



TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Bulletin

APRIL 2024



TSC promotes security cooperation during Arctic Encounter Symposium 2024

The Arctic Encounter Symposium 2024 (AES 2024) recently concluded after three days of robust discussions and strategic engagements among international Arctic leaders and ambassadors. Hosted from April 10-12 at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska, the staff from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies played a pivotal role in facilitating key dialogues on Arctic security.

As the symposium unfolded, the TSC stood as a beacon of collaboration and insight, fostering discussions vital to addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in the Arctic region. Terrence Shanigan, Deputy Associate Director of the Strategic Engagement Division at the TSC, highlighted the center's commitment to advancing Arctic security through education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement. "AES 2024

Continue on Page 3



Celebrating 75 years of NATO

April 4, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This significant milestone is a testament to the enduring strength and significance of the alliance.

"NATO is the world's preeminent alliance. When NATO leaders routinely call it the most successful one in history, they're not exaggerating. For three quarters of a century now, the alliance has been a unique, value-based framework backed up by real capabilities for the collective defense and broader security interests of its members," explained Dr. Matthew Rhodes, professor of International Security at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies.

On April 4, 1949, twelve countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington D.C., committing to promote security in the North

Atlantic region, safeguard freedom and democracy, and stand together for their collective defense. Of the twelve original NATO allies, the membership of the United States, Canada, Norway, Iceland, and the Kingdom of Denmark solidified the strategic significance of the Arctic region from the establishment of the alliance. Today, with 32 member nations spanning from Anchorage to Helsinki, NATO remains the bulwark of common security.

Rhodes, whose research areas include foreign policy, transatlantic relations, and European security, continued, "NATO has institutionalized the transatlantic bond and served as a broader stabilizing factor in the international order. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and other emerging challenges underline its enduring value."

Continue on Page 2



2024 was a historic year for NATO and the Arctic: Sweden's accession, along with Finland in 2023, brings seven of eight Arctic nations into the alliance. This latest expansion adds unique capabilities, commitments, and perspectives to our collective defense, as well as reaffirms the value of NATO to Arctic security.

"NATO has been in the Arctic since its founding. Finland and Sweden are highly capable countries that were already two of NATO's closest partners. Their full accession brings all Arctic states except Russia into the alliance and strengthens deterrence and defense across the Arctic-Baltic area," said Rhodes.

As the contemporary security landscape continues to evolve, so too does the alliance. NATO leaders will meet in Washington in July for NATO's 75th anniversary Summit to discuss the continued security, resilience, and prosperity of the alliance.

"Adaptation has been key to NATO's longevity. During the past couple of years, the alliance has again looked deeply at its further evolution through the NATO 2030 reflection process and

new Strategic Concept. These have flagged not only the immediate threat from Russia but also other challenges such as emerging technologies and climate change. The key points for the alliance going forward will be effective implementation and resourcing of its resulting plans, continued unity, and engaging communication and outreach about its work also with younger generations," explained Rhodes.

The Ted Stevens Center is committed to deepening relationships across the Arctic with NATO as the cornerstone of security cooperation. In the coming years, interested participants can expect a new course, developed and led by Dr. Rhodes, focused on NATO and the Arctic that is strategically driven, solution oriented, and partner-centric.

"The course will examine NATO's growing role in the North. It will push participants to consider practical implications of developments across the Arctic and related challenges and opportunities for the alliance," said Rhodes.

America's network of allies and partners remains our most strategic advantage. The Arctic serves as a steadfast example of the enduring importance, resilience, and strength of the alliance. As NATO celebrates a historic 75 years, now more than ever, we are Stronger Together.



Security Cooperation Education & Training Working Group

Representatives from the TSC participated in the USEUCOM Security Cooperation Education & Training Working Group in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. This workshop synchronizes available training programs relevant to the aligned geographic combatant command with security cooperation officials and training managers from the European region in attendance. Our representatives met with various SCOs expressing interest in Arctic education and brought back valuable feedback to implement in future course offerings. The TSC team was also able to collaborate and share lessons learned with staff from three other Regional Centers also in attendance.



