regional Center, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, currently operating at JBER, and the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC), hosted at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Arctic Symposium 2022 is planned as ALCOM’s signature Arctic convening/convergence event and will feature a wide variety of Arctic leaders and subject matter experts, focused on a broad range of Arctic security.

While the bulk of AAS22 is featured as in-person activity, remote participation for the Day 1 plenary, Day 2 virtual track, Day 3 VIP speakers and Day 4 morning sessions is planned for simultaneous virtual participation via Zoom.

Unclassified Tabletop exercise plan:

The following is a brief description of the plan for conducting/participating in the Day 2 “Choose your Adventure” Unclassified Tabletop Exercise (TTX).

This adventure is planned as a hybrid...with exercise participants online and in person. Facilitators will strive to engage around the room and across the net.

For Zoom participants, please use the chat function and use the “raise hand” feature. In person participants are asked to use the microphones. For in person with access to laptops, choose the most responsive method to interject.

The AAS22 Day 2 Unclassified TTX is an educational forum. The intended audience is to introduce the construct of TTX as a useful problem solving method in an Arctic security crisis-type construct. It is anticipated a number of participants may not be overly familiar with the construct, but based on the simplicity planned for this AAS22 “Adventure” will quickly catch-on.



AAS22 Planners ask participants to try to imagine the problem as presented and not to “fight the scenario” in which people decide to confuse/obstruct exercise play, based on their views of scenario plausibility. If

AAS22 planners are creating three “two-step” exercise videos which will be placed on the AAS22 “event hub” by approximately 28 April 2022. The look and feel of these videos will be similar to what is posted to the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) Event Hub from Arctic Maritime Horizons 2021, conducted on 4-6 May 2021 as a hybrid exercise ISO HQ USCG and the ALCOM Arctic Senior Leader Summit (Day 2) exercise on 11 March 2021.

For these videos please see:

- https://arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org/EventHub_Horizons21
- https://arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org/EventHub_ASLS21

For the purpose of each scenario, the facilitators and participating audience are collectively the fictitious decision makers and are enjoined in a quasi-unified command center.

Co-Moderators for the TTX include:

- TSC Sr Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs, Randy “Church” Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
- Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and Woodrow Wilson Center Polar Institute, Dr. Mike Sfraga

Facilitators for the TTX include:

- Dieter Bareihs, Brig Gen (Ret), USAF, ACT-1 Contract Manager for the Stevens Center
- Mike White, CAPT, USCG, (Ret), Pacific Maritime Advisor, NW National Labs
- Jason “Olaf” Roe, ACT-1 Media Specialist for the Stevens Center

Additionally, a diverse group of principally “operator focused” Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) planned to support the exercise as commentators/advisors to support the exercise. These SMEs will help “kick start” the discussions following each exercise scenario step. This group includes the following:

- Mr. Craig Fleener, Lt Col (ANG), Deputy Advisor, Arctic Security Affairs, Ted Stevens Center, Anchorage, Alaska.
- CDR Frank, “Biff” McBride, USN, Arctic Planner, Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.
- Major Alex Trousdale, Canadian Armed Forces, Planner, Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.
- CAPT Leanne Lusk, USCG, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Sector, Anchorage, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.
- Mr. John Murphy, Col (Ret) USAF, Chief of Operations, National Weather Service, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Lilian Alessa, Chief Scientist, U.S. Special Operations Command and President’s Professor, University of Idaho, Moscow Idaho.



- Maj Gen (Ret), USAF, Mark “Marshal” Dillon, Director of Business Development, Aurora Flight Sciences, Washington, D.C.

The goal of the each move scenario, is to:

- Describe the problem to be solved,
- Outline the possible courses of action that are needed to be addressed,
- Specify associated details of what is needed to address the problem and resolve the concerns to a summary level.
- Gain input & associated participation from the Arctic SMEs, then “around the room” and “around the net”

The videos are simply an aide to understanding and are played in "2 steps", constructed in a similar fashion to what U.S. National Defense University does. The overall exercise participation will not/not be divided into components or various "color" teams, etc., as done in the U.S. Joint Staff.

