Mr. James Robinson
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

Alaskan Arctic: Improving Awareness & Broadening Partnerships
USCG Arctic Strategy (2013)

- **CG Vision for Operating In Arctic Region:**
  - Ensure safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic.

- **CG Arctic Strategic Objectives:**
  - Improve Awareness
  - Modernize Governance
  - Broaden Partnerships

- **CG Goals:**
  - Protect Those On The Sea
  - Protect People From The Sea
  - Protect The Sea Itself
USCG Arctic Strategy (2013)

- Improve Awareness:
  - Coordinate/Share Information
  - Achieve Effective CG Presence (Vessels/Aircraft/Personnel)
- Modernize Governance:
  - Work w/ Federal, State, Tribal, & Local Gov’ts
  - Safeguard Marine Environment
  - Preserve Living Marine Resources
- Broaden Partnerships:
  - Develop/Promote CG as a Partner
  - Engage/Partner to Maximize Effectiveness
Overview of CG Organizational Structure in Alaska: “Who Does What?”

Overview of CG Organizational Structure in Alaska:

- **17th District Commander: Juneau**
  - Approx 2000 CG Personnel Statewide
  - D17 Staff: Manage Policy & Programs

- **Sector Anchorage & Sector Juneau**
  - Manage CG operations in their regions
    - **Arctic: Sector Anchorage Region**
    - Federal On-Scene Coordinators for Oil Spills & Hazardous Materials Releases

- **D17 Units: 24 field units in Alaska**
  - Marine Safety Units/Detachments (6)
  - Buoy Tenders (6) & Patrol Boats (6)
  - Small Boat Stations (3)

- **CG Air Stations: Kodiak and Sitka**
  - 18 Aircraft: 13 Helicopters/5 C-130 Airplanes

- **Other CG Assets in Alaska**
  - USCGC HEALY (Icebreaker)
  - National Security Cutters
U. S. Coast Guard
Planning, Prevention, & Response

- Air Operations
- Vessel Operations
- Prevention:
  - Safety Education Programs
  - Spill/Contingency Plans
- Response:
  - Spills/Cleanup Ops
  - Law Enforcement
USCG Operations/Response: Before, During, & After – “How & When We Engage”

- **CG Operations – Planning & Preparedness “BEFORE”**
  - Community/Tribal/ANO/Stakeholder Meetings
  - CG Field Operations: CG Vessels & Aircraft
  - Subarea Committees & Contingency Plans
  - Spill Response & Mass Rescue Drills & Exercises
  - Subsistence Co-Mgmt Engagement/Species Tracking
  - Tribal Relations Training for CG Personnel

- **Incident Response & Recovery “DURING & AFTER”**
  - Tribal & Local Government Input
  - Sensitive Area Information is a Key Issue
Arctic Community Concerns – Food & Cultural Security:

- Vessel Traffic Issues
- Infrastructure Development
- Subsistence Hunter Safety
- Food Quality & Availability
- Need More Spill Planning/Response
- “Vessels are operating in our pantry”
Initiatives to Address Issues:

- Polar Code
- Port Access Route Study (PARS)
- Arctic Waterway Safety Committee
- Seasonal CG Arctic Operations
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
IMO Polar Code Overview

- **Two Parts – Safety & Environment**

- **Key Topics:**
  - Hull strength/increased stability (if ops in ice areas)
  - Protection for exposed safety equipment (ops in ice & low temps)
  - Operational Risk Assessment
  - Voyage/Contingency Planning
  - Crew training (ice navigation)
  - Environmental Impact

- Mandatory and non-mandatory sections

- **Becomes Effective in January 2017**

- Phase 2 (broader applicability) scheduled start in 2016
Subcommittees:
- Subsistence – Review & Update Coast Pilot regarding Subsistence Areas/Times, Subsistence Area Annotation on Charts, and Ways to Protect Hunters in Vessel Traffic Areas.
- Science – Standards of Care for Marine Research: Protocols for Communicating with Local Communities, Avoiding Conflicts with Subsistence Activities
- Tug & Barge – Standards of Care for Lightering & Cargo

AWSC Goals:
- Development of Waterway Safety Plan by End of 2016
- Expand Engagement of Maritime Community, Public
Coast Guard Notification

- **Activates Unified Command**
  - Federal
  - State of Alaska (ADEC)
  - Responsible Party
  - Local

- **Responsible Party Responds**
  - Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO)

- **Federal Assets**
  - U.S. Coast Guard Owned
  - DoD Owned

26 CG “Backup” Caches
19 Locations &
46 Containers:
- Anchorage: 6 Containers for Statewide Use
Continued CG Engagement:
- Federally Recognized Tribes
- Subsistence Co-Management Groups
- State/Local Governments
- Maritime Industry
- Implementation of Polar Code
- PARS Finalization & Implementation
- Support AWSC Initiatives
- Increased Emphasis on Contingency Plans
- Continued Seasonal CG Operations
- Partnering with Communities & Stakeholders
Questions/Discussion?

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