



# TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Bulletin

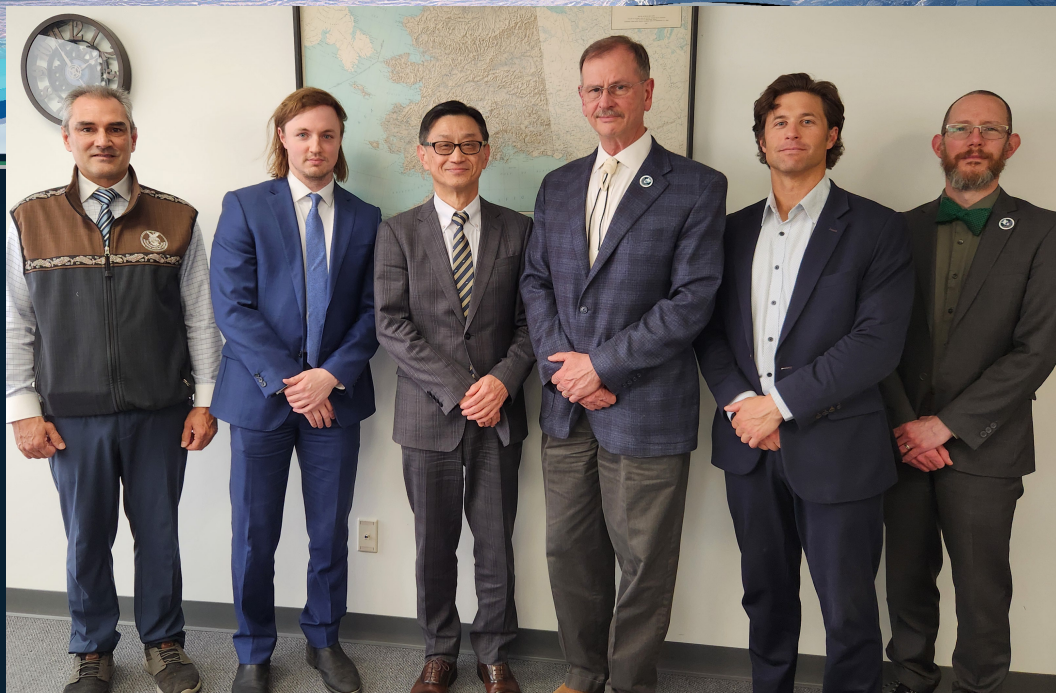
APRIL 2025



## TSC supports Arctic Edge 2025 Final Planning Conference

More than 100 representatives from U.S. Northern Command and across the Department of Defense came together during a five-day planning conference for Exercise Arctic Edge 2025 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, March 31 through April 4, 2025. The planning conference focused on finalizing operations and tactical-level planning for exercise execution. Exercise Arctic Edge is an annual U.S. Northern Command-led homeland defense exercise demonstrating the U.S. military's joint force readiness, capability, and will to prevail in the Arctic region. The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies provided DoD Arctic operational and strategic experts to participate in the final planning conference and scenario development for exercise Arctic Edge.

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## TSC strengthens Arctic-Pacific ties in meeting with Japanese Head Consul Hamada

As strategic competition intensifies across the Arctic and Indo-Pacific, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies is expanding its outreach to like-minded partners committed to preserving regional stability and deterring aggression.

On April 8, Director Randy “Church” Kee met with Kiyohiko Hamada, Head Consul of Japan in Anchorage, to discuss shared interests in Arctic research, governance, and security cooperation. The courtesy visit marked a continued effort by the Department of Defense’s newest Regional Center to build enduring relationships with allies who recognize the Arctic’s increasing geopolitical relevance. Hamada arrived in Anchorage in December 2023 after

spending three years as Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in Ukraine.

Japan, a longstanding observer in the Arctic Council since 2013, has maintained a consistent focus on sustainable development, scientific research, and international collaboration in the Arctic. Hamada noted that Japan’s Arctic policy, formalized in 2015, remains an essential part of its broader foreign and security agenda. He highlighted the leadership of Japan’s Arctic Ambassador Katsuhiko Takahashi and shared plans for the launch of a new polar research icebreaker in 2026. Hamada reflected on the long, productive research partnership with

**Continued on Page 2**





### Continued from Japanese Head Consul story on Page 1

the United States, including the establishment of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1999. Hamada and Kee exchanged views on upcoming events in the Arctic, to include the transition of the Arctic Council Chairship from Norway to the Kingdom of Denmark, and the implications for Arctic diplomacy and cooperation going forward.

Kee emphasized the center's mission to promote regional security cooperation through education, research, and engagement. He encouraged Consulate staff to engage in the center's programs, which bring together civilian and military leaders from across the circumpolar Arctic and Pacific regions to address shared challenges.

The meeting underscored the growing importance of Arctic-Pacific coordination in the face of evolving security dynamics. With melting sea ice, expanding maritime access, and intensifying great power interest in the

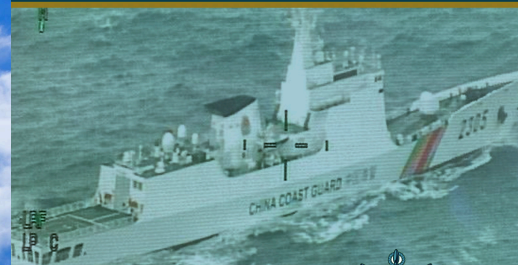
region, U.S. allies such as Japan play a vital role in maintaining a rules-based order and ensuring operational readiness in extreme environments.

As the only Department of Defense Regional Center focused exclusively on Arctic security and defense, the TSC is a hub for fostering unity of effort among allied nations. With rising competition in the Indo-Pacific, increasing Chinese and Russian presence in the Arctic, and growing concern over the militarization of critical infrastructure and sea lanes, strategic cooperation with partners like Japan is not just beneficial—it is essential.

By strengthening educational and scientific collaboration across the Arctic-Pacific, the TSC supports the DoD's core priorities to rebuild military readiness and reestablish deterrence in regions where the rules are being tested. As today's geopolitical flashpoints stretch from the Taiwan Strait to the Bering Strait, partnerships forged through dialogue and shared expertise are a critical line of deterrence for homeland defense.

## MARITIME RISK SYMPOSIUM

Protecting and Defending U.S. Arctic Maritime Sovereignty Interests through Deterrence



**TUESDAY  
MAY 13, 2025**

8 am - 4 pm (AKDT)  
12 pm - 8 pm (EDT)



Hosted this year by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, the 16th annual Maritime Risk Symposium provides a vital platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and informed discussions on the evolving risks and opportunities in the Arctic maritime domain. This year's theme, "Protecting and Defending U.S. Arctic Maritime Sovereignty Interests through Deterrence," underscores the importance of safeguarding national interests in the region. MRS 2025 will take place on May 13, 2025, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (AKDT), as a virtual event, with limited in-person attendance at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

An optional Arctic Fundamentals Seminar will be offered on May 12, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (AKDT), providing critical insights into Arctic governance, security dynamics, history, and international frameworks. For more information scan the QR code.



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MRS2025**





academic portion of the fellowship is in partnership between TSC and UAA's Graduate School and led by Dr. Mary Jo Finney, dean of the graduate program.

Graduates of the TSC Arctic Fellowship will be assigned to take on future leadership roles within their respective services, armed with the tools and insight to advance Arctic priorities across the joint force.

## Two Arctic Fellows set to complete TSC program

Two active-duty military officers are preparing to graduate from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies' Arctic Fellowship Program following a rigorous period of academic and strategic engagement designed to advance U.S. defense priorities in the Arctic.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Tony Caliva and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Jones presented their final capstone projects to a panel of Arctic security experts last week for one of their graduate courses. Their work addressed key factors shaping the future of Arctic strategy and the evolving role of homeland defense and homeland security in the region.

The Arctic Fellowship Program is strategically designed to prepare a new generation of military leaders to understand the complexities of the Arctic domain. The program structure is customized to meet the specific requirements of each military service, offering fellows a tailored experience that combines applied research, operational outreach and academic study through courses at the University of Alaska and the University of Alaska Anchorage's interdisciplinary Master of Science in Arctic Security program for

some military fellow program participants.

"The Arctic Fellowship Program is one of our center's most valuable investments in developing future military leaders," said Capt. Grant Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard Chair and Arctic Fellows coordinator. "It's about cultivating leaders who understand the complexities of the region and can help shape and implement Arctic strategy at every level — from tactical to strategic."

As the Department of Defense's newest Regional Center, the Ted Stevens Center is charged with building strong domestic and international security networks, conducting research, and supporting defense strategy through educational and engagement programs tailored to the unique challenges of the Arctic. The military Arctic fellowship program is central to that mission, ensuring that selected officers develop the skills and expertise needed to serve as key enablers of U.S. objectives in the region.

