



# TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Activity Report

January 2024



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COURSE REGISTRATION

As the School for Arctic Security Studies gears up for its upcoming courses this year, security practitioners are encouraged to register early to secure a spot in their preferred class.

The school, known for its commitment to providing top-notch education on Arctic security, currently offers two comprehensive courses - the Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) and the Arctic Multidomain Legal Course (AMLC), with new courses slated to launch later this year.

Currently, ARSOC is scheduled for: Jan. 22-26, April 15-19, July 15-19, and Sept. 16-20. AMLC is scheduled for: Jan. 30-Feb. 1, May 7-9, and Aug. 13-15. To read the complete story or to register for any one of these courses scan the QR code below.

SCAN  
TO READ  
THE  
FULL  
STORY



## Ted Stevens Center welcomes first appointed Director

The Department of Defense announced the appointment of retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Randy "Church" Kee as the first Director for the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 18. The center is the newest of six existing DoD Regional Centers for Security Studies, and prior to Kee's appointment he served as the senior adviser for Arctic security affairs and supported the center's establishment and initial activities.

Kee has considerable political-military, defense policy and security cooperation experience. In 2020, the President of the United States appointed Kee as a Commissioner to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and from Jan. 4, 2016, to Aug. 22, 2021, he served as the Executive

Director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Maritime Research, hosted by the University of Alaska. During his 30-year military career, Kee led at the squadron, group, wing, and Air Operations Center levels. Kee's staff assignments include U.S. Transportation Command, HQ USAF, and the U.S. Joint Staff in both Operations plus Strategic Plans and Policy directorates. He is a command pilot and prior qualified navigator, and logged 4,700 flying hours, 700 of which were in combat (Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan). While in uniform he contributed to the U.S. Arctic Strategy, supported domain awareness technology development, and defense support to regional crisis response. He culminated his military service as Director of Strategy, Policy, Planning and Capabilities for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

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Distinguished visitors participate in the TSC's grand opening ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Aug. 11, 2022.

"Each of my overseas experiences I saw firsthand the power of security cooperation and building partner capacity, working together as allies and partners," said Kee. "The value proposition of security cooperation is that it gives the United States our asymmetric advantage over our competitors especially when we think of the world's greatest alliance in the history of mankind, NATO."

Established on June 9, 2021, the mission of the TSC is to build strong, sustainable, domestic and international networks of security leaders and promote and conduct focused research on Arctic security to advance DoD security priorities in the Arctic region. In order to achieve this mission, the TSC leverages its three primary pillars of education, research, and engagement. By advancing a network of civilian and military practitioners the TSC is able to

promote understanding and providing collaborative security solutions for the Arctic region.

"I'm privileged and honored to serve as the director of the Stevens Center," Kee said. "Strategically, the center will benefit by having a duly appointed director with the authorities therein to execute what's been provided by congress in Section 342 and 2611 of Chapter 16, Title 10 US Code."

As the TSC marches forward to full operational status later this year, Kee and the Stevens Center team will continue to build out key programs and initiatives that will align to the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and forthcoming DoD Arctic Strategy. "The Stevens Center is specifically called out in the 2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region and again in the Implementation Plan to leverage our convening authority

across our three mission pillars: executive education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement." Kee said "This is something very unique and we are honored as a center to contribute to the national level strategy."

Kee concluded by thanking TSC executive agent, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, and sister center the Daniel K Inouye Center for Asia-Pacific Security Studies for their essential role in the center's early success.

"We would not have been able to achieve what we have achieved had it not been for some wonderful folks at DSCA and the Daniel K Inouye Center. Their unbridled support helped us get to where we are today."

SCAN  
TO READ  
THE  
FULL  
STRATEGY



### NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE ARCTIC REGION

OCTOBER 2022



## FOLLOW OUR FACULTY & STAFF AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Arctic Frontiers:** Join the Ted Stevens Center during Arctic Frontiers on Feb. 1 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Permafrost and Pathogens Workshop Updates:**  
The inaugural Permafrost and Pathogens workshop was held this past October in Seattle, Washington. This effort is an ongoing partnership between NORAD NORTHCOM, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, academia, the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, the U.S. Army and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The next workshop will be held in the first week of May 2024 in Seattle, Washington.



