



TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Bulletin

OCTOBER 2024



Alaska Native Knowledge shapes Arctic security understanding at 2024 AFN Convention

As the Arctic region continues to grow in global significance, Alaska Native leaders gathered at the 2024 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention to ensure their voices guide its future. Held from October 17-19 at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, the convention focused on the theme "Our Children - Our Future Ancestors," highlighting the vital role Indigenous Knowledge plays in addressing both cultural preservation and the evolving security needs of the Arctic.

Former AFN President Julie Kitka set the tone with a powerful keynote address in the form of an open letter to her grandchildren, reminding the community of their shared responsibility to ensure a future where culture, strength, and opportunity flourish. Randy "Church" Kee, Director of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, thanked Kitka for her

[Continue on Page 3](#)



USEUCOM hosts 'Arctic Week' following Pentagon's newly unveiled strategy

As winter approaches in the Arctic, U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) hosted its inaugural "Arctic Week" in Stuttgart, Germany, Sept. 23-25, 2024. This comprehensive event brought together nearly 50 military and civilian staff for an in-depth examination of Arctic issues, culminating in a senior-leader tabletop exercise designed to assess the command's strategic responses in one of the world's most challenging environments.

The week-long engagement featured significant contributions from experts at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, a U.S. Defense Department regional center based in Alaska.

As DoD's newest regional center focused on exploring global security opportunities and challenges through education,

research and engagement, the Ted Stevens Center's mission is focused exclusively on the Arctic. The center works to build international networks of security leaders to advance U.S. national security priorities in the Arctic region and to ensure a stable, rules-based order in this critical region.

"The imperative to sustain security in the Arctic has never been clearer," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Russell Driggers, USEUCOM's director of plans, policy, strategy and capabilities. "Ensuring our team remains at the forefront of developments — spanning the environmental, economic, security and diplomatic realms — is critical to our role as America's geographic combatant command in Europe. We must continue to work closely with our Allies and partners to preserve peace in the High North."

[Continue on Page 2](#)



The event, guided by Arctic subject-matter experts from the Ted Stevens Center based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, provided USEUCOM staff with enhanced insights into the rapidly changing Arctic environment. Participants explored the commercial and environmental challenges, geopolitical influences and strategic issues affecting the region. These sessions aimed to deepen understanding of the impacts on the U.S., its Allies and partners operating in the Arctic.

“To ensure the security and stability of the Arctic, it's essential for security practitioners to stay informed and agile regarding emerging dynamics in this crucial region,” said Randy “Church” Kee, Ted Stevens Center director and a retired U.S. Air Force

major general. “As climate change and shifting geopolitical dynamics redefine the Arctic landscape, focused Arctic conversations will increase this command's ability to enhance regional planning, programs and activities, while enhancing the security of U.S., Allies and partners.”

Maj. Gen. Driggers, who serves as the command's point person for Arctic strategy and plans, emphasized the significance of such engagements, noting, “The future of Arctic security relies on our collective commitment to understanding and addressing the evolving challenges with foresight and resilience. Events like Arctic Week are crucial to advancing that deep understanding.”

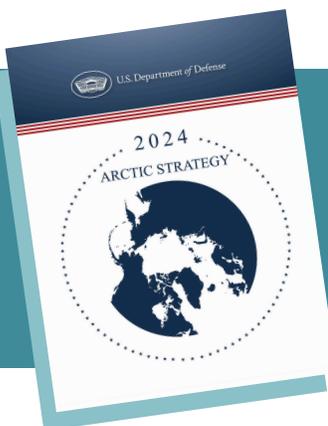


TSC launches speaker series with AP News Director's talk on freedom of press

The Ted Stevens Center kicked off its new speaker series with an engaging talk on Oct. 9, featuring James Jordan, News Director for Europe and Africa at The Associated Press. Partnering with the Alaska World Affairs Council and Alaskan Command, the event focused on the vital role of media literacy in an increasingly complex world.

During his visit, Jordan toured the base and met with military leaders to gain a deeper understanding of the Department of Defense's mission in Alaska. He also shared captivating stories with Airmen and Soldiers about his experiences interviewing both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, offering firsthand perspectives on the challenges journalists face while covering the war in Ukraine.

Jordan's reflections underscored the indispensable role of a free press in holding power accountable during critical global events, emphasizing how journalism serves as a bridge between the military and the public.



