

MEDIA UPDATE: Feb 28

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- 1. Civil Support Team conducts CBRN training with agencies**
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- 3. CAF members demonstrate specialized Arctic skill sets with international partners**

-- TRADITIONAL MEDIA --

1. Civil Support Team conducts CBRN training with agencies

U.S. Army/Feb. 28

FAIRBANKS, Alaska - Members of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team participated in a joint training exercise alongside local, state, and federal partners Feb. 24-25 as part of Arctic Eagle 20.

The exercise, which involved responding to a simulated Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) 'all hazards' response call, began with a simulated mid-morning raid carried out by law enforcement agencies.

Teams of gear-laden first responders from the Fairbanks Police Department, the FBI, and Alaska State Troopers entered the target, a dilapidated building that had been converted into a chemical and biological agent lab by the scenario designers. Upon determining that the incident (a hostage situation) was part of a larger, more hazardous scene, the law enforcement agencies pulled back and brought in the Fairbanks Hazardous Materials Unit.

"Today our mission was to do an initial [reconnaissance] of the building to identify any hazards and materials inside," said Sean Heaney, a hazmat technician with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Hazmat Team. "For us being a response team, but also a volunteer team, typically we'll arrive on scene after someone else has called us in."

The hazardous materials team provides an initial walkthrough and threat assessment when potential chemical, biological, or radiological dangers are encountered.

"We're prepared to deal with most any threat," Heaney said. "[But] The main types of incidents that we respond to, or would be prepared to train for, would be chemical incidents. An incident like this is a little bit more far-reaching, and usually requires the aid of military assistance."

When local teams determine the threat warrants it, they contact the Civil Support Team, which immediately mobilizes to take control of the situation.

"We are responding to an incident commander call for suspected hazmat related substances," said Sgt. Fabiana Kirtley, an Italian-born member of the 103rd Civil Support Team out of Anchorage.

When a CST is called up by an incident commander, the team has one hour to respond and accept the mission. Shortly after activation, an initial element heads out to set up a staging area, prepare equipment and, in most cases, establish a decontamination line.

The teams hone their craft not only through relentless unit-level training but also by participating in large scale exercises like Exercise Arctic Eagle 20. Executing missions in differing climates and

environments ensure their skills are up to any challenge. By combining harsh conditions with a variety of participants, each of the groups develops the ability to quickly form cohesive, successful bonds with any partner organization.

"We train at a section level on a weekly basis and at a unit level on a monthly basis," said Kirtley, who serves as a survey team member. "We recreate scenarios kind of like this one. We train to meet our standards and exceed them. We train to perfection."

This site is one of seven training venues used for Arctic Eagle 20 across Alaska for the next several weeks. Agencies from across the state, the country and the world train together for dangerous situations, perfecting their skill sets in the cold. The operation demonstrates a crucial capability to promote regional stability and is critical to improving interoperability and maintaining an Arctic-ready force.

More: https://www.army.mil/article/233217/civil_support_team_conducts_cbrn_training_with_agencies

-- ARCTIC NEWS --

2. Air Force Will Tackle China In Space & Arctic: SecAF Barrett

Breaking Defense/Feb. 28

Lt. Gen. David Thompson, vice commander of the Space Force, said "someday" the Space Force mission will "extend to the Moon, to Mars, and beyond" -- likely "within the 30-year plan."

AFA 2020: The US Air Force is prepared to counter China in both space and, increasingly, in the Arctic as Beijing pursues ambitious plans in both domains. That was the pointed message from Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett speaking here in Orlando today.

"As in space, America is resolute in protecting international norms in the Arctic ... as Arctic sea routes gain importance," she said.

In space, she cited both China's 2007 anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons test, as well as its January 2019 "ominous historic lunar rover landing on the dark side of the Moon," as evidence of threats the new Space Force is charged to counter.

China's Chang'e-4 mission exploring the Moon's far side was a first. In the minds of Beijing and many US allies, it was strictly a civil mission. Indeed, as [reported by colleague Kenneth Chang yesterday](#), a team of Chinese and Italian researchers have just published an article in a scientific journal detailing the rover's findings.

Nonetheless, many US national security leaders have suggested that the lunar exploration program is aimed at China establishing a permanent presence, with an underlying military mission, on the Moon.

As *Breaking D* readers know, senior Air Force and Space Force leaders have stepped up rhetoric in recent months about eventually expanding space operations to cislunar space. For example, DARPA's 2021 budget documentation called the area of [space between the Earth and the Moon the "new high-ground"](#) that is "in danger of being defined by the adversary," and doubled its 2020 request for a new cislunar rocket to \$21 million.

