

TSC ALUMNI EXPLORE HOW SHIPBUILDING SUPPORTS U.S. MARITIME DOMINANCE IN THE ARCTIC

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TSC ALUMNI EXPLORE HOW SHIPBUILDING SUPPORTS U.S. MARITIME DOMINANCE IN THE ARCTIC

As the U.S. advances priorities outlined in the Executive Order on Restoring America's Maritime Dominance, defense professionals are taking a closer look at the industrial and technical foundations that enable maritime operations in the Arctic. That policy context framed a Jan. 6 Shipbuilding for the Arctic Alumni event hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, where experts examined how engineering requirements, shipyard capacity and international collaboration shape the nation's ability to operate in one of the world's most demanding regions. The conversation drew strong interest across the alumni network, reflecting the growing recognition that Arctic shipbuilding represents both an operational necessity and a strategic investment.

Operating under Chatham House Rules, panelists opened the

discussion by describing the unique design logic of vessels built for ice-covered waters. Arctic ships are not modifications of existing platforms, but purpose-built tools engineered for extreme conditions. One presenter summarized the distinction succinctly: "An icebreaker's primary mission is to carry a whole bunch of steel as far into the ice as it possibly can. Everything else after that point really becomes secondary." That design philosophy acknowledges the physical realities of multi-year ice, pressure ridges, vibration loads and the cold-weather stresses that define polar operations. Another presenter expanded on this idea by noting, "A U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker is a multi-mission cutter. It does way more things than most ships are designed to do," underscoring how these vessels must integrate navigation, aviation support, cargo capacity and emergency response

functions, often simultaneously. The engineering decisions that follow are equally complex. Arctic-capable vessels must perform reliably in both harsh ice conditions and in open water, often within the same deployment. "For the Polar Security Cutter, you need to define its ice-breaking characteristics and its open-water characteristics," one panelist explained. "You need to define where it's going to operate and what it's expected to handle." Those parameters determine hull geometry, propulsion systems, structural reinforcement and onboard survivability requirements. In regions where ports, repair facilities and logistical nodes are limited, endurance becomes a defining factor. As one presenter put it, planners must determine "how long it's going to be able to operate away from civilization," a consideration that directly shapes fuel capacity, storage, redundancy and crew support systems.

Beyond design, panelists emphasized that shipbuilding capability is inseparable from the strength of the national industrial base. The discussion highlighted how the U.S. maritime workforce is supported by a network of suppliers, welders, naval architects, digital modelers, fabrication specialists, testing labs, training centers and manufacturing partners distributed across the country. The panel described how this ecosystem underpins every stage of vessel development, from competitive design phases to plate bending, propulsion integration and final outfitting. One presenter noted that developing a viable design "takes a

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Photo By Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Oldham | U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star (WAGB 10)



SHIPBUILDING ALUMNI EVENT

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lot of time and effort,” a reminder that complex military platforms require sustained coordination, clear standards and cross-sector involvement long before construction begins.

Participants also explored how digital engineering is reshaping the shipbuilding landscape. A panelist described how allied shipbuilders have embraced advanced 3D modeling and simulation tools that streamline design cycles and reduce errors early in the process. “They take a much more digital engineering approach to the design,” the presenter said. “They go as heavily into the 3D design as they possibly can.” Panelists explained that such practices not only increase precision but also allow distributed teams to evaluate structural loads, system integration and ice interaction before steel is cut. Alumni noted that these kinds of technical exchanges with allies support U.S. maritime objectives by enhancing interoperability, strengthening domestic manufacturing capacity and reinforcing shared standards and burden sharing across the region.

The discussion returned often to why these shipbuilding considerations matter for national security. Arctic-capable vessels provide the backbone for maritime domain awareness, crisis response, freedom of navigation and logistical support in areas defined by distance, unpredictable weather and limited infrastructure. Their ability to remain on station for extended periods supports the warfighter and ensures the U.S. can maintain presence where policy, strategy and

operational planning increasingly converge. These factors align with the Executive Order’s emphasis on strengthening the maritime workforce, modernizing shipbuilding practices and ensuring that the nation’s maritime infrastructure is prepared to support future security needs.

Alumni reflected on the broader strategic implications of the region itself. One participant wrote, “The Arctic is no longer solely the domain of Arctic nations; it has global strategic implications. We need a broader strategic vision that transcends geography, particularly regarding the industrial challenge of icebreaker construction. It is time to treat this as a collective Allied mission, not just a regional responsibility.” The sentiment captured a central theme of the session: Arctic shipbuilding is not simply engineering; it is statecraft, deterrence and allied collaboration expressed in steel.

Another attendee remarked, “Thanks so much for this important and timely topic,” noting the value of

having direct access to experts shaping the nation’s maritime posture. For many alumni, the session reinforced the understanding that shipbuilding is a long-term strategic effort tied to readiness, deterrence and the operational demands of the Arctic. By bringing together practitioners, engineers and industry experts, the TSC continues to build strong, informed networks that advance homeland defense and regional security across the Arctic and help deter and dissuade adversaries that threaten peace and security across the Allied Arctic. As the United States implements its strategic direction under the Executive Order on Restoring America’s Maritime Dominance, the center’s alumni engagements provide an essential venue for examining how industrial capacity, engineering expertise and international cooperation shape the nation’s ability to operate and defend in the region.