The program also supports the university's broader mission to develop Arctic leaders and expand research and education in Arctic security. The



## TSC Arctic Fellows strengthen leadership skills through student retreat

TSC Arctic Fellows recently took part in the Arctic Leadership Initiative (ALI) retreat at the University of Alaska Anchorage, an event designed to expand strategic thinking around leadership in the Arctic. The retreat connected fellows with a broader network of Arctic-focused students and professionals, reinforcing the importance of collaboration across disciplines and sectors. Participation in initiatives like ALI is one way the TSC Arctic Fellowship program offers fellows hands-on opportunities to develop leadership competencies vital for Arctic operations. By engaging with real-world case studies and cross-sector perspectives, fellows refine the skills needed to navigate the complex security landscape of the region.





### TSC collaborates with USGS on Arctic mapping to support warfighter readiness

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies welcomed members of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Geospatial Program earlier this month to explore opportunities for collaboration on research products that directly support U.S. military operations in the Arctic.

Held at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the meeting connected USGS geospatial scientists with the Center's Deputy Director and staff from the Research and Analysis Division. Discussions centered on how enhanced mapping tools, satellite imagery, and Earth observation data can be integrated into future research efforts to increase the situational awareness and operational effectiveness of U.S. warfighters operating in the High North.

The USGS National Geospatial Program plays a critical role in providing foundational geospatial data for the nation, including topographic maps and remote

sensing products used across government agencies. By partnering with the TSC, USGS experts aim to help advance the development of Arctic-focused research materials that address regional security challenges and enable defense leaders to better understand the physical environment in which U.S. forces must operate.

This meeting marked the beginning of a deeper interagency collaboration that will strengthen Arctic domain awareness and support mission planning, mobility, and survivability in extreme environments.

By working together with partner Federal agencies, the TSC is helping to equip U.S. warfighters with the tools and knowledge they need to enhance readiness and reinforce deterrence in the Arctic—ultimately contributing to the strength of America's homeland defense.



## ARCTIC CONNECTIONS



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EPISODE 8  
NOW

### Navigating Arctic Strategy: Canada's role in regional security

In case you missed it, *Arctic Connections* Episode 8, "Navigating Arctic Strategy: Canada's role in regional security," features a dynamic conversation between Dr. Marc Lanteigne and host Matt Hickey on the evolving landscape of Arctic policy. Dr. Lanteigne shares insights into Canada's strategic priorities in the Arctic and highlights the importance of governance and security cooperation in maintaining stability across the region. The conversation also features analysis of China's increasing activity in the Arctic and examines how shifting geopolitical dynamics are shaping global competition in this strategically significant region.





### Reflections from Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course 25-03

Last week the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies delivered virtually the week-long Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) to a large and engaged group of security professionals. We had 156 participants elevated to Alumni status as they completed the course supported by 15 facilitators and 23 presenters from six nations. This illustrates, in practice, that 'the Arctic is a team sport.' These five days of collaboration across borders demonstrate that Arctic security and defense challenges require perspectives from across government/departmental boundaries, military services, and international partners.

TSC Deputy Dean, Brian K. Houghton noted, "The energy in our virtual course conversations suggests something important: Arctic security and defense education is all about creating a dialogue rather than just traditional knowledge transfer. With representatives from a variety of professional backgrounds interacting as actively as they have this week, we are seeing networks develop that will enhance our collective Arctic defense capabilities."

From the outset, course leadership emphasized this focus on dialogue, highlighting its critical role in building effective collaboration. This theme was

reinforced during closing remarks, where the importance of the human element in Arctic security and defense was underscored. Participants were reminded that success depends on prioritizing people, ideas, and tools—in that order. Emphasis was also placed on the need for joint cooperation, the importance of rapid capability acquisition, and the crucial role of both formal and informal leadership to meet the evolving security and defense demands of the Arctic. The course fosters a growing network of individuals committed to sharing ideas and supporting one another in addressing the region's unique challenges.



## UPCOMING COURSES

### Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC)

- Virtual, May 6-8, 2025

### Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

- Virtual, Oct. 27-31, 2025

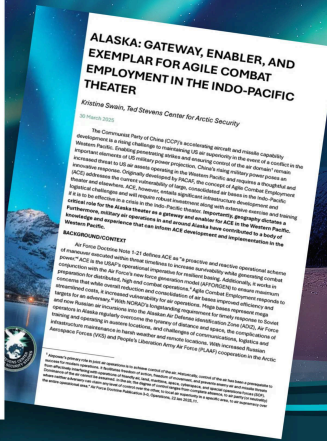
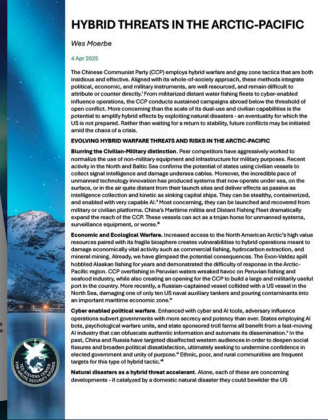
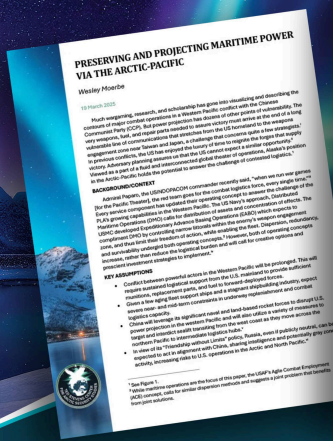
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# THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2025



