



FRAMEWORK for ARCTIC COOPERATION

among

**NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE
DEFENSE COMMAND,**

**UNITED STATES NORTHERN
COMMAND,**

and

**CANADIAN JOINT OPERATIONS
COMMAND**

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Executive Summary

During the December 2010 Tri Command Staff Talks, the Commanders of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and Canada Command (Canada COM) directed their staffs to identify areas of potential tri command cooperation in the Arctic. This *Framework for Arctic Cooperation* is an initial product of that directive.

With the establishment of Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) effective 05 Oct 2012, all responsibilities previously assigned to Canada COM were assumed by CJOC. Commander CJOC recognizes and supports the intent of all historical instruments agreed among NORAD, USNORTHCOM and Canada COM referenced in this Framework. Where appropriate and necessary, historical documents should be amended to reflect the CJOC command structure.

NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and CJOC (collectively, the “Commands”) all have portions of the Arctic within their respective areas of operation (AOs) and areas of responsibility (AORs). The Commands have complementary missions and can work closely together to meet their individual and collective responsibilities in the Arctic region.

This *Framework for Arctic Cooperation* has the immediate goal of promoting enhanced military cooperation in the preparation for and the conduct of defense, security, and safety operations in the Arctic. It deals primarily with operational level military-to-military operations, but it also serves to identify further challenges and emerging issues that may require resolution at a more strategic level. Accordingly, this document highlights areas where the Commands can collectively overcome challenges in the region. Areas identified for potential Tri Command cooperation in the Arctic include:

- Planning
- Operations
- Domain awareness
- Information sharing
- Exercises and training
- Science and technology
- Capability development

A follow on Action Plan developed by the Commands will generate tasks to provide potential solutions to shared gaps in these areas. In this manner the

Commands will continue to work to enhance their capabilities and capacities to act effectively, in a timely and coordinated fashion, consistent with the national interests of Canada and the United States.

Introduction

1. In September 2009, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and Canada Command (Canada COM) signed the *Framework for Enhanced Military Cooperation among NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and Canada COM*, which codified the close relationships among the Commands and their supporting agencies to ensure a timely and coordinated response to defense and security challenges to North America. Signed in December 2010, the *Tri Command Strategy* built upon the strategic goals outlined in the March 2010 *Tri Command Vision*, further strengthening the bonds which link the Commands. The *Strategy* charged the Commands to synchronize defense and security efforts to include common interests in the Arctic. With the establishment of CJOC, this Framework for Arctic Cooperation identifies opportunities for potential Tri Command cooperation in the Arctic among NORAD, USNORTHCOM and CJOC.

2. Since the advent of satellite records in 1979, summer minimum Arctic ice extent has receded at a rate of approximately 11 percent per decade. Over that period, there has been significant annual variation in ice extent and areas remaining ice covered. Winter ice extent has declined at only 3 percent per decade over the same period. Several Arctic change models project the Arctic could be seasonally ice-free beginning in 2030-2040. As a result, human activity (tourism, commercial, adventure, scientific, and military) is increasing, which is likely to bring with it increased hazards such as environmental dumping and degradation. The potential for threats such as organized crime, illegal immigration, and even terrorism cannot be ruled out. Because security and safety interests closely follow economic interests, emerging Arctic challenges require the military to be prepared to support lead agencies in response to these threats and hazards when requested and directed.

3. Operating in the region is a challenge given the harsh climate, large area, sparse population and limited infrastructure. As a rule of thumb, construction costs are three to five times the cost of comparable infrastructure in lower latitudes. This necessitates a forward looking approach in this region more than any other, including the need for NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and CJOC to further develop cooperative partnerships.

Purpose

4. This *Framework for Arctic Cooperation*, hereafter referred to as the *Framework*, supports the *Tri Command Vision's* stated goal to improve unity of effort among the three Commands and with our respective mission partners. Its immediate goal is to promote enhanced military cooperation in the Arctic and identify specific areas of potential tri command cooperation in the preparation for and conduct of defense, security, and safety operations in the Arctic.