

Arctic CHODs- Tour de Table & ASFR Readout



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WHAT: Arctic CHODs – Tour de Table & ASFR Readout

WHEN: 09 October

WHERE: Arctic CHODs Conference
Keflavik AFB, Iceland

WHO: GEN Jennie Carignan, CAN CHOD
GEN Michael Hyldgaard, DEN CHOD
GEN Eirik Kristoffersen, NOR CHOD
Mr. Jónas Allansson, ISL CHOD
GEN Janne Jaakkola, FIN CHOD
GEN Michael Claesson, SWE CHOD

TOPICS: PRIMARY TOPICS

- U.S. is an Arctic Nation
- U.S. Arctic Interests
- Great Power Competition
- Arctic Allies & Partners

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

- Armed Security Forces Roundtable Readout
- Armed Security Forces Roundtable Way Forward

TOPLINES

U.S. is an Arctic Nation

(U) TOPLINE: With nearly 1/5 of our territory falling within the Arctic, the U.S. as an Arctic nation follows a whole-of-government approach to the region.

U.S. Arctic Interests

(U) TOPLINE: The U.S. has six enduring interests in the Arctic: (1) regional stability, (2) environmental protection, (3) economic development, (4) Alaskan native and Arctic indigenous populations, (5) using science to increase understanding of the region, and (6) international cooperation.

Arctic Threats & Great Power Competition

(U) TOPLINE: We are pleased to be gathered here, all as NATO Allies, to discuss the threat of Russia, the PRC, and climate change to our interests and security.

Arctic Allies & Partners

(U) TOPLINE: We look forward to bolstering our exercises, capabilities, training, and readiness in the region, while making sure we reduce risk and prevent unintended escalation.

Armed Security Forces Roundtable (ASFR) Readout

(U) TOPLINE: I've been asked to provide a readout of the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable that took place in Kiruna, Sweden on 18 – 21 March 2024.

Armed Security Forces Roundtable Way Forward

(U) TOPLINE: I would like to take the opportunity to make a pitch for how we can use the ASFR forum, which is one of the few security-focused classified venues for Arctic nations.

PRIMARY TOPICS

U.S. is an Arctic Nation

- (U) **TOPLINE: With nearly 1/5 of our territory falling within the Arctic, the U.S. as an Arctic nation follows a whole-of-government approach to the region.**
 - (U) We have been firm in supporting the 2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region with an implementation plan focusing on: security, climate change and environmental protection, sustainable economic development, governance and international cooperation.
 - (U) This June, we completed the 2024 DoD Arctic Strategy which drives towards a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and cooperative Arctic by enhancing the Joint Force's Arctic capabilities, engaging with Allies and partners, and exercising presence in the Arctic.
 - (U) In September, the U.S. confirmed its first ambassador-at-large for Arctic affairs, Dr. Mike Sfraga, to organize the U.S. State Department's Arctic-related priorities.

U.S. Arctic Interests

- (U) **TOPLINE: The U.S. has six enduring interests in the Arctic: (1) regional stability, (2) environmental protection, (3) economic development, (4) Alaskan native and Arctic indigenous populations, (5) using science to increase understanding of the region, and (6) international cooperation.**
 - (U) At home, we all see the impacts of climate change on our communities, Indigenous Peoples, coastlines, fishing fleets, base infrastructure, and ability to operate in the maritime and land domains with rapid changes to sea ice, permafrost, and erosion.
 - (U) With less ice in the Arctic, there are more challenges.
 - (U) Investing in science and technology (like AI) to understand and solve the problems is critical.

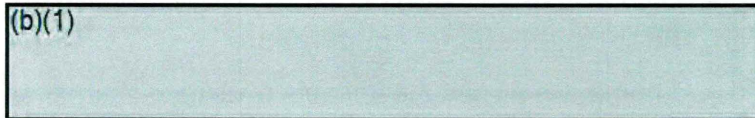
- (U) Vital to our strategy and success is working with and through Allies and partners like you, across the full spectrum of Arctic interests.

