



CENTER FOR ARCTIC STUDY & POLICY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY



NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Our mission is to increase the DHS/USCG effectiveness of governance and security in the Arctic by promoting research and academic thought, broadening collaborative partnerships, and educating future Coast Guard leaders about the complexities of this unique region.

Captain's Log

A Message from CAPT Brigid Pavilonis, Ph.D., USCGA Humanities Department Chair.

Greetings from the Center for Arctic Study and Policy. The delay in getting this quarter's newsletter out is for a very good reason – we were hiring a new CASP Director!

It is with great pleasure that I announce our hire of Ms. Cara Condit, as our new Center for Arctic Study and Policy (CASP) Director. Cara joined us on September 5th and has hit the ground running on many CASP initiatives. She brings with her an incredible portfolio of experience, both as an afloat operator and as an attorney in the Coast Guard's Office of Maritime and International Law. Specializing in international and environmental law, Cara advised senior leaders on the Polar Code, MARPOL, and the CG Arctic Strategy. With a terminal degree in National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations Law from the George Washington University Law School, Cara rounds out the small staff of CASP with a policy perspective shaped by her active duty legal experience.

Cara's addition to the CASP team is significant not only because of my excitement in welcoming her, but also because she represents the fulfillment of the permanent Executive Director position. An Executive Director is critical to support the research and cadet-centric growth of CASP by maintaining relationships with our academic counterparts, our alumni, our Fellows, and our broader Coast Guard clients. An Executive Director represents the permanency of CASP and our ongoing commitment to provide cadets and the Coast Guard with novel approaches to policy and strategy development in the Arctic. Cara, welcome aboard!

Executive Summary

Ms. Cara Condit, LL.M., CASP Executive Director



First of all, thank you CAPT Pavilonis, Dr. Zuczek, Dr. Pincus, and LCDR McKenzie for welcoming me with an engaging enthusiasm. I am excited to help lead CASP and humbled to join such a highly-regarded group of people. To our colleagues in D17 and Headquarters, the generous Class of '65, and of course, our ever-impressive Fellows, I look forward to meeting and learning from each of you. Thank you for your time and advocacy on behalf of CASP.

I am writing this as I begin my third week at CASP, already awestruck by the volume and significance of CASP's contributions to policy dialogue and innovation. Through collaborative research and consequential writings, CASP's integral role in emerging Arctic strategy will only increase. Despite competing demands and limited resources, CASP is helping prepare future leaders for a new world, while supporting Coast Guard efforts to understand this rapidly-changing environment. I am inspired by this challenge.

CASP Accomplishments

High Latitude Study: The Coast Guard's original High-latitude study (HLS), written in 2009 and released in 2010, consisted of 1300 pages over three volumes. Since 2010, the high latitudes have experienced several notable changes, including the development of the polar code, the establishment of the ACGF, and record low sea ice years. As a result, in 2016 the Deputy Commandant for Operations suggested the need to update the HLS.

The Assistant Commandant for Resources selected CASP to lead the research and writing of the addendum, with the goal of addressing significant changes in the operational and strategic landscapes of the high latitudes since 2009.

Over the last year, and with the help of experts noted below, CASP examined the current operating environment and re-assessed many Coast Guard assumptions. Following careful scrutiny by the experts comprising its task force, CASP formally briefed senior leadership this month on the content and analysis of the HLS addendum. Featuring detailed analysis of the six different focus areas in the Arctic and Antarctic, this report provides a basis for informed congressional testimony by Coast Guard and DHS leadership.

CASP would like to recognize the Fellows, Dr. Lawson Brigham, Vice Admiral Roger Rufe, USCG (retired), and Mr. James Ellis for their exceptional insight and contributions to this project. CASP would also like to thank our panel of experts who provided invaluable contributions to HLS: Dr. Walter Berbrick, Dr. Thomas Cronin, Major General Randy "Church" Kee, USAF (retired), Dr. Nancy Kinner, Dr. Donald Perovich, and Dr. Theodore Scambos. Thank you all!



Arctic research photo courtesy of Dr. Donald Perovich, Professor of Engineering at Dartmouth.



LCDR McKenzie, ENS Walsh, ENS Grisell, and ENS Phillips next to Funakoshi Memorial on the Chukchi Sea

Cadet Advanced Research Projects: In the Department of Humanities, the 2016-2017 Arctic cadet ARP focused on "Mitigating Maritime Risk in the Arctic: Partnerships for Technology." A team of three cadets explored public and private sector partnerships for technology to improve Coast Guard capabilities in the Arctic. The team prepared a detailed report offering recommendations to improve Coast Guard maritime domain awareness in the Arctic.

As part of their research, the team traveled to Anchorage and Utqiagvik, Alaska, in March of 2017. The Academy cadets and LCDR Jeremy McKenzie of the Humanities Department had quality interactions with Mayor Harry K. Brower, Jr., of the North Slope Borough, Sector Anchorage, the Arctic Domain Awareness Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Command, the Institute of the North, and the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center. The cadets gained invaluable interpersonal relationship-building experience and new perspectives on issues facing today's policy-makers. In the words of now-Ensign James Walsh,

I [was] face-to-face with people who live and breathe the issues that my group was researching. I walked away with an immense respect for the academic process, a sense of pride for having been part of it, and many new friends and mentors that I met along the way.

Building on last year's success, the 2017-2018 Arctic ARP has begun investigating competing perspectives on threats in the Arctic. Working with the European Command, our next update will share more on their travels and research.

CASP continues to partner with Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. Dr. Rebecca Pincus, the Class of '65 Chair of Arctic Studies, and LCDR McKenzie advised two graduate students, Robyn Sundlee and Sonia Cuesta, on a project titled, [Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Civic Engagement and Diplomacy in the Bering Strait Region](#). Their project proposes several recommendations for improved relations in the Bering Strait Region, including standardization of the federal-tribal consultation process, appointment of tribal liaisons, extension of the Coast Guard District 17 Commander's billet, inclusion of traditional knowledge in governance decisions, and a U.S.-Russia bilateral agreement on Indigenous cultural exchange and preservation.

CASP Fellow, Professor Lawson Brigham kindly carved out some time from his busy schedule last month to sit down with the new director and discuss new engagement opportunities for CASP and our Fellows. Most notably, Dr. Brigham was recently appointed to the National Academy's Polar Research Board (PRB). The PRB, established in 1958, promotes excellence in polar science and provides independent scientific guidance to federal agencies on research issues in the Arctic, Antarctic, and other high north regions throughout the world. Dr. Brigham will serve initially for three years as one of 15 Board members who possess special expertise and experience working in the polar regions. *Congratulations Dr. Brigham!*

Dr. Brigham also published two new articles: "Arctic Maritime Connections," for *Reconnecting Asia Project*, Center for Strategic & International Studies (May 2017) and "The Changing Maritime Arctic and New Marine Operations" in R. Beckman, T. Henriksen, K. Kraabel, E. Molenaar, and J. Roach, Editors, *Governance of Arctic Shipping* (September 2017).

CASP researcher, LCDR Jeremy McKenzie, addressed the Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council this May, providing an overview of CASP, the Coast Guard's role in the Arctic, and his research on cooperation in the Bering Strait region.

Dr. Rebecca Pincus recently traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland with three cadets for the ARCTIC GUARDIAN exercise of the Arctic Coast Guard Forum. The cadets participated in the command cell at Icelandic Coast Guard HQ, and then were transferred by helicopter to the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Pierre Radisson* for an overnight stay to observe damage control exercises and engage with colleagues from the Icelandic and Canadian Coast Guards.



Cadets 1/c Wheeler, 1/c Klawinski and 1/c Chen (L-R) stand with ADM Zukunft during a briefing onboard the CCGS *Pierre Radisson* during ARCTIC GUARDIAN exercises.

Dr. Pincus also travelled to London alongside Mr. Mike Emerson, CG-5PW, and Mr. Mike Sollosi, CG-NAV-2, to meet with representatives from the Russian Ministry of Transport on transit routes in the Bering Strait. This successful meeting developed from the workshop co-organized by CASP with Bowdoin College in September 2016, which brought domestic and international scholars and experts together to discuss cooperative maintenance of international straits. The report, *Governing Across the Waves: Global Insights for Transboundary Waterways Management in Sensitive and Congested Maritime Spaces* is available at <http://www.uscga.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=66466>.

Thank you to Mr. Brian Runion and LTJG Maksim Sivohins from the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center. Mr. Runion and LTJG Sivohins visited the Coast Guard Academy and briefed faculty and cadets on Coast Guard intelligence operations in the Arctic and assisted the ARP cadets with their research.