At the start of the exercise the facilitators will introduce the construct and scenarios (in summary) as well as:

- Introduce the facilitation and supporting technology team.
- Explain the rules of engagement for participation (it is relatively straight forward), willing participants will step forward to the microphones (in person) and via chat or raise hand (Zoom) in order to offer their ideas as they find useful to offer to address the problem
- “Role Tape for Step 1 of scenario 1, then pause, solicit feedback and get the conversations rolling to address the problem via different communities, following, then “Role Tape” for Step 2, and repeat for subsequent scenarios.
 - What are the concerns by communities of interest?
 - ✓ U.S. National Command Authorities
 - ✓ U.S. Departments and Agencies
 - ✓ Allied and Partner Governments
 - ✓ Regional Governments (State/Province, Local, Tribal)
 - ✓ Unified Command
 - ✓ Service Vantage Point
 - ✓ Affected communities
 - ✓ Non-government and Private Volunteer Organizations
 - ✓ Media
 - ✓ Business/Industry
 - ✓ Academia
 - ✓ Other
 - What are the needed actions to address by various communities...such as:
 - ✓ Capabilities to address the problem...personnel and equipment
 - ❖ Do these capabilities exist?
 - ❖ Where are these capabilities located?



- ❖ What's the transportation needed to get on scene?
- ✓ Logistics...supporting the response and supporting the responders
- ✓ Communications...who needs to know what?
- ✓ Infrastructure needed vs what would available?
- ✓ Competitor and/or adversary response...cooperatively or against?
- ✓ Finances to address the needs
- ✓ Intended and unintended consequences?
- ✓ Shortfalls and gaps to address the scenario. What is needed to better address?

The following are the specific scenario plans for reference:

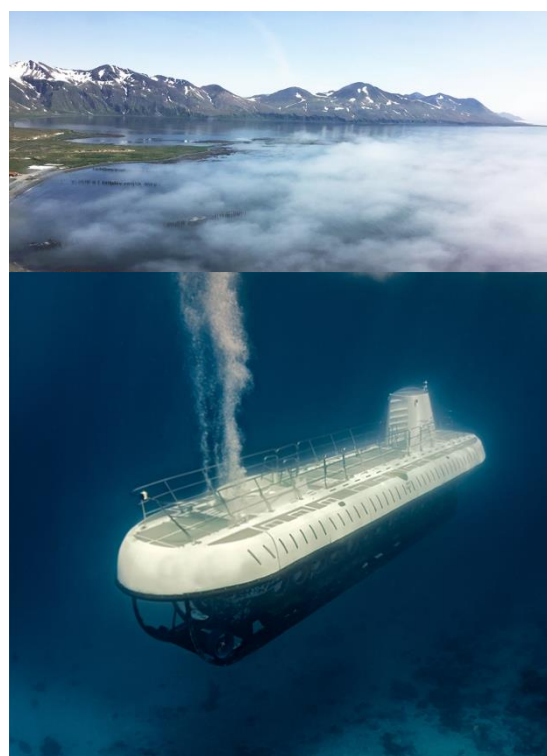
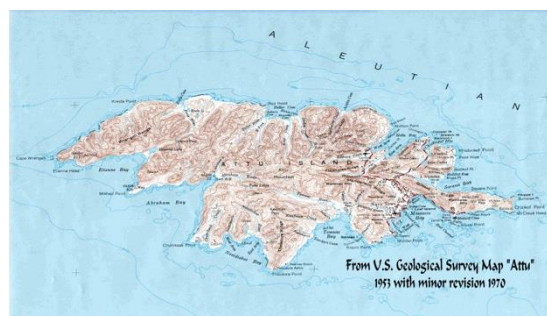
Scenario 1 “Attu Re-imagined.”