For more information about the TSC Alumni Program and to learn about future upcoming events, visit: <https://tedstevensarcticcenter.org/alumni/>



Photo By Petty Officer 3rd Class Ashly Murphy | U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Storrs (WAGB-21)





I CORPS LEADERSHIP VISITS TSC

Lt. Gen. Matthew McFarlane, commanding general of I Corps, visited the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Dec. 18 to learn how the center’s education, research and analysis, and strategic engagement support warfighter readiness and operational planning.

Randy “Church” Kee, director of the Ted Stevens Center, greeted McFarlane upon arrival and discussed the center’s mission to deliver Arctic-focused education and analytical support that enhances I Corps’ ability to prepare, plan and operate across complex environments. The center’s work provides leaders with insight into geographic risk, operational challenges and the strategic significance of the Arctic.

During the visit, Kee outlined the center’s organizational structure and highlighted its expanding capabilities, including a new production studio designed to support education and strategic communication efforts. These resources enable the center to provide timely, relevant content that supports I Corps’ mission to deploy, fight and win as America’s forward land power in the Arctic-Pacific region.

Kee also emphasized the geographic importance of the Arctic, explaining how distance, terrain and environmental conditions shape force employment and operational risk. The center’s education and analysis help I Corps leaders better understand how Arctic considerations influence readiness, mobility and large-scale combat operations.

The visit concluded with McFarlane touring the facility and engaging with center leadership, underscoring the partnership between I Corps and the TSC. The engagement reflected a shared commitment to equipping warfighters with the knowledge and understanding required to operate effectively in challenging environments like the Arctic.



NEW EPISODE OF ARCTIC CONNECTIONS

In this episode of Arctic Connections, former Associate Director for Strategic Engagement Matthew Hickey and Director Randy “Church” Kee of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies reflect on 2025 and look to the year ahead in Arctic security. They delve into the U.S. executive action on the Arctic as well as international developments, emphasizing the Arctic's growing importance as a theater of strategic relevance and a critical component of homeland defense for the United States. Director Kee explains the “ten, twelve, and two o’clock” avenues of approach to North America, framing Arctic security issues across multiple Arctic sub-regions. The episode also previews upcoming TSC education, research, and engagement programs. Looking ahead, the discussion explores emerging challenges, including the need for rapid technological advancement to counter threats like hypersonic missiles and unmanned aerial systems, and the importance of collaboration between government, industry, and academia to ensure a secure and stable Arctic.



TSC HOSTS ARCTIC EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COURSE FOR 3RD MXG LEADERS

In the Arctic, deterrence does not begin at the point of contact. It begins with logistics.

That message framed an executive education course hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies on Jan. 22, as Airmen from the 3rd Maintenance Group examined how distance, infrastructure and sustainment shape the United States' ability to operate and deter in the Arctic.

The two-hour session, held at the Arctic Warrior Event Center, brought together 37 maintenance officers and senior noncommissioned officers ranging from E-7 to O-5. Requested by 3rd MXG leadership as part of its professional development program, the course was designed to connect Arctic strategy directly to the operational realities faced by warfighters responsible for generating and sustaining combat power in Alaska.

"The goal is to help people understand how the Arctic affects their missions and how they can operate more effectively in this environment, particularly here in Alaska," said Matthew Bell, dean of the School for Arctic Security Studies.

Why logistics matter in the Arctic

Faculty emphasized that Arctic security is shaped less by individual capabilities than by the ability to sustain forces across vast distances, limited infrastructure and extreme conditions. For maintenance Airmen, those constraints are not abstract. They directly affect aircraft readiness, sortie generation and operational endurance.

During a map exercise, Bell asked Airmen to place their hands over Anchorage on maps of Alaska to visualize how vital resources are distributed across the state. As

participants did so, their hands also covered Fairbanks, illustrating how closely Alaska's primary infrastructure hubs are clustered.

"When you put your hand over Anchorage, you are accounting for 85 percent of the infrastructure in the state," Bell said. "Roads, rail, major ports, defense infrastructure, it's all right there."

The exercise demonstrated how quickly access and redundancy diminish beyond those hubs, not only across Alaska, but throughout the North American Arctic.

Bell explained that while the concentration of infrastructure around Anchorage and Fairbanks

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Dean Matt Bell delivers Arctic overview



3rd MXG leaders examine Arctic maps



3RD MXG ARCTIC EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

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enables operations, it also creates vulnerability. Beyond those hubs, distance, access, and limited redundancy quickly dominate planning and execution.

For maintenance Airmen, those structural constraints translate directly into daily decisions on the flight line. When parts flow is limited, cold weather accelerates wear, and access to higher-level maintenance is constrained by distance, readiness is sustained not by abundance, but by prioritization and tradeoffs.