SCAN
TO READ
THE DOD
2024
ARCTIC
STRATEGY





longstanding service and for working with Senator Lisa Murkowski to establish the TSC as a platform for Indigenous voices to be included in Arctic security.

"Alaska Native experiences and knowledge are essential to the success of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and the Department of Defense Arctic Strategy," said Terrence Shanigan, Deputy Associate Director of the Strategic Engagement Division at the TSC. "Our voices and insights bring the critical perspective needed to shape policies that address the unique challenges of the Arctic."

The TSC's presence at the convention included an interactive exhibit booth where Alaska Native community members and allies were invited to share their thoughts on Arctic security. A different security question was posed each day, encouraging participation and dialogue. "Our communities hold invaluable knowledge about the Arctic, and their perspectives are vital to achieving a

secure and cooperative future," Shanigan said.

In addition to the booth, the TSC hosted a roundtable listening session on day two of the convention, where Alaska Native leaders and members of the community shared their security concerns and priorities directly with TSC leaders and staff. Shanigan highlighted the importance of these discussions, stating, "Listening to Alaska Native leaders is not only a priority—it's essential. Their voices are foundational to shaping strategies that will ensure peace and prosperity in the Arctic for future generations."

The AFN Convention, an annual event that addresses critical public policy issues, reaffirmed the deep collaboration between Alaska Native communities and the Ted Stevens Center. "Alaska Native communities have stewarded the Arctic for generations," Shanigan said. "Their expertise and contributions are

indispensable in creating effective Arctic security strategies that will safeguard the region for years to come."

The 2024 convention underscored the shared commitment to ensuring that Indigenous Knowledge continues to play a central role in shaping the future of the Arctic region, especially in the context of security and cooperation for generations to come.



Legacy of Arctic innovator highlighted by TSC

The legacy of Arctic pioneer Bernt Balchen took center stage at the Alaska Historical Society Annual Conference in Cordova, where Kristine Swain, a Research Analyst at the Ted Stevens Center, delivered an insightful presentation. The event, held from Oct. 9-12, focused on the theme of "Rights and Responsibilities," showcasing over 30 presentations on subjects ranging from Alaska Native resilience to international connections and economic development. Featured speakers included former Alaska Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer and veteran diplomat Richard Haass. Swain's talk, "Bernt Balchen: Polar Aviator and Arctic Innovator," emphasized Balchen's significant influence on modern Arctic capabilities.



Regional Centers co-host Arctic Security Seminar

The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies co-hosted a High North Security Dialogue seminar on the Marshall Center campus in Garmisch-Partenkirchen Sept. 17-20.

“There’s a storm on the horizon - the most important time to prepare is now,” said keynote speaker Ambassador Kenneth Braithwaite, former Ambassador to Norway and former Secretary of the Navy, who spoke about the geopolitical crisis facing the Arctic and the need to deepen collaboration on strengthening defense and deterrence efforts in the region.

During the week-long event, more than 50 senior security policy makers, practitioners, and academic experts met to assess strategic challenges and opportunities within the European High North and broader Arctic region.

A Divided Arctic

This year’s theme, “A Divided Arctic: Is an Ice Curtain Emerging?” examined the emerging Sino-Russian dynamic, trans-Atlantic cooperation, integrated deterrence, and defense of the High North. Seminar participants focused on the impact of climate change, economic development, and

innovative technology on the security and stability of the region.

“We put together an academically rigorous program this year, bringing in a lot of high-level speakers as well as a lot of experts,” said Navy Cmdr. Rachael Gosnell, Military Professor of Strategic Security Studies at the Marshall Center, adding that studying the Arctic environment is a unique challenge due to its evolving security environment as an emerging frontier on NATO’s northern flank. “Study panels and discussions integrated many of the elements of that evolving strategic environment including economic security, climate change, human security elements, and social developments,” Gosnell said.

In its seventh year, the High North Security Dialogue, previously titled European Security Studies Seminar – North, built upon the implications of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, as they applied to the Arctic region. The High North seminar aimed to develop concrete strategies to deepen existing alliances, produce actionable policy recommendations, better understand the High North, and anticipate, adapt, and proactively address challenges of

the future.

