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**Ted Stevens Center for  
Arctic Security Studies**

**20  
23**

DOPSR 24-P-0490

**CLEARED  
For Open Publication**

Apr 02, 2024

Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW



# ANNUAL REPORT

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<https://tedstevensarcticcenter.org/>

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**“The Stevens Center will build 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.”**

**-Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin**



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# A Message from the Director

Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

Greetings from 61+ Degrees North, 149+ Degrees West, the home of the US Department of Defense’s newest regional center, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Over the last two years the Stevens Center has been a new and growing organization, but in 2023 we became so much more: an educator, a publisher, a convenor, a source of analysis, and an organization committed to collaboratively developing innovative security solutions for the Arctic Region.

Some of the most pressing challenges to our national security are at the nexus of various disciplines –climate change and conflict, economics and global resilience, preserving Indigenous Knowledge and technological innovation. This is the lens through which the Stevens Center approaches the term Arctic security. Guided by our strategic principles of innovation and experimentation, our multidisciplinary perspective draws experts from across the circumpolar region to bring essential knowledge to the Arctic security practitioner.

This report is an overview of the many accomplishments of the Stevens Center in 2023. To preview, the School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies delivered 5 iterations of the Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) and executed the first ever Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course (AMLC), fielding over 700 alumni this year. The Research and Analysis Division launched the inaugural edition of the Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies with senior leader perspectives and practitioner focused research. Our Strategic Engagement Division hosted convening events from Nuuk, Greenland to Utqiagvik, Alaska, bringing security practitioners into the North American Arctic to experience the unique environment firsthand. The Mission Support Division remained our institutional backbone as we progress towards full operational capacity, building our team to now 27 DoD civilian employees and 14 contractors. These are just a few of the highlights.

In sum, the expert and dedicated professionals of the TSC leaned forward to accomplish our important mission and build partnerships across the Arctic region.

I am honored that the DoD has entrusted me to lead this remarkable center, and I am grateful to our colleagues at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, United States Northern Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience, for their continued commitment to our shared goals.



Very Respectfully,  
Church

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Kee".

Randy “Church” Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)  
Director  
Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies  
US Department of Defense



# Vision

Advance a network of civilian and military practitioners promoting understanding and providing collaborative security solutions for the Arctic region

# Mission

Build 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.

# Value

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 and nations across the Arctic.

# 2023 by the Numbers



**99.96%**

Budget  
authority  
exercised



**713**

Alumni added to  
our network

Full time staff  
members

**27**

**2000+**

Followers on  
LinkedIn

**8** Reports  
Published



**5**

Arctic and Climate  
Security Orientation  
Courses executed

**36**

Distinguished visitors  
to our center

# Executive Summary

## **The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security**

**Studies** (TSC) is a US Department of Defense Regional Center officially established June 9, 2021 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. TSC addresses regional and global security by convening military and civilian security practitioners of the United States and our Allies and partners across the Arctic region to promote discussion and understanding to advance collaborative security solutions that are inclusive of Arctic Indigenous perspectives.

## **Executive Education**

In calendar year (CY) 2023, TSC executed two original courses six times, facilitated three Arctic security dilemmas, and co-hosted three additional courses with partner institutions to advance Arctic awareness and establish a network of like-minded security practitioners totaling over 700.

- Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)
- Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course (AMLC)
- Arctic and Climate Security Dilemma (ACSD)
- European Security Seminar- North
- Arctic and Homeland Defense Symposium

TSC also welcomed its inaugural cohort of Arctic Fellows from the US Air Force and US Coast Guard.

## **Strategic Engagement**

Throughout the year, TSC had thirty-six distinguished visitors at our center including DoD senior leaders, Congressional delegations, academia, research centers, and community partners to baseline senior leader knowledge on current and emerging trends in the Arctic security environment, provide an overview of the center mission, and explore opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.

TSC shaped conversations around Arctic security in high-level international and multilateral forums. Our experts robustly contributed to 15 global Arctic security forums, through panel discussions, keynote addresses, and research presentations.

TSC facilitated important dialogue in and across the Arctic in three major events:

- North American Arctic Security Workshop
- Defense Attaché Field Seminar
- Arctic Ambassadors Field Seminar

TSC initiated our digital programming with the launch of our monthly bulletin *True North* and published ten news stories.

## **Research and Analysis**

TSC authored three workshop reports summarizing key findings and analysis of TSC led events:

- North American Arctic Security Workshop 2023 Report
- HDI & TSC Arctic and Homeland Defense Symposium 2023 Report
- Permafrost and Pathogens 2023 Conference Report

TSC generated five research reports:

- Advancing Solutions to the Arctic Maritime Domain: The Canadian Rangers.
- What does Security Cooperation in the Arctic look like? The Case of the United States and Canada.
- Arctic Climate Data Science: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Supporting Operational Decision Making.
- Geoengineering Risks in the Arctic.
- Representing Arctic Change and Environmental Security Through a One Health Lens.

TSC released the inaugural edition of the Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies featuring nearly 200 pages of senior leader perspectives and original research.

# Strategic Alignment

The Center supports U.S. Northern Command’s campaign objectives through creative and innovative programs aimed at understanding and addressing the strategic implications of current and emerging Arctic security challenges. The Center utilizes a multilateral and multi-dimensional approach across a range of executive-level courses to advance Arctic awareness and establish a comprehensive understanding of the Arctic operating environment. In doing so, TSC builds a network of like-minded security practitioners, leaders, and decision-makers to reinforce the rules-based order in the Arctic.

An important instrument of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, the Center advances U.S. Department of Defense Arctic priorities through our three lines of effort: executive education, research & analysis, and strategic engagement. In keeping with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin’s priorities and the U.S. National Security Strategy, the center addresses the impacts of climate change in the region across our range of activities. The Stevens Center is guided by the principles of innovation and experimentation, where the thoughtful exchange of ideas promotes a peaceful, prosperous, and secure Arctic region.



# Strategic Concept





TSC Impact

# Executive Education

TSC's educational programming provides a deep understanding of the multifaceted issues affecting Arctic security. The TSC leverages the subject matter expertise of its academic staff and faculty to extend the impacts of the TSC's educational mission far beyond the classroom, creating, nurturing, and furthering connections with a multitude of key stakeholders, Allies and partners which are, or have potential to be, key contributors to the national defense, Arctic security, and/or security cooperation mission(s) across the pan-Arctic.



## Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

ARSOC is a five-day, 35-hour, virtually presented executive education course designed as an Arctic fundamental program for U.S. and Allied & Partner nation's mid- to senior-career security practitioners. The course supports and creates communities of interest to provide opportunities for personnel to achieve a basic understanding of the current challenging Arctic security dilemmas and shape internal U.S. and international thinking. The course provides opportunities for participants to gain insight to inform for Arctic security analysis, survey practical solutions, and advance relationship building that supports the rules-based order in the Arctic.

TSC executed five iterations of ARSOC in 2023, with alumni totaling 632. The TSC ARSOC strives to meet the needs of DoD and International personnel in assignments to the Arctic region. Additionally, ARSOC enables the development of new and extended/networked communities of interest across like-minded Arctic security with U.S. Allies and partners. The course addresses the rapidly changing landscape of Arctic security and geopolitics and the impact of those changes on the region.

ARSOC supports the growth of Arctic awareness among security partners and within the regions of the U.S. Arctic service while advancing DoD Arctic priorities. The TSC leverages the ARSOC course to further support the building and development of interagency partners in alignment with the DoD NDS and NSAR. Specific education course objectives include providing baseline knowledge to personnel without Arctic experience.

## Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course (AMLC)

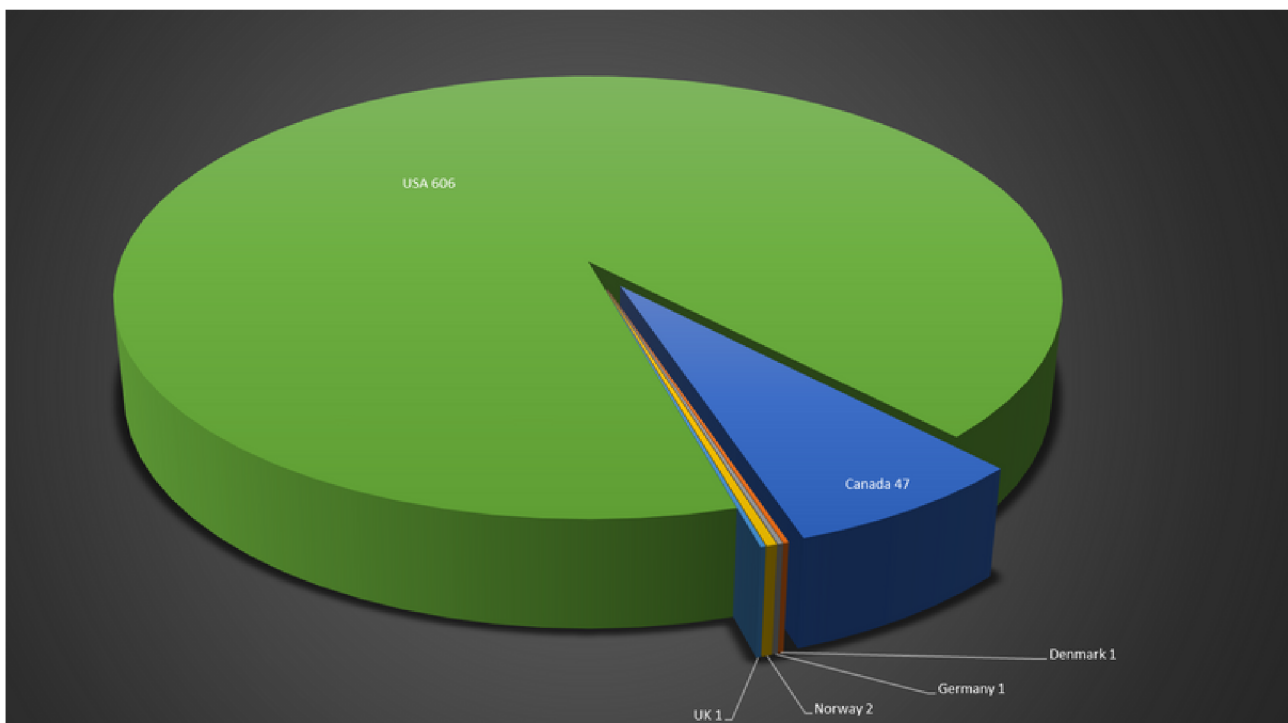
AMLC examines the most relevant Arctic legal frameworks, instruments, and concepts in the sea, air, space, and cyber domains. It situates the discussion in the context of current challenges, including Russian legal updates concerning the Northern Sea Route and continental shelf claims; search and rescue operations in the Arctic; marine pollution response; Chinese high-altitude surveillance balloons; intercepting aircraft; using space to control and secure operations in the Arctic; and cyberattacks.

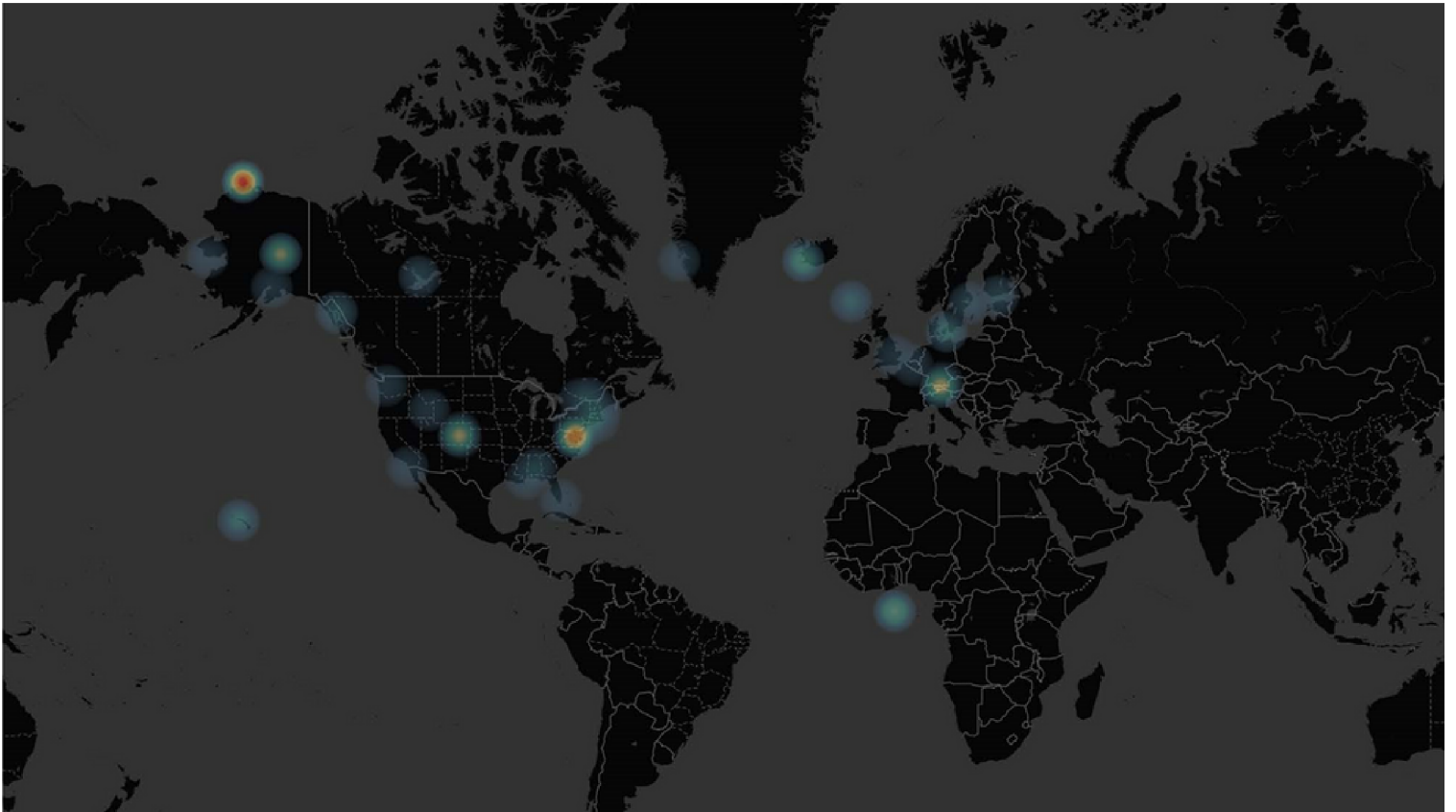
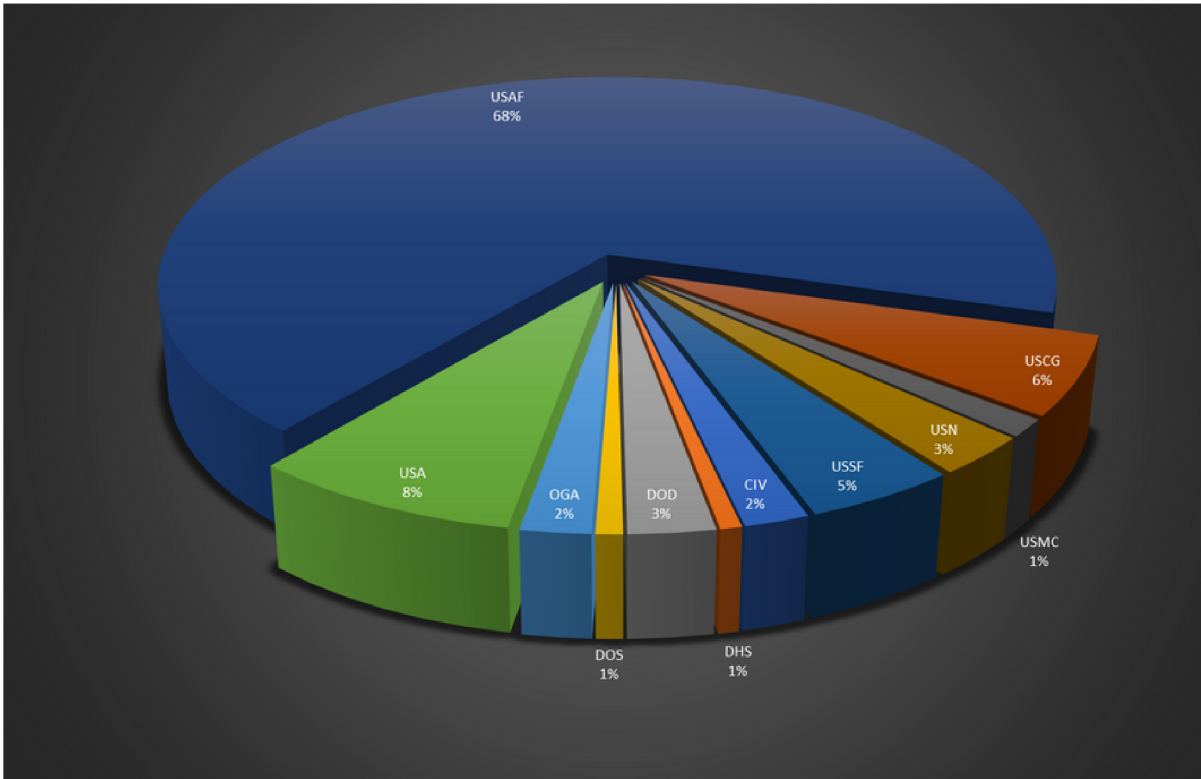
The Arctic is undergoing tremendous transformation. Whether driven by climate and other aspects of geophysical change, global economic competition, or geopolitics, the current and emerging challenges require Arctic practitioners and security professionals to understand the legal mechanisms governing this region to adequately prepare for and meet these challenges. The August and December 2023 Arctic Multi-domain Legal Course graduated 67 and 50 participants respectively, including 12 Allied and partner nations.

