The Arctic in Russia’s Emergency Preparedness System

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MARPART CONFERENCE, NUUK, 29 AUGUST 2017.
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTIONS IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC

Method: Comparative method. Focus on correlation and coordination among traditional and untraditional preparedness fields.

- Traditional fields:
  - Search and Rescue (SAR)
  - Oil Spill Response (OSR)

- Newcomer:
  - Counterterrorism (CT)

Goal: Assess the institutional foundation for comprehensive safety and security in the Russian Arctic. Focus on regulation and organization.

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## SAR and OSR in the RSChS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unified state system for prevention and liquidation of emergencies (RSChS) - Ministry for Emergencies (MChS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Functional subsystem for coordination of SAR in internal waters and the territorial sea [“SAR on land”] - MChS</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for organizing and coordinating SAR at sea in Russia’s SAR regions - Ministry of Transport (Mintrans)</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for organizing OSR at sea - Mintrans</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for organizing OSR in internal waterways - Mintrans [*]</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for SAR for civil aviation - Mintrans</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for prevention and liquidation of emergencies of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation - Ministry of Defence</td>
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<td>Functional subsystem for prevention and liquidation of emergencies of the National Guard’s troops - National Guard [*]</td>
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*Table 1. SAR and OSR in the RSChS.*

*Source: Ingvill Moe Elgsaas.*

*(Based on Supplement to Provision on RSChS, 2003. (Updated 2017))*
National System for Counterterrorism

Figure 1. Coordinating bodies in the National System for Counterterrorism in the Russian Arctic. Source: Ingvill Moe Elgsaas.
Conclusions

• The current organization of SAR, OSR and CT presents significant obstacles to tackling SAR, OSR and CT challenges comprehensively.

• Correlation among these systems is limited and coordination among them is either absent or deficient.

• There is considerable actor overlap among the systems which may serve as a window of opportunity for cooperation.

• The two main obstacles to comprehensive safety and security in the Russian Arctic today, from an institutional perspective, are the impenetrable complexity of SAR and OSR, and the isolation of CT in Russia’s emergency preparedness.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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