NATO's strategic importance in the Arctic region.

Kee also moderated a plenary session, "Research Really Matters – Arctic Science is Arctic Security," featuring prominent scientists and policymakers including Dimitri Kusnezov, Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Science and Technology. The conversation reinforced the importance of interagency and intergovernmental collaboration on Arctic research and how Indigenous perspectives need to be included in Arctic science and research.

"Day one was really instrumental in shaping critical conversations around Arctic security," Shanigan explained. "In order to have enduring rules-based order in the Arctic region our country needs to have collaborative engagements with our Allies and partners on these topics. Our mission at the TSC is to facilitate just that."

On day two of AES 2024, the TSC also facilitated an "Arctic Indigenous Roundtable Discussion: Shaping Future Research Initiatives," moderated by the Dean for the School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies, Matthew Bell. The roundtable provided open dialogue on Indigenous communities' challenges and opportunities and how government researchers can enhance cultural, economic, and security outcomes.

In the afternoon, Dr. Haliehana Stepetin, who serves as an Assistant Professor of Arctic Security Studies at the TSC, moderated the plenary session "Thriving Communities: Addressing

provided an invaluable platform for stakeholders to converge and deliberate on critical Arctic issues," Shanigan remarked. "At the TSC booth, participants were welcomed to learn more about our role in implementing the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and how the center cultivates cross-sectoral coalitions and innovative ideas to further security in the Arctic region."

Recapping the first day, Shanigan emphasized the TSC's active involvement in facilitating strategic dialogues among Allies and partners. "Throughout the day, TSC leaders spearheaded discussions aimed at addressing the intricate dynamics of Arctic security."

TSC faculty and researchers contributed to the "Arctic Research Partner Presentations: Collaborative Updates from Governmental Research Partners" roundtable, which convened interagency research partners for an open dialogue on approaches, options, and best practices for working

in the Arctic. Participants shared updates on methodologies to meet goals and measure progress.

TSC Director Randy "Church" Kee's participation in the panel on "North American Arctic Security: Maritime Contributions by Canadian Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard, with Perspectives from RCMP, NAADS and the Ted Stevens Center" highlighted the evolving geostrategic dynamics in the region.

At the start of the keynote luncheon, Rebecca Zimmerman, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, highlighted the importance of the TSC in furthering the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Her remarks set the stage for Associate Director for Strategic Engagement at the TSC, Matthew Hickey, to moderate the "Alliance in Action: The Future of NATO and Global Security" dialogue, emphasizing

[Continue on Page 4](#)



Health and Food Security in the Arctic,” featuring leaders from across the Arctic region. The discussion highlighted the importance of preserving the sustainable subsistence living of Arctic Indigenous communities.

"Integrating Indigenous perspectives into security cooperation is not only essential for fostering mutual understanding and respect but also for crafting effective and sustainable solutions that prioritize the well-being of Arctic communities," Shanigan explained.

On the final day of AES 2024 TSC staff facilitated a panel titled, “Navigating the Limits: Debating the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Claim and the Impact to Alaska.” The event was moderated by Dr. Kelsey Frazier, Acting Associate Director for Research and Analysis at the TSC, and featured legal, Alaska state government, and State Department perspectives on the recent claim.

“The focus of this last panel was to share with our Allies and partners the U.S. perspective and methodologies

used in the claim and how the U.S. is dedicated to following a rules-based system that is consistent with established standards,” Shanigan explained. “It is through dialogue, education and collaboration the TSC can help facilitate understanding and security cooperation among Allies and partners.”

“One of the biggest events that the TSC helped to facilitate at AES 2024 was a roundtable discussion with Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski and ambassadors and international leaders from around the Arctic,” said Shanigan. “When you look at the mission of the TSC, our role is bringing leaders together to connect on Arctic challenges and opportunities that span from the geopolitical to the geophysical, and at AES 2024 we achieved just that.”

With its commitment to education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement, the TSC continues to be a driving force in shaping the future of the Arctic region.



