

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the upcoming CANUSLANT 2002 exercise which will be held June 25-27, 2002, at the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. As has been indicated in previous communications about this exercise, the format for CANUSLANT 2002 will consist of a tabletop exercise, followed by a series of facilitated breakout sessions focusing on a series of issues identified as priorities by the U.S./Canadian Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region.

The purpose of this email is to provide you the following three items:

- 1) Your issue group assignment for the breakout portion of the exercise.
- 2) Background papers on the priority issues developed by the exercise design team members.
- 3) An updated schedule for exercise participants

For the purpose of the breakout sessions, you have been assigned to the Joint Information Center issues group. The specific discussion papers for that issues group are attached to this e-mail. If you feel that you would be better assigned to another issues group, please let me know. Also, if there is an issue that you feel is of great importance and is not included in the discussion papers, please prepare an outline of this issue in the format provided and e-mail it to me. We will then try to add it to the group discussions during the exercise.

Attached are the issue papers for your assigned issues group as well as an exercise schedule for CANUSLANT 2002. Please note that the times on the agenda are in Atlantic time (one hour ahead of Eastern Time).

- [Communications Management](#)
- [Immediate response](#)
- [Public Information Annex to CANUSLANT plan](#)
- [Revised CANUSLANT 2002 Schedule of Events](#)

If you have any questions concerning the exercise or your participation, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 902-426-6035 or by email at SpicerG@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. You may also contact Lieutenant Commander Joseph Gleason (USCG) by phone at 617-223-8586 or by email at jgleason@d1.uscg.mil.

Thank you again for participating in CANUSLANT. We look forward to an excellent exercise.

Sincerely,

Garnet L. Spicer
A/Regional Exercise Officer
Rescue, Safety & Environmental Response
Coast Guard Maritimes
Phone: (902) 426-6035
Cell: 499-2621
Fax: 426-0711
Email: spicerg@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

Communications Management

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Information Center

Issue

1. What approval is required for the release of information?
2. Will media have access to containment or clean-up activities to gather photos or video? If not, how will images be gathered?
3. How will official language issues be addressed? What are the requirements?
4. What use will be made of the internet and other new media? How will this be managed?

Background

1. There are various legislative requirements for government organizations disseminating information to the public. Requirements of federal, provincial and state levels of government may be different. In addition, there are often bureaucratic or political constraints on the release of information, usually addressed through approval processes. Bringing a variety of organizations together means these differences must be reconciled in a working model appropriate for the situation.
2. Operational (safety, security) restrictions may limit media access to sites to gather material for broadcast, yet the need is legitimate. How will media be assured reasonable and equitable access to newsworthy images?
3. Both levels of government in New Brunswick are officially bilingual, which has implications for all public communications and spokespersons.
4. The internet is a powerful tool for gathering and sharing information and has been used effectively in other spills (New Carissa 1999) for maintaining images as well as current and archived media products.

Design Team Point of Contact

Name: Scott Verret **Phone:** (902) 426-6414 **Email:** verrets@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

Immediate response

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Information Center

Issue

1. Who gets called?
2. Who/what determines the lead?
3. Who decides on the need for a media centre?
4. Where will it go?
5. How will it be organized?

Background

Early and effective response to a spill is extremely important, no less so than for the public information function. A spill will involve several organizations on both sides of the border and at different levels of government, as well as the private and non-profit sectors. Public information resources must be engaged immediately to ensure coordination and accuracy of information to the public. In fact, the first few hours activating resources, making contacts and managing communications activities are critical. Failure to ensure communications are coordinated and that information passed to the public is consistent and accurate could create the perception that the response itself is not effective and that risk of impact is greater than it is. That perception could make relations with agencies, communities and other stakeholders strained and affect the actual response.

Design Team Point of Contact

Name: Scott Verret **Phone:** (902) 426-6414 **Email:** verrets@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

Public Information Annex of the Atlantic Operational Supplement of the Joint Plan

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Information Center

Issue

1. Is the Canadian component of the Public information Annex detailed enough?
2. How does it compare to the American JIC model?
3. What needs to be added?

Background

One of the primary objectives of this CANUSLANT is to address gaps in the AOS. The current Canadian portion of the Public Information Annex was drafted prior to the last CANUSLANT exercise and provides little direction for the conduct of communications and public information activities in the event of a spill. In contrast, the U.S. portion refers to a detailed "Joint Information Center" model that can be used in a variety of situations, including spills. In the past, it has been assumed that the JIC model would be followed in Canada as well (hence the name for this discussion group). However, it has not been formally adopted by Canadian government organizations and would require a steep learning curve to ensure that relevant government and non-government organizations in Canada were able to use effectively in an urgent situation.

Design Team Point of Contact

Name: Scott Verret **Phone:** (902) 426-6414 **Email:** verrets@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca