



TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2025



TSC launches Arctic Crisis Logistics Course enhancing strategic and operational logistics capabilities

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies concluded the first ever Arctic Crisis Logistics Course this week, a premier educational program designed to enhance operations readiness and coordination in the Arctic region. Held virtually, this course brought together military practitioners, government officials, and subject matter experts to address the unique logistical challenges posed by the Arctic's extreme operating environment.

"The reason this course is important to Arctic security is the emphasis it puts on the consideration of risk and response," said Dr. Cody Dees, course director and professor of international security studies at the TSC. "The Arctic Crisis Logistics course takes the concept of logistics from being synonymous with 'Supply' and

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Arctic Readiness in Action: TSC Arctic Fellows experience the harsh realities of the U.S. Arctic

In the dead of winter, where the sun refuses to rise and temperatures plunge to minus 17 degrees Fahrenheit, a group of U.S. service members ventured into the heart of the American Arctic. Their mission: immerse themselves in one of the harshest environments on Earth, gaining firsthand insight into Arctic operations, readiness, and strategic planning.

As part of the Ted Stevens Center's Arctic Fellowship Program, the Arctic Field Study and Orientation, held Jan. 7-9, 2025, provided U.S. military members with an experiential understanding of Arctic conditions. Through site visits, local engagements, and direct exposure to extreme winter environments, participants gained deeper insight into the region's operational challenges and security considerations.

Firsthand Exposure to Arctic Realities

"To get a glimpse of the Alaskan Arctic," said TSC Fellow and U.S. Air Force Maj. Anthony Caliva, when asked about the purpose of the trip. "It's one thing to read about it, it's another to taste, touch, and feel the Arctic in the most extreme conditions."

For many, this was their first time in Utqiagvik during the winter. TSC Fellow and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Jones, had previously visited in the summer but noted the stark contrast between seasons.

"Everything as small as the roads—bumpy and nearly undrivable in the summer—were suddenly smoother when frozen over," Jones noted. "You don't realize how much easier it can be to move things and drive in the cold up there than in the summer."

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Experiences like traveling to Point Barrow, the northernmost point of the continental United States, provided the Fellows critical firsthand knowledge into the challenges of conducting military, defense, and security operations in the harsh Arctic environment. The journey also underscored the resilience of the local Indigenous communities who have thrived in this environment for generations.

At the Iñupiat Heritage Center, the Fellows spoke with community elders who shared stories of self-reliance and survival in an unforgiving landscape. "Trips that would require months of training for us were just another part of their way of life," Jones said. "That level of resilience is invaluable for military operators to understand."

Bridging Operational Gaps & Readiness

A key component of the trip was a tour of the Point Barrow Long Range Radar Site, a crucial element of the Distant Early Warning Line and NORAD's mission. TSC Fellow and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Krakower, found the visit particularly eye-opening. "The Coast Guard is often

seen as the primary Arctic service, but seeing the Air Force's role and their infrastructure up here gave me a much better understanding of how other branches contribute to Arctic security."

The Arctic environment poses unique operational challenges, particularly in mobility, infrastructure, and logistics. Fellows examined how Arctic infrastructure must be intentionally designed and maintained to function in extreme conditions.

For Caliva, one of the biggest takeaways was the intentionality behind Arctic infrastructure. "Everything from the way homes and buildings are constructed to how utilities are maintained has to be adapted for these conditions. The isolation and logistical challenges are something we often don't fully grasp when planning operations from afar."

Beyond infrastructure, the trip provided an opportunity to assess existing capabilities and gaps in Arctic operations. The Fellows observed the capability of local search and rescue operations. "The North Slope Borough Search and Rescue teams are doing incredible work with limited resources," Jones said. "Recognizing the strength of local and state capabilities is critical when planning Arctic operations."

Enhancing Readiness for Future Arctic Operations

While the Arctic is often seen as a seasonal operating environment for U.S. forces, near-peer adversaries have demonstrated increasing

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NATO in the North Course design event

The Ted Stevens Center and the NATO Center of Excellence for Cold Weather Operations partnered in an interactive design event for their upcoming joint course on NATO in the North on Feb. 10 in Oslo, Norway. The Norwegian Defence University College hosted the interactive discussions among fifteen civilian and military representatives of respective leadership and staffs, ministries, embassies, and local and regional think tanks.

NATO in the North will offer a bi-continental introductory course on challenges and opportunities for the Alliance as geopolitical shifts draw its attention further to its northern flank. It will prepare officers and officials working on Arctic-related security matters within a NATO framework. Incorporating a range of expert perspectives, the Oslo discussions provided highly valued input on course content and structure.

Continued from Arctic Readiness in Action story on Page 1 and 2

capabilities in winter Arctic operations. Jones emphasized the importance of preparing for year-round engagement in the region. "Most of the Coast Guard's Arctic experience is in the summer, but with new assets like the Polar Security Cutters eventually coming online, we're likely going to be operating in the Arctic much later into the year. Having this winter experience means when we're asked to deploy in January, it won't be our first time experiencing these conditions."

The importance of firsthand Arctic experience was echoed by all the Fellows. "There's no substitute for experiencing the Arctic in its harshest conditions," Caliva said. "Reading about it is one thing, but feeling the wind chill at negative 44 degrees, seeing how the cold affects your body and equipment, and understanding what it truly takes to survive and operate here is invaluable."

Krakower stressed the need for greater collaboration with Indigenous Knowledge holders. "There's been a significant disconnect in trying to integrate Indigenous expertise into our operations. The Iñupiat have thrived in

the Arctic for thousands of years. If we can find ways to work together, it will make us more effective."

"The folks in Utqiagvik are very proud Alaskans and very proud Americans," Caliva said. "I think the U.S. writ large forgets that we're an Arctic Nation, and when you are up there you understand that we are an Arctic Nation."

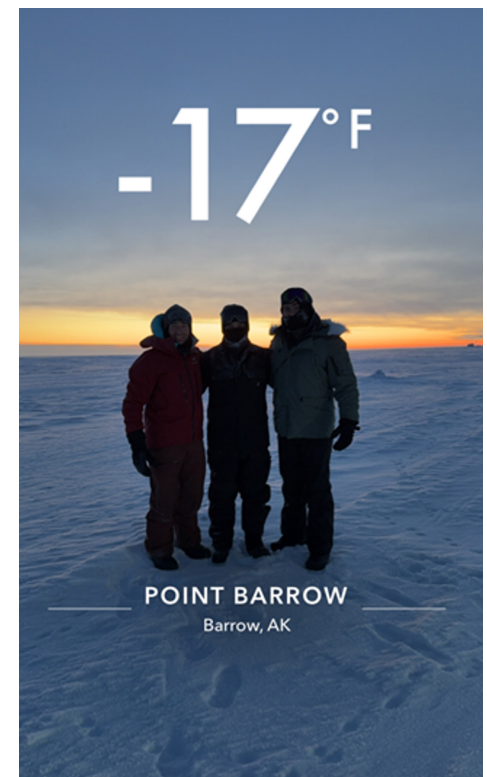
The Future of Arctic Military Training

"We train with our allies in the European Arctic, but the American Arctic is a different environment," Jones said.

As the U.S. Department of Defense refines its Arctic strategy, experiences like this one are crucial in shaping future operations. The Ted Stevens Center is leading the way in ensuring that military personnel assigned to Arctic operations have the knowledge, training, and exposure necessary to be effective.

"Book knowledge is great, but it needs to be coupled with firsthand experience," said U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Grant Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard Liaison and Arctic Fellows coordinator. "If you don't understand how to dress, operate, or even survive in these conditions, you won't be ready when the time comes to perform your mission."

The Arctic Field Study and Orientation is just one component of the broader Arctic Fellowship program at the Ted Stevens Center. By combining academic research with real-world Arctic exposure, the program is equipping military leaders with the skills needed to navigate the rapidly evolving strategic landscape of the region.



UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

- Virtual, April 21-25, 2025

Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC)

- Virtual, March 4-6, 2025
- Virtual, May 6-8, 2025

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Continued from TSC launches ACLC story on Page 1

reintroduces it as the backbone of operational success in and across the Arctic.”

Maj. Gen. Constance L. Jenkins, Director of Logistics and Engineering, J4, Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, delivered the opening remarks. General Jenkins emphasized the criticality of strategic logistics capabilities to homeland defense, national security, and critical infrastructure, particularly in a region as demanding and dynamic as the Arctic.

The three-day ACL course emphasized key logistical considerations necessary for crisis response and support, to include the shifting operational environment, infrastructure adaptation, domain awareness, and security cooperation. Through interactive sessions, breakout exercises, and expert-led discussions, participants gained

valuable insights into overcoming obstacles such as severe weather conditions, limited infrastructure, and geopolitical complexities of Arctic operations.

“The ideal outcome of the ACLC is twofold, 1) that participants make meaningful connections between the realities of Arctic Crisis Logistics and their own situation within, and impacts on the logistics sphere, and 2) that they walk away with the realization that you cannot go into the Arctic with assumptions. There are no given situations within the Arctic, essentially escalating all risk to crisis levels,” explained Dees.

The Arctic Crisis Logistics Course is an essential contribution to the Ted Stevens Center mission of advancing security, operational effectiveness, and cooperation in the Arctic region. By challenging participants with real word scenarios, the course strengthens preparedness for future contingencies in the region.

Dees explained that “what makes the ACLC unique is that it elevates the

pragmatic connection between crisis and logistics, extending conversations well beyond technical aspects of supply chain management. The course is designed to engage participants in critical thinking, risk awareness, multi-domain awareness, and situates them within the interagency and international operational contexts which transcend combatant commands.”

ACLC graduates now join an alumni network of Arctic security practitioners totaling over 2,000. For more information on upcoming courses visit: <https://tedstevensarcticcenter.org/>



TSC leaders support Arctic Summit 2025

The TSC was pleased to participate in North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command’s Arctic Summit 2025. This week-long event aimed to share perspectives and strengthen coordination regarding Arctic defense and security matters.

Through Arctic education, research and analysis, and strategic engagements we prepare 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.



TSC and Swedish Defence University enhance partnership, inaugurate Sweden Chair

Director Randy “Church” Kee and a team from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, at the beginning of February for a two-day engagement with the Swedish Defence University. The TSC and SEDU have a history of collaboration, including featuring speakers and presenters in conferences, courses, and exercises.

To launch the engagement, Kee and SEDU Vice Chancellor Anders Callert signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a Sweden Chair at the TSC. The National and Arctic Interest Chairs program formally incorporates distinguished Arctic experts into the TSC team and facilitates exchanges between the respective Arctic security practitioner networks. Through this MOU, the TSC and SEDU appointed Dr. Commander Stefan Lundqvist as the first Ted Stevens Center Sweden Chair. He joins a network of other national and sector-specific chairs who contribute their expertise to the TSC and in return

can leverage the TSC to advance their particular Arctic security efforts in a mutually-beneficial partnership.

Later that day, the TSC team introduced the center’s mission and activities to key Swedish stakeholders who had not previously interacted with the TSC. During this overview, Kee emphasized the dynamic security environment in the Arctic and the need for NATO allies to pay attention to the entire circumpolar Arctic, which includes NATO’s northeastern and western flanks. He also underscored how allies can work together to enhance each other’s understanding of the Arctic operational environment and the TSC’s role in building that cooperation. The TSC and SEDU continued the conversation that evening with senior leaders from the Swedish Defence Forces, U.S. Embassy, and other key Arctic practitioners.

