



Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies
 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
 U.S. Department of Defense



Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies
DOD's Newest Regional Center
***Updated Information Paper As/of 29 July 2022**

Introduction. The following paragraphs provide current information regarding the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies a Department of Defense (DOD) Regional Center, supporting DOD tasks in executive education, research & analysis and engagement/outreach for the Arctic region.

Establishment. Effective 9 June 2021, pursuant to Sec. 1089 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, the Secretary of Defense established the **Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies** (Stevens Center, or TSC), the DOD's sixth Regional Center for Security Studies. On 17 November 2021, DOD announced Anchorage, Alaska was the sole candidate city for the new center. On 28 December 2021, via the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 NDAA, the TSC was established as DOD's sixth regional center in Anchorage via sections 342 and 2611 of Chapter 16 (Security Cooperation) of Title 10, U.S. Code. On 5 May 2022, through a U.S. Air Force Strategic Basing Study and Evaluation, Joint Base Elmendorf (JBER) Alaska was determined to serve as the Stevens Center was enduring home. A final decision for the specific facility at JBER in the last stages of coordination. Additionally, the TSC is currently in work with Defense Security Cooperation Agency and the office of the Secretary of Defense for enrollment to the U.S. Federal Register, which, when completed will grant the Center, full administrative authority.

Achieved IOC. As of 1 July 2022, the TSC achieved Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) as defined by the approved DoD plan for Center development. This includes assembling personnel and demonstrating initial levels of capacity and capability to conduct research & analysis, executive education and strategic engagement in accordance the DoD approved TSC Plans, Objectives and Milestone (POAM). The Stevens Center is on track with a refined plan to achieve Full Operational Capacity on 1 July 2023.

DOD's Regional Centers. The Stevens Center joins five prior established DOD Regional Centers for Security Studies:

- The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (Marshall Center), established in 1993 and located in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
- The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), established in 1995 and located in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- The William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (Perry Center), established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C.
- The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), established in 1999 and located in Washington, D.C.
- The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAC), established in 2000 and located in Washington, D.C.
- The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, (TSC) established in 2021 and located on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in Anchorage, Alaska.



DOD Regional Centers, Credit, DSCA



DOD's Regional Center Mission. Through executive-level (practitioner) education programs and in-region workshops, focused research in support of OSD Policy



priorities, and the cultivation of communities of practice, the DOD Regional Centers for Security Studies promote integrated, collaborative responses to transnational threats; foster common perspectives on regional security challenges; and strengthen binational and multinational institutional relationships. In so doing, each

promotes the intellectual interoperability underpinning full-spectrum security cooperation and build our Nation's and our partners' capacity to collaborate against shared threats. Prioritized areas of focus include territorial security; transnational and asymmetric threats; and defense sector governance.



Pentagon, Credit DOD

Ted Stevens Center of Arctic Studies Mission: The Stevens Center is underway in building strong, sustainable, domestic and international networks of security leaders and promote and conduct focused research on Arctic security to advance DOD security priorities in the Arctic region.

In DOD's establishment plan to Congress, the Department defined four mission areas for the TSC:

- Advance Arctic awareness, both among partners and within the increasingly professionalized field of U.S. Arctic service.
- Advance DOD Arctic priorities.
- Reinforce the rules-based order in the Arctic; and,
- In keeping with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's priorities and the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, address the impacts of climate change in the region.



LC-130, Credit DOD

In support of the TSC's assigned mission, the Center is underway in creating and providing programs for civilian and military security practitioners and associated Subject Matter Experts to promote discussion & understanding that is inclusive of Arctic Indigenous interests and coordinated with the DoD Regional Center enterprise, for Arctic Security Interests of Europe, North America, Asia, and the Indo-Pacific. The center will accomplish this by delivering relevant education, analysis, and symposia to prepare civilian and military security practitioners, to propose useful solutions, and to enhance people networks to ensure a stable, rules-based order in the Arctic that will benefit the United States and all Arctic nations (and in collaboration with) the Marshall, Perry and Inouye RCs, based on the intersection of Arctic Security Interests of Europe, North America, Asia and the Indo Pacific.