Arctic Security Concerns

- (U) **TOPLINE: We are pleased to be gathered here, all as NATO Allies, to discuss the threat of Russia, the PRC, and climate change to our interests and security.**

- (U) The increased breakdown in communications increase Russia's sense of isolation and raises the risk of misperception, unintended conflict, and escalation.
- (U) Russia continues engaging irresponsibly in military activities and enforcing unlawful maritime claims. Just last month, Russia's OKEAN naval exercise occurred. We witnessed Tu-95MS missile carriers fly near the Western coast of Alaska, a Russian destroyer fire a warning shot at a Norwegian fishing vessel, and saw continued deployments and incursions into our EEZs and those of allies like Japan.
- (U) We have seen the PRC's expanded activities in the region, including attempts to access resources and minerals, increased dual-use research with intelligence or military applications, and continued operational collaboration with Russia.

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Arctic Allies & Partners

- (U) **TOPLINE: We look forward to bolstering our exercises, capabilities, training, and readiness in the region, while making sure we reduce risk and prevent unintended escalation.**
 - (U) Operationally, I am supporting the armed services to make targeted capability investments for a Joint Force that is manned, trained, and equipped to operate in extreme cold weather and with Allies.

 - (U) We have been investing in domain awareness and capabilities in the region,
 - (U) Working with Canada on our Northern Approaches Surveillance System
 - (U) Working with Norway to boost polar awareness through improved space capabilities for communications, intelligence and environmental sensing.

 - (U) Conversations like these, coordination, and alignment are essential at a time when we see continued operational collaboration between Russia and the PRC.

ADDITIONAL TOPIC

Armed Security Forces Roundtable Readout

- (U) **TOPLINE: I've been asked to provide a readout of the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable that took place in Kiruna, Sweden on 18 – 21. March 2024.**
 - (U) First, thank Sweden for hosting the previous meeting last March and Norway for leading the virtual meeting scheduled for next week, on 16 October.

 - (U) This past meeting focused on two documents to provide strategic direction to the ASFR body: the Terms of Reference and Holistic Approach for Arctic Cooperation. The ASFR body approved these documents via silence last Friday, 4 October.

- (U) With ASFR member agreement, the U.S.-led effort on the Terms of Reference establishes a framework for future ASFR discussions.
- (U) Similarly, the Norwegian-led work on the holistic approach paper serves as an internal document to provide strategic focus and guide how we will work together going forward in the Arctic.

Armed Security Forces Roundtable Way Forward

- (U) **TOPLINE: I would like to take the opportunity to make a pitch for how we can use the ASFR forum, which is one of the few security-focused classified venues for us.**
 - (U) Since the ASFR is intended to be a venue for “free and holistic military-to-military discussions to explore and advance options for a secure and peaceful Arctic region,” it would be encouraging if the ASFR developed new and innovative options to advance and amplify what NATO (as a whole) and individual NATO member states are trying to accomplish in the Arctic.
 - (U) Perhaps this could begin with a Food for Thought paper to SACEUR or to the Military Committee
 - (U) Similarly, concepts or ideas that come out of the ACHOD meeting or the Arctic Security Policy Roundtable (ASPR) could be shared with ASFR for feedback and recommendations on implementation initiatives, as necessary.
 - (U) It is also important that ASFR readouts for the A7 and NATO get communicated appropriately via well-known communication paths to inform our forces and governments about what the forum is doing.
 - (U) Ideally, we should work to ensure that these venues propel our efforts in meaningful progress towards achieving our joint objectives.
 - (U) There are many tough problems out there, so let’s use ASFR to help solve them. I’m grateful again for your teams’ work there and look forward to hearing about how the virtual ASFR goes.