Faculty walked the Airmen through how sustainment flows into Alaska, noting that most materiel arrives by a small number of ports before moving inland by rail or road—often across long timelines with limited alternatives. For maintenance Airmen, the takeaway was clear. In the Arctic, sustainment is not a supporting consideration. It is the foundation of operational capability.

“Logistics is not a supporting function here,” Bell said. “It’s central to whether we can operate at all.”

From Alaska to the circumpolar Arctic

While the discussion was grounded in Alaska, faculty expanded the lens to the broader Arctic, where similar constraints shape competition and deterrence across the circumpolar region.

“The broader strategic inferences on why the Arctic matters, we try to bring that down to a practical exercise and why it matters to us who live here in the state,” Bell said.

“Then we look at how those same challenges scale across the Arctic.”

As participants worked through infrastructure, access and sustainment challenges, faculty emphasized that distance and geography affect every domain, particularly air operations.

“If deterrence fails, what does a potential conflict in the Arctic region look like?” Bell asked. “Is it air, land, maritime, or all domains?”

He noted that maintenance depot vs. location tyranny of distance make airpower central to Arctic operations.

“It’s probably going to be air, just because the tyranny of distance and the lack of infrastructure,” Bell said.

Dr. Kelsey Frazier, associate director of the Research and Analysis Division, reinforced that operating in the Arctic requires confronting risk rather than assuming it will diminish.

“There’s a perception that somehow, with reducing sea ice extent, this is

going to be a great environment to move goods and cargo and humans through,” Frazier said. “There will always be challenges, search and rescue, recovery.”

“It doesn’t necessarily reduce the risk,” she said. “It just presents new risks.”

Education grounded in operational reality

Faculty used the session to broaden the discussion from Alaska’s sustainment challenges to the strategic context in which Arctic operations take place. As maintenance Airmen considered how distance, parts flow and environmental conditions affect aircraft readiness, instructors emphasized that those same constraints shape deterrence across the wider Arctic.

Dr. Matthew Rhodes, professor of international security, framed Arctic operations within the alliance structures that underpin deterrence, particularly across the European

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Leaders from the 3rd Maintenance Group share perspectives on Arctic operational challenges

3RD MXG ARCTIC EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

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Arctic. He emphasized that no single nation operates alone in the region and that interoperability and shared standards are essential to operating effectively in a geographically unforgiving environment.

“The best convention, the best agreement, the best alliance in world history is NATO,” Rhodes said.

Rhodes’ discussion reinforced how alliances influence everything from access and basing to sustainment and operational endurance. For maintenance Airmen, those considerations translate directly into aircraft availability, recovery timelines and the ability to sustain airpower over distance.

Faculty emphasized that deterrence in the Arctic depends on more than presence or advanced platforms. It relies on the ability to keep aircraft mission-ready and operating despite environmental constraints, limited infrastructure and long supply lines.

“The distance is the same. The weather is a challenge. The atmospheric are a nightmare,” Bell said. “We’ve gotten better with technology, but a lot of this hasn’t changed.”

Sustainment as a deterrence advantage

For maintenance Airmen in the 3rd MXG, the course underscored that aircraft readiness in Alaska is shaped long before a sortie is generated. Distance, infrastructure constraints and environmental conditions influence whether forces can respond quickly, sustain operations and maintain credible deterrence in the Arctic.

“When we talk about homeland defense, we have to start with how the environment affects operators and shapes competition in the region,” Bell said. “That understanding has to come first.”

Faculty emphasized that Arctic deterrence is not defined by isolated capabilities, but by the ability to keep aircraft mission-ready over time in an environment where redundancy is limited and recovery options are few.

The TSC supports that effort through education, research, and engagement focused on the Arctic as an operational environment. By grounding strategic context in real-world constraints, the center helps prepare warfighters and security practitioners to operate effectively where readiness and sustainment are inseparable.

As strategic attention on the Arctic continues to grow, leaders emphasized that helping warfighters understand the operational environment they support is essential to defending the homeland and reinforcing deterrence in the Arctic.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF VISIT HIGHLIGHTS ARCTIC SECURITY AND HOMELAND DEFENSE

George Tolar, chief of staff of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, shares the latest center updates with Mike Songer, national security advisor to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, and Chad Thorley, national security advisor and assistant to Sen. John Barrasso, during a visit at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 21, 2026. The visit included discussions on the center’s mission and the strategic importance of the Arctic to U.S. homeland defense.



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UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

26-02: March 09-13, 2026

26-03: April 20-24, 2026

ARSOC is a five-day, 35-hour, virtually presented (at the present time) executive education course designed as an Arctic fundamental program for U.S. and Allied & Partner nation's mid- to senior-career security practitioners. The course supports and creates communities of interest to provide opportunities for personnel to achieve a basic understanding of the current challenging Arctic security dilemmas and shape internal U.S. and international thinking. The course provides opportunities for participants to gain insight to inform for Arctic security analysis, survey practical solutions, and advