



# ARCTIC OPERATIONAL RISK COURSE (AORC)

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES IN THE WORLD'S HARSHTEST ENVIRONMENT

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Arctic Operational Risk Course (AORC) is a four-day, 28-hour executive education program designed for security professionals at the mid-to-senior level. This course cultivates a strategic community focused on understanding and managing operational risks in the Arctic environment. It broadens perspectives by integrating Joint Domain considerations and Allied and Partner viewpoints, fostering collaboration across agencies and nations. Hosted by the Ted Stevens Center, the course enhances interagency dialogue and aligns with the Department of Defense Interim National Defense Strategic Guidance. to ensure safe and effective operations in the Arctic.

## Course Objectives

Participants will gain critical knowledge and skills to:

- Identify dimensions and dynamics of operational risk within the Arctic context.
- Recognize risks associated with military operations and emergency responses in the Arctic.
- Analyze internal and external factors to inform decision-making and risk reduction.
- Develop whole-of-nation strategies to address Arctic operational risks.



### Learning Experience

- This virtual course features:
  - Expert-led panel discussions and case studies.
  - Interactive problem-solving exercises.
  - Capstone Arctic risk scenarios for applied learning.
  - Networking opportunities with Arctic security professionals and key decision-makers.



### Who Should Attend?

- U.S. military personnel involved in Arctic operational planning.
- Federal and state agency professionals executing the National Strategy for the Arctic.
- Graduates of ARSOC or other Ted Stevens Center courses.
- Security professionals seeking advanced risk assessment skills for Arctic operations.

## WHY IT MATTERS

The Arctic is rapidly evolving due to increased geopolitical interest and expanding operational activity. Success in this region depends on understanding and mitigating the unique risks that threaten personnel, equipment, and mission objectives.

Operational risks in the Arctic include:

- **Environmental Hazards** – Ice accumulation, polar storms, and shifting sea ice create unpredictable conditions.
- **Logistical Challenges** – Limited infrastructure, remote locations, and long supply lines complicate operations.
- **Human Factors** – Cold weather injuries, isolation, and decision fatigue impact personnel effectiveness.
- **Geopolitical Tensions** – Overlapping territorial claims and strategic competition heighten security concerns.

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