- A fictitious crisis scenario which challenges sovereignty, security and environmental policies and the ability to logistically respond to the farthest west U.S. island in the Aleutian chain. (0820-0930 AKDT)

Background – Scenario Date: December 10, 2045

The year is 2045 and during the last decade there has been an explosion in extreme adventure tourism for wealthy clients. Popular extreme adventures include regular commercial spaceflights to a privately operated space station and a once-a-year close orbit of the moon. The success of those enterprises has led to the development of several deep-sea underwater observation parks, one of which is under construction near Attu Island as the first stage of a commercial venture that will ultimately lead to adventure tourism of the Aleutian Trench. Attu island is currently occupied by private construction contractors in support of the Deep Undersea Adventures Corporation. Sources indicate that there are approximately 800 personnel living and working on the island and 30 contractors living deep underwater while constructing an underwater observatory. There are 2 self-propelled deep-ocean submersibles that ferry workers to and from the underwater facility and conduct research in the area.

A recent report provided by an anonymous inside source has raised concerns about some of the activities on Attu island. The report detailed unusual equipment being installed on the island and the adjacent underwater facility that is under construction. The source is also concerned about the presence of several highly restricted areas surrounding some sort of specialized communications equipment, and oddly coordinated flights arriving with foreign visitors. The Attu site contains multiple shipping container dormitories and office spaces, and satellite images indicate that many more



containers are pre-staged for fast future expansion of the complex.

The Deep Undersea Adventures Corporation inside source reports that a construction-related mishap has caused a partial collapse of the underwater facility with over 20 people trapped inside. He overheard reports of multiple fatalities and significant ongoing pollution at the underwater site. The incident has also severely damaged both of the corporation's submersibles, causing one of them to perform a risky emergency surfacing maneuver and the other to become disabled and trapped on the ocean floor. The source also reports ongoing efforts to shut down communications to and from the island, and suspects significant efforts to prevent the story from getting out are underway.

Research into the Deep Undersea Adventures Corporation has revealed that 18 months ago it was quietly acquired by a large foreign corporation with recently revealed close ties to the government of a near-Arctic nation.

MOVE 1 Start time + 24 hours:

All attempts to establish communications with the Deep Undersea Adventures Corporation team on the island have been unsuccessful. Several fixed-wing aircraft have made runway approaches attempting to land; however, obstacles have been placed on the runway. Satellite images of the area show efforts to rapidly move and disguise some equipment and a very large oil sheen in the water Southeast of Attu. Satellite images now indicate some foreign military activity on the island and multiple foreign military vessels are enroute to the area.

MOVE 2 Start time + 36 hours:

USCG and US Naval vessels are on scene in the area of the oil sheen, but upon approaching Attu Island they are instructed to turn back due to the area being "unsafe". Oil models estimate the amount of pollution to be over a million barrels and indicate that the underwater source has not yet been secured. Oil Spill Removal Organization vessels are enroute to the area, with a 2 hour ETA.

Course of Action (COA) 1:

Recommend measures to de-escalate scenario, such as monitor the approaching flotilla, while U.S. seeks diplomatic actions to address the situation.

COA 2:

Recommend measures to enforce U.S. jurisdiction in accordance with UNCLOS (noting that U.S. is not a signature authority) to remind the national flotilla their violations of U.S. waters will not be tolerated. These measures may include show of presence flights by USAF tactical fighter aircraft or other measures to enforce U.S. sovereignty.

Participants should consider addressing how best to:

- Characterize the response
- Conduct underwater rescue of trapped workers
- Stabilize the situation

Participants should consider discussing:



- What units/elements would you engage first?
- What domain awareness tools, communications methods, or new and emerging technologies does your team need to accurately assess this situation?
- Are those tools, methods, or technologies likely to be available in this scenario?
- What international organizations would be critical in resolving this situation?

Scenario 2 “Bounty in the Beaufort.”

- **0945-1045 AKDT / 1335-1445 EDT: “Bounty in the Beaufort.”** A fictitious crisis scenario that exposes the friction points related to the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea in managing a commercial venture in contested waters in the Extended Economic Zone between Canada and the U.S. in the Beaufort Sea.

Background – Scenario Date: August 5, 2045

The year is 2045 and continuously rising fuel prices have re-energized Arctic oil exploration. Over the past decade, the U.S. Oil Corporation has established several offshore drilling sites in the Chukchi Sea. The success of those sites has enticed several oil companies into planning significant exploration activities in the Arctic region.

Five years ago, Canada and the United States entered into a joint agreement to establish oil exploration activities in the Beaufort Sea disputed zone. As part of the agreement, Canada was given a three-year head start in offshore drilling while the United States and the state of Alaska authorized construction of an add-on to the trans-Alaska pipeline, connecting the pipeline to a Beaufort Sea shore area at the U.S.- Canadian border. The Canadian Oil Corporation has two newly established offshore platforms that are in limited production and producing oil. The oil is currently being transferred to tank vessels for transport on a temporary basis until the additions to the trans-Alaska pipeline are completed. The oil tankers transit along the north coast of Alaska through the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and through the Bering Strait to newly established refineries in Vancouver, BC.



The disputed zone encompasses the territorial waters of the United States and Canada. It is located north of the state of Alaska and two Canadian territories, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. Canada recognizes the 141st meridian as its border with the United States in the area. The United States, however, recognizes the border as an area halfway between the two countries' coastlines. The overlap of the borders recognized by the United States and Canada form a pie-shaped slice of the Beaufort Sea. This disputed area encompasses just over 5,000 square miles or 13,000 sq. km.

Now that the pipeline is almost complete, U.S. Oil Corporation has established a large Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) that has just started drilling operations in the Beaufort Sea disputed zone.



The results of recent U.S. elections have caused major administration changes and follow-on shifts in oil production policies. The new administration has ordered a halt in all offshore drilling and pipeline construction operations. These changes force the Canadian Oil Corporation to make transport by tank vessel a permanent arrangement and have begun soliciting for international icebreaker support of maritime oil transport in the Arctic.

Over the past year, oil exploration in the Arctic has received an abundance of press coverage and interest from activist groups. Spurred on by high levels of activity on social media, several anti-oil exploration groups have spent the last several months coordinating logistics and financing to stage protests in the region, and now dozens of small vessels are actively engaged in protests that include blocking the path of oil tank vessels. The small vessels are supported by three larger protest vessels that refuel and resupply the smaller vessels. Residents of the North Slope of Alaska are growing increasingly concerned that the additional vessel traffic and noise from the protests are agitating marine mammals and will interfere with subsistence activities.

MOVE 1 Start time + 24 hours:

A 250FT protest vessel has capsized in the disputed zone with 60 people onboard, initiating search and rescue environmental response operations. The Canadian government is heavily pressing for a U.S. led response. Severe weather is forecast to enter the area in 12 hours.

MOVE 2 Start time + 36 hours:

The storm is passing through the area and reports indicate that several of the smaller protest vessels have capsized and dozens of persons are unaccounted for. One of the Canadian oil platforms reports that two dozen protesters have climbed on the rig to escape the severe weather and protesters are now actively engaging in interfering with their operations.



COA 1:

Recommend to National Authorities to conduct emergency measures to aid on all possible speed as a U.S. military lead initiative. Review and activate/implement existing (Arctic suitable) large scale SAR plans from USCG, USNORTHCOM or other organizations. Request support from signature nations in accordance with Arctic Council Search and Rescue (SAR) Agreement.

COA 2:

Recommend to National Authorities that due to risk of rescue with little to no assets nearby U.S. military is better postured to support another national led approach that may have more suitable assets much closer to effect a response.