Value Proposition: Unique in the security cooperation toolkit, the DOD Regional Centers employ executive education to engage senior-level civilian and military policymakers and practitioners beyond traditional defense stakeholders, including inter-ministerial officials (e.g., foreign affairs, interior, parliamentarians), and key security stakeholders from non-governmental organizations and international organizations. DOD objectives in the Arctic require multilateral approaches to which the DOD Regional Center model is well-suited. Through delivering relevant education, analysis and symposia, the Stevens Center will prepare civilian and military security practitioners, propose useful solutions, and enhance people networks to ensure a stable, rules-based order in the Arctic that will benefit the United States' security interests in the region. In support of these objectives, the Stevens Center has created a set of comprehensive plans, objectives and milestones as an internal roadmap to develop the center's organization, program content and planned activities.



DOD Arctic Service Tab, Credit Pacific Air Force

Stevens Center responsible officials:

- Senior Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs.**¹ On 22 September 2021, DOD announced the appointment of Maj Gen (Ret.) Randy “Church” Kee as Senior Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs. In this capacity, Mr. Kee supports the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy in the establishment and early operations of the Stevens Center. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Kee served as the Executive Director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center at the University of Alaska, a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Maritime Research. Additionally, Mr. Kee served as a U.S. Arctic Research Commissioner, a presidentially appointed independent federal agency created by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984. During his 30-year military career, Kee led at the squadron, group, wing, and Air Operations Center levels. General Kee’s staff assignments include U.S. Transportation Command, Headquarters USAF, and the U.S. Joint Staff in both Operations plus Strategic Plans and Policy Directorates. While in uniform he contributed to U.S. Arctic Strategy, supported domain awareness technology development, and Defense Support to Arctic crisis response. He culminated his military service as Director of Strategy, Policy, Planning and Capabilities for U.S. European Command (ECJ5/8) in Stuttgart, Germany. His USAF Biography is available at: www.af.mil/AboutUs/Biographies/Display/tabid/225/Article/108465/major-general-randy-kee.aspx.



Maj Gen (Ret) Randy “Church” Kee, USAF, Senior Advisor, Arctic Security Affairs, TSC. Former Executive Director, Arctic Domain Awareness Center & Former U.S. Arctic Research Commissioner.

¹ Note: The Secretary of Defense has not appointed a Director of the Stevens Center for procedural reasons and is working with Congress to provide the Department with appropriate hiring authority to appoint a permanent Director.



- **Deputy Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs.** On 31 January 2022, Mr. Craig L. Fleener, a multi-faceted and highly experienced Arctic security and defense leader, joined the TSC as the center’s deputy advisor. In this capacity, Mr. Fleener supports the Senior Advisor for center establishment. While a full time DOD civilian, Mr. Fleener also continues a long and distinguished career as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Alaska Air National Guard. In his civilian career he served his community and tribe as a wildland fire fighter, wildlife biologist, climate researcher, and Director of a regional tribal non-profit providing healthcare, education, and natural resources management services. His prior duties include serving in elected office and he was active as a Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council as the International Co-chair of the Gwich'in Council International, one of the Arctic Council’s six internationally recognized Arctic Indigenous groups.



Craig L. Fleener, Deputy Advisor, Arctic Security Affairs, TSC. Former Co-Chair Gwich'in Council International, Arctic Council. In addition to service at the TSC, serves as a Lt Col, Alaska Air National Guard.

- **Dean, TSC School of Arctic & Climate Security Studies.** On 25 April 2022, Rear Admiral (Ret.) Matthew T. Bell Jr, USCG, joined the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. Dean Bell is responsible for the executive education “practitioner” program designed with the end goals of protecting the U.S. homeland, maintaining a favorable balance of power in the region, and promoting a shared approach to regional security and respect for the existing rules-based order. His thirty-six year Coast Guard career includes numerous operational tours in Alaska, including two command afloat assignments in Kodiak and most recently as the Commander, 17th Coast Guard District in Juneau where he was responsible for Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska, the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. Mr. Bell is a 1984 graduate from Northern Arizona University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He entered the Coast Guard in 1985 through Recruit Training Center Cape May and received his commission in 1986 upon graduation from Officer Candidate School. He holds a Master of Science in Chemistry awarded by Northern Arizona University in 1993 and is a graduate of Harvard University, National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.



RADM (Ret), Matt Bell, USCG, former Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District 17 serves as the Dean of the TSC School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies.

