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ONR CHAIR IN ARCTIC MARINE SCIENCE

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LONG TERM GOALS

A research Chair in Arctic Marine Science has been established by the Chief of Naval Research to increase the awareness of naval operational concerns among national and international polar scientists across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

OBJECTIVES

To foster oceanographic research in the Arctic, acquaint naval officer students and other students with Arctic problems, reduce results of pure research to operational usage and publicize Navy interest in the Arctic region.

APPROACH

Annually the PI conducts a national/international search for candidates for the Chair. Solicitations are made by letter to potential candidates, to institutions having a polar interest and by advertisement in EOS. Candidates are selected based on their reputation, scholarly contributions to polar science and their science specialty to ensure broad representation from the observational and modeling communities. Typical candidates are those with specialties in remote sensing, ice physics, underwater acoustics, chemical oceanography, climate dynamics as well as the more traditional physical oceanographer or atmospheric scientist.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During FY97 CAPT Lawson W. Brigham USCG (Ret.) occupied the Chair. He brings a wealth of knowledge of ship and logistical operations in ice-covered waters, a historical perspective of the Russian Northern Sea Route and expertise in oceanographic and sea ice conditions in the Russian Arctic Ocean, particularly in the Kara and Laptev Seas. While in the Chair, CAPT Brigham completed seven publications related to these subject areas and served on numerous committees such as advisor to the US Arctic Research Commission, advisor to the International Polar Navigation Code development team and Adjunct Scientist to ONR Europe .

In 1997 the Arctic Chair celebrated its 20th anniversary by convening a special session at the 1996 Fall AGU Meeting in San Francisco where 13 former Chairholders gave presentations on the accomplishments made in the past twenty years within their disciplines and suggestions for future research needs for the next five years.

PUBLICATIONS:

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