



UNDERSTANDING THE ARCTIC OPERATING ENVIRONMENT COURSE

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES IN THE WORLD'S HARSHTEST ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Arctic is no longer a remote frontier; it is a dynamic and contested operational domain. This three-day course explores the intersection of rapid environmental transformation and strategic competition in the Arctic, with direct implications for military planning and national defense.

Learning Objectives

- Deepen understanding and develop strategies for addressing security challenges in the Arctic related to the dynamic operational environment.
- Identify strategies for resilient military operations in changing Arctic operational environment.
- Develop strategic policy which could be applied towards future scenarios.



Audience and Logistics

This course is intended for security professionals, planners, and policy developers focused on Arctic operations and national defense strategy. This three-day, 22-contact hour course featuring expert presentations, interactive exercises, and scenario-based strategy sessions will be offered virtually in FY2025. Completion of the Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course is required.



WHY IT MATTERS

The Arctic has historically been considered an impenetrable domain due to the presence of sea ice regardless of season. As the Arctic environment transforms, operational challenges are increasing in complexity and urgency. Strategic competitors are expanding their presence, infrastructure is becoming more vulnerable, and traditional approaches to military readiness are being tested. This course equips defense professionals with the insight needed to navigate the evolving environment, assess risk, and prepare for sustained operations in one of the world's most challenging theaters.

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