## EXECUTIVE BRIEFS NOW AVAILABLE

Our Research and Analysis Division has launched a new Executive Briefs research page on our website. Tailored for busy decision-makers, these concise analyses deliver quick, impactful insights on emerging Arctic security issues—cutting through complexity to highlight clear takeaways and strategic implications. Stay informed with actionable intelligence that supports timely, effective policymaking in today's dynamic Arctic environment.

Topics include:

- Hybrid Threats in the Arctic-Pacific
- Preserving and Projecting Maritime Power Via the Arctic-Pacific
- Alaska: Gateway, Enabler, and Exemplar for Agile Combat Employment in the Indo-Pacific Theater

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OUR NEW  
EXECUTIVE  
BRIEFS



## Check out this new Operational Analysis!

### U.S.-Germany Collaboration in Arctic and High North Security: A Strategic Partnership within the Trans-Atlantic Alliance

This analysis underscores that U.S.-Germany cooperation is a linchpin for Arctic stability, blending military prowess, economic strategy, and governance leadership to safeguard a region increasingly vital to global security and sustainability.



TED STEVENS CENTER FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES



## ANCHORAGE SECURITY AND DEFENSE CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
November 19-21, 2024

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



## Explore the insights from the ASDC 2024 Final Report

The Anchorage Security and Defense Conference 2024 Report is now available. Held in November 2024, the conference provided a comprehensive exploration of evolving Arctic security challenges, centered around the theme The 'Decisive' 2020s in Allied North Perspective. The final report is filled with valuable insights from this landmark event, offering important perspectives to help inform future policy, strategy, and collaboration efforts across the Arctic security community.



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Innovate

Experiment

Educate

Analyze

Engage





## FINAL CALL FOR JOURNAL OF ARCTIC SECURITY VOLUME 4 PAPERS!

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies announces an article submission deadline of **May 31, 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**.



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

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](mailto: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 spring returns to Alaska, we at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies are energized by the opportunities ahead. The unclassified Interim National Defense Strategy Guidance underscores the importance of enhancing deterrence, defending the homeland, and leveraging the combined strength of our allies and partners as force multipliers around the world.

In alignment with these priorities, our Center continues to support initiatives that bolster Arctic readiness and homeland defense. Notably, this month 156 Arctic security practitioners completed the Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course. The hands-on approach of the ARSOC's capstone exercise is vital as we confront the strategic implications of increased activity by competitors in the Arctic.

Our Center remains committed to fostering interagency and international partnerships, recognizing that a collaborative approach is essential for maintaining peace through strength in the Arctic. Through supporting joint exercises, research endeavors, and policy

dialogues, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the collective efforts outlined by this latest strategic guidance. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

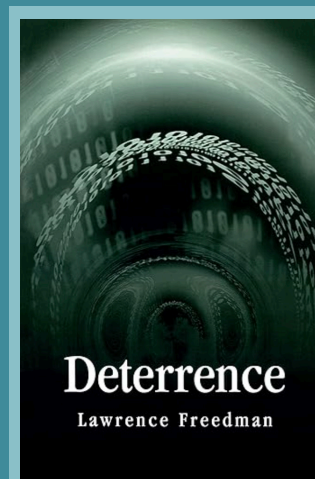
Together, we are shaping a secure and prosperous future for the Arctic region.

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

## DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

### Deterrence by Lawrence Friedman

As a concept, deterrence has launched a thousand books and articles. It has dominated Western strategic thinking for more than four decades. In this book, Lawrence Friedman develops a distinctive approach to the evaluation of deterrence as both a state of mind and a strategic option. This approach is applied to post-cold war crisis management, and the utility and relevance of the concept is addressed in relation to U.S. strategic practice post-9/11, particularly in the light of the apparent preference of the Bush Administration for the alternative concept of pre-emption. Friedman charts the evolution of the contemporary concept of deterrence and discusses whether - and how - it still has relevance in today's world.



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