Arctic CHODs Session 2: Situational Awareness



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WHAT: Arctic CHODs – Situational Awareness

WHEN: 09 October

WHERE: Arctic CHODs Conference
Keflavik AFB, Iceland

WHO: GEN Jennie Carignan, CAN CHOD
GEN Michael Hyldgaard, DEN CHOD
GEN Eirik Kristoffersen, NOR CHOD
Mr. Jónas Allansson, ISL CHOD
GEN Janne Jaakkola, FIN CHOD
GEN Michael Claesson, SWE CHOD

TOPICS: PRIMARY TOPICS

- Significance of Situational Awareness
- Obstacles to Arctic Situational Awareness
- Capability Development and Recent Investments
- Opportunities for Collaboration

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

- Threats in the Region

POC: (b)(6)

Version 1, CAO: 1 Oct 24

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TOPLINES

Significance of Situational Awareness

(U) **TOPLINE:** If the U.S., its Allies and partners cannot see the threat, they cannot defend against it.

Obstacles to Arctic Situational Awareness

(U) **TOPLINE:** The harsh Arctic environment is challenging for global integration and coordination, deployments within the Arctic, and gaining deep, persistent regional coverage.

Capability Development and Recent Investments

(U) **TOPLINE:** Advances in communications, space-based capabilities, and sensors are increasing domain awareness, but there is still a lot to learn to truly understand the operating environment.

Opportunities for Collaboration

(U) **TOPLINE:** Interoperability, information sharing, and joint capability development will reduce inefficiencies and promote collaboration in the Arctic to leverage the diverse strengths of the Arctic nations.

Threats in the Region

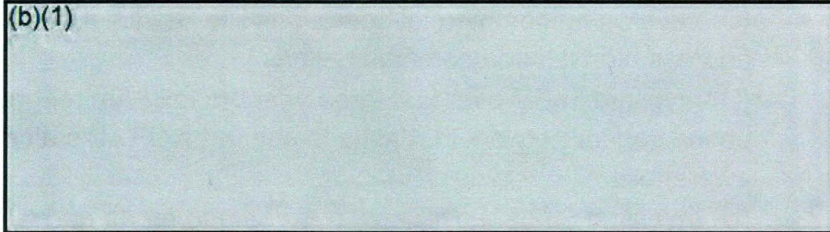
(U) **TOPLINE:** Actions by Russia and the PRC seek to undermine a secure and stable Arctic region

PRIMARY TOPICS

Significance of Situational Awareness

- (U) **TOPLINE: If the U.S., its Allies and partners cannot see the threat, they cannot defend against it.**

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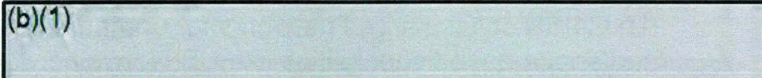
- (U) Monitoring environmental, civilian and military activities in the area

Obstacles to Arctic Situational Awareness

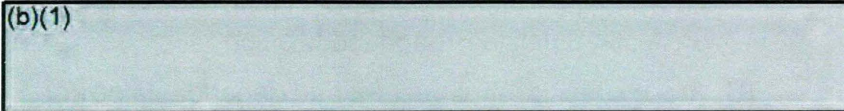
- (U) **TOPLINE: The harsh Arctic environment is challenging for global integration and coordination, deployments within the Arctic, and gaining deep, persistent regional coverage.**

- (U) Arctic warming rate 3-4x the rest of the globe, causing coastal erosion, permafrost thaw, sea ice melt, and extreme weather events
 - (U) Climate change impacts Alaska, in some areas eroding up to 20m of coast per year, and the Alaska radar systems are vulnerable

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- (U) Working to invest in Arctic and service-specific capabilities for force projection into the Arctic

Capability Development and Recent Investments

- (U) **TOPLINE: Advances in communications, space-based capabilities, and sensors are increasing domain awareness, but there is still a lot to learn to fully understand the operating environment.**
 - (U) Leveraging commercial operations like Starlink/Starshield to address high latitude communications
 - (U) Invested \$43M over last three years to field Archer ground-based sensor network in Alaska to support NORAD's air domain awareness
 - (U) Investing \$32.3M over next two years to repair and modernize NORAD'S Long-Range Radar Sites, \$60M in supporting infrastructure