Paving the way for Regional Center collaborative programs

On April 19, two of the Ted Stevens Center's staff were among the newest alumni of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies' Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course, furthering the cross-cutting mission of the regional center enterprise. This course enabled our staff to further understand the complex dynamics of security cooperation in the region, while bolstering our partnership with DKI APCSS, paving the way for potential collaborative programs that will explore both region's geopolitical and geostrategic environments and how it consequently ties in with one another.

SCAN
TO LEARN
MORE
ABOUT
DKI APCSS





TSC promotes comprehensive understanding of U.S. Arctic security dynamics through experiential immersion

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies recently hosted an Arctic Practitioner Engagement program on April 9 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Designed to provide an immersive hands-on educational experience, this program serves as an initial orientation to the unique geophysical and geostrategic characteristics of the U.S. Arctic to better understand the security challenges and opportunities in region.

Participants were offered a firsthand look into the multifaceted approaches to U.S. Arctic operations by various entities at the local, tribal, state, and federal levels. The program featured a special emphasis on Indigenous cultural history and how Arctic security practitioners can leverage Indigenous Knowledge and partner together to ensure the security of the Arctic region.

As part of the educational experience participants had the opportunity to see coastal damage from a 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck Anchorage in November of 2018. Allies and partners saw the physical impacts of the quake and how critical infrastructure like the ports in Alaska impact the U.S. Arctic region.

One of the highlights of the program included a visit to the Alaska Wing - Civil Air Patrol (CAP), where attendees gained insights into the intricacies of search and rescue operations and the pivotal role played by CAP in providing assistance to local emergency management agencies. This was followed by an enlightening trek along the Powerline Pass trail, led by Lt. Col. Brock Roden from the 212th Rescue Squadron, who offered a glimpse into the methodologies employed by the U.S. military in Arctic rescue operations.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet Maj. Chad Smyre from the Alaska National Guard, and local dog musher, who provided invaluable insights into the historical significance and contemporary relevance of mushing in Alaska. The session shed light on how government organizations and Indigenous communities utilize dog mushing to access remote locations in the challenging Arctic terrain.

Throughout the immersive experience, emphasis was placed on understanding the intricacies of the Arctic operating environment, fostering local resilience, and gaining insights from Arctic Indigenous perspectives. By improving understanding of the Arctic operating environment, the TSC helps advance the National Strategy for the Arctic Region.

The Arctic Practitioner Engagement program stands as a testament to the TSC's dedication to fostering collaboration and enhancing understanding in Arctic security, paving the way for informed decision-making and effective policy implementation in the region.





TED STEVENS CENTER
FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES

ARCTIC REGIONAL SECURITY ORIENTATION COURSE ARSOC 24-03

Congratulations to our latest ARSOC alumni

The School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies recently held Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course 24-03.

The five-day virtual course, consisted of 147 participants working across different countries, focused on historical, environmental, commercial, geopolitical, and strategic issues concerning the Arctic region, in order to encourage discussion, intellectual curiosity, and critical thinking among security and defense practitioners.

ARSOC has three primary objectives: Prepare Department of Defense personnel for assignments in

the Arctic region; promote a collaborative network of Arctic security practitioners; and propose cooperative, practical solutions to security challenges in the Arctic region to include policy and strategy changes for the future security environment, obstacles, and enablers of security cooperation.

To prepare participants for assignments in the Arctic region, ARSOC provides a baseline understanding on strategic issues, trends, and challenges in the Arctic region. Through breakout groups, keynote speakers, and discussion panels practitioners are provided an opportunity to critically and objectively analyze key security dynamics and trends in the region, to include the rapidly changing Arctic operating environment impacted by

the changing climate.

As participants reach the final day of the course, they have an opportunity complete a capstone Arctic and climate security dilemma where they demonstrate their enhanced knowledge and shared understanding of countries and communities of the Arctic region, while also showcasing an understanding of the domestic and international laws and norms of cooperation in the Arctic region.

In line with the primary mission of the Ted Stevens Center, ARSOC focuses on developing relationships among a community of security practitioners on whom participants can reach out to better accomplish their institutional missions.