AMLC is intended for Arctic practitioners and security professionals (civilians, attorneys, or military leadership) in the U.S. and Allied countries who have little to no exposure to the law but whose positions require them to have a greater understanding of Arctic legal frameworks, instruments, and concepts.

## TSC Alumni

The TSC alumni network now totals over 1,000, with members including senior policymakers, military officials, and allies and partners. Our alumni exemplify the Center's mission and vision of a trusted global network of Arctic security practitioners that advance the rules-based order in the Arctic and work to develop collaborative geostrategic solutions. The 2023 graduates were predominantly US military practitioners, the majority of which were US Air Force. In 2023, TSC gained international alumni from Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, and Germany.





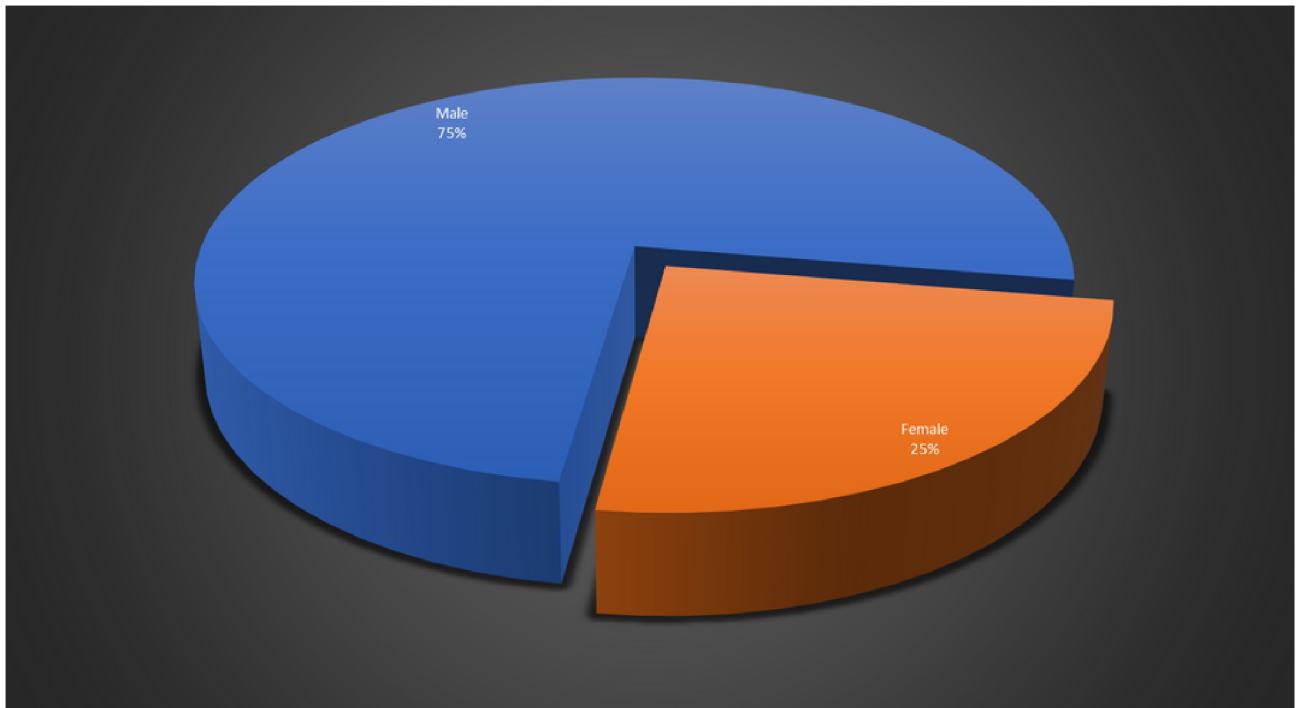
The above heat map shows the concentration of TSC alumni based on location.

## Women, Peace, and Security

The TSC Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Program recognizes the diverse roles women play as agents of change in preventing and resolving conflict in the Arctic region. The 2023 U.S. National Strategy on WPS includes five Lines of Effort: Participation; Protection; Relief, Response, and Recovery; Integration and Institutionalization; and Partnerships.

The TSC mission provides unique engagement opportunities to operationalize the National Strategy by strengthening institutional relationships with our Allies and partners through collective efforts that reinforce women's empowerment, meaningful participation in decision-making, protection from violence, and access to resources. To that end, our courses strive for a minimum of 33% female participation in all courses or 1/3rd participation to create critical mass for more inclusive dialogue on broader security concerns. TSC is proud to progress towards an average of 25% female participation in our courses, closing in on 83% execution of the goal.

TSC's WPS objective is to assist allied and partner nations in the advancement of security governance by integrating women leaders and women's perspectives into security sectors, security-related processes, and decision-making.



## Arctic Climate Security Dilemma

The Arctic Climate Security Dilemma (ACSD) is oriented as a General/Flag officer and Senior Executive Service level compressed and interactive small group/desk-side tabletop course. The TSC "Arctic and Regional Climate Security Dilemma" addresses the strategic implications of Arctic and regionally associated climate security challenges via an interactive tabletop developmental experience, scoped for a small interactive group or as a desk-side course, designed for the senior leader with limited opportunities and time to engage on the Arctic.

This course is oriented to support awareness and understanding of Arctic security challenges that are climate-oriented or occur because of intentional or unintentional actions by U.S. strategic competitors--the PRC and the Russian Federation--and other non-U.S. aligned states or sub-state organizations.

Participants gain a summary understanding of how climate change impacts security dynamics in the Arctic region. Participants are practically equipped to navigate the complexities of the Arctic and climate security dilemma, contribute to policy discussions, and collaborate effectively with stakeholders to address security challenges in the region.

The intent of ACSD is to ensure an understanding of the intersection of security, climate change, and the Arctic. The TSC ACSD course aims to deepen the knowledge and understanding of how climate change impacts security dynamics in the Arctic region. Further, the ACSD course explores the interconnectedness between environmental changes, geopolitical interests, and strategic decision-making.

TSC facilitated three ACSDs over the course of 2023. On September 12, 2023, TSC delivered the Svalbard Arctic Security Dilemma to Senior-level participants from 30 Allied and partner nations in support of Operations Orientation Program resulting in cross-cultural dialogue on Arctic security challenges and solutions from a multinational perspective. From September 25-28, TSC facilitated an Arctic Security Dilemma at the Arctic Defense Attaché Field Seminar, Barrow Arctic Research Center (BARC).

