



TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Bulletin

JUNE-JULY 2025



TSC alumni event explores sub-zero medicine innovations to strengthen readiness

In a virtual alumni event held in June, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies convened a timely discussion on the future of cold-weather casualty care, spotlighting the operational and medical challenges of delivering life-saving care in the world's harshest environments.

The event, "Advancements in Sub-Zero Medicine," brought together military medical leaders and austere medicine experts to share practical innovations and expose gaps in readiness that could jeopardize Arctic operations if left unaddressed. The session featured Dr. Emily Johnston, founder of Cascadia Mountain Institute and a global leader in extreme cold medicine, and Alaska Army National Guard Maj. Titus Rund, a flight surgeon assigned to the 207th Aviation Troop Command.

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New Arctic Operational Risk Course prepares warfighters for the Arctic's harsh realities

In a region where logistical hurdles, geopolitical tensions, and extreme environmental conditions converge, the Department of Defense is sharpening its operational edge. From July 14 to 18, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies hosted the first-ever Arctic Operational Risk Course (AORC), providing U.S. and Canadian warfighters and security professionals with new tools to anticipate and mitigate risk in one of the world's most complex operating environments.

The course, a four-day, 28-hour executive education program, was developed to deepen operational preparedness in the Arctic while advancing U.S. homeland defense objectives. Its launch marks a

milestone in the center's educational portfolio— one that emphasizes building a community of practitioners capable of anticipating and managing the distinct risks that define Arctic operations.

"The Arctic Operational Risk Course was created to prepare our warfighters for operating in the Arctic environment, which is vastly different from the Southern climates many have operated in for decades," said Dr. Haliehana Stepetin, a professor of socioeconomics at the School for Arctic Security Studies and one of the course's primary developers. "Success in the Arctic requires understanding its unique risks—logistical, environmental, and geopolitical."

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Hosted virtually, the pilot course brought together 36 participants from the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Canadian Armed Forces, and multiple interagency organizations. Attendees included active-duty personnel and security professionals with expertise in Arctic planning, operations, and homeland defense.

The AORC is built around applied learning: expert-led panels, case studies, and breakout sessions centered on real-world scenarios drawn from Alaska and the broader Arctic region. A capstone exercise challenged participants to assess and communicate risk using assessment tools, requiring them to consider environmental hazards, infrastructure limitations, geopolitical complexities, and human factors.

“We studied historical case scenarios from explorers and industry to learn how to mitigate operational risk,” said Stepetin. “We don’t want to risk lives because we failed to learn from the past.”

One participant echoed the importance of this multidisciplinary, scenario-driven format.

“It was very enlightening,” they said. “What stood out most was how different perspectives came together when approaching a real-world Arctic problem. It forces you to think in ways you haven’t before.”

Another participant noted that while the course assumes a baseline understanding of the Arctic, it excels at drawing out operational insights that are often overlooked.

“At first, the lectures felt familiar because I’d just spent time in Alaska, but the breakout groups really stood out. Hearing from people in other services helped me see the Arctic from entirely different lenses,” they said. “That cross-service and interagency collaboration was eye-opening.”

Stepetin emphasized that while the course is Arctic-specific, the operational risk frameworks taught can be applied globally.

“Developing the skills to assess risk is a practice of leadership,” she said. “It doesn’t have to be the Arctic. These models work whether you’re dealing with the Bering Strait or the South China Sea.”

Strategically, the course supports the DoD’s goals of restoring deterrence and reinforcing maritime dominance in the region. As Stepetin explained, Arctic access often depends on unpredictable ice conditions and a limited logistics network, making maritime risk a central focus.

“Operational risk in the Arctic is multi-domain, but maritime is one of the main domains,” she said. “We’re supporting this broader notion of maritime dominance that’s essential for homeland defense.”

Participants explored scenarios along key Arctic access points like the Bering and Chukchi Seas, where infrastructure is sparse and great power competition is rising. These exercises were designed to simulate whole-of-government responses to threats, ranging from disasters to contested territorial activity.

We placed the majority of our scenarios in and around Alaska to help participants think through what it takes to defend the homeland and activate interagency capabilities,” Stepetin said.