Opportunities for Collaboration

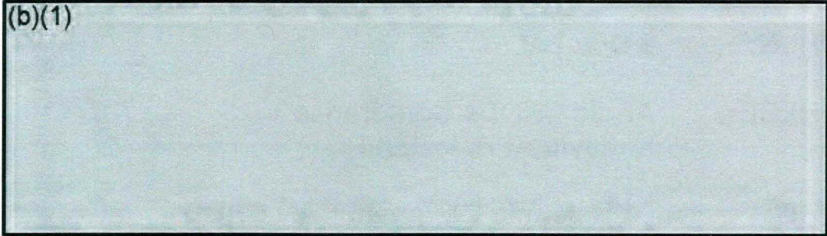
- (U) **TOPLINE: Interoperability, information sharing, and joint capability development will reduce inefficiencies and promote collaboration in the Arctic to leverage the diverse strengths of the Arctic nations.**
 - (U) Co-development of Arctic-capable systems could yield savings, optimize production, improve interoperability, and accelerate fielding.
 - (U) Arctic AI products for ice formation patterns, predictive modeling, traffic monitoring
 - (U) C4ISR solutions and networks for unmanned systems and space-based capabilities like US-Norway collaboration on Enhance Polar System Recapitalization (EPS-R) payload on Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission
 - (U) Arctic specific infrastructure and dependable power generation systems.

ADDITIONAL TOPIC

Threats in the Region

- (U) **TOPLINE: Actions by Russia and the PRC seek to undermine a secure and stable Arctic Region**

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- (U) Increased Russian and Chinese activity and partnerships in Svalbard (Norway)
- (U) PRC performs unnotified Maritime Science Research using dual-use icebreakers (2021, 2024), denying acknowledgment of U.S. EEZ and extended continental shelf claims.



Arctic CHODs Session 3: Space-Based Solutions



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- WHAT:** Arctic CHODs – Space-Based Solutions
- WHEN:** 9 October
- WHERE:** Arctic CHODs Conference
Keflavik AFB, Iceland
- WHO:** GEN Jennie Carignan, CAN CHOD
GEN Michael Hyldgaard, DEN CHOD
GEN Eirik Kristoffersen, NOR CHOD
Mr. Jónas Allansson, ISL CHOD
GEN Janne Jaakkola, FIN CHOD
GEN Michael Claesson, SWE CHOD
- TOPICS:** PRIMARY TOPICS
- US-Norway Space Collaboration
 - Information and Capability Sharing
 - Countering Russian and PRC Space Efforts
 - Russia's Sputnik-S anti-satellite weapon

POC: (b)(6)

Version 1, CAO: 1 Oct 24

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TOPLINES

US-Norway Space Collaboration

(U) TOPLINE: The U.S. and Norway have an incredibly collaborative approach to space-based capabilities.

Information and Capability Sharing

(U) TOPLINE: There are diverse opportunities to collaborate and leverage Alliance space-based capabilities.

Countering Russian and PRC Space Efforts

(U) TOPLINE: Russia and China seek to shape the strategic environment in space, just like they do in the Arctic.

Russia's Sputnik-S anti-satellite weapon

(b)(1)

PRIMARY TOPICS

US-Norway Space Collaboration

- (U) **TOPLINE: The U.S. and Norway have an incredibly collaborative approach to space-based capabilities.**
 - (U) In August 2024, SpaceX launched the Norwegian Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission constellation from Vandenberg Space Force Base
 - (U) First U.S. military payload hosted on a commercial satellite operated by a foreign partner.
 - (U) Hosted U.S. Enhanced Polar System – Recapitalization Payload