DOD Regional Center Governance.

- Regional Centers are direct reporting organizations of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSD-P), charged with advancing regional priorities identified by OUSD-P and respective combatant commands in support of the National Defense Strategy. Accordingly, the TSC leadership reports directly to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience, and in turn to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs. Additionally, the TSC, as part of the Regional Center Enterprise, reports functionally to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Partnerships.
- In support of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Defense Security Cooperation Agency serves as DOD’s Executive Agent for Regional Centers, with support and oversight responsibilities in areas like fiscal management, personnel management, and program management.



- TSC aligned Geographic Combatant Command: United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). On 7 March 2022, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, (USD(P)) formally designated USNORTHCOM to be the lead combatant command the Stevens Center will align its programs and activities. Accordingly, the TSC will principally work in support of USNORTHCOM for Arctic related research & analysis, executive education and regional engagement. Additionally, USD(P) tasked the TSC to coordinate Center programs and activities with United States European Command, other combatant commands and with fellow DOD Regional Centers, as necessary.
 - On 12 July 2022, the TSC was provided strategic guidance from Commander NORAD/USNORTHCOM and is now implementing this guidance for onward Center plans and activities.



TSC Location. On 28 December 2021, via the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 NDAA, the TSC was established as DOD’s sixth regional center in Anchorage via sections 342 and 2611 of Chapter 16 (Security Cooperation) of Title 10, U.S. Code. On 5 May 2022, through a U.S. Air Force Strategic Basing Study and Evaluation, Joint Base Elmendorf (JBER) Alaska was determined to serve as the Stevens Center was enduring home. A final decision for the specific facility at JBER is pending.



Aerial view of JBER Alaska, photo is courtesy of flickr.com



*Senator Ted Stevens
Courtesy of
Wikimedia.com*

Legacy...a DOD Regional Center in honor of an American Statesman and Arctic Leader

, In the same spirit of the George C. Marshall, William J. Perry, Daniel K. Inouye Regional Centers of Security Studies, the Stevens Center of honors the legacy of a highly distinguished Statesman, Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

For nearly his entire adult life, Senator Stevens was a devoted public servant, starting as a World War II airlift pilot in the China-Burma-India theater, continuing in his dedicated efforts in support of Alaska Statehood and inclusive of a historic career in the US Senate.

The legacy of Senator Stevens includes a remarkable number of legislative achievements which advanced US interests, while leveraging the unique role that

Alaska provides in supporting national security in the Arctic, North American and Pacific regions. Accordingly, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies will respect and honor the legacy of Senator Stevens in establishing a DOD Regional Center to the benefit of US National Security, while advancing such efforts with America’s Allies and partners via research, education and engagement across the multidiscipline intersections of the Arctic.



*Senator Ted Stevens & Senator Daniel Inouye,
Courtesy of Ted Stevens Foundation*

“Building while doing”...the TSC “POAM”

As guided by the DoD approved TSC “Plans, Objectives and Milestones” (POAM) the Center is underway in creating a center that has three mission pillars: 1. Research & Analysis, 2. Executive Education (focused on Defense and Security professionals Internationally and across the U.S.) and 3. Strategic

DOD’s Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies...meeting the challenge through networks and solutions



Engagement in support of DoD Arctic mission priorities. While the TSC is creating programs, staff, faculty and activities, the Center has embarked on a robust effort to conduct meaningful endeavors, even in advance of achieving full, or even initial operating capacity. To date, the TSC has developed and provided three full and three executive seminar editions of an Arctic fundamentals program titled “Arctic Region Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) the first of approximately 25 executive education programs planned for the TSC School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies. The full ARSOC program is a 5 day, 35 contact course on the entirety of Arctic security fundamentals that includes keynote speakers, expert panels, guided breakout groups, on-line questionnaires and a final capstone exercise. The executive version of ARSOC compresses 5 days into 5 hours.

In support of Strategic Engagement, the TSC led a team for the development of Alaskan Command’s Arctic Symposium 2022, a 4.5 day comprehensive program involving more than 50 speakers and facilitators through a myriad of expert panels, keynote addresses, including two Combatant Commander presentations, table top exercises, academic and technology showcase programs, field experiences, Strategic Foresight Analysis, evening programs and more to more than 280 registered in person and 180 online participants.