Finally in December TSC executed the first "Colorado Arctic Week" in support of Canadian and U.S. Defense and Security Practitioners at NORAD/ USNORTHCOM where senior leaders participated in an ACSD and a new "Arctic Security Primer" to advance Arctic awareness for associated staff professionals at the two commands.



## TSC & HDI Arctic and Homeland Defense Symposium

On 11 May 2023, TSC and the Homeland Defense Institute (HDI) partnered to showcase homeland defense expertise and stimulate collaboration across academia, government, and industry at an Arctic and Homeland Defense Symposium. There were 180 participants to include Danish Defence officials, DoD organizations (OSD, DHA, AF/A-Staff, NAVO), Government Agencies (DOS, DHS), Canadian Joint Operations Command, the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Arctic Community of Interest, military education institutes and other U.S./Canadian academic institutions.

LGen Alain Pelletier, Deputy Commander NORAD provided opening remarks and was followed by the HON Melissa Dalton, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs as the keynote speaker to set the stage for NORAD and homeland defense focus and priorities. A NORAD Panel facilitated a meaningful discussion on various aspects related to NORAD’s history, mission, responsibilities, bilateral cooperation, civil-military coordination, and future prospects. A TSC panel on “Enabling Arctic Security” presented an operational vantage of what is working and what should be considered to better enable North American Arctic security. An HDI panel on “Strategic Competition in the Arctic” provided diverse perspectives on Russia and the People’s Republic of China strategies in the Circumpolar Arctic region to include identifying key Arctic players, quantifying relative influence, and assessing the competitive landscape. In addition to opportunities for networking and an exchange of ideas with internationally renowned leaders and Arctic experts, the symposium provided a venue to connect NORAD and USNORTHCOM Research Topic Lists with practitioners and analysts.



## European Security Seminar- North (ESS-N)

In September 2023, nearly 50 security practitioners, policymakers, diplomats, academics, and executives representing fourteen Arctic nations and like-minded stakeholders gathered for the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (GCMC) and Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies’ (TSC) co-hosted European Security Seminar – North to continue discussions regarding the future of security and stability in the Arctic region. Building upon the foundational dialogue and findings of previous iterations, this year’s cohort sought to exchange regional perspectives, enhance understanding of Arctic security challenges, and chart a course for the Arctic 7 and like-minded stakeholders to address common challenges spanning the security spectrum. The findings in this paper do not necessarily reflect the individual views of participants or the hosting institutions, but rather the consensus of the invited experts reflecting a diverse array of expertise.

# Alumni Feedback



“ARSOC provided a comprehensive overview of Arctic security challenges and the role of various stakeholders in maintaining regional stability. The course material was incredibly well-structured, covering a wide range of topics including environmental issues, geopolitical dynamics, and security cooperation among Arctic nations. The depth of knowledge and expertise showcased by the instructors was truly commendable and greatly contributed to the overall learning experience.”

“AMLC provides an enriching experience on the Arctic region and highlights real-world disputes between the Great Power competition nations. Highly recommend regardless of level of understanding on the Arctic and national security and the importance of indigenous representation.”

“The ARSOC Course provides not only information and lessons on the growing global concern on Climate Change, but also a more theater based view on Arctic Security. It does so with a wealth of panelists, teachers, and experts in the field of a caliber I have not been able to find anywhere else.”

“I am particularly grateful for the comprehensive understanding I developed of our NATO partners' roles and contributions in addressing Arctic security challenges. ARSOC not only familiarized me with the key member nations but also highlighted their respective interests, capabilities, and cooperative initiatives. This knowledge facilitated a deeper appreciation for the complexity of Arctic security issues and allowed me to appreciate the significance of international collaboration in finding sustainable solutions.”



# Arctic Fellows Program

On August 10, 2023 two US Air Force O-4 Intermediate Developmental Education (IDE) Fellows started their one-year post graduate Arctic Studies interdisciplinary degrees at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Similarly one US Coast Guard Arctic Fellow started a two year post graduate program with UAA. This program is designed to give military personnel an educational experience that increases their skills, competency, and expertise in a wide array of Arctic studies.

The fellows maintain weekly involvement with TSC staff on Arctic security research topics to increase their skills, competencies, and expertise in areas relevant to the DoD mission. Fellows also participated in 8 different Arctic engagements designed to increase domain awareness, elevate fundamental competencies, and impart expert-level knowledge relevant to Arctic operations and engagements. Through their participation, fellows earn 15 university- level credits.

## Inaugural 2023 Cohort



**MAJOR JOHN J. “RAGE” JOHNSTON**

Maj John J. Johnston is an F-35 Instructor Pilot and Air Force Fellow pursuing his master’s degree with the University of Alaska-Anchorage in Arctic Security. He was previously assigned to the 356th Fighter Squadron, 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska where he served as the ACE Director leading a team responsible for the development of Agile Combat Employment tactics, techniques, and procedures for the Fighter Wing. As an instructor pilot, he is responsible for leading and developing fifth generation F-35 fighter pilots.



**MAJOR DAVID G. “SQUINTS” INCE**

Major David G. Ince is a C-130J Weapons Officer and Evaluator Pilot. Major Ince is responsible for developing, refining, and instructing emergent tactics to improve combat effectiveness and promote integration across USAF and DOD partners. Major Ince received his commission in 2012 from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Weapons school and is a C-130J Evaluator Pilot with more than 2,400 hours in the T-6A, T-1A, and C-130J. He has flown combat missions in support of NATO Operations FREEDOM SENTINEL and RESOLUTE SUPPORT, as well as Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.



**Lieutenant Commander Daniel Jones**

Lieutenant Commander Daniel M. Jones has over seven years of sea service. He is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. His previous assignments include:

- Commanding Officer of CGC THUNDER BAY in Rockland, ME,
- Coast Guard Liaison for the Navy’s Arctic Expeditionary Capabilities Exercise onboard USS COMSTOCK
- Deputy of the Assessments, Inspections, & Audits (AIA) Governance Office at USCG Force Readiness Command in Norfolk, VA,
- Temporary Executive Officer of CGC THUNDER BAY in Rockland, ME
- Executive Officer of CGC NEAH BAY in Cleveland, OH
- Deck Watch Officer onboard CGC HEALY in Seattle, WA



# TSC Impact Strategic Engagement

The Strategic Engagement Division (SED) convenes Arctic security practitioners and leaders to address some of the most pressing geopolitical and geophysical challenges in the region. SED embodies the collaborative ethos of the Center, facilitating opportunities for strategic dialogue among Allies and partners to reinforce the rules-based order and build of network of like minded Arctic security practitioners.



## Arctic Field Seminars

Arctic Field Seminars (AFS) promote and advance Arctic awareness and understanding of Arctic defense issues among Allies and partners by placing them in the U.S. Arctic, a challenging and unique environment unfamiliar to most other Arctic nations. AFS will create informed and engaged leaders who can contribute to Arctic security, environmental protection, and understanding of indigenous operations and culture in the Arctic. By experiencing the Arctic firsthand and learning from local communities, participants can develop a deeper appreciation for the region's importance, implications for defense issues, and complexities while contributing to better-informed decision-making and policies in the Arctic domain.

In 2023, TSC conducted two AFS, the first in the spring with ambassadors, ministry of foreign affairs representatives, and senior Arctic officials, and the second in the fall with Arctic defense attaches. During the spring iteration, participants hiked the Chugach mountains with the help of snowshoes and TSC Arctic mountaineering expertise. In the Fall, participants traveled to Utqiagvik, Alaska, the northernmost community in the United States. Here, participants were immersed in the unique climate of the U.S. Arctic and had a firsthand opportunity to engage with and learn from Indigenous cultures and traditions.



# Institutional Partnerships

In 2023, TSC strengthened international security through partnerships with the following organizations, exemplifying the power of security cooperation in the Arctic region. Establishing and sustaining relationships is key to collaborative activities, events, and research. These strategic partnerships exemplify TSC's commitment to fostering a collaborative and innovative environment that leverages our collective expertise to meet global security challenges.



