

THE NORTHERN FORUM SUMMARY of PRIORITY PROJECT

31 October 2001

Name of project	Severe Cold Climate Workshop -- International Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
Sponsoring Region(s)	State of Alaska, Province of Lapland, Sakha Republic U.S. Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE) Approved by the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum, 29 October 2001 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Potential Participants	<p>Participants to be invited:</p> <p>NF members: (25) Hokkaido; Heilongjiang; Republic of Korea; Dornod; Sakhalin; Magadan; Kamchatka; Chukotka; Sakha Republic; Evenk; Alaska; Yukon; Northwest Territories; Alberta; Yamal-Nenets; Khanty-Mansi; Komi Republic; Nenets; Arkhangelsk; Vologda; St. Petersburg; Northern Norway; Lapland; Norrbotten; Västerbotten</p> <p>Other Northern Regions: (14) British Columbia; Quebec; Nunavut; Greenland; Iceland; South Trondelag; Murmansk; Karelia; Krasnoïarsk; Taimyr; Koriak; Khabarovsk; Jewish Region; Primorski</p> <p>Other entities:</p> <p>U.S. Center of Excellence (4) Arctic Council EPPR Program (2) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (2) <i>Medicins Sans Frontiers</i> - Belgium (2) International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent (2) Local (Alaska/Russia/Sakha) Red Cross/Crescent (3) U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (1) U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (2) R.F. Emergency Management Agency (EMERCOM) (2) Northern Forum Academy (1) Local experts from Bush Alaska (3)</p> <p>Other Alaska-based: (6) State of Alaska; Institute of the North; representatives of aviation industry, etc.</p> <p>Total (maximum) (69)</p>
Head of Project Committee Coordinators	Secretariat of the Northern Forum Anchorage, Alaska Coordinators: in agreement with participating NF member regions COE coordinator:

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<p>Background, goals and challenges</p>	<p>In spring 2001, the U.S. Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE) sought to assist the Sakha Republic in responding to devastating flooding.</p> <p>Following discussions in autumn 2001, COE will co-host the workshop with the NF, and will seek support from the State of Alaska and other entities. The workshop's Disaster Response/Humanitarian Assistance (DR/HA) emphasis will provide a forum in which the role of the military components can be explored as unique capabilities in the execution and management of international disaster responses.</p> <p>Representatives from entities that respond to cold environment disasters will be welcome to participate. Participants will present actual case studies, develop probable future scenarios that might warrant an international response and identify challenges to international implementation of DR/HA, review various aid request and approval procedures, and discuss potential civil-military cooperation models.</p> <p>The participants will be broken into working groups that will concentrate on one aspect of the workshop. Combining case studies with facilitated discussions on 'lessons learned,' the efforts of the working groups will be combined to develop a draft proposed checklist or guideline of 'best practices.' These guidelines will be distributed appropriately for further refinement and possible use by those currently involved in international disaster response and humanitarian aid efforts.</p> <p>All practitioners of disaster response and management in severe cold climates will have access to the material developed at the conference.</p> <p>Proposed dates: 3 days – March 2002 (prior to the Arctic Council's EPPR meeting in Alaska)</p> <p>Venue: Anchorage, Alaska</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the effectiveness of international Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) efforts in severe cold climate environments wherever they occur; 2. To identify the assets, skills, and other resources of potential responders/practitioners for use in any severe cold climate location; 3. To identify ways to coordinate and streamline international HA/DR in severe cold climate settings, and; 4. To identify and list 'best practices' for practitioner response in severe cold climate, and possibly to develop procedures and/or guidelines for practical use in current international

	<p>HA/DR efforts.</p> <p>Projected Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved understanding by practitioners and disaster managers working in severe cold climate environments of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and challenges in delivering effective disaster response in severe cold weather conditions, including forecasting, assessment and response priorities; • Coordination issues and procedures for requesting and approving assistance from outside the disaster area, including national and regional/sub-national response authorities, such as Northern Forum (NF) members, and; • Civil-Military coordination mechanisms that might be established at the onset of a disaster to provide unique emergency assistance to affected populations. 2. Consensus on the development of possible guidelines, 'best practices' and procedures for responding to disasters occurring in severe cold climate settings, and; 3. Follow-up: refinement and then communication of recommendations regarding 'best practice' guidelines and means to facilitate international coordination to appropriate agencies, organizations and others.
Funding	<p>The costs of the workshop should be shared among the co-sponsoring agencies – COE, the NF, the State of Alaska, and other partners.</p> <p>COE may fund travel and lodging for several participants; others will be expected to supply their own funding.</p> <p>The NF will supply in-kind funding, including discounts and/or recovery on facilities and lodging.</p>