European focus on the Arctic

“European strategic culture is evolving as we are facing the continued and direct threat emanating from Russia,” said Dominik Mutter, German Envoy to the Arctic. “The German government has endorsed new Arctic policy guidelines, demonstrating the region’s importance to our security. They are part of our commitment to the transatlantic Alliance that is as strong as ever.”

The HNSD brought together Arctic nations and like-minded stakeholders, welcoming notable Arctic experts, including Rear Adm. Tim Henry, Deputy Commander, NATO Allied Joint Forces Command Norfolk; Claude Veron-Reville, European Union Special Envoy for Arctic Matters; Dr. Marc Lanteigne from UiT Arctic University of Norway; Denmark’s Brig. Gen. Poul Primdahl, Deputy Commander Joint Arctic Command; Rear Adm. Andrew Sugimoto, U.S. Coast Guard, Eleventh District Commander; Dr. Michael Paul, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); Anna Wieslander, Director, Atlantic Council Northern Europe; Ambassador Marie-Ann Coninx, Former EU Ambassador to the Arctic; Ambassador Piotr Rychlik, Ph.D., Ambassador for Arctic Affairs and Former Polish ambassador to Finland, and other experts.

[Continue on Page 5](#)

SCAN
TO
WATCH
HNSD
2024
VIDEO





the research the staff conducts in the Arctic.

Concluding the seminar, retired Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Rolf Wagner, German Deputy Director of the Marshall Center, praised the output-oriented focus on building resilience, advancing Trans-Atlantic cooperation, countering hybrid warfare, strengthening deterrence, and the defense of NATO's Northern Flank.

"What we have accomplished here can't be measured – the connections you forge here, your determination to make a difference and contribute to global security, is truly appreciated," Wagner said.

The joint planning and execution of the HNSD program by both the Marshall Center and the Ted Stevens Center ensures a comprehensive approach to better understand the Arctic, both as a geographical and climatic space, as well as the unique political, geophysical, and socio-economic conditions of its sub-regions. A lighthouse project of cross-regional center collaboration under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Defense, the partnership seeks to translate the findings of its seminars into actionable recommendations for policymakers.



Participants also engaged with Dr. Rebecca Pincus, Director of the Polar Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington D.C., and Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski during their virtual presentations.

"The question of whether an Ice Curtain is emerging is a very sophisticated theme for this year's High North Security Dialogue," said Dr. Pincus, adding that a path forward for climate change discourse was critical and would involve a complex approach to diplomacy, and that a fully isolationist approach to addressing climate change could be detrimental to the earth's climate.

Climate change: Arctic impact

Warming at a pace three to four times greater than the average global rate, the Arctic region is currently experiencing dramatic impacts from climate change according to experts. This warming trend presents significant global implications, in addition to potential for causing considerable local and regional

challenges. Seminar participants were able to witness these climate change effects firsthand during a visit to Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain peak, which sits at 2,962 meters, or 9,718 feet above sea level. Zugspitze has two of the last glaciers in Germany, the Northern Schneeferner and the Hoellentalferner. In 2022, due to global warming, the Southern Schneeferner at plateau Zugspitze lost its status as a glacier and is now categorized as "dead ice".

"It's really important that we have an experiential hands-on learning opportunity and there's no better place in Germany to come than to the top of Zugspitze," said Professor Gosnell. "It's really foundational to understanding the Arctic security environment."

Participants received an informative briefing from one of the climate scientists working at the Schneefernerhaus facility atop Zugspitze that included ways Germany and the Alps have been impacted by a changing climate and an overview of

Anchorage Security and Defense Conference

Anchorage, Alaska | November 19-21, 2024

Hotel Captain Cook
939 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

The 'Decisive' 2020s in
Allied North Perspective



TSC hosts Federal roundtable on Arctic strategy

In a step toward addressing the evolving challenges of the Arctic, the Ted Stevens Center hosted a Federal roundtable on Aug. 26, bringing together Asad Ramzanali, Chief of Staff for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and key federal agencies in Alaska. The gathering aimed to strengthen interagency collaboration on Arctic security, environmental shifts, and economic opportunities.

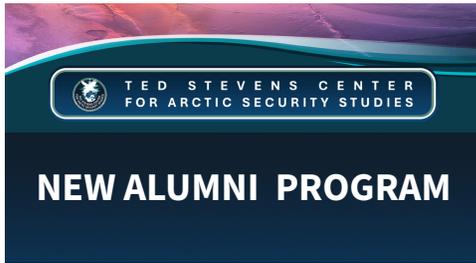
Framed by the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, the discussions focused on a whole-of-government approach to managing the region's unique challenges. By uniting federal stakeholders, the TSC continues to shape solutions that are both strategic and cooperative, ensuring long-term success in the Arctic.