# Distinguished Visitors:

## *Baselining Senior Leader Knowledge*

TSC facilitated tailored engagements and discussions with OSD, Joint Staff, Service, and Combatant Command senior leaders, the U.S. interagency, international allies and partners, and mission-partners with a focus on baselining senior leader knowledge of current and emerging trends in the Arctic security environment with a homeland defense lens through compressed, executive-level discussion facilitated by Arctic strategy and policy experts.

- Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) visit to Anchorage, AK (Dr. Alondra Nelson) - 21 Oct 22
- NORTHCOM J5 RADM Robertson visit with TSC 18 Jan 2023
- AFGSC/CC (Gen Bussiere) immersion visit with TSC on 17 Feb 23
- Arctic Allies Consultation workshop w/DoS, 27-28 Mar 23 (27 MFAs in attendance)
- ASD Melissa Dalton visit to AK, 27-30 Mar (+ DASD Doug Jones)
- J4 (MG Jenkins) visit to TSC, 24 Mar 23
- Navy Region Northwest RADM Sucato visit, 14 Apr 23
- NWS Director, Ken Graham, 05 Apr 23
- DSD Dr. Kathleen Hicks visit to TSC, 23 May
- MG Ty "Goose" Neuman visit to TSC, 18 May 23
- COL Stauffer, 511 MI Brig Cmdr visit to TSC, 20 June 23
- CODEL Cardin visit to TSC, 29 June (6 House members)
- NAVNORTH N35 visit to JBER, 04-08 June 23 (4 members, in partnership with ALCOM)
- Quad Consequence Management Exercise with DoS on week of 19 Jun 23 (21 attendees)
- SecNav del Toro visit to TSC, 12 or 13 June, 23
- Undersecretary of Homeland Security S&T Dimitri Kusnezov visit, 18 July 23
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation Retired Admiral (JMSDF) Kazumine Akimoto visit 31 July
- CODEL Kelly & co. visit to TSC on 04 Aug 23 (6 House members)
- Hosted Mr. Mike Monstvil, Supervisor for DLA Troop Support Alaska & co. to discuss potential collaborations and opportunities with TSC on 14 Aug 23.
- Army PDGC Denise Council-Ross, 18 Aug 23
- Mr. Eric Gottshall, OUSD (R&E) visit to TSC, 28 Aug 23
- OUSD R&E Heidi Shyu to visit AK on 23-25 Aug 23
- Undersecretary Bonnie Jenkins visit to TSC, 03 Aug 23
- USCG D17 Commander RADM Megan Dean visit to TSC, 07 Sept 23
- NSAA-CAN visit to TSC, 15 Sept 23 (4 mil prsnl from CAN)
- Eric Carlson visit to TSC, week of 18 Sept 23
- STAFFDEL Mismash 27 Sept 23 (5 members)
- STAFFDEL Hutson 30 Sept 23 (8 members)
- Evan Bloom visit to TSC, 10 Oct 23
- 11 ABN MG Eiffler visit to TSC 25 Oct 23
- Sandia National Labs Mark Ivey and Ben Cook visit to TSC 29 Nov 23
- NORAD DCOM LGen Blaise Frawley visit to TSC 12 Dec 23



## North American Arctic Security Workshop

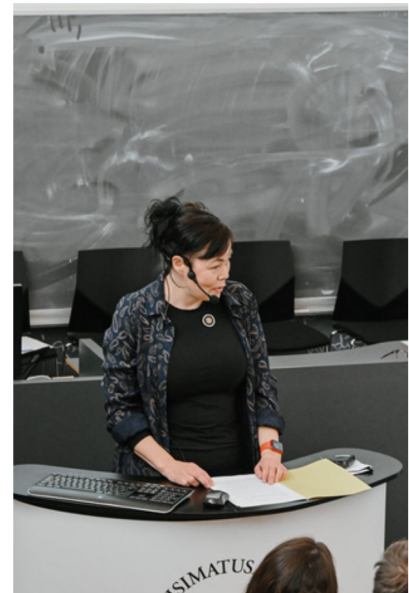
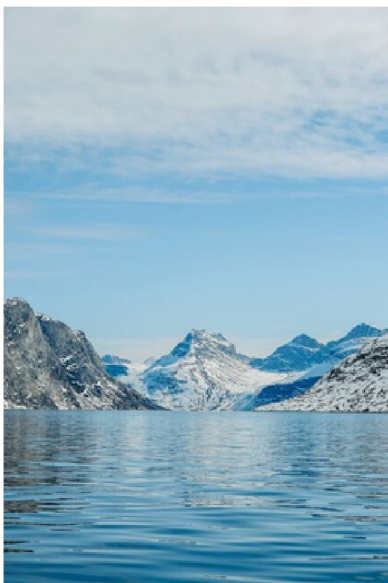
In April 2023, the Ted Stevens Center, in partnership with the North American and Arctic Defense and Security Network (NAADSN) and the University of Greenland Ilisimatusarfik's Nasiffik Center (Nasiffik), held the first ever North American Arctic Security Workshop in Nuuk, Greenland. The workshop brought together Allies and partners with diverse expertise from Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, and the U.S. to discuss the broad and multifaceted aspects affecting North American Arctic security.

The unclassified workshops are a series construct starting on the eastern side of the North American Arctic (Greenland) and iteratively working westward to Alaska's Arctic region, "from Nuuk to Nome," providing a specific set of geographically unique perspectives that collectively present a mosaic of the issues affecting the overall security of North America's Arctic region. NAASW is unique among Arctic Security conferences as it brings a specific North American focus and provides a forum for candid dialogue and the sharing of best practices to operate in the uniquely harsh climate and landscape of the North American continent.

The event was three days in duration, with over 50 participants, including practitioners, academics, Greenlandic policymakers, and students from the University of Greenland. The Honorable Vivian Motzfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Business, The Government of Greenland, provided the opening keynote address, followed by Ms. Joanie Simon, Consul, U.S. Consulate Nuuk, Greenland, Department of State, and Mr. Kenneth Hoegh, head of Greenland Representation in Washington, DC on day two.

Throughout the conference, the following themes were noted as important enduring concepts for North American Arctic Security: Dual-use infrastructure, Community-based search and rescue and disaster response, Shared best practices across the North American Arctic, Indigenous representation at all levels, Strategic messaging within great power competition, Transnational regional coordination and information sharing.

**"As permanent Arctic players, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland share a common history and ancestry. Our Inuit ancestors migrated from Alaska to Canada and Greenland over 1,000 years ago, and to this day in Greenland, we feel a strong connection to our Inuit sisters and brothers in Alaska and Canada."  
-Honorable Vivian Motzfeldt**

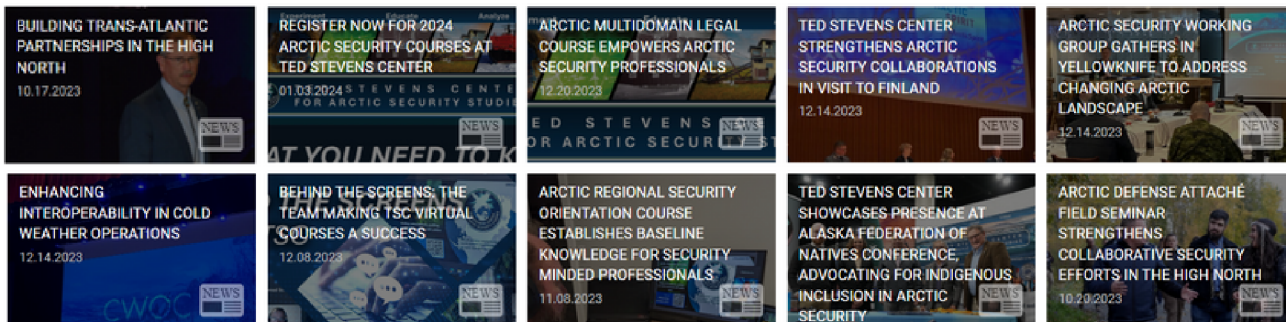


# Communications

The TSC communications cell produced multiple written products in 2023. As the newest of the DoD regional centers, we deliberately and comprehensively illustrate our center accomplishments through strategic and operational communications.