Feedback from the course has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants praised the academic rigor and the emphasis on critical thinking, though some suggested earlier exposure to the course for junior personnel might yield even greater benefits.

“If someone has only a basic understanding of Arctic operations, this course is a great next step,” one participant said. “It really pushes you to think through every contingency—especially when resources are limited.”

The center plans to expand future offerings, with the next iteration scheduled for December. Organizers aim to open registration more broadly and diversify the expert panels and scenarios.

“We want to grow the course with more participants, more speakers, and new ways to challenge our students,” said Stepetin. “But we’re keeping the focus on applied risk analysis, because that’s what makes this course so effective.”

For the center, the AORC is more than just a curriculum—it’s a commitment to preparing the joint force for an increasingly dynamic Arctic operating environment.

“If you can commit four and a half days to this, it’s going to be well worth your while,” said Stepetin. “Being able to evaluate and mitigate operational risk is critical to the success of any mission—especially in the Arctic.”



TSC internship builds future Arctic-minded leaders for homeland defense

With the Arctic playing an increasingly critical role in U.S. national security, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies is working to prepare tomorrow's military leaders for the challenges of high-latitude operations.

This summer, U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets Hazel Mitrik and Justus Moorlach participated in a six-week Arctic Internship hosted by the TSC. The program offered the cadets a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of Arctic operations, interagency planning, and homeland defense.

"This experience helped me understand how the Coast Guard fits into the broader homeland defense strategy," said Mitrik, a first-class cadet majoring in naval architecture and marine engineering. "It gave me a better picture of where our capabilities can contribute and how interagency efforts can support

national security in the Arctic."

The internship was offered in collaboration with the Coast Guard Academy's Center for Arctic Study and Policy (CASP), which promotes high-impact learning opportunities that link Arctic education to Coast Guard missions.

Throughout their time in Alaska, the cadets engaged directly with key mission partners, including the U.S. Army's 11th Airborne Division, U.S. Air Force's 11th Air Force, the Alaska National Guard, Coast Guard Sector Western Alaska, Marine Safety Unit Valdez, CGC ASPEN, Air Station Kodiak, Base Kodiak, and the Marine Exchange of Alaska. They traveled from Anchorage to Valdez, Seward, Homer, and as far north as Utqiagvik—gaining firsthand perspective on the region's logistical constraints and strategic importance.

"The briefings with personnel from

both the 11th Airborne and 11th Air Force offered valuable perspective on Arctic defense," said Moorlach, a civil engineering major. "They increased my interest in how the Coast Guard would adapt to a potential interagency collaboration given the current operational environment."

From remote radar sites and aviation hubs to oil spill response facilities and naval support elements, each engagement highlighted the intersection of infrastructure, environment, and security. The cadets saw how the Arctic's vast geography, limited access, and harsh conditions shape not only readiness but also resilience.

"I found myself very impressed by the hardy nature of those living on the North Slope, their necessary resilience to the unique environment, and their continued resourcefulness to make life up there sustainable when faced with limited resources and aid," Moorlach said after visiting Utqiagvik.

Mitrik emphasized that the Arctic's importance goes beyond geography. "The Arctic has economic, military, and environmental significance," she said. "It is a location of growing international interest and increasing strategic value. Understanding how we maintain access and awareness in that region is vital."

In addition to operational site visits and strategic briefings, the cadets collaborated on a capstone research

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Continued from Page 3 Arctic internship story

project assessing international icebreaker fleets and their implications for future maritime posture. The project allowed them to connect academic training with real-world defense planning.

“I’m used to designing boats and not necessarily thinking about the implications of design choices for national security,” Mitrik said. “But this internship helped me draw a straight line between fleet readiness, Arctic capabilities, and defense missions.”

Mentorship played a key role in the experience. Through informal discussions with Coast Guard officers and strategy sessions with TSC faculty, the cadets received insights rarely covered in traditional academic settings.

“One of the most valuable aspects of the internship was hearing from people with decades of experience,” Mitrik said. “They helped me think about my future career path in a more strategic way.”

By embedding cadets in the operating environment and connecting them with senior leaders and planners, the TSC Arctic Internship supports Department of Defense efforts to build Arctic-minded leadership and enhance homeland defense readiness.

“This experience helped reinforce my understanding of defense readiness in a region that is often overlooked,” Moorlach said. “It gave me a much clearer picture of the importance of presence, access, and infrastructure in Arctic operations.”

As the Arctic continues to emerge as a strategic theater, the value of preparing future officers for its challenges cannot be overstated.

“I now have a better understanding of the Arctic’s role in securing our homeland,” said Mitrik. “That’s something I’ll take with me into my future assignments.”

ANCHORAGE SECURITY AND DEFENSE DIALOGUE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA AT THE HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

2025 Theme
“Peace Through Strength: Deterrence in the North”



Save the date for the Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue

Join us for the Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue (ASDD), taking place **Nov. 18-20, 2025**, where military leaders, policymakers, and experts will gather to address the evolving strategic challenges in the Arctic region. With this year’s theme, “Peace through Strength: Deterrence in the North,” we aim to strengthen deterrence in the Arctic through enhanced strategy, policy, innovation, and operational readiness.

Breakout Session Proposals

We are currently accepting proposals for breakout sessions that align with the event’s theme. Submit your proposal by **Aug. 30, 2025**. Full details can be found on Ted Stevens Center website.

Registration Details

Registration for the event will open soon. Attendance is by invitation or approval. This event is not open to the media.

Contact Information

For further inquiries please contact TSC-Engagements@us.af.mil.

UPCOMING COURSES

Understanding the Arctic Operating Environment Course (UAOEC)

- Virtual, Aug. 19-21, 2025

NEW COURSE

NATO in the North Course (N2C)

- Virtual, Sept. 16-18, 2025

NEW COURSE

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

- Virtual, Oct. 27-31, 2025

SCAN TO
REGISTER
FOR
THESE
COURSES





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.

New
Understanding the Arctic Operating Environment Course
now open for enrollment

Understanding the Arctic Operational Environment Course is a three-day, 22-hour virtual executive education course specifically oriented to support Arctic security and defense practitioners in better understanding the aspects of the dynamic operational environment in and across the Arctic region. This course examines the physical and geopolitical ramifications across the Arctic region. It also describes the impact of the operational environment on Arctic resources and its effects on the political balance in the Arctic.

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE



INNOVATE • EXPERIMENT • EDUCATE • ANALYZE • ENGAGE

tedstevensarcticcenter.org/registration



NATO IN THE NORTH

NAVIGATING A UNIQUELY CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT



COURSE OVERVIEW

NATO in the North is jointly offered by the Ted Stevens Center and the NATO Center of Excellence for Cold Weather Operations as a bicontinental introduction to challenges and opportunities for NATO in and around the Arctic. The course prepares mid- to senior-level security practitioners for work on High North and Arctic security in a NATO context at the higher tactical, operational, and/or military-strategic levels. It enhances understanding of the security situation and operating environment across NATO's northern area of responsibility, including the unique demands of multinational deterrence and defense in a cold weather environment. It strengthens understanding of NATO practices and processes, builds strategic alignment and operational competence, and promotes innovative thinking on regional capabilities and readiness in a rebalancing Alliance.

Course Objectives

- Understand NATO structures, processes, and current issues.
- Analyze conventional and non-conventional threats to Allied security in the North.
- Assess efforts to advance Allied capabilities, interoperability, and readiness for Northern flank deterrence and defense.
- Consider operational impacts of similarities and differences between the North American and European Arctics.



Learning Experience

This virtual course features:

- Panel presentations by senior-level experts
- Interactive breakout group discussions
- Scenario-based capstone exercise
- Multinational networking opportunities



Who Should Attend?

- NATO and partner military and civilian personnel dealing with Arctic-related security issues.
- The course's initial iteration will be targeted for field grade officers and civilian equivalents.
- Registrations received by 8 August 2025 will receive first priority.

WHY IT MATTERS

NATO has been in the Arctic since its founding, and recent developments draw further attention to its Northern Flank. Russia and China are increasing activity and collaboration across the area. Two more Arctic nations, Finland and Sweden, have joined the Alliance. The region has become more central for homeland and collective defense in both North America and Europe.

New NATO in the North Course now open for enrollment

The NATO in the North course is now open for registration. This virtual course is designed for mid- to senior-level security professionals and provides an in-depth look at NATO's High North and Arctic security challenges. It includes panel presentations by senior-level experts, interactive breakout discussions, a scenario-based capstone exercise, and multinational networking opportunities. Participants will gain valuable insights into NATO structures, current security issues, and Arctic deterrence.

Register by Aug. 8, 2025, to secure priority placement.

SCAN TO
REGISTER
FOR THIS
COURSE





Continued from Page 1 Sub-zero medicine story

The dialogue emphasized the growing need to prepare U.S. and allied forces to operate in austere Arctic conditions. Johnston and Rund shared lessons learned from field experience, research, and military training—reinforcing the Department of Defense’s priorities to restore the warrior ethos, rebuild military capability, and reestablish deterrence through integrated Arctic preparedness.

Johnston, an emergency medicine physician who has worked across all seven continents, outlined significant limitations in the current combat medicine playbook when applied to extreme cold. She explained that equipment, techniques, and medications optimized for desert or temperate environments routinely fail in Arctic conditions, where freezing temperatures degrade materials and threaten casualty survivability.

“We can’t rely on the systems and tactics that worked in the desert to function in minus 30 degrees,” Johnston said. “Batteries fail. Medications freeze. Blood tubing cracks. Every link in the chain of care must be reengineered for extreme cold.”

Johnston introduced a low-tech but field-proven base layer transport—

dubbed the “BLT”—used by medics to keep critical medications and blood warm through body heat. The system, sewn into a standard merino wool base layer, allows providers to maintain temperature control during cold-weather missions without reliance on battery-powered devices.

“It’s not flashy tech,” Johnston said. “But it works. It protects the mission—and more importantly, it protects lives.”

Rund, a military physician specializing in cold weather and austere medicine, expanded on the importance of rethinking traditional casualty evacuation timelines and doctrine. Drawing from his own operational and research experience, he emphasized that the “golden hour” for trauma response is often unattainable in the Arctic. Instead, combat medics must be trained and equipped to manage “golden days” of prolonged field care in remote, contested environments.

“We need to accept that medical evacuation may be delayed or denied altogether in a high-end Arctic fight,” Rund said. “Momentum wins wars—and casualties stop momentum. If we can’t stabilize and protect our injured in the cold, we lose more than lives. We lose initiative.”

Rund presented several innovations designed to address critical operational gaps, including a cold weather casualty collection point shelter and a transportable warming system capable of preserving blood and temperature-sensitive supplies. He also described how his team converted an Alaska Railroad train into a mobile hospital and successfully tested an augmented reality surgical guidance

system during a live simulation. The prototype enabled medics to perform complex procedures while receiving real-time instruction from trauma surgeons located thousands of miles away.

Both presenters emphasized that knowledge-sharing across military, civilian, and international domains is essential to improving outcomes in Arctic operations. For alumni of the TSC—many of whom serve in joint or multinational commands—the discussion reinforced the importance of integrating operational medicine into broader deterrence strategies. Participants joined from across the United States and Canada, contributing to an open dialogue that addressed National Guard training requirements, innovative field solutions, and the logistics of storing and transporting blood and pharmaceuticals in freezing conditions.

“Sharing these lessons with our alumni community is vital,” said Matthew Hickey, Associate Director for Strategic Engagement at the TSC. “They are on the front lines of building partnerships, shaping doctrine, and preparing our force for what comes next.”

Johnston closed by emphasizing that cold-weather capability is not only a logistical concern—it is a matter of warfighter survival and strategic credibility.

“The cold isn’t the enemy,” she said. “It’s an environment. The more we respect it, the better we’ll perform in it. That’s what saves lives—and that’s what strengthens deterrence.”



Anchorage Navy Week strengthens strategic focus on the Arctic and homeland defense

As global powers increasingly set their sights on the Arctic, the Department of Defense is sharpening its focus on the region as a critical component of U.S. homeland defense. Anchorage Navy Week, held for the first time in Alaska's largest city, brought that focus forward by raising awareness and reinforcing deterrence in the region.

Rear Adm. Susan Bryer-Joyner, director of the Warfighting Integration Directorate (N2N6I) in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and senior executive for Anchorage Navy Week, visited the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies as part of Navy Week activities. Her engagements reinforced the DoD's commitment to addressing Arctic operational challenges and advancing joint maritime readiness.

The Arctic is no longer a distant frontier it is a domain of increasing

competition, demanding attention from military planners, policymakers, and operational commanders. As part of the DoD's efforts to restore deterrence and reinforce homeland defense, leaders are prioritizing burden sharing with Allies and partners, enhancing multidomain awareness, and preparing for joint operational demands in the Arctic.

During her visit, faculty from the TSC presented overviews of Arctic challenges and the shifting security landscape shaped by increased interest from the Chinese Communist Party. These insights underscored the importance of deterrence in the North and the need for persistent engagement in the region.

Anchorage Navy Week also provided an opportunity to honor the legacy of the late U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens by

connecting the Navy's Arctic legacy with its future. Sailors from the USS Ted Stevens—the Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer—visited the center to learn more about the region's strategic relevance and the Navy's role in Arctic defense. Their visit marked the first time crew members from the vessel visited the center that shares its namesake.

Named after the late senator, both the ship and the center honor a legacy of service rooted in Alaska's central role in national defense. That legacy continues today as the Navy works alongside Arctic-focused institutions to enhance preparedness and ensure peace through strength.

Anchorage Navy Week brought Sailors into communities across the city while also providing senior leaders with insights into Alaska's operational relevance. The engagement at the Ted Stevens Center underscored how homeland defense begins in the Arctic—and how integrated deterrence will depend on both strategic foresight and collaboration across the joint force.

As Arctic conditions and global power dynamics evolve, the Navy's growing presence in the region signals a broader shift toward sustained commitment, informed decision-making, and proactive defense at the northern edge of the homeland.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE-JULY 2025

The 2025 Maritime Risk Symposium Final Report is now available

The 2025 Maritime Risk Symposium brought together experts from the military, government, industry, and academia to address the evolving challenges of Arctic maritime security. Held virtually and at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, the symposium's discussions focused on protecting U.S. Arctic maritime sovereignty, the growing strategic importance of the region, and the increasing risks from adversarial activities, gray zone tactics, and hybrid warfare. Experts also explored the critical need for robust infrastructure, effective deterrence strategies, and multilateral cooperation to safeguard Arctic waterways and resources. Key takeaways from the symposium include the urgent need for modernized icebreaking capabilities, enhanced cybersecurity measures, and strengthened international partnerships to maintain stability and security in the region. This comprehensive report provides a detailed analysis of these discussions and actionable recommendations for securing U.S. interests in the Arctic.



Check out this new Executive Brief!



Assessing Russian intentions in the Arctic

Part one in a three-part series on strategic competition in the Arctic Region, this paper examines Russia's growing interests in the Arctic. It explores Moscow's ambitions to control the Northern Sea Route, its reliance on Arctic energy exports, and the military investments aimed at securing its presence in the region. The paper also looks at how these actions fit into Russia's broader geopolitical strategy and what they mean for the Arctic's future security landscape.



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Arctic Security Update offers timely insights on global events through the lens of Arctic security. Each edition delivers concise, mission-focused analysis tailored for warfighters, planners, policymakers, Arctic practitioners, and our Allies and partners. Unlike institutional recaps, Arctic Security Update looks outward, connecting developments in international security, defense policy, and strategic competition to the evolving Arctic landscape. Subscribe on LinkedIn today to stay informed and ready.



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Journal of Arctic Security, Special STEM Edition 2025 Call for Papers

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies announces an article submission deadline of **October 1, 2025** for contributions to JAS Vol. 5, a special STEM edition for release in spring 2026.