This commitment to collaboration highlights the center's ongoing mission to preserve the Arctic as a peaceful, stable, and prosperous region, underscoring the need for unified efforts to navigate its future.

The U.S. National Security Strategy identifies the 2020s as a “decisive decade.” In geopolitics, their first half has seen the return of large-scale war to Europe as well as China’s full emergence as a multidimensional power with global aspirations. At the same time, lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating rates of climate change, and accumulating advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies have added transformative effects that interact with security and defense. Such developments have variously tested, reinforced, and reinvented international cooperation in response.

The inaugural Anchorage Security and Defense Conference (#ASDC24) offers a unique opportunity for midpoint examination of these shifts and their nexus in Arctic, North Atlantic, and North Pacific contexts. In the spirit of military aviation pioneer Billy Mitchell’s description of Alaska as “the most important strategic place in the world” in the similarly pivotal 1930s, Anchorage presents an ideal vantage point for reflection and dialogue on the scope of change the past five years and ways ahead in the decade’s second half.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ASDC24



TSC launches Alumni Program with inaugural event

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies has launched its new Alumni Program, giving former course participants access to exclusive events aimed at fostering continued education and networking. The center kicked off its first virtual event on Sept. 9, featuring a panel discussion on “Shifting Arctic Policy and Strategy Post-NATO Enlargement.” The event, moderated by Ms. Sujata Sharma from the Department of State, featured panelists Mr. Mike Ryan, Mr. Paul Dodge, and Commander Stefan Lundqvist. The event drew 64 alumni participants.

Doug Hulseley, the TSC's new Alumni Specialist, said the purpose of the program is to keep alumni engaged with the center long after attending a course. “The goal is to bring our alumni back to the center, allow them to continue their Arctic engagement and education, and foster a

community of alumnus,” Hulseley said.

Alumni events, which will be offered to past participants, provide new opportunities for professional development, such as listening to senior leaders in the Arctic security field or engaging with experts on current issues. Hulseley emphasized the importance of these events, noting that most professional education ends with a single course.

“With most executive education, you get it once, and that's your last touchpoint,” Hulseley said. “Providing these opportunities allows our alumni to stay engaged while serving in and around the Arctic as security professionals.”

The inaugural event gave attendees a chance to gain a deeper understanding of the 2024 Department of Defense Arctic Strategy and offered new perspectives on how NATO's enlargement is impacting the Arctic. Alumni also had the opportunity to ask follow-up questions during the panel.

Hulseley said future events will focus on bringing smaller groups of professionals together to network and collaborate on Arctic issues.

“Bringing people together who are engaged in similar fields allows them to collaborate and solve Arctic challenges, based on the fact that they knew each other from the Ted Stevens Center,” he said.

Looking ahead, the center plans to hold multiple alumni events quarterly. Hulseley said the Alumni Program will continue to grow, advancing alumni access and engagement with the center's network.

Hulseley encourages TSC alumni to stay connected, noting that the events are designed for their benefit. “The Arctic is an ever-changing and complex environment,” Hulseley said. “We have deep ties within the Arctic, and staying up to date is what we do. The Alumni Program is here to provide tools and resources for alumni to navigate the Arctic's challenges.”

Alumni can find information about upcoming events through the center's GlobalNet alumni page, the True North monthly bulletin, social media, and the Ted Stevens Center website.

UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

- Virtual, December 9-13, 2024
- Virtual, February 10-14, 2025

Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC)

- Virtual, March 4-6, 2025

SCAN
TO
REGISTER
FOR
THESE
COURSES





NEW RESEARCH AVAILABLE

New research is now available on the Ted Stevens Center website, where our Research and Analysis team has been hard at work expanding our understanding of Arctic security. Over the summer, the research team released five new special reports on critical topics such as "The US Extend Continental Shelf Claim: The Case for a Counter Lawfare Strategy in the Arctic" and "Arctic Maritime Health Security: A Scoping Review of the Literature."