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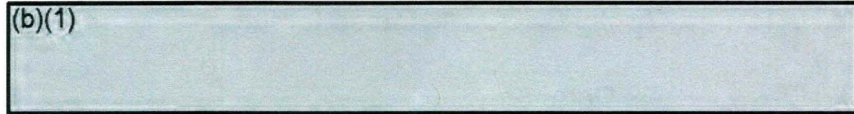
Information and Capability Sharing

- (U) **TOPLINE: There are diverse opportunities to collaborate and leverage Alliance space-based capabilities.**
 - (U) The Combined Space Operations Initiative that Norway joined in 2023 (US, UK, CAN, NZL, AUS, FRA, SEU, JPN, ITA) seeks to improve cooperation, increase interoperability, optimize resources and deter conflict.
 - (U) There are opportunities for military and commercial partnerships to support both scientific and security efforts in space, such as Starlink deployment in Ukraine.
 - (U) Increase transparency promotes fair play and supports the rules-based order across the competition continuum in this emerging domain

Countering Russian and PRC Space Efforts

- (U) **TOPLINE: Russia and China seek to shape the strategic environment in space, just like they do in the Arctic.**

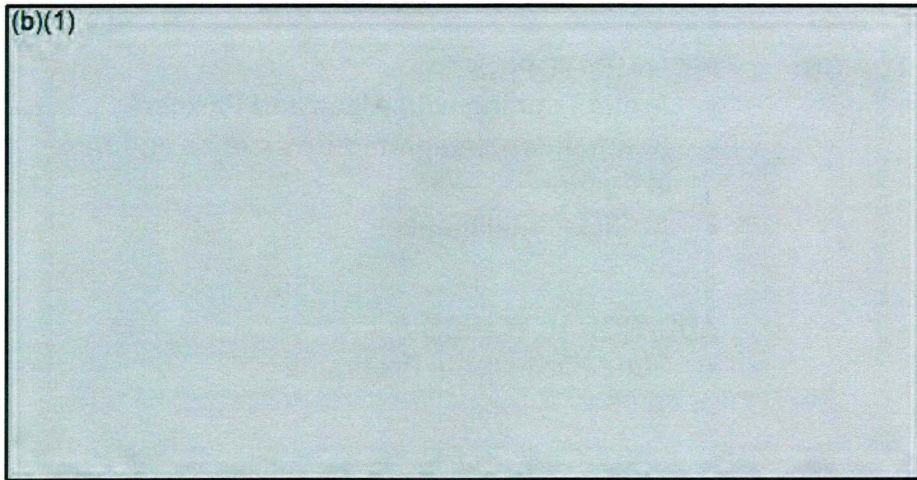
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- (U) Increased collaboration by Arctic nations on space-based solutions will provide more robust capabilities especially for communications and situational awareness
- (U) Increasing redundancy makes for more robust, resilient systems less susceptible to damage that may impact operational readiness

Russian Sputnik-S Anti-Satellite Weapon

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- (U) Climate, economic, food and other interdependent and interrelated systems would be severely damaged causing instability and increasing uncertainty

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Arctic CHODs Hosted Lunch



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- WHAT:** Arctic CHODs – Hosted Lunch
- WHEN:** 09 October
- WHERE:** Arctic CHODs Conference
Keflavik AFB, Iceland
- WHO:** GEN Jennie Carignan, CAN CHOD
GEN Michael Hyldgaard, DEN CHOD
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GEN Janne Jaakkola, FIN CHOD
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- TOPICS:** PRIMARY TOPICS
- Arctic Training with Allies and Partners
 - Competition, Integrated Deterrence and Risk Mitigation
 - Artificial Intelligence
- ADDITIONAL TOPICS
- State Partnership Programs

POC: (b)(6)

Version 1, CAO: 2 Oct 24

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TOPLINES

Arctic Training with Allies and Partners

(U) **TOPLINE:** The U.S. trains and exercises to learn from, and integrate with, our Arctic Allies and partners, like in Northern Viking 2024.

Competition, Integrated Deterrence, and Risk Mitigation

(U) **TOPLINE:** Deliberate development, planning and execution enable a whole of alliance approach to deterring aggression.

Artificial Intelligence

(U) **TOPLINE:** Artificial Intelligence is now part of everyday life, and we are incorporating it more and more into military operations.

State Partnership Programs

(U) **TOPLINE:** Excited for the Total Force approach to the Arctic with new NGS SPPs between Finland (VA, 2024), Sweden (NY, 2024) and Norway (MN, 2023).

PRIMARY TOPICS

Arctic Training with Allies and Partners

- (U) **TOPLINE: The U.S. trains and exercises to learn from, and integrate with, our Arctic Allies and partners.**
 - (U) Northern Viking wrapped up in September, with Denmark, France, Iceland, Norway, Poland, U.S. plus NATO's Allied Maritime Command working on multi-domain command and control in the defense of Iceland and the Sea Lines of communication in the GIUK Gap.
 - (U) Arctic Training for our Joint Force is planned and executed by our Combatant Commanders (CCDRs) and Service Chiefs.
 - (U) USNORAD/USNORTHCOM and USEUCOM, the two primary Combatant Commands with Arctic region responsibilities, conduct exercises that train our Joint Force under unique Arctic conditions.
 - (U) Our Joint Force would benefit by continuing and expanding combined training in the Arctic. This would allow us to learn from partner nation Arctic-Capable forces, increasing interoperability while gaining valuable operating experience in the Arctic environment.

Competition, Integrated Deterrence, and Risk Mitigation

- (U) **TOPLINE: Deliberate development, planning and execution enable a whole of alliance approach to deterring aggression**
 - (U) The Joint Force campaigns in the Arctic regions through exercises and operations to compete globally and maintain the ability to respond at the time and place of our choosing.
 - (U) The Arctic represents an opportunity to train, exercise, and solidify integrated deterrence concepts with allies and partners.
 - (U) Continued training and exercising with allies and partners in the Arctic can mitigate operational and strategic risks and enhance regional security through integrated deterrence.
 - (U) Planned investments in U.S. Arctic capabilities, equipment and infrastructure will improve our future training capacity.

Artificial Intelligence

- (U) **TOPLINE: Artificial Intelligence is now part of everyday life, and we are incorporating it more and more into military operations.**
 - (U) US Army and Marine Corps have both tested robot dogs, mechanized canines that now have an AI-enabled gun turret for a potential counter-drone capability.
 - (U) Using it for pattern recognition with boat, air, people traffic
 - (U) Potentially useful for climate, but changes in the different Arctic climates introduce biases that need to be corrected in order to be helpful

ADDITIONAL TOPIC

State Partnership Program (Sweden, Finland, Norway)

- (U) **TOPLINE: Excited for the Total Force approach to the Arctic with new NGS SPPs between Finland (VA, 2024), Sweden (NY, 2024) and Norway (MN, 2023).**
 - (U) Formalized the Finnish-Virginia relationship in May 2024, after decades of friendship and partnership between the two units. Efforts will stress interoperability across different capabilities to include cyber and the Arctic.
 - (U) New York National Guard and Sweden partnership began in July, with the partnership focusing on exercising large unit formations.
 - (U) Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard participate in winter survival training, such as digging snow caves. They also do troop and cultural exchanges.

UNCLASSIFIED

Arctic CHODs Hosted Dinner



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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- WHEN:** 09 October
- WHERE:** Arctic CHODs Conference
Keflavik AFB, Iceland
- WHO:** GEN Jennie Carignan, CAN CHOD
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- TOPICS:** **PRIMARY TOPICS**
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- ADDITIONAL TOPICS**
- State Partnership Programs

POC:

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Version 1, CAO: 2 Oct 24

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 - (U) Our Joint Force would benefit by continuing and expanding combined training in the Arctic. This would allow us to learn from partner nation Arctic-Capable forces, increasing interoperability while gaining valuable operating experience in the Arctic environment.