On day two, the TSC and SEDU conducted a security dialogue looking

at the future of Arctic security and deterrence. Panelists addressed questions of NATO’s role in the Arctic, the effect of disruptive and new technologies in strategic competition and how hybrid or grey zone activities might play out in the Arctic. Across these themes, experts wrestled with how to maintain security in the Arctic to ensure ongoing stability and prosperity for the region. At the conclusion, leaders from both sides summarized conclusions that pointed towards concrete actions for Arctic security practitioners.

The TSC and SEDU look forward to enhanced partnership to advance Arctic security issues of mutual interest.



TSC advances Arctic awareness during NGAIC

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies reinforced its commitment to U.S. military readiness and strategic engagement in the Arctic during the 2025 National Guard Arctic Interest Council (NGAIC) Symposium, held Feb. 11-12 in Springfield, Virginia. Hosted by the Virginia National Guard, the event emphasized collaboration as a key driver for advancing U.S. defense objectives in the region.

As the Department of Defense's premier institution for Arctic education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement, the TSC plays a vital role in equipping service members with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of Arctic security. At the symposium, Col. (Ret.) Matthew Schell highlighted the Center's resources, including specialized courses, research opportunities, and expert-driven events, ensuring that military personnel remain at the forefront of Arctic strategy and operations.

A key discussion at the symposium centered on the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP), which fosters military cooperation between U.S. states and allied nations. A panel featuring defense officials from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland underscored the growing importance of these partnerships, particularly with the recent inclusion of Sweden (New York) and Finland (Virginia). The TSC complements the SPP by providing critical educational and analytical support, strengthening interoperability and trust among Arctic allies.

By enhancing military knowledge, fostering collaboration, and supporting critical defense initiatives, the TSC empowers U.S. service members to operate effectively in the Arctic. In an era of strategic competition, ensuring U.S. forces have the expertise and partnerships necessary to safeguard national interests in the region remains a top priority.



TSC strengthens Arctic-Pacific ties with Minister of Defense of Mongolia

Last month TSC leadership had the honor to meet with Sandag Byambatsogt, Minister of Defense of Mongolia, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to discuss opportunities for strengthening the strategic partnership between Mongolia and the United States.

Byambatsogt's visit marked a significant milestone in enhancing defense ties. As Mongolia continues to deepen its partnerships with U.S. defense institutions, engagements like these play a vital role in fostering strategic collaboration and shared security efforts.



Reflections from ARSOC 25-02

Last month the School for Arctic Security Studies welcomed aboard 167 new Alumni after completing the foundational Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course. This interactive, multidisciplinary course provides like-minded Arctic security practitioners a common baseline exposure to the many facets of the Arctic, from the geo-physical to geo-strategic.

An opening objective shared by the Dean of the school, Matthew Bell, to the participants reflected on the loss of Arctic exceptionalism, "Not only do we expect you to survive and thrive in the Arctic, but to adequately adapt to the complex environment to defeat the enemy effectively and efficiently, when called upon to do so."

The Arctic grows in importance with each passing day. It is essential to recognize the strategic significance of the Arctic and the proactive measures required to understand, defend, and assert our interests in this vital region. In its pursuit of a robust national strategy for the Arctic, we hear many notable quotes about the critical importance of the Arctic. Deputy Fleener's closing comments for the course highlighted one of his favorites, often repeated by Senator Dan Sullivan is that "Alaska is the most strategic place in the world!"

The Arctic is not just a distant frontier, at least not for many of us...it is our home. And, for the United States and its Arctic allies, it is a region of strategic importance that demands our collective attention and action. Our next ARSOC is scheduled for April 21-25, visit the TSC website to register for this course.

Attention TSC Alumni! We would like to invite you to ...



CIVIL-MILITARY ROLES IN ARCTIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Join us for the next Ted Stevens Center virtual alumni event March 14, 2025 from 1030-1200 AKDT.