At today's Air Warfare Symposium here, Lt. Gen. David Thompson, vice commander of the Space Force, said that "someday" the Space Force mission will "extend to the Moon, to Mars, and beyond" -- likely "within the 30-year plan."

In the Arctic, Barrett pointed to the fact that China is linking the Arctic region to its “One Belt, One Road” global development strategy as evidence of its ambitions for expanding its influence north.

The Pentagon’s annual assessment of [Chinese military strength released last year](#) noted that China published its first Arctic strategy in 2018 promoting a Polar Silk Road. China has declared itself a [near-Arctic State](#), and is operating more regularly in the Arctic in search of natural resources and new shipping routes.

Barrett said defense in the Arctic is a “central mission” for the Air Force, noting that civil airmen operate the Alaska Radar System monitoring for missiles flying over the poles as “the first line of defense” in the region. The goal of Air Force operations there, she said, is to ensure “a free and accessible Arctic” that can be of “benefit to all.”

She stressed that the US efforts in the Arctic must be undertaken hand-in-hand with regional allies. For that reason, she explained, the Air Force is working to maintain strong relationships with Arctic nations Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

More: <https://breakingdefense.com/2020/02/air-force-will-tackle-china-in-space-arctic-secaf-barrett/>

3. CAF members demonstrate specialized Arctic skill sets with international partners

Royal Canadian Air Force/Feb. 25

About 350 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Regular and Reserve personnel have deployed to Resolute Bay and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, on Operation Nanook-Nunalivut 2020 (Op Na-Nu 20). Royal Canadian Air Force 440 (Transport) Squadron is participating in the operation.

From February 24 to March 27, 2020, CAF personnel and international partners are working together to enhance and test their specialized Arctic skill sets and reaffirm their ability to operate in the High Arctic.

All activities and phases of Op NA-NU 20 are planned and commanded by Joint Task Force (North) on behalf of Canadian Joint Operations Command, and executed by the Task Force Nunalivut headquarters element, based in Resolute Bay and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

“Each year, Operation NANOOK-NUNALIVUT provides us with a renewed focus on our operational capabilities and effectiveness in the High Arctic”, said Brigadier-General Patrick Carpentier, Commander, Joint Task Force (North). “The North is a vast, harsh and unique place to operate and, because of this, careful preparations and close collaboration with our northern partners is key. Sharing knowledge with our partners and allies will allow us to be better able to adapt to new demands and challenges in the North, and address common northern defence, security and safety concerns in the High Arctic.”

Canadian participation in the operation includes personnel from 440 (Transport) Squadron (Trenton, Ontario); 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (Valcartier, Québec); 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group members (various patrols in the North); Arctic Response Company Group (primary reserve units under 35 Canadian Brigade Group from la Ville de Québec); Canadian Army Combat Divers from across the country; Royal Canadian Navy Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic divers (Halifax, Nova Scotia); and members of the Joint Task Force (North) Support Component.

International participation includes personnel from the United States 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and 12 divers from Belgium, Finland and France.

From ground and underwater activities through complex logistical support to building and maintaining austere landing strips, Op Na-Nu 20 both demonstrates the presence and capabilities of the CAF in the Arctic, and improves our readiness to operate in the region, key components of Canada's Defence Policy – Strong, Secure, Engaged. Operations such as Op NA-NU 20 also enhance Canada's ability to work effectively with northern partners and Allies.

All activities and phases of Op Na-Nu 20 are planned and commanded by Joint Task Force (North) on behalf of Canadian Joint Operations Command, and executed by the Task Force Nunavut headquarters element, based in Resolute Bay and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

Specialized Arctic skill-sets include:

Arctic diving operations.

Underwater equipment recovery operations.

Tactical movement across sea ice.

Tactical communications in an Arctic environment which prohibits the use of traditional means.

Long range patrolling in Arctic conditions (extreme cold weather and low light/visibility).

Sustainment of long range operations in austere Arctic conditions.

Landing of CAF aircraft on austere landing strips.

More: <http://www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=caf-members-demonstrate-specialized-arctic-skill-sets-with-international-partners/k721hu73>

-- SOCIAL MEDIA --

Post #1

Platform: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Copy: Members of federal, state and local law enforcement prepare to breach a building during Exercise Arctic Eagle 20 hosted by the Alaska National Guard.

Arctic Eagle 20 utilizes partnerships from federal, state and local agencies to help train participants to conduct operations in extreme cold weather. (U.S Army National Guard photo by SPC Kierra Harris)

[#ArcticEagle20](#) [#AlaskaNationalGuard](#) [#ArcticReady](#) [#arctictough](#)



Post #2

Platform: Facebook

Copy: The 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment's CH-47s, also known as the Yetis, support Exercise Arctic Eagle 20 in Deadhorse, Alaska.

