

2016 CANUS Multi-Annex Workshop – Event Summary

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Western Region and 17th U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) District hosted the Canada/U.S. (CANUS) Multi-Annex Workshop in Vancouver, BC, Canada, 26-29 April 2016. This was the first meeting and exercise of all U. S./Canada border USCG districts and CCG regions in more than five years. USCG and CCG headquarters staffs also participated.

Discussion topics included: Evaluation of the CANUS Lakes (CANUSLAK) International Coordinating Officer (ICO) concept of operations; lessons learned from each CANUS Annex regarding international coordination; trans-boundary spill scenario discussion workgroups; ICO qualifications and naming; ICO breakout sessions; USCG ICS and CCG ICS implementation; Joint Marine Contingency Plan (JCP) recommendations; Joint Response Team Annex Activity reports; JCP revision update; JCP exercise priorities and scheduling; JCP executive secretariat initiatives and a draft incident communications protocol for senior leadership.

Summary of ICO discussion: The ICO concept that has been developed by the Ninth USCG District and the CCG Central and Arctic Region, and employed in recent spill responses and exercises, was the central discussion topic of the workshop. The ICO was created to achieve the international coordination contemplated in section 403, “Coordinated Response,” of the CANUS JCP. With some similarities to the Liaison Officer (LOFR) and Agency Representative (AREP) positions in Incident Command System (ICS), the ICO transcends those responsibilities in reference (c) by employing a Senior Response Officer (SRO)- or Federal On Scene Coordinator’s Representative (FOSCR)-like concept of operations. Capitalizing on experience and lessons learned from two decades of exercises and actual incidents, the ICO position has proven to be an effective construct to achieve coordinated response and maintain close international cooperation. **Participants of this workshop concurred with the ICO concept for application across all USCG/CCG CANUS regions.** Future workshops will further develop the concept and create training and job aids.



Participants from left to right: Wyman Briggs (USCG Sec NNE); Bob McFarland (USCG D13); Mitch Deely (USCG D17); Wes James (USCG HQ); Jerry Popiel (USCG D9); TJ Mangoni (USCG D9); LT Andrea Prosser (USCG PAC); Sherri Witt (USCG HQ); CAPT Joe Gleason (USCG HQ); Kathy Hamblett (USCG D17); Andy Connor (USCG D13); CDR Tom Ottenwaelder (USCG HQ); Philip Murdock (CCG Western); CDR Bo Stocklin (USCG D17); CAPT Todd Styrwold (USCG D17); Anne Miller (CCG Atlantic); Tyler Yager (CCG Western); Brian Wootton (CCG Western); Tim McNamm (CCG Western); Mark Haas (CCG C&A); Joe Boudrow (USCG D1); Ron Beirnes (CCG C&A); Jeff Brady (CCG Western); Gwen Willem (CCG HQ); Orson Martinez (CCG C&A); Ryan Green (CCG LANT); Tanya Tamilio (CCG C&A)