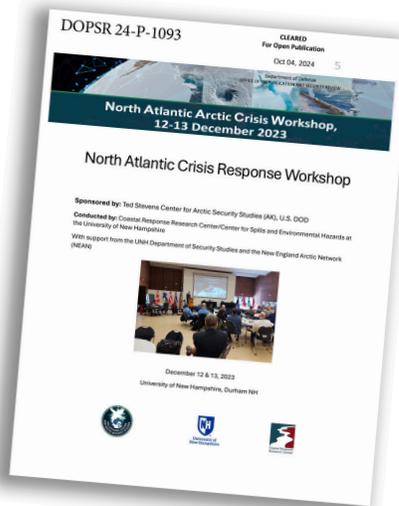
This work reflects a collective effort to address emerging security challenges in the Arctic, including the impacts of climate change and maritime health risks. To access all the latest research, scan the QR code and explore these comprehensive reports.



SCAN TO READ THE LATEST SPECIAL REPORTS

The North Atlantic Arctic Crisis Workshop 2023 Report is now available

On Dec. 12-13, 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense Ted Stevens Center held a workshop at the University of New Hampshire entitled the North Atlantic Arctic Crisis Workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the UNH Center for Spills and Environmental Hazards which is co-located with NOAA's Coastal Response Research Center. Many workshops have been held to address security issues in the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Seas, but few have focused on the North Atlantic Arctic, though there are many potential climate change, infrastructure and environment-related challenges that could arise and trigger cascading issues. This report details the structure of the workshop, plenary overview, and crisis scenarios discussed in the Tabletop Exercise and summarizes the findings.



SCAN TO READ THE NAACW 2023 REPORT



TSC strengthens Nordic partnerships, appoints first National Chair from Norway

In a significant move toward enhancing security cooperation, the Ted Stevens Center announced in September the signing of collaborative agreements with the Swedish Defence University and the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies. These partnerships mark a critical step forward in promoting mutual understanding and strengthening defense ties in the High North.

As part of this growing collaboration, the center also named Dr. Paal Hilde as its first National Chair from Norway. Dr. Hilde will focus on advancing security cooperation and Arctic education efforts, fostering international dialogue to address the unique challenges of the region.

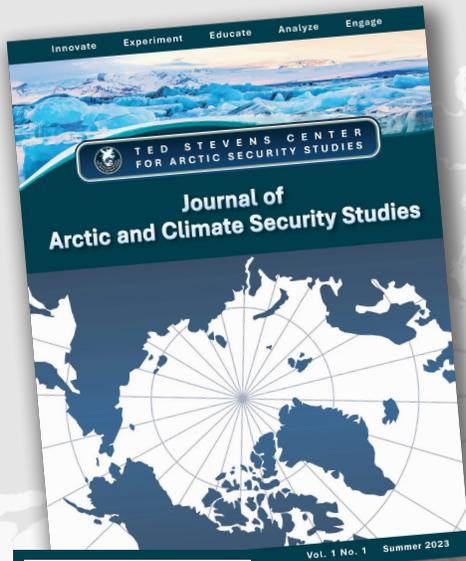
With these agreements in place and Dr. Hilde's appointment, TSC aims to promote shared interests and ensure a future of strong cooperation in Arctic defense and security.



Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies, Volume 4 Call for Papers

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies announces an article submission deadline of **31 December 2024** for contributions to JACSS Vol. 4 for release in spring 2025.

The U.S. National Strategy for the Arctic Region calls for U.S. support for International Cooperation and Governance to sustain Arctic institutions and uphold international law. Researchers are invited to submit papers on topics related to Arctic Governance:



Scan the QR code to see the latest Journal and the JACSS Writer's Guide

- Evaluation of the **challenges to the rules-based order in the Arctic** and implications for national defense and security
- The future of the **Arctic Council** in light of tensions related to the war in Ukraine
- **Indigenous Voices** in decision making
- **Assessments of existing frameworks**, management, regulation and enforcement
- New or improved Arctic governance **framework opportunities** for the U.S. and allies
- Implications of **Russia's threatened exit from UNCLOS**
- Evaluation of **U.S. position on UNCLOS** as customary law
- Implications for enforcing **environmental frameworks** such as Paris Agreement, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and New High Seas Treaty (BBNJ) on Arctic security
- Ramifications of U.S. **Extended Continental Shelf** announcement
- Arctic governance as it relates to **economic and infrastructure development**
- And, research furthering academic discourse on topics from Volumes 1-3.

