OP NUNAKPUT 2019
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GENERAL

One of Joint Task Force (North) (JTFN)'s primary goals is to strengthen security and demonstrate Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic through surveillance and presence operations. A component of this mandate is manifested through Operation NANOOK NUNAKPUT (OP NA NK), an annual JTFN operation to conduct surveillance and presence activities which are complementary to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) maritime enforcement activities, Environment Canada (EC) business, Parks Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

In order to enhance interoperability with our Northern partners, JTFN will conduct coordinated operations and training with RCMP, DFO and EC maritime enforcement activities in the Northwest Passage. This operation will be occurring from 01 August to 30 September 2019.

JTFN will conduct a surveillance and presence operation, concurrent with the DFO, EC and RCMP activities, using Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) surveillance and reconnaissance assets and 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (1st CRPG) presence locations to characterize the activity in the Northwest Passage.

LOCATIONS

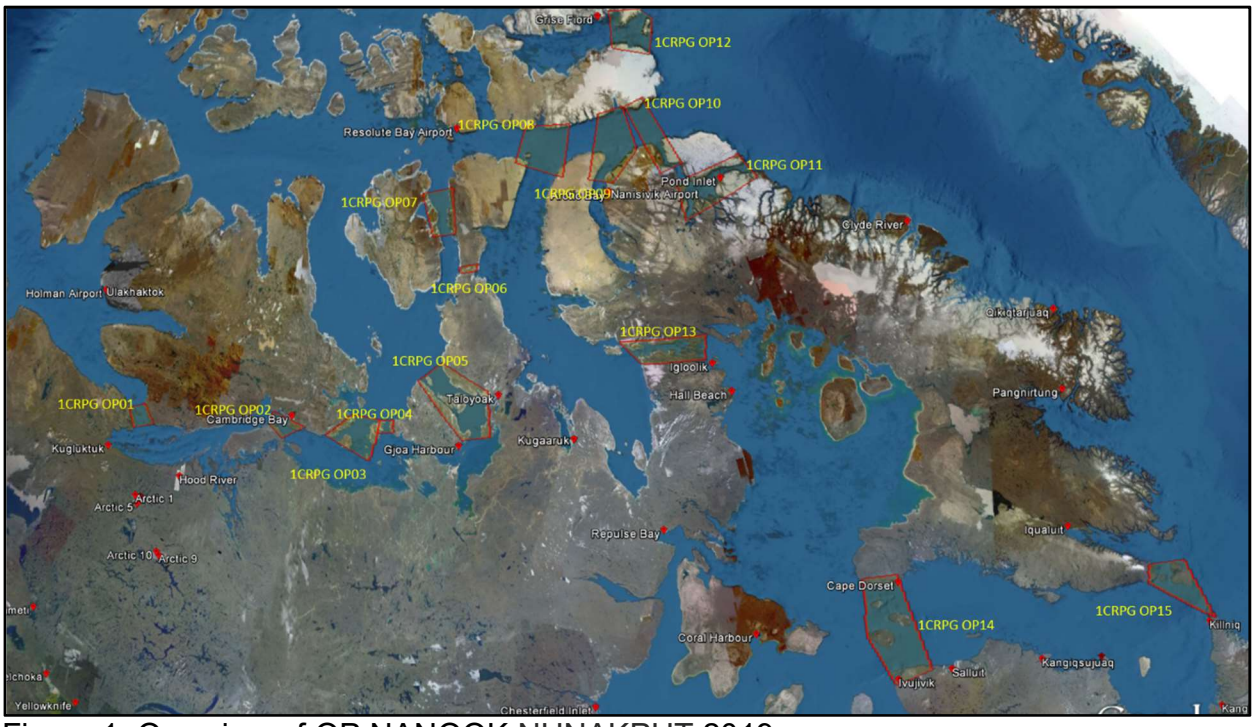

Figure 1, Overview of OP NANOOK NUNAKPUT 2019

PERSON DAYS ON LAND

A maximum of 75 personnel will be on the land at a given time for a maximum of 21 consecutive days. Personnel will deploy in four groups of up to 15 personnel in each group to some of the fifteen identified locations within the Op Box (Fig. 1).

CAMP DETAILS

A camp is expected to be established in the vicinity on Cambridge Bay. However, the requirement for a camp will be determined closer to the date of the operation. The Camp will be set up to house up to 150 personnel in total and will be located within the community boundaries of Cambridge Bay.

ROUTES

All major movements will be by air. Some minor movements may occur over short distances of water with a watercraft.

MAJOR EQUIPMENT INVOLVED

The following table lists major equipment operating out on the land and water. Please see Annex A for examples of equipment.

Equipment type and quantity	Dimensions	Proposed use
2 x CH-146 Griffon	17.1m X 14.0m	Transportation of troops and equipment
4 x small boats	Various	Transportation of troops and equipment
10 x Generators	Example Dimensions: L1.0m/W.7m/H.75m	Temporary power
1 x CC-138 Twin Otter Aircraft	L15.1m/W9.81m/H5.66m/Wt5600kg	Transportation of troops and equipment
8 x Tents	5.8m X 5.8m	Shelter
8 x Multi-spectrum observation capability	2m X 2m	Vessel Traffic tracking
20 x All-Terrain Vehicle	2m X 2m	Transportation of troops
8 x Heaters	L1.0m/W1.0 m/H1.05 m	Heating

FUEL AND HAZMAT INVOLVED

Fuel will be obtained at each community. There will be a requirement for up to 50,000 liters of fuel to be cached. The caches will be removed before the conclusion of the operation.

Hazardous materials and chemicals	Quantity and capacity of containers	Total amount (in litres)	Proposed storage methods
Hazardous waste	TBD	Less than 100L	Empty petroleum product containers and the by-products of standard maintenance operations. Waste oil or other hazardous materials will be stored within a designated HAZMAT storage area with proper containment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to note that DND operates under strict environmental guidelines. In and out clearances will be conducted at each location used for resupply or bed down. Digital images of locations will be taken during and after use and will be included in the Post-Operation Environmental Report. Some of the environmental protection measures that will be implemented include:

All CAF personnel will be briefed with respect to general environmental awareness, including spill response and reporting procedures;

All hazardous materials, fuel storage, generator and vehicle parking areas are subject to inspection by environmental support staff. All CAF involved elements will appoint an environmental representative, accountable for the supervision of best environmental practices;

All hazardous materials and fuel will be stored in approved storage containers and facilities, including compliant secondary containment;

Generators will be placed within suitable containment throughout the operation, and will be emptied for transportation;

Local treatment systems and municipal landfill or incineration will be used for the disposal of human waste wherever possible. Waste generated by personnel on the land will be bagged and packed out for appropriate disposal;

Local landfills will be used for the disposal of combustible waste. Disposal will occur in accordance with Territorial and Municipal regulations;

Local landfill, incineration or recycling centers, where available, will be used for the disposal of non-combustible wastes. Disposal will occur in accordance with Territorial and Municipal requirements; and

Hazardous waste will be appropriately packaged and transported to a suitable facility for disposal, in accordance with appropriate regulations – provided by a third party waste disposal facility if required.

Permitting process requires detailed information regarding the nature and locations of the operation, and the information contained in the following document is all known information at the time of production. Minor variances may occur during the conduct of the operation. Such variances will be captured in Post-Operation Environmental Report and will include the precise locations used during the operation, along with an overall review of the execution.

The following is a list of potential impacts that could result from the proposed activities:

Activity and waterborne traffic from the proposed activities is expected to increase ambient noise levels and may also cause minor disturbance to the wildlife within the vicinity of activity locations. However, since there will be local Canadian Rangers accompanying all patrols, and all activities will be temporary, impacts are expected to be minimal.

Aircraft involved in the operation will release particulate into the atmosphere and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Air quality in the vicinity of activities may be temporarily reduced due to the increased fumes and dust. Due to the relatively short duration of the activity, and the use of new, lower emission outboard motors, impacts to the atmosphere are expected to be minimal.

Despite direction to ensure that all waste material is to be properly contained and transported back to municipal facilities for disposal, the potential exists for waste material produced during the Operation to litter property or be windblown onto surrounding locations. However, every effort will be made to ensure this does not happen, therefore the impact is considered to be easily mitigated and insignificant.

Should a fuel leak and/or spill occur from watercraft, aircraft, or other equipment, the possibility exists for contamination of surface water resources, soil and/or groundwater. However, all units involved will have spill cleanup supplies onboard, and will be instructed on their use; therefore the potential for a malfunction and/or accident to cause any significant impact is low.

Although there is potential for activities to impact the environment, mitigation measures have been established to minimize their significance. These mitigation measures, include, but are not limited to:

An environmental brief will be provided to personnel involved in the exercise to ensure they have the required general level of environmental awareness and knowledge, and are aware of requirements related to wildlife prevention, response and reporting.

Mounted and dismounted movement will be restricted in sensitive areas. While ashore, in the event that established trails are impassable, personnel will be instructed to use alternate routes for as limited a distance as necessary.

Individuals will be tasked to ensure that waste material and litter is collected on the site prior to departing the camp location. All waste produced on site will be packed out to municipal facilities for proper disposal.

In order to prevent any unnecessary wildlife encounters, all waste will be appropriately contained, stored and removed from the sites as soon as possible.

Personnel will be made aware of the potential for threats from local wildlife and instructed to avoid encounters or disrupt any wildlife unless absolutely necessary.

All activities that generate excess noise will be minimized to the furthest extent possible.

Aircraft and equipment will be maintained in good repair to prevent leakage of fuel, oil, etc.

Use of spill containment items including drip pans or mobile plastic berms will be maximized during refueling.

All fuel storage systems and containers used in the proposed operation will be transported, stored, protected etc according to proper legislation, regulation, codes and guidelines.

HAZMAT prevention/response resources (spill pans, hydrocarbon spill pads, absorbal etc.) will be available and ready for use if required. Spill kits will be specifically located at all fuel storage areas, maintenance areas and refueling areas.

Photographs will be taken of all training location sites, and temporary camp locations before during and after use.

Based on all the information available regarding the proposed operation and the surrounding environment, if designed and carried out using the knowledge of the local Canadian Rangers in to addition to the identified mitigation measures, and follow-up programs and monitoring, the operation is not likely to cause any significant effect on the environment.

CONCLUSION

The information provided is the most accurate information available at this time, and that dates and locations may change slightly due to unpredictable circumstances such as weather. Regardless of circumstance, the CAF is accountable to environmental stewardship, and will conduct the operation with due diligence towards the environment.