In October 2023, the communications cell launched the first ever *True North*. This monthly bulletin is an informational product for a broad range of stakeholders to keep up-to-date on TSC activities. *True North* is release over social media, the TSC website, and sent to our alumni network via email to facilitate stronger ties back to the center.

Over the course of the year, the communications team authored ten original news stories published to the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS). The news stories totaled 1,453 views on DVIDS alone, with additional view on TSC social media and the TSC website.

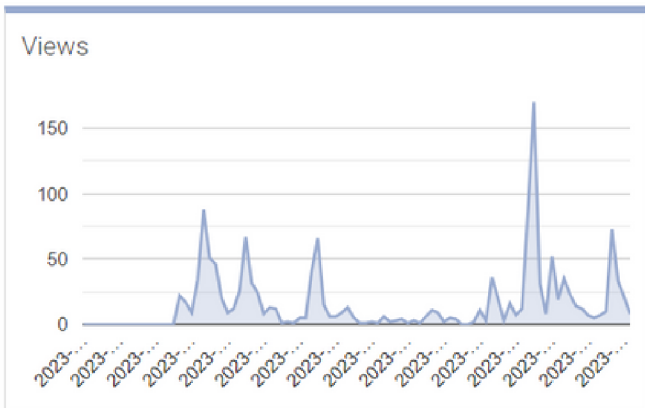
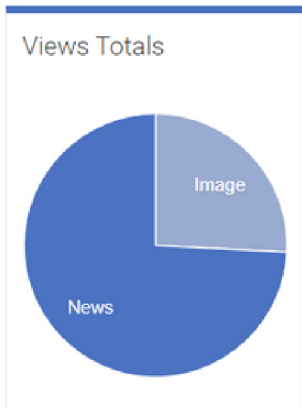


DVIDS is an essential tool for DoD communicators to reach a broader audience.

1,453 Views

41 Assets

2 Journalists



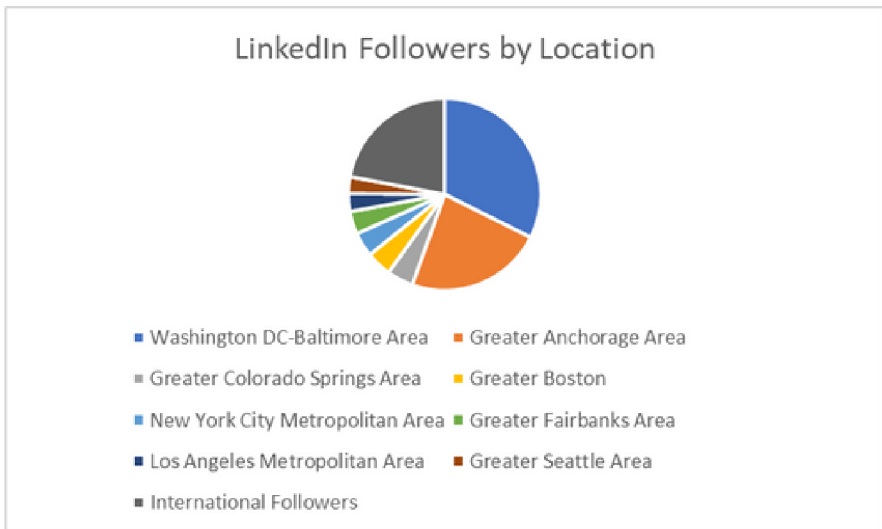
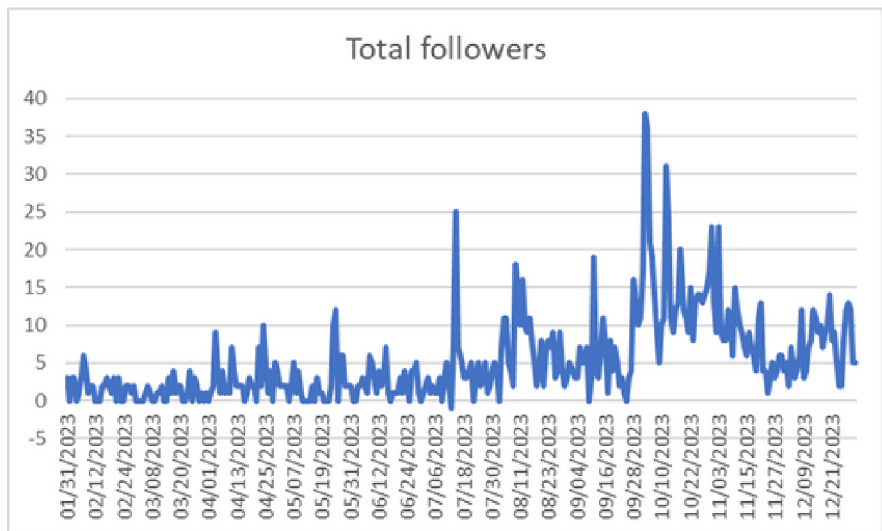
## Social Media

In 2023, TSC launched its official social media presence on LinkedIn and Twitter. The TSC social media presences is a synchronized effort across multiple platforms to ensure stakeholders and key audiences are well informed of TSC’s mission of building a network of likeminded security practitioners across the Arctic region.

LinkedIn remains our most popular platform, gaining over 2,000 followers in 2023, over half of which are located in Washington, DC, Anchorage, Alaska, or internationally. Followership increased notably following courses or major events with TSC participation, such as October where TSC was prominently featured in Arctic Circle Assembly and an ARSOC was held.

When compared to other Regional Centers, TSC performs at or below average, but shows higher rates of growth relative to following.

**Social audiences grew by over 50% on LinkedIn and Twitter compared to last year. Our LinkedIn consistently drew an engaged following of Arctic policymakers, academics, and practitioners.**



## International Forum Contributions

- Arctic Circle Abu Dhabi
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium
- Arctic Frontiers 2023
- National Guard Arctic Interest Council
- Arctic 360
- Arctic Science Summit Week, Austria
- Munich Security Conference
- One Health One Futures Conference, Fairbanks
- Alaska Day AFN Conference, D.C.
- Arctic Encounter Symposium
- Arctic Circle Forum, Japan
- ISAR 7, Japan
- Henry Bacon Seminar
- Northwest Managers Conference
- Planet Explore 2023, Washington
- Sea, Air, and Space Conference
- Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference
- JTFN Security Working Group, Iqaluit
- NORAD 65th Anniversary Celebration
- North Atlantic Crisis Response Workshop
- GCMC Climate Security Nexus Seminar
- Alaska Defense Forum
- European Strategy Implementation Conference
- EUCOM Security Training Working Group
- Permafrost and Pathogens Seminar
- DSCU Security Cooperation Conference
- Association of Canadian Studies in the US roundtable
- Arctic Futures
- Arctic Shipping Summit
- Arctic Spirit
- Cold Weather Operations Conference (CWOC)
- Arctic Circle Assembly (ACA)
- Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, Anchorage
- Canada Arctic Security Working Group (ASWG)
- Maritime Risk Symposium (MRS)

**In 2023, TSC was invited to contribute to 35 high-level international and multilateral forums where our experts shaped conversations around Arctic security and expanded our network of like-minded allies and partners.**



TSC Impact

# Research & Analysis

TSC is emerging as a leading resource in identifying and solving geostrategic and geophysical challenges in today's complex security environment. Our experts strive to provide actionable recommendations to shape effective policies and practices as well as data-driven analytical and scientific reports to enhance our understanding of the Arctic operating environment.



## The Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies (JACSS)

In 2023, TSC published the inaugural edition of the Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies with nearly 200 pages of perspectives and analysis. This edition marked a starting point for the Center as we embarked on our mission to educate practitioners, analyze matters of Arctic and regionally oriented climate security, inform decision makers, and engage Allies and partners about the region across the region. Our nascent Center joins the field of Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic groups, scholars, and security professionals at home and abroad who are concerned about challenges and risks across the High North, while also seeing opportunities to improve the overall security equation. This first edition represents a limited glimpse at the field of study as it stands today.