Featuring:

- ✓ Mr. George Tolar
- ✓ Dr. Christian Leuprecht
- ✓ Mrs. Maria Jontén



[Zoom Webinar](#)

Register Using the QR Code:

For questions, contact:

douglas.hulsey.3@us.af.mil



During this online webinar, George Tolar (TSC representative), along with our distinguished panelists Dr. Christian Leuprecht (Macdonald Laurier Institute) and Maria Jontén (Swedish Defense University) will discuss matters of civil and military roles in emergency management across the Arctic. The 60-minute discussion will be followed by a 30-minute Q&A session, where Alumni are encouraged to engage directly with panelists about your own concerns regarding Arctic Emergency Management.



TSC workshop strengthens Arctic health and security

As Arctic maritime activity increases, so do the challenges associated with health and security in the region. To address these issues, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies recently hosted a workshop titled Identifying Community-Level Indicators of Arctic Maritime Health Security at the Arctic Frontiers conference. The event, led by Research Analyst Elizabeth “Ellee” Parry and Curriculum Development Specialist Dr. Christine Duprow, focused on the intersection of increased Arctic shipping and health security threats.

The workshop applied Human-Centered Design (HCD) methodologies to identify indicators relevant to community-level health security. Participants from the United States, Canada, and Norway collaborated using creativity and importance/difficulty matrices, highlighting critical infrastructure concerns such as sanitation, transportation, food security, and disaster response. Parry and Duprow emphasized the need for localized risk assessments, as conventional national-level frameworks often overlook the unique vulnerabilities of Arctic communities.

In addition to the workshop, Parry and Duprow presented The Nexus between Human-Centered Design (HCD), Health, and Human Security Challenges in the Arctic. Their research underscored the necessity of integrating HCD principles into health security planning to ensure effective, people-centered solutions.



“Developing a maritime risk index benefits warfighters by enhancing situational awareness, improving mission planning, ensuring operational safety, addressing emerging threats, and providing a strategic edge,” explained Parry. “These tools are essential for navigating the complexities of modern Arctic operations and ensuring mission success in dynamic and often dangerous environments.”

By equipping military and security professionals with data-driven risk assessments and actionable insights, the Ted Stevens Center aims to enhance U.S. operational effectiveness in the Arctic. As Arctic activity continues to grow, workshops like these provide essential strategies for safeguarding both regional communities and national security interests.

In case you missed it, Arctic Connections Episode 5, "Threats Through, To, and In the North American Arctic," featuring Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer and host Matthew Hickey, is now available for streaming on our YouTube channel. In this episode, Dr. Lackenbauer walks us through his model for Arctic security that delineates threats Through, To, and In the Arctic. The discussion provides essential perspectives for policymakers to understand the nature of the varying Arctic threats at the intersection of Arctic sovereignty, governance, socio-economic, cultural, and community resiliency issues.



Journal of Arctic Security

Volume 2 IS HERE!



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JAS



Volume 2 marks another milestone in the development of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies as we contribute through research, education, and engagement to the growing body of knowledge on behalf of the Department of Defense. As you read on, you'll recognize that Volume 2 is dedicated to Defense with a "Capital D" versus other aspects of security and security cooperation. As global competition grows and deterrence is measured in demonstrated capabilities across the NATO alliance, this volume sets out to consider hard power and strategic competition in the Arctic.

Check out this month's JAS article highlight!



"The Polar Tiger: Climate Change, India, and US Arctic Security Policy in a Multipolar World"
by Zerin Osho & Eoin Jackson

This article examines India's evolving role in Arctic policy and climate security, emphasizing the imperative for science-oriented cooperation between the United States and India in light of growing tensions and multipolar dynamics. The research explores India's increasing influence in the Arctic, analyzing its Observer status on the Arctic Council and the implications for US policy.

ICE-PPR

International Cooperative Engagement
Program for Polar Research

Nav/ISR WORKSHOP

Navigation, Intelligence, Surveillance,
& Reconnaissance Workshop

The ICE-PPR Nav/ISR Research Workshop will bring together researchers, operators, and planners from the US joint force and partner nations to share current research, identify research priorities, and examine proposed international project arrangements for Arctic situational awareness challenges at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels.

