



# The Arctic in Russia's Emergency Preparedness System

INGVILL MOE ELGSAAS  
NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES (IFS)

MARPART CONFERENCE, NUUK, 29 AUGUST 2017.

> NORWEGIAN DEFENCE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
> NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE  
FOR DEFENCE STUDIES

# 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.



# SAR and OSR in the RSChS

## Unified state system for prevention and liquidation of emergencies (RSChS) - Ministry for Emergencies (MChS)

Functional subsystem for coordination of SAR in internal waters and the territorial sea [“SAR on land”] - MChS

Functional subsystem for organizing and coordinating SAR at sea in Russia’s SAR regions - Ministry of Transport (Mintrans)

Functional subsystem for organizing OSR at sea - Mintrans

Functional subsystem for organizing OSR in internal waterways - Mintrans [\*]

Functional subsystem for SAR for civil aviation - Mintrans

Functional subsystem for prevention and liquidation of emergencies of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation - Ministry of Defence

Functional subsystem for prevention and liquidation of emergencies of the National Guard’s troops - National Guard [\*]

*Table 1. SAR and OSR in the RSChS.*

*Source: Ingvill Moe Elgsaas.*

*(Based on Supplement to Provision on RSChS, 2003. (Updated 2017))*

Ingvill Moe Elgsaas

# National System for Counterterrorism

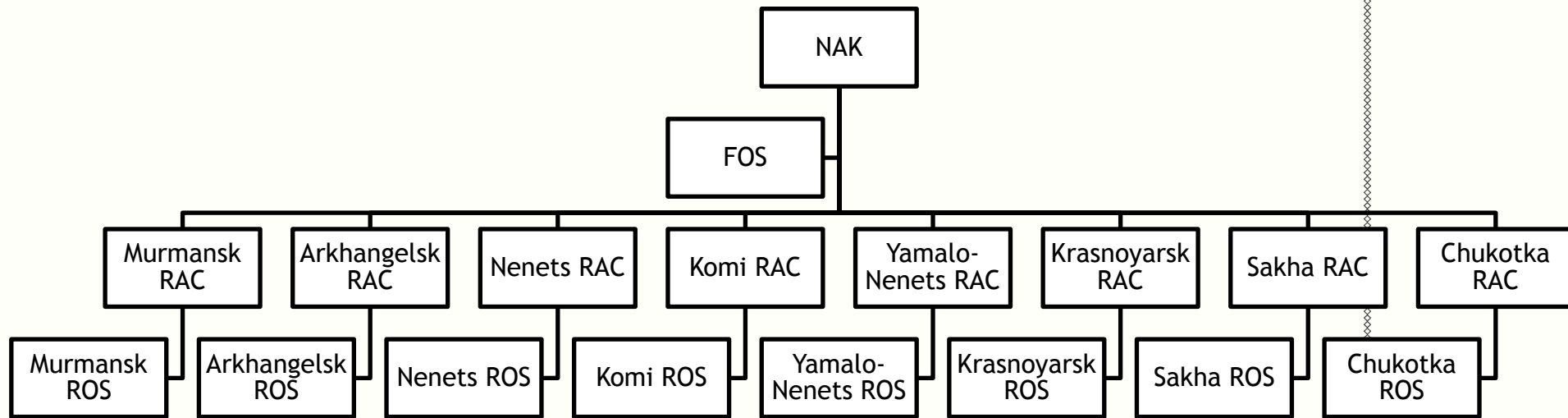


Figure 1. Coordinating bodies in the National System for Counterterrorism in the Russian Arctic.

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.

Ingvill Moe Elgsaas





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Ingvill Moe Elgsaas