Participants should consider addressing how best to:

- Characterize the response
- Conduct large scale search and rescue operations

Participants should consider discussing:

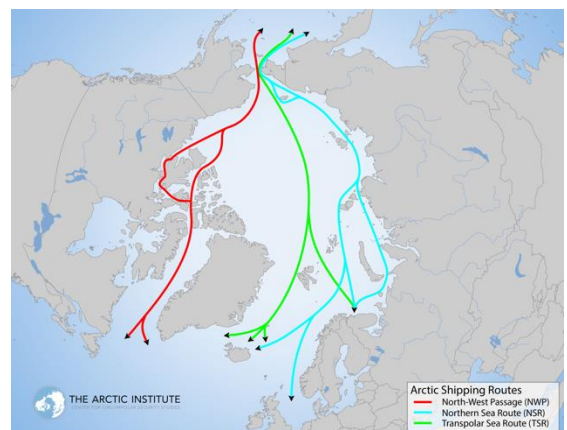
- What units/elements would you engage first?
- What domain awareness tools, communications methods, or new and emerging technologies does your team need to accurately assess this situation?
- Are those tools, methods, or technologies likely to be available in this scenario?
- What international organizations would be critical in resolving this situation?

Scenario 3 “Trapped at the North Pole.”

- **1100-1200 AKDT / 1500-1600 EDT: “Trapped at the North Pole.”** A fictitious crisis scenario of an exploratory venture of commercial icebreaker escorting a merchant breakbulk vessel transiting the transpolar route that encounters a significant powerplant failure rendering both vessels trapped in more significant than planned ice conditions in the vicinity of the North Pole.

Background Date: August 24, 2045

The Year is 2045 and environmental conditions now allow for transpolar shipping during the late summer months, with the last transit of the year occurring a bit later each year as shippers become more comfortable with coordinating transport through the Arctic region. It is now late August and a 650FT commercial icebreaker is escorting a 600FT breakbulk vessel along the transpolar route through the North Pole. The breakbulk vessel is carrying various sacked cargo on its way to European markets.



An electrical fire onboard the icebreaker has started a series of cascading failures that have crippled propulsion, heating, and water generation systems, among several others onboard the ship. The forty-person crew of the icebreaker is now without heat and water, and the vessel is unable to make way. A large cold front is entering the area bringing high winds and freezing temperatures.

MOVE 1 Start time + 24 hours:

The vessel remains unable to make way. Attempts to provide resources to effect repairs have been thwarted due to severe weather. Both vessels are now surrounded by ice. System outages have contributed to increased reports of illness among the crewmembers. Several crewmembers have aggravated some pre-existing medical conditions and are growing severely ill.

MOVE 2 Start time + 36 hours:

The icebreaker regained propulsion and attempted to move forward, however that attempt caused the drive shaft to shear, rendering the vessel disabled and unrepairable at the scene. Both vessels are now stuck in rapidly-forming ice as temperatures continue to decrease.



COA 1:

Recommend to National Authorities to conduct emergency measures to aid on all possible speed as a U.S. military lead initiative. Review and activate/implement existing (Arctic suitable) large scale SAR plans from USCG, USNORTHCOM or other organizations. Re quest support from signature nations in accordance with Arctic Council Search and Rescue (SAR) Agreement.

COA 2:

Recommend to National Authorities that due to risk of rescue with little to no assets nearby U.S. military is better postured to support another national led approach that may have more suitable assets much closer to effect a response.

Participants should consider addressing how best to:

- Characterize the response
- Conduct airdrop of emergency supplies and pararescue
- Implement medical response measures

Participants should consider discussing:



ALCOM's Arctic Symposium 2022...the Horizon Beyond for the High North

- What units/elements would you engage first?
- What domain awareness tools, communications methods, or new and emerging technologies does your team need to accurately assess this situation?
- Are those tools, methods, or technologies likely to be available in this scenario?
- What international organizations would be critical in resolving this situation?

Conclusion.

AAS22 planners are looking forward to this particular “Choose your adventure” We hope the above suggestions are helpful for planning and preparation for the unclassified TTX.