Scan the QR code to read



**7** Senior Leader Perspectives

**10** Research Articles

“I also hope that this journal will be a platform for all who have interest in the Arctic- from expert practitioners to novice newcomers, whether they live in Nome or Utqiagvik or Rovaniemi or Longyearben- to share their best ideas with the world.”

**-Senator Lisa Murkowski**

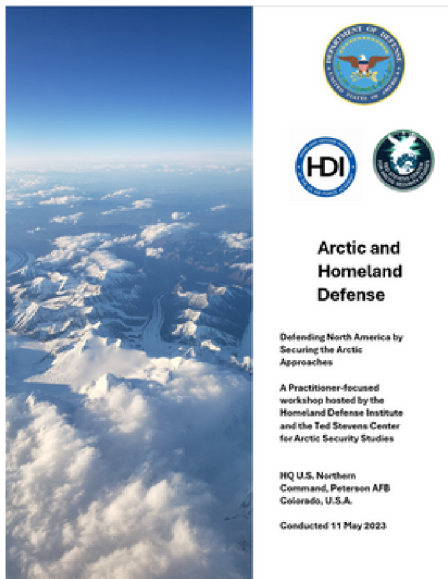




North American Arctic Security Workshops  
 Spring 2023 Workshop Report  
*Improving Understanding of the Emerging Characteristics of the North American Arctic from Varying Geographical Reference Points: The First of a series of planned workshops ranging from Nuuk to Nome.*

## North American Arctic Security Workshop: Spring 2023 Workshop Report

This report is the product of the first in a series of North American Arctic regional workshops collaboratively hosted and designed by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (TSC), the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN), and the Ilisimatusarfik's Nasiffik Center. The workshop brought together experts, practitioners, and students from the Kingdom of Denmark, Canada, and the United States to discuss the broad and multifaceted aspects affecting North American Arctic security. This report is designed to provide a record of the discussion for current and future policymakers to address the opportunities, concerns, and recommendations raised throughout the workshop. In addition, the report also highlights key themes to consider in the context of North American Arctic security.



## Arctic and Homeland Defense: Spring 2023 Workshop Report

Experts from across the Arctic convened at the Arctic and Homeland Defense Symposium to discuss, analyze, and advance homeland defense and U.S. and Canadian national interests. The Arctic is an essential avenue of approach in defending the North American homeland. The symposium provided a forum where military leaders, government officials, and academic experts could discuss and collaborate on key issues related to the future of NORAD and homeland defense in the Arctic. The result was an important venue that combined useful analysis and practical recommendations for North American defense policymakers. This report provides a summary and analysis of the proceedings of the symposium, beginning with an overview of each of the panels, and concluding with implications for the Arctic and policy recommendations. As mentioned previously, Chatham House Rule applied to the entirety of the symposium.

## Permafrost and Pathogens Report:

In November, 24 representatives from various locations, including TSC-RAD and Special Programs, the Cold Regions Research Laboratory, and the Pacific Northwest National Lab convened at the NORAD/USNORTHCOM Surgeon Generals' Office. Planetary scale changes in climate are resulting in rapid Arctic environmental change which includes the thawing of large tracts of permafrost soils. Permafrost is a reservoir of mostly uncharacterized microorganisms and viruses several of which carry the potential for pathogenesis through either direct or indirect pathways. Our current knowledge of permafrost-resident microbes is limited, and we lack a foundational basis on which to assess risks to operations in polar regions. The Permafrost and Pathogens (PFP) working group brings together military operators, medical professionals, academic scientists, and cold regions engineers to establish a knowledge baseline from which the implications for human health and the sustainment of operations in the new Arctic environment can be assessed and developed.

## TSC Special Reports

### **Advancing Solutions to the Arctic Maritime Domain: The Canadian Rangers.**

The Arctic is becoming more consequential to the United States as reflected in national security documents. The 2022 National Security Strategy, 2022 National Defense Strategy, and 2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region, among others, all point to the strategic significance of the Arctic and the US commitment to safeguarding its national interests in the region. This Special Report focuses on maritime domain awareness (MDA) as one crucial aspect of Arctic security. The need for Arctic MDA is pressing, given increased shipping, tourism, and fishing in the region, as well as increased security threats – specifically from China and Russia. This Special Report suggests that while MDA tools such as satellites, AI, and other technologies are important, local and traditional knowledge can complement these tools to achieve more effective domain awareness and hence more informed decision making.

### **Geoengineering Risks in the Arctic**

The Arctic, a region emblematic of climate change's profound impacts, stands at the nexus of potential geoengineering interventions. This paper delves into various geoengineering methodologies, including Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), assessing their feasibility and implications for the Arctic environment. Highlighting advanced detection techniques, from satellite monitoring to computer-based modeling, this paper discusses the challenges posed by the Arctic's unique climatic conditions and geopolitical intricacies. Furthermore, with the Arctic's strategic significance encompassing vital shipping lanes and rich natural resources, the potential socio-political ramifications of geoengineering are explored. Emphasizing the necessity for international collaboration and transparency, the study concludes that while geoengineering presents promising avenues, a balanced, cooperative, and informed approach is crucial to ensure the sustainability of both the Arctic and global ecosystems.

### **Arctic Climate Data Science: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Supporting Operational Decision Making.**

The Arctic, a region of unparalleled environmental complexity and geopolitical significance, stands at an inflection point shaped by both modern Artificial Intelligence (AI) methodologies and profound Indigenous insights. This paper delves into the role of AI in Arctic Climate Data Science, emphasizing its transformative impact in assimilating and analyzing vast data sets, from high-resolution satellite imagery to age-old oral traditions of Indigenous communities. We explore the capacity of AI sub-domains, including machine learning, neural networks, and deep learning, in harnessing the dual knowledge systems to offer a panoramic view of the Arctic's ever-evolving dynamics. Additionally, the paper critically evaluates the challenges AI presents, from data integrity concerns to potential feedback loops that compound errors. Broader geopolitical ramifications, intensified by the Arctic's changing landscape and potential operational risks, further underscore the necessity of a synergistic approach in applying AI to this region. Conclusively, the research underscores the essential balance between technological advancements and respect for Indigenous knowledge, offering strategic recommendations for a sustainable Arctic future.

**Addressing climate change is one of the most pressing challenges we face today. TSC's special reports examine the vital connection between climate and security, exploring policies and innovations to operationalize climate-resilience.**



### What does Security Cooperation in the Arctic look like? The Case of the United States and Canada

The Arctic is at an inflection point. Increased interest in natural resources and future commercial shipping lanes, climate change impacts, and geopolitical maneuvering are ushering in a new era of strategic competition between the United States, Russia, and China in the region. Security cooperation between the United States and its Allies and partners is vital to managing these challenges. This Special Report focuses on one aspect of Arctic security cooperation, i.e., that between the United States and Canada. The US-Canada relationship is considered unique in foreign policy and security circles in terms of both its depth and breadth (Friedman & Lefler, forthcoming). US defense arrangements with Canada are more extensive than with any other country. Hundreds of bilateral partnerships have been forged between Canadian and US armed forces, homeland security and border agencies, intelligence departments, and civilian emergency preparedness agencies. These countries, too, have common strategic interests, a joint military history, and geographic proximity. Although not aligned on every issue, these two countries also share fundamental values, principles, and a commitment to the rule of law.

### Representing Arctic Change and Environmental Security Through a One Health Lens

The Arctic region is home to diverse ecosystems that thrive in some of the most extreme conditions on the planet. As a result, the region's plant, animal, and human inhabitants are inherently resilient. However, Arctic temperatures continue to rise at nearly twice the rate of other parts of the world, resulting in a cascade of ecological ramifications that threaten the region's environmental security (IPCC, 2021). Such ramifications include changes in the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events, altered plant and animal species distribution, increased coastal erosion, and permafrost degradation (Dudley et al., 2015). The direct impact of these changes disrupts the region's ecological integrity, while the indirect effects on the natural, social, and built systems are multifaceted, dynamic, and inextricably intertwined. These challenges impact political stability, human security and resilience, and the global economy, making environmental security a critical pillar of the United States' (U.S.) national security (Katsos, 2018).