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 - (U) The Arctic represents an opportunity to train, exercise, and solidify integrated deterrence concepts with allies and partners.
 - (U) Continued training and exercising with allies and partners in the Arctic can mitigate operational and strategic risks and enhance regional security through integrated deterrence.
 - (U) Planned investments in U.S. Arctic capabilities, equipment and infrastructure will improve our future training capacity.

Artificial Intelligence

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**Office Call with ISL Prime Minister
and Foreign Minister**



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- WHAT:** Office Call with Iceland Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
- WHEN:** 10 October
- WHERE:** Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- WHO:** Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, Prime Minister
Ms. Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjörd Gylfadóttir,
Foreign Minister
- TOPICS:** PRIMARY TOPICS
- Defense of Iceland
 - Information Sharing Efforts
 - U.S. Supported Capability Upgrades
 - Maritime Activities IVO Iceland

POC: (b)(6)

Version 1.1, CAO: 03 Oct 24

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~~Dissemination Matrix~~
~~Classification~~

Office Call with ISL Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
10 October 2024

TOPLINES

(U) Defense of Iceland

~~(S//DISPLAY ONLY ICS)~~ TOPLINE: The U.S. is committed to the Defense of Iceland in accordance with our 1951 Defense Agreement.

(U) Information Sharing Efforts

(U) TOPLINE: Information sharing with our Allies and Partners ensures our ability to collaborate and cooperate effectively.

(U) U.S. Supported Capability Upgrades

~~(S//DISPLAY ONLY ICS)~~ TOPLINE: Capability upgrades in Iceland contribute to our collective security.

(U) Maritime Activities IVO Iceland

(U) TOPLINE: Iceland is a valued Ally in the maritime theater, and we appreciate opportunities to collaborate in this space.

PRIMARY TOPICS

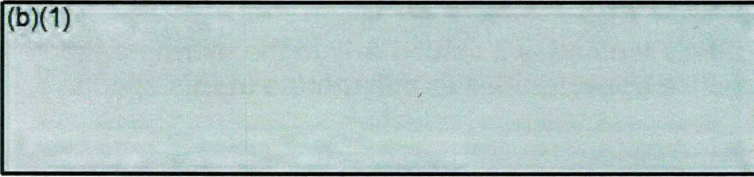
(U) Defense of Iceland

- ~~(S//DISPLAY ONLY//ISL)~~ **TOPLINE: The U.S. is committed to the Defense of Iceland in accordance with our 1951 Defense Agreement.**
 - (U) The U.S. has a track record indicating that we meet our commitments to our Allies and Partners.
 - (U) The U.S. remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of the North Atlantic.

(U) Information Sharing

- (U) **TOPLINE: Information sharing with our Allies and Partners ensures our ability to collaborate and cooperate effectively.**

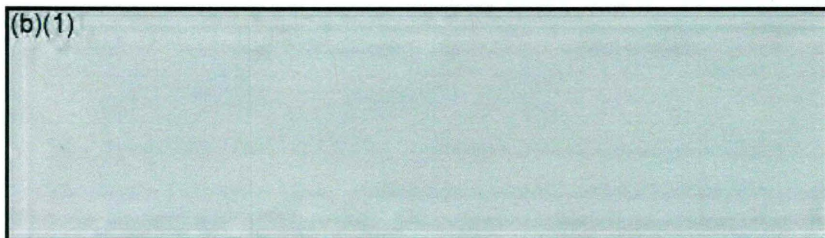
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(U) U.S. Supported Capability Upgrades

- ~~(S//DISPLAY ONLY//ISL)~~ **TOPLINE: Capability upgrades in Iceland contribute to our collective security.**

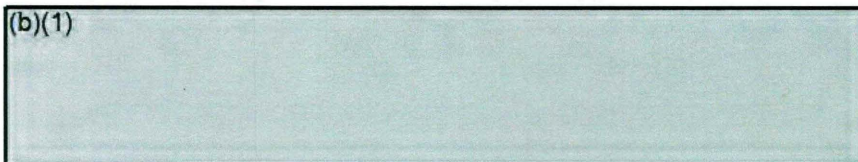
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Office Call with ISL Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
10 October 2024