Interested in partnering with the TSC? Keep following us online to learn more about our new **Coffee Talk** engagement events this year!

## UPCOMING COURSES

**Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)**  
Virtual, Jan. 22-26

**Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC)**  
Virtual, Jan. 30-Feb. 1





## ARCTIC CONNECTIONS IS COMING SOON!

The Ted Stevens Center is excited to share that this spring we will launch our new series of digital programming called *Arctic Connections*, where you can enjoy a lineup of podcasts, webinars and fireside chats focused on all things Arctic security!



### Mayor Alvin Osterback of Aleutians East Borough visits TSC

On Jan. 12, Mayor Alvin Osterback of Aleutians East Borough and his staff met with leaders from the TSC to discuss the unique challenges of the Arctic region and how to partner together. By working together with a range of partners, we will continue to undertake a whole-of-government and community approach to realizing an Arctic region that is peaceful, stable, prosperous, and cooperative.



### FEMA Region 10 representative visits TSC for first Coffee Talk event

Paul Valley from FEMA Region 10 met with leaders from the TSC for the first-ever Coffee Talk. The focus of these new outreach events is to build a network of partnerships within the Arctic region while also finding ways to collaborate on research, education, and engagement opportunities.



## MEET OUR NEWEST TEAMMATES



### David Madera

David Madera joined the Ted Stevens Center in October 2023 as a Supervisory IT Specialist. Prior to coming to the Ted Stevens Center, he was the Chief Information Officer for the 3rd Dental Battalion aboard Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan. Prior to that assignment David was an IT Specialist for the CIO4 Department within the Naval Facilities Command aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville. David also served as an IT Specialist at Western Pacific Fleet Readiness Center aboard Naval Air Station Atsugi. He is a retired U.S. Marine.

David holds a certification with Cisco as a Cisco Certified Network Associate, and holds a certification with Microsoft as a Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator.

He was born in Jamaica, Queens in New York City, and currently resides in Alaska.

David is married and has two dogs an Akita named Chouji and a Shiba named Shikamaru. He enjoys playing the drums and timbales. His hobbies include watching movies, playing video games and collecting action figures.



### Courtney Guinan

Courtney Guinan joined ACT1 Federal in support of the Ted Stevens Center in October 2023 as the Events Program Planning Manager. Prior to supporting the Ted Stevens Center, she spent a decade at sea

facilitating elite, luxury service on board some of the world's most prestigious private super yachts. This role took her to over 30 countries and she collaborated with Ultra High Net Worth Individuals on projects ranging from the public launching of companies on the NYSE to multi-million-dollar refit projects on board their private vessels. Courtney has unique experience in creating distinctive events within the logistical confines of being at sea or in extremely remote locations with limited resources.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Hospitality Business from the Eli Broad School of Business at Michigan State University, graduating with honors.

Courtney was born in Michigan, and currently resides in Anchorage, Alaska after spending much of her career at sea based in Europe.

Courtney is also an accomplished equestrian, PADI Divemaster, sailor, and recently obtained her commercial helicopter pilot's license. She is most passionate about travel and being outdoors in nature, whether hiking in the mountains, swimming in the sea, or flying in the skies.

# THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

January 2024



## Dominick Ruggio

Dominick Ruggio joined ACT1 Federal in support

of the Ted Stevens Center in December 2023 as a Jr. IT Consultant. Prior to supporting the Ted Stevens Center, he served in the U.S. Army as an information technology specialist for eight years.

He holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Information Technology.

He was born in Anchorage Alaska and currently resides in Palmer.

Dominick enjoys spending time with his son, wife, and Great Dane. He loves to surf, volunteer at church, play basketball and workout.



## Xerex "Rex" Santella

Xerex "Rex" Santella joined the Ted Stevens Center in November 2023 as the Senior Operations Specialist

Specialist. Prior to supporting the Stevens Center, he was employed by Human Domains Solutions, LLC, as the Program Services Support Specialist in support of TSC. Rex retired from 21 years of service in the United States Air Force on Jan 2022.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and associate degree in Fitness, Lodging and Recreation Management.

Rex was born in the Philippines and currently resides in Anchorage, Alaska. He enjoys his quality time with his wife and his two daughters. His hobbies include music composition, basketball, hiking, running and painting.

## Jason "Olaf" Roe

Jason "Olaf" Roe joined the Ted Stevens Center as the Multimedia Specialist this month. As part of the Ted Stevens Center communications team, Jason provides visual design and audio-visual technical support for the TSC. Prior to supporting the TSC in a government role, Jason served as the Media and Communications Specialist for ACT1 Federal on the Ted Stevens Center contract. Jason has also previously served as the Associate Director and Senior Research Professional for the

Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Arctic Maritime Research, hosted by the University of Alaska. During his tenure at ADAC, Jason supervised the production of the center's digital media and assisted in the management of a nationwide network of research teams focused on a diverse range of Arctic issues including GIS systems, communications, underwater robotics, oil and ice modeling and detection, and pollution mitigation strategies.



Coast Guard in 2019 after 20 years of service, more than 10 of which involved operations planning of Search and Rescue, Maritime Environmental Response, and Maritime Law Enforcement operations in Alaska and the U.S. Arctic region.



## Director's Monthly Note



Dear Colleagues,

The Stevens Center is progressing full speed ahead in 2024 to achieve full operational capacity. We look forward to strengthening existing partnerships, as well as developing new capacity with

our Allies and partners to reinforce the rules-based order in and across the Arctic region.

This year we have many exciting activities planned to foster security cooperation in the Arctic and accomplish U.S. National security objectives. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to enroll in one of our upcoming courses on our website. The School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies continues to facilitate world class executive education to advance Arctic awareness. This is complimented by our cutting-edge research, with practitioner focused studies ranging from the

geophysical to the geostrategic.

2024 is sure to bring emerging challenges and opportunities for the center and the Arctic as a whole. Through our strategic principles of innovation and experimentation, we are well equipped to address the dynamic global security landscape.

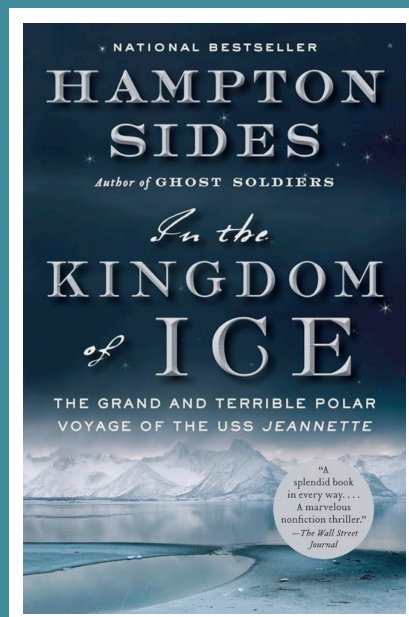
Stay tuned for more updates from your Arctic Regional Center!

Very respectfully,  
Church

## DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

### In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette

On July 8, 1879, Captain George Washington De Long and his team of 32 men set sail from San Francisco on the USS Jeanette. Heading deep into uncharted Arctic waters, they carried the aspirations of a young country burning to be the first nation to reach the North Pole. Two years into the harrowing voyage, the Jeannette's hull was breached by an impassable stretch of pack ice, forcing the crew to abandon ship amid torrents of rushing of water. Hours later, the ship had sunk below the surface, marooning the men a thousand miles north of Siberia, where they faced a terrifying march with minimal supplies across the endless ice pack.



## Follow us online

