

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Juneau

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5090
17 May 2016

MEMORANDUM

From: J. F. Barresi, CDR
CG CEU JUNEAU

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Barresi".

Reply to M. Ridgway
Attn of: 907.463.2407

To: CGD SEVENTEEN (dcs)

Thru: CGD SEVENTEEN (dx) *TRJ 17 MAY 2016*
CGD SEVENTEEN (dl) *Actual 23 May 2016*

Subj: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT FOR ARCTIC SHIELD 2016

1. Please find attached for your review and signatures, "Environmental Assessment U.S. Coast Guard Arctic Operations and Training Exercises 2016" (AS16 EA), Cover Sheet, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

3. These documents were prepared in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01 and COMDTINST M16475.1D in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations dated November 28, 1978 (40 CFR, 1500-1508).

4. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns. My POC, Mr. Mark Ridgway, can be reached at ph: 907.463.2407 or via email at Mark.S.Ridgway@uscg.mil.

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Enclosures: (1) AS16 EA
(2) AS16 EA Cover Sheet
(3) AS16 FONSI

Copy: COMDT CG-47
CGD SEVENTEEN (dm)
CG SILC (emd)
CG CEU Oakland

**US COAST GUARD
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
ARCTIC SHIELD 2016**

This environmental assessment (EA) for Arctic Shield 2016 was prepared in accordance with Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01 and Coast Guard Commandant Instruction M16475.1D and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations dated November 28, 1978 (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508).

This EA serves as a concise public document to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

This environmental assessment concisely describes the proposed action, the need for the proposal, the alternatives, and the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives. This environmental assessment also contains a comparative analysis of the action and alternatives, a statement of the environmental significance of the preferred alternative, and a list of the agencies and persons consulted during EA preparation.

14 MAY 2016 

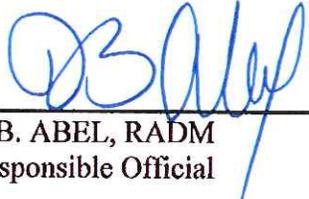
Date	MARK RIDGWAY Environmental Preparer	Environmental Protection Specialist CEU Juneau
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Date	DEAN AMUNDSON Environmental Reviewer	Environmental Protection Specialist SILC EMD
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In reaching my decision/recommendation on the US Coast Guard's proposed action, I have considered the information contained in this EA on the potential for environmental effects.

8 JUN 2016 

Date	D.B. ABEL, RADM Responsible Official	Commander District 17
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US COAST GUARD
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
ARCTIC SHIELD 2016

The US Coast Guard proposes to conduct Arctic Shield 2016 operations and training exercises in the Arctic region from June through October of 2016. Arctic Shield 2016 would provide an air, surface, and shore-side Coast Guard presence to meet mission requirements throughout the 2016 Arctic summer operational window. Arctic Shield 2016 consists of four main objectives: Perform Coast Guard Missions and Activities in the Arctic; Advance Arctic Maritime Domain Awareness; Broaden Partnerships, and; Enhance and Improve Preparedness, Prevention and Response Capabilities.

To support the objectives to Perform Coast Guard Missions and Activities, and Advance Arctic Domain Awareness, the Coast Guard would: establish of a Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Kotzebue, Alaska, and logistics/staging areas in Tin City, Kotzebue, and Barrow, Alaska; station two MH-60T helicopters in Kotzebue for search and rescue; deploy one flight deck-equipped Coast Guard cutter and two ice-capable vessels (i.e., one buoy tender and a medium icebreaker); deploy C-130 aircraft for logistics support and to support Arctic Domain Awareness, and; deploy logistics support personnel. Compliance inspections of commercial and non-commercial vessels and public training in boating safety would also be conducted.

To support the objective to Broaden Partnerships, the Coast Guard would conduct outreach efforts with Arctic communities, including water safety outreach, Kids Don't Float program outreach, commercial fishing vessel standards outreach, and sustained engagement through conferences, meetings, and symposiums. Community and tribal leader meetings would be held to inform leaders of prospective Coast Guard operations in the region.

To support the objective to Enhance and Improve Preparedness, Prevention and Response Capabilities, the Coast Guard would conduct a mass-rescue exercise - ARCTIC CHINOOK – which would be conducted in partnership with the United States Northern Command and participants from other Arctic Council member nations, federal, state, and borough agencies, and industry, within a Unified Command. Flight crews would log in-flight hours to meet ongoing training requirements and small boat training may occur with boats launched from Coast Guard cutters. Fishing vessels safety inspections would include small boats launching and maneuvers from cutter deployed boats. Oil spill response and recovery training exercises would consist of deploying and setting up shoreside spill response equipment. As part of the ARCTIC CHINOOK exercise Coast Guard Research and Development Center would conduct tests of various communications technologies.

All Coast Guard activities would adhere to the measures set forth in Coast Guard District 17 Instruction 16214.2A, which outlines procedures for avoiding marine mammals and protected species, reporting whale and protected species sightings, strandings, and injuries, and enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. A number of additional best management practices have been included in the proposed action to avoid or minimize potential impacts on the environment (see Section 2.5 of the EA). These conservation measures were developed in consultation and coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) during previous consultations and during preparation of this EA. No significant impacts resulting from the proposed action were identified in the EA analysis. The USFWS has concurred with the Coast Guard determination that the proposed action may affect but is unlikely to adversely affect any listed species. Consultation with NMFS is ongoing.

This action has been thoroughly reviewed by the Coast Guard and it has been determined, by the undersigned, that this project will have no significant effect on the human environment. This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is based on the attached Coast Guard prepared EA, which has been determined to adequately and accurately discuss the environmental issues and impacts of the proposed action and provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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Date: 2016.05.17 09:05:51 -07'00'

Date	DEAN AMUNDSON Environmental Reviewer	Environmental Protection Specialist SILC EMD
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I have considered the information contained in the EA, which is the basis for this FONSI. Based on the information in the EA and this FONSI document, I agree that the proposed action as described above, and in the EA, will have no significant impact on the human, social, or natural environment.

8 JUN 2016

Date	D.B. ABEL, RADM Responsible Official	Commander District 17
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