Increasing focus on meeting the strategic, operational, and tactical challenges of the Arctic operating environment has led to new and promising research. Foundational scientific research improves understanding of the remote and rapidly changing region while development and testing of emerging technologies promises to provide near term solutions. Researchers are invited to submit papers on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) solutions to Arctic challenges:

1. **The Arctic Operating Environment:** We welcome submissions that explore the Arctic operating environment in all the warfighting domains. This includes, but is not limited to, studies on sea ice dynamics, meteorology, bathymetry, or permafrost thaw with implications for national security, defense, and military operations. Papers may also cover advancements in remote sensing and modeling that highlight their relevance to security strategies and policies.
2. **Arctic Engineering:** Submissions should focus on innovative engineering solutions tailored to the Arctic's extreme conditions with implications for national security. Topics of interest include the development of cold-resistant materials, ice-resistant structures, and the adaptation of infrastructure to the changing Arctic environment, which are critical for ensuring the safety and operational capabilities of national assets in the region.
3. **Renewable Energy and Sustainability:** This section seeks papers on the adaptation and implementation of renewable energy technologies in the Arctic, underscoring their strategic importance for energy security. Research on improving the efficiency, sustainability, and reliability of renewable sources such as wind, solar, and tidal energy in cold climates is particularly encouraged, with a focus on their role in reducing dependencies and enhancing the resilience of both military and civilian operations.
4. **Marine Biology and Ecosystems:** We invite research that addresses the shifting marine ecosystems within the Arctic Circle and their implications for national security. Studies may focus on changes in biodiversity, the effects of environmental stressors on marine organisms, and conservation strategies to protect Arctic marine life, considering their significance for sustaining fish stocks and maintaining ecological balance in strategic waters.
5. **Telecommunications and Technology Development:** We invite contributions that focus on enhancing communication technologies in the Arctic, emphasizing their strategic importance for national security. Papers may include the development of robust infrastructure, innovations in data transmission methods, and solutions for improving digital connectivity in remote and extreme environments, essential for secure and reliable communications for defense and emergency response.
6. **Below Zero Medicine- Medical Research and Health Care in the Arctic:** This section calls for papers on medical research, health care practices, and emergency response strategies specifically tailored to the harsh Arctic environment. Submissions should explore the unique medical challenges faced by inhabitants and transient populations in this region, such as issues related to hypothermia, frostbite, and vitamin D deficiencies. Papers could also discuss the development and adaptation of medical technologies and telemedicine solutions designed for remote and isolated communities, emphasizing their implications for national security by ensuring the health and readiness of military personnel and civilian populations in strategic Arctic areas.

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.

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



Director's Monthly Note



Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

As July draws to a close, the Ted Stevens Center continues to make meaningful progress in our mission to advance Arctic security and defense through education, research, and strategic engagement. This month, we were proud to host the first iteration of our Arctic Operational Risk Course—a rigorous, practitioner-focused program designed to prepare defense professionals for the unique environmental conditions, infrastructure limitations, geopolitical complexities, and human factors of operating in the Arctic. The course

brought together service members from across the joint force to strengthen the shared understanding necessary for Arctic readiness.

We also had the privilege of celebrating U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets Hazel Mitrik and Justus Moorlach for their completion of TSC's Arctic Internship program. The cadets brought energy, curiosity, and insight to their time at the center, demonstrating the next generation's commitment to Arctic service and leadership. We look forward to seeing the impact they'll have as they continue their careers.

Finally, we launched the Arctic Security Update—our new LinkedIn newsletter providing timely, expert-driven insights into developments shaping the Arctic security landscape. This effort offers forward-looking news recaps and analysis tailored for today's warfighters, strategists, and Arctic security practitioners.

As we prepare for the busy months ahead—including planning for the upcoming Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue—we remain grounded in our core purpose: to support the warfighter and strengthen U.S. and allied interests in the Arctic through strategic insights, collaboration, and operational relevance.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work to advance security, stability, and cooperation in 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

The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic Journey into Greenland's Buried Past and Our Perilous Future
by Jon Gertner

The Ice at the End of the World explores the strategic importance of Greenland's vast ice sheet, a region that has long been a focal point for explorers and scientists. The book follows the journey from early expeditions aimed at mapping the island to modern research teams drilling deep into the ice to uncover critical historical data. Gertner explains how the ice reveals important insights into the past and offers valuable information about potential future challenges. This compelling narrative details the extreme conditions faced by those who sought to understand this frozen frontier and the discoveries that continue to shape our understanding of the region's role in global security.