They are testing arctic aviation operations in support of arctic sustainment, survivability, Ice Camp

setup, and search and rescue operations. They flew more than 10 hours in -20 degree weather conditions with over 16 tons of cargo.

[#ArcticEagle20](#) [#AlaskaNationalGuard](#) [#LifeontheIce](#) [#ArcticReady](#) (Photo by CW2 Kevin Katkus)



Post #3

Platform: Instagram, Twitter

Copy: [alaskanationalguard](#) Members of a search and extraction team comprised of different national, state and local agencies assess, decontaminate and prepare to treat casualties of a scenario in which a helicopter crashed into a hotel during exercise Arctic Eagle 2020 on Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Feb. 24.

This training event is designed to train participating entities to improve interoperability while conducting sustained operations in extreme cold-weather conditions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SPC Grace Nechanicky)

[#ArcticEagle20](#) [#AlaskaNationalGuard](#) [#ArcticReady](#) [#ArcticTough](#) [#HAZMAT](#)



Post #4

Platform: Instagram

Copy: [alaskanationalguard](#)

Faces in the Frost: Canadian Army Capt. Mathew Strong, left, a public affairs officer with 1 Canadian Air Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Cpl. Jordan Fountain, an imagery technician with the 16 Wing, Borden, Ontario, cover a search and extraction training event during exercise Arctic Eagle 20 on Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Feb. 24, 2020.

This is the public affairs team first time in Alaska. They were excited to work in support of Arctic Eagle 20 while providing coverage of Canadian participation in CBRNE and Urban Search and Rescue. (U.S. Army

National Guard photo by SPC Grace Nechanicky)

[#ArcticEagle20](#) [#facesinthefrost](#) [#arctictough](#) [#publicaffairs](#)



Post #5

Platform: Instagram

Copy: [alaskanationalguard](#)

An HC-130J Combat King II assigned to the 211th Rescue Squadron sits on the flightline before performing an arctic sustainment package airdrop at Deadhorse, Alaska, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in support of Exercise Arctic Eagle 2020, Feb. 25, 2020.

The Alaska National Guard is hosting Exercise Arctic Eagle 2020, a joint-training exercise, Feb. 20 to March 6, 2020, throughout Alaska, including Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and as far north as Teshekpuk Lake. As a homeland security and emergency response exercise, Arctic Eagle 20 is designed to increase the National Guard's ability and effectiveness to operate in the extreme cold-weather conditions found in Arctic environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro)

[#ArcticEagle20](#) [#ArcticSustainmentPackage](#) [#ColdWeatherSurvival](#) [#ArcticReady](#) [#HC130J](#)



-- TAGS AND HASHTAGS --

109thaw/Feb. 28

Platform: instagram

Copy: Sneaking up on a CH-47 Chinook in Alaska during Air National Guard exercise Arctic Eagle (US Air National Guard photo by Technical Sergeant Jamie Spaulding)

[#Alaska](#) [#AlaskaPhotography](#) [#ArcticAdventures](#) [#ArcticCircle](#)



skyler.601/Feb. 28

Platform: Instagram

Copy: Meeting the Mongolians and Canadians has been one of the highlights of Arctic Eagle.USMN

[#arcticeagle20](#) [#fairbanksalaska](#) [#eielsonafb](#) [#alaska](#) [#arctic](#) [#68whiskey](#) [#arcticwarfare](#) [#snow](#) [#freezing](#)



Mark Collins/Feb. 27

Platform: Twitter

2/ US Ex #ArcticEdge20/#ArcticEagle20--e.g. #RCAF #CC138 #TwinOtter

<https://twitter.com/AKNationalGuard/status/1232477923371667457>

#NORAD @CFOperations #NORTHCOM @JTFN_FOIN @CAFinUS

3/ @CanadianForces call what we are doing up north "Operation Nanook-Nunavut 2020 (#OpNaNu20), do not mention US exercises noted above with which ours is associated [http://rcaf-](http://rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=caf-members-demonstrate-specialized-arctic-skill-sets-with-international-partners/k721hu73)

[arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=caf-members-demonstrate-specialized-arctic-skill-sets-with-international-partners/k721hu73](http://rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=caf-members-demonstrate-specialized-arctic-skill-sets-with-international-partners/k721hu73)

#RCAF #ArcticEagle20 #ArcticEdge20 #CanadianArmy #RCNavy #AlaskaNationalGuard @milnews_ca

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