

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

# Operation Nanook 2014 to take place in York Sound, Igaluit

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (August 14, 2014) -** Operation Nanook 2014, an emergency response exercise involving the Government of Nunavut, the Canadian Armed Forces and several other federal agencies, is taking place in York Sound, an area in Frobisher Bay south of Iqaluit, from August 20 to 29, 2014.

Operation Nanook is an annual exercise that simulates a disaster requiring an emergency response from a wide-range of public agencies.

This year's exercise simulates a stranded passenger cruise ship in York Sound and a search-and-rescue operation for a local fishing vessel. Both scenarios were designed to provide maximum training value for all departments involved, including a large number of Iqaluit-based responders. Two key aspects of Operation Nanook are mounting a quick response to preserve life, and protecting the environment.

"Operation Nanook 2014 provides our emergency responders with real-time practice in responding to a disaster or emergency. Ensuring we can act quickly in times of crisis is key to keeping Nunavummiut safe and secure," said Tom Sammurtok, Minister of Community and Government Services. "The Government of Nunavut is grateful for the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Coast Guard, Public Safety Canada and the many federal agencies and partners participating in this year's exercise."

"Operation Nanook 2014 provides a tremendous opportunity for federal, territorial and municipal and Aboriginal partners in the North to work together with a focus on protecting the people and environment of the North," said Brig.-Gen. Greg Loos, Commander of Canadian Armed Forces Joint Task Force (North).

"Training in the North to respond to emergencies in the North is a responsible way to be prepared. Conducting this training with our northern partners enhances our interoperability, which is vitally important in the team approach we take to supporting safety and security in the Arctic," said Lt.-Col. Deanna Manson, Task Force Commander of Operation Nanook 2014.

Personnel and equipment from numerous federal departments begin arriving in Iqaluit this week in preparation for the exercise. There will be an increase in air traffic with the arrival of Royal

Canadian Air Force C-17s, C-130s and the familiar yellow Twin Otters of the Yellowknife-based 440 Transport Squadron. Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy ships will be visible in Frobisher Bay before the operation starts.

Nunavut Emergency Management will enable its Territorial Emergency Response Centre (TERC) during Operation Nanook 2014, and is sending search-and-rescue first responders to assist at the York Sound training grounds throughout the exercise.

All activities during Operation Nanook are simulated. Civilian and military role-players will be present at York Sound and in Iqaluit facilities (hospitals, community centres, etc.) to simulate persons needing help, or persons assisting in the exercise. Iqalummiut may encounter military or civilian personnel with life-like injuries, however, please note these are only role-players with simulated injuries.

As well, hunters, fishers and boaters are reminded that there will be increased activity at York Sound from August 23 to 28. Although all reasonable attempts are made not to interrupt hunting, fishing and boating activities, individuals are asked to avoid these areas during these dates, if possible.

#### **Quick Facts**

- . More than 800 personnel are involved in the operation
- . Iqaluit is the base of operations for both scenarios
- Participants of Operation Nanook 2014 will hold a Community Day near Nakasuk School on August 23, with displays, demonstrations of equipment and ship tours.

#### **Associated Links**

Learn about Operation Nanook:

http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-canada-north-america-recurring/op-nanook.page

Learn about Joint Task Force (North):

http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-regional-jtf-north/jtf-north.page

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