By enhancing civil-military relations and security sector cooperation and effectiveness as well as supporting good governance and the rules-based order in the Arctic, ARSOC aims to build strong and sustainable, domestic and international networks of civilian and military security practitioners.

Since the course's establishment in March 2022, last week's graduates are now a part of a global Arctic security network with more than 1,650 alumni to date.

UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC) 24-03
Virtual, May 7-9

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) 24-04
Virtual, July 15-19, 2024

SCAN
TO
REGISTER
FOR
THESE
COURSES



Developing education & research collaboration

Earlier this month Capt. Michele Schallip, commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter HEALY (WAGB 20), visited the team at the Ted Stevens Center. As commanding officer of the United States' largest and most technologically advanced polar icebreaker, Schallip and TSC leaders discussed ways to collaborate on education and research opportunities to advance Arctic understanding for security practitioners and military operators.



Supporting Alaskan NORAD Region bilateral security cooperation

We were honored to welcome to the center Canadian Brig. Gen. David Moar, Alaskan NORAD Region deputy commander and Chief Master Sgt. Heath Tempel, senior enlisted leader, Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and command chief, Eleventh Air Force. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with ANR as well as explore opportunities for additional synergies through executive education, research, and strategic engagement in and across the Arctic region. As a bi-national Canada- U.S. command, NORAD exemplifies the power of security cooperation in defending the North American homeland.



Increasing Arctic education for U.S. and Canadian Soldiers

Canadian Brig. Gen. Robert McBride, 11th Airborne Division deputy commanding general of operations, recently visited the Ted Stevens Center. The purpose of McBride's visit was to learn more about the newest Department of Defense Regional Center and to explore ways the 11th Airborne Division, U.S. Army, can partner with the TSC to increase Arctic education for U.S. and Canadian Soldiers that will empower military operators in the Arctic region.

Director's Monthly Note



Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

The Ted Stevens Center is underway in executing a busy spring advancing a highly capable and relevant DoD Regional Center while simultaneously conducting programs and activities that benefit the community of Arctic Practitioners.

Earlier this month, our Center had a remarkable impact at the 2024 Arctic Encounter Symposium where our experts led plenary sessions, senior leader dialogues, and breakout sessions. We also had the privilege of hosting multiple distinguished visitors at the Center to baseline senior leader knowledge on challenges and opportunities in the Arctic region and associated TSC programming.

Our School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies is busy executing the third iteration of the Arctic Regional Security

Orientation Course of FY24. We are thrilled to welcome another cohort of graduates to our alumni network, now totaling over 1,650. I am truly thankful and appreciative of the entire TSC team advancing Arctic awareness through the highest caliber executive education.

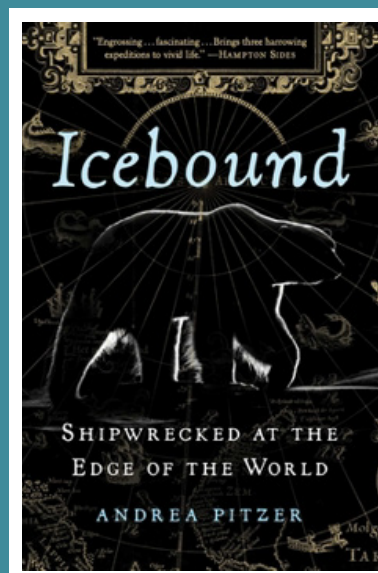
Stay tuned for more exciting engagements in the coming months!

Very best wishes and very respectfully,
Church

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

Icebound: Shipwrecked at the Edge of the World

The Dutch navigator William Barents was the first European polar explorer to achieve heroic status. Over the course of three journeys into the high Arctic during the final decade of the 16th century, Barents and his men charted northern geography previously unknown to Europeans, discovering the island of Spitsbergen and the northern extent of Nova Zembla along the way. His men were also the first group of Europeans known to have become trapped by ice and forced to spend a harrowing winter far above the Arctic Circle, beset by extreme weather, scurvy and repeated polar bear attacks. Barents would die there, while his remaining crew made one of the epic escapes from ice-laden seas back to civilization.



Follow us online