The TSC was in close partnership with ALCOM and the University of Alaska and UA’s Arctic Domain Awareness Center for AAS 22 planning and execution. The Chatham House style corresponding report and analysis will soon be available via the TSC. Until the TSC website is available, the AAS22 event hub materials are located at: https://arcticdomainawarenesscenter.org/ALCOM_2022_Hub



ALCOM’s Arctic Symposium 2022 2-6 May 2022, Anchorage, Alaska

“In the Spirit of the Raven.”

The Stevens Center is intentionally inclusive to collaboratively engaging, learning and connecting with the Arctic Indigenous Community, a culture of Arctic knowledge that has firsthand understanding of the challenges to survive and thrive in the one of the most demanding environments on the planet. The Arctic Raven has been known across the Arctic Indigenous culture as a revered symbol ...who helps people and shapes their world for them. In the spirit of the Raven, the Stevens Center will seek to help people better understand the myriad of factors influencing the Arctic and seek to contribute security focused networks and solutions that benefit the U.S., and America’s partners and Allies.



In the Spirit of the Raven...“Shataii Inhaa” “We will guide you” (translated from Gwich’in) See:<http://www.native-languages.org/arctic-raven.htm> Photo attribute: png.com



DOD’s Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies...meeting the challenge through networks and solutions



Additional DOD and Center supported media remarks:

Initial announcement. As announced on 9 June 2021: “The Ted Stevens Center will bring increased cooperation on the unique challenges and security concerns related to the Arctic region. [Defense Department Regional Centers](#) are international academic venues for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, and training with the goal of building strong, sustainable international networks of security leaders. The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies will develop collaborative insights with allies and partners.



USN Submarine in the Arctic, credit DOD

“The center will support the U.S. Interim National Security Strategic Guidance direction to collaborate with like-minded partners and across the interagency to pool our collective strength and advance shared interests,” according to Secretary Austin. “It will address the need for U.S. engagement and international cooperation to strengthen the rules-based order in the region and tackle shared challenges such as climate change.”

The Ted Stevens Center will provide a new venue to collaborate with our allies and partners to advance shared interests for a peaceful and prosperous Arctic. Please see:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2651852/the-department-of-defense-announces-establishment-of-arctic-regional-center>.

As announced on 22 September 2021, the Center’s Senior Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs (Maj Gen (Ret) Church Kee, USAF, is responsible for supporting the establishment and early operations of the new DOD institution, with the mission to engage in regional and global security issues through research, communication, and education. The goal of the center is to build strong, sustainable, international networks of security leaders to advance U.S. national security priorities in the Arctic region.

The TSC Senior Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs will also collaborate with partner nations to ensure a stable, rules-based order in the Arctic that will benefit the United States and all Arctic nations. Please see: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2784993/dod-announces-new-senior-advisor-for-arctic-security-affairs/>

Basing decision. On 17 November 2021, the Department of Defense Announces Basing Decision for the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. The Department of Defense identified Anchorage, Alaska, as the sole candidate city to host the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, the Department of Defense (DOD) Regional Center for the Arctic. On 5 May 2022, the Department of the Air Force Strategic Basing finalized the location within Anchorage as the selected site. As such, the TSC has been sited selected for establishment on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richarson and is now in work with the 673 Air Base Wing for a specific facility, which will be announced near term.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2846861/dod-announces-basing-decision-for-the-ted-stevens-center-for-arctic-security-st/>



Introductory article on the Stevens Center. On Monday, 25 October 2021, USAF's Air University's Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs released its special "Arctic Edition" featuring an article for the TSC. Please see the following links for more detail: <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/>

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Oct/24/2002878830/-1/-1/1/ARCTIC%20STRATEGY.PDF/ARCTIC%20STRATEGY.PDF>

TSC leadership Interview on Alaska Public Media. On 29 June 2022 TSC Senior and Deputy Advisor supported an interview at Alaska Public Media describing current efforts at the Center. This interview can be found at the following link:

<https://alaskapublic.org/2022/06/29/new-ted-stevens-center-for-arctic-security-studies-opens-at-jber/>



Air University Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs (Courtesy of Air University)



Soldier training in Arctic conditions, Credit U.S. Army Alaska