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Arctic CHODs Bilat with Iceland



General CQ Brown, Jr.
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- WHAT:** Arctic CHODs Bilat with Iceland
- WHEN:** 10 October
- WHERE:** Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- WHO:** Mr. Jónas G. Allansson, ISL Director General
- TOPICS:** PRIMARY TOPICS
- Defense of Iceland
 - Information Sharing Efforts
 - U.S. Supported Capability Upgrades
 - Maritime Activities IVO Iceland

POC: (b)(6)

Version 2.1, CAO: 03 Oct 24

~~SECRET//NOFORN//SI~~
~~SECRET//NOFORN//SI~~
~~SECRET//NOFORN//SI~~

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(U) Maritime Activities IVO Iceland

(U) TOPLINE: Iceland is a valued Ally in the maritime theater, and we appreciate opportunities to collaborate in this space.

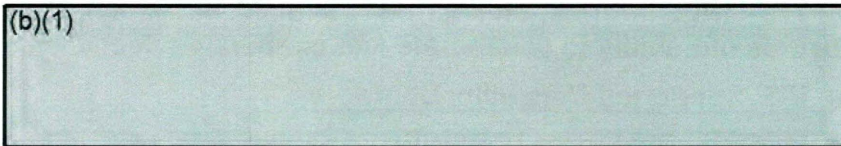
PRIMARY TOPICS

(U) Defense of Iceland

- ~~(S//DISPATCH ONLY//ICL)~~ **TOPLINE: The U.S. is committed to the Defense of Iceland in accordance with our 1951 Defense Agreement.**

— (U) The U.S. has a track record indicating that we meet our commitments to our Allies and Partners.

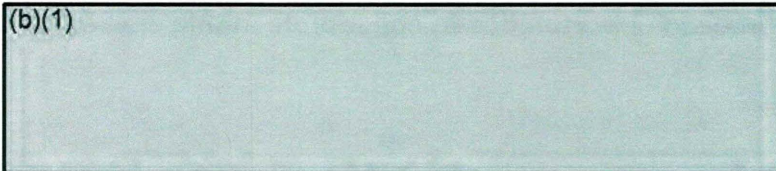
— (b)(1)



(U) Information Sharing Efforts

- (U) **TOPLINE: Information sharing with our Allies and Partners ensures our ability to collaborate and cooperate effectively.**

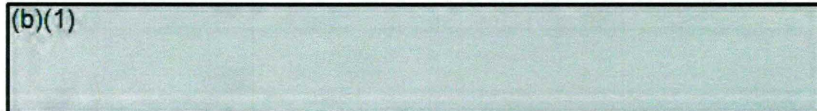
— (b)(1)



(U) U.S. Supported Capability Upgrades

- ~~(S//DISPATCH ONLY//ICL)~~ **TOPLINE: Capability upgrades in Iceland contribute to our collective security.**

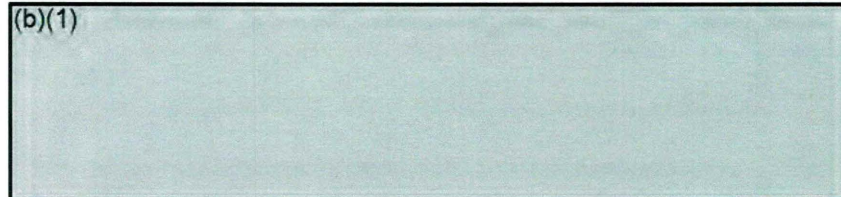
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(U) Maritime Activities IVO Iceland

- (U) **TOPLINE: Iceland is a valued Ally in the maritime theater, and we appreciate opportunities to collaborate in this space.**

— (b)(1)



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(b)(1)