Submissions of 4,000 – 6,500 words in APA Style with author's curriculum vitae will be accepted by the editorial staff at TSC-JACSS@groups.af.mil.

JACSS is a peer-reviewed academic publication. Articles are unclassified, and readers can access articles from all over the world. Submissions will be accepted in English language, clearly written for an informed audience of defense and security affairs professionals and academics.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff addresses Arctic security at TSC

This summer, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the Ted Stevens Center to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the Arctic region. Brown emphasized the importance of collaboration with Arctic allies to strengthen security, stability, and cooperation. His engagement with the center's team reinforced the critical role of partnerships in addressing the evolving strategic landscape of the Arctic.



Ambassador Cohen, TSC leaders strengthen Arctic collaboration

U.S. Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen met with Ted Stevens Center leaders to explore ways to strengthen collaboration. The discussions centered around enhancing partnerships with North American Indigenous communities, particularly in the Canadian Arctic. A key focus of the meeting was how the center could assist in modernizing critical infrastructure vital to the NORAD mission. By engaging Indigenous communities in these efforts, the TSC and Ambassador Cohen aim to ensure a more resilient and cooperative approach to safeguarding North American Arctic interests.



NATO COE-CWO visits TSC to increase security cooperation

Leaders from the NATO Centre of Excellence Cold Weather Operations visited the Ted Stevens Center. Led by Norwegian operators and cold-weather experts, the COE-CWO plays a vital role in the Alliance's mission to ensure readiness in all environments, operating across the four pillars of NATO's Center of Excellence program. During the visit, leaders from both centers discussed collaboration opportunities and ways to enhance cold weather and Arctic education for military operators. Through collaborative education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement with our Allies and partners, we will ensure an Arctic region that is peaceful, stable, prosperous, and cooperative.

Director's Monthly Note



Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

First and foremost, we're simply thrilled to announce the re-launch of our monthly bulletin, *True North*. After a summer of building our plans and processes, we are ready to drive full speed ahead into the final quarter of the calendar year. This month's *True North* highlights several key developments that demonstrate the critical

importance of Arctic security and the role we all play in ensuring a peaceful, stable region.

October was a busy month for the Center. We were honored to engage with many of you at our booth at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention here in Anchorage, Alaska. Each day we asked questions like "What does Arctic security mean to you?" These conversations underscored the interconnectedness of the Arctic and the importance of working together to safeguard the Arctic for future generations. In addition, our team participated in the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, engaging with international partners to address environmental stewardship, multilateral cooperation, and the maintenance of peace and

stability in the region.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you—our partners, colleagues, and supporters—who contribute to the mission of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. Your continued collaboration and dedication make a tremendous difference as we work to keep the Arctic a region of cooperation and security.

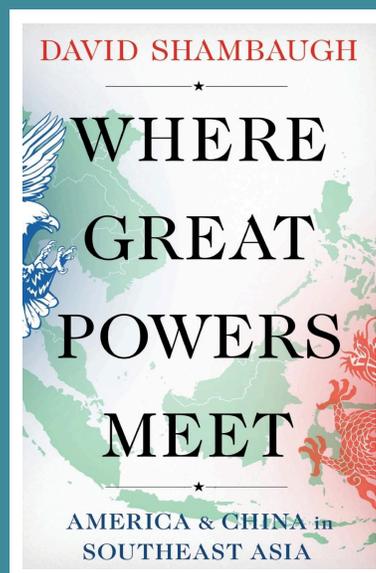
I look forward to the exciting month ahead with the inaugural Anchorage Security and Defense Conference from Nov. 19-21. Be sure to stay connected with us through our social media and website for updates!

Very best wishes and very respectfully,
Church

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

Where Great Powers Meet: America & China in Southeast Asia

In *Where Great Powers Meet*, renowned China scholar David Shambaugh explores the U.S.-China competition for power, particularly in Southeast Asia. This critical sub-region could determine whether Asia remains under American influence or falls into a new Chinese sphere of influence. Shambaugh assesses the likelihood of a regional power transition, examining the assets each country brings to bear, and how ASEAN and its member states navigate between the two powers. The fate of Southeast Asia serves as a significant indicator of the ongoing global power shift between the U.S. and China.



Follow us online