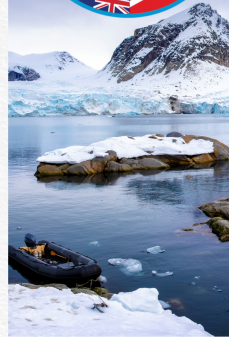
**29 APRIL - 1 MAY
2025**

Co-hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies and the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) at the CRREL facilities in Hanover, New Hampshire

Please direct questions to matthew.schell.6@us.af.mil or john.p.nugent15.mil@us.navy.mil

Join ICE-PPR this spring for the Nav/ISR Workshop

Get ready for the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) Navigation, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Workshop—an exciting opportunity to collaborate with experts from the U.S. and partner nations to address Arctic security challenges! Taking place from April 29 to May 1, 2025, in Hanover, New Hampshire, this event is co-hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies and the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) at the CRREL facilities. Join us as we work together to share knowledge, foster innovation, and explore the unique opportunities and challenges in Arctic research. Please direct questions to matthew.schell.6@us.af.mil or john.p.nugent15.mil@us.navy.mil.





Journal of Arctic Security, Volume 4 Call for Papers

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies announces an article submission deadline of **31 May 2025** for contributions to JAS Vol. 4 for release in fall 2025.

Through the release of national defense and security strategies, the U.S. and its Allies and partners have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and strengthening Arctic governance—the actors, institutions, frameworks, legal principles and norms that comprise the current rules-based order. Researchers are invited to submit papers on topics related to Arctic governance, including but not limited to:

- 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
- **Assessments of existing frameworks, management, regulation, and enforcement**
- New or improved **Arctic governance framework opportunities** for the U.S. and its Allies
- Implications of **Russia's threatened exit from UNCLOS**
- Evaluation of **U.S. position on UNCLOS** as customary law
- Ramifications of the **U.S. Extended Continental Shelf** announcement
- Governance as it relates to **economic and infrastructure development**
- And, research furthering academic discourse on **topics from Volumes 1-3.**



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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.

JAS 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.

Director's Monthly Note



Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

As we close out the month of February, we reflect on the growing importance of Arctic security in an era of strategic competition. The Arctic continues to be a region of dynamic geopolitical interest, and the Ted Stevens Center remains committed to advancing Arctic awareness, enhancing military effectiveness, and strengthening security cooperation among allies and partners.

In the past month, we have engaged in a range of activities to support our mission, and we look forward to an eventful season ahead. In February, we were proud to launch the Arctic Crisis Logistics Course, designed to equip practitioners with critical knowledge for addressing logistical challenges in extreme Arctic conditions. We were also thrilled to publish Volume 2 of the Journal of Arctic Security, an important contribution to advancing Arctic knowledge across the practitioner community. Additionally, the TSC supported our aligned Combatant Command, NORAD and USNORTHCOM at their Arctic Summit, while also advancing our network of security and defense community, to include establishing a strong partnership

We invite you to stay connected with the Ted Stevens Center through our website and social media platforms. If you haven't already, follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter for the latest updates on how we are supporting U.S. national security interests in the Arctic region. Your engagement is so very welcome as we continue our mission to advance relevant measures of education, analysis, and engagement in support of U.S. and Allied defense of the Arctic.

Very Respectfully,
Maj. Gen. (ret.) Randy "Church" Kee
Director, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

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DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

Theory of Strategy by Colin Gray

Theory of Strategy makes the radical argument that the familiar structure of strategy's general theory (political ends, strategic ways, military means - and assumptions) holds as sound for security at all times and in all places, of human necessity. Strategy is ever-varying in its character, but not in its nature, which is unchanging. This book provides a short and accessible introduction to the theory of strategy, examines the general theory of strategy in accordance with 23 key Principles and explains its nature, functions, and intended consequences.