**TSC research analysts provided insights on critical geophysical and geostrategic issues at the local, national, and global levels. This work served as a vital resource for policymakers, academics, allies and partners, students, and the public.**

## Support to ICE-PPR

TSC Director and Research and Analysis team continued leadership of the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) as the lead for U.S. Situational Awareness Working Group, including planning and preparation for a week of workshops focused on Arctic Crisis response for the North Atlantic Arctic region, with focused topics associated with science and technology communications shortfalls.

In April 2023, TSC hosted an initial planning workshop on behalf of the Communications Sub-working Group of U.S. Situational Awareness Working Group (USSAWG) of the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR).

From December 14-15, 2023, TSC participated in a U.S. Situational Awareness Working Group (USSAWG) of the ICE-PPR workshop focused on Arctic communications. The workshop will examine the gaps and shortfalls in Arctic operational communications with a particular focus on creating international project arrangements for communications solutions to Arctic communication challenges.



## North Atlantic Crisis Response Workshop

TSC co-host the North Atlantic Arctic Crisis Response Workshop (NAACW) with the University of New Hampshire Center for Spills and Environmental Hazards (CSE) at the UNH campus in Durham, NH from Dec. 12-13. This workshop was a scenario-based, research-oriented event, aimed at bringing together security practitioners, decision makers, and regional leaders from the U.S. inter-agency, Arctic allies, and the Arctic Indigenous communities.

This workshop was about gaining and maintaining the strategic advantage in an increasingly accessible and competitive Arctic. We examined the existing international crisis response framework in the context of increasing geopolitical competition and changing climate. With international collaboration and vertical integration, we will advance the dialogue to frame research questions on crisis response issues in the North Atlantic/Arctic.

## TSC Impact

# Mission Support

The Mission Support Division provides consolidated staff support across the personnel, security, operations, material, fiscal, and information technology functional areas to the TSC operational elements. MSD advances essential tasks that enable our center to accomplish our mission daily.



## Personnel

- Consolidated personnel support functions within the TSC facility.
- Coordinated the final agreement with the 673rd ABW to execute all required personnel services through a combination of TSC internal and Air Force HR support.
- TSC awarded Schedule A authority.
- TSC onboarded new personnel, advertised new DoD civilian opportunities, established personnel performance plans, and supported personnel guidance, normalizing practices and expectations.
- Standardized in-processing of new staff members to ensure a smoother and faster integration into the organization.



## Summary Personnel Statistics:

- Current TSC DoD Authorized billets: 40
- Encumbered billets (with incumbents or near-term programmed fill): 26
- In work billets (with hiring committee or advertised with USA Jobs): 8
- Intergovernmental Partnering Agreement (IPA): 2
- ACT1 Federal Contractor Summary: 10 (10/12 FTEs with 4 part-time consultants (level of effort varies from .5 to .85 FTE)
- Three additional personnel assigned to the TSC from DoS, DHS-USCG.

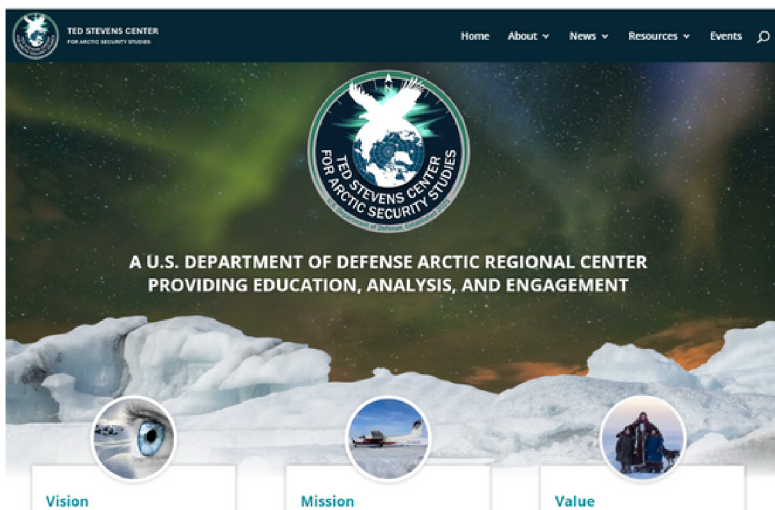


## Facility

- Located in the old Mount Spurr Elementary School on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, TSC continues coordination with Alaska District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop the design charette and is preparing an UFR for Proposal for Facility refurbishment.
- TSC received its certificate of occupancy and all other required safety checks have been completed by the installation.
- TSC has integrated with installation maintenance, sanitation, and utilities programs resulting in a clean, safe working environment.
- All TSC personnel are now equipped with a work station and office supplies.
- TSC is officially listed by Google and integrated to Google Maps.



As TSC continues to operate out of an unrenovated 1960s elementary school, the mission support division has been integral in ensuring our center has the tools to execute our mission both virtually and through an expeditionary model.



## Information Technology

- All full time employees have been issued Government Furnished Equipment as part of their on-boarding.
- The TSC website has been transitioned to a Fed-Ramp approved host and is now fully operational.
- Still seeking a solution for fiber to the building and Wifi inside the building. DSCA has provided alternate contracting guidance

## Budget

- Executed 99.96% of the \$12.4M appropriation from the 2023 Federal Year Omnibus, including civilian and non-civilian pay accounts, and covered travel and logistics to support coordinated activities in all three mission areas of the TSC.
- \$900K DSCA Information Technology contracting solutions to establish TSC Communications Authority to Operate (ATO).
- Supported 673 ABW with approximately \$160K for shared space refurbishment.
- Provided baseline Center Budget Estimate Submission (BES).
  - TSC advanced a significant milestone in Center programmatic maturity by providing DSCA the formal TSC BES for FY23 through FY25.
- Planned the FY24 spending plan in conjunction with the FY25-29 Program Objective Memorandum spend plan for submission.
- Completed the ACT-I option year two contract modifications and exercised the contract with support for the entirety of FY24

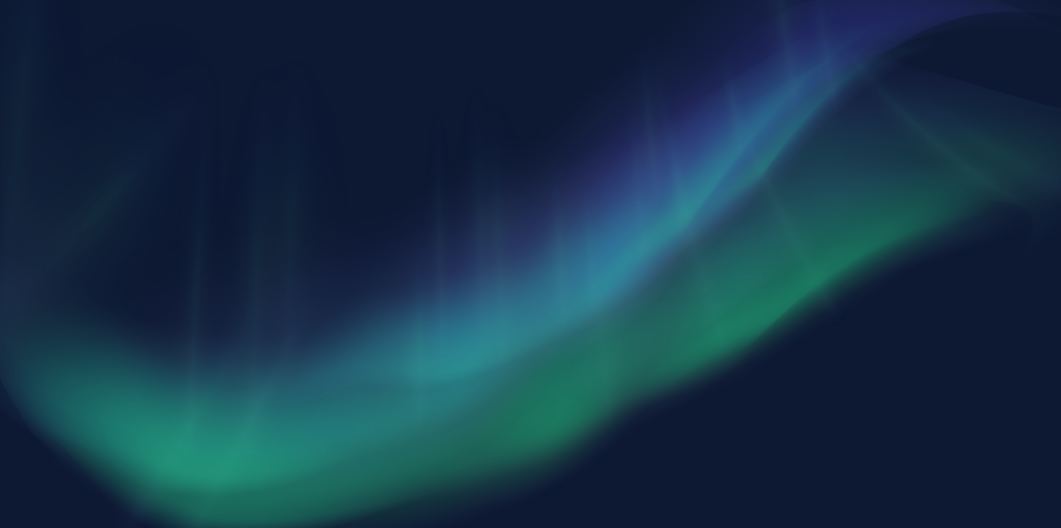
## Process

- Standardized travel processes within the TSC with the hiring of a full-time travel coordinator and integrating the travel and budget processes.
- Standardized purchasing processes within the TSC with the hiring of a GPC card holder and establishment of our Commercially Billed Accounts.
- Established budgetary processes for normal operations and fiscal year closeout.

## Continued transition from DKI APCSS

TSC continued transition from administrative reliance from Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS). TSC transitioned all administrative support, except human resources and took over TSC efforts in payroll, Defense Travel Management, GPC, and budget control functions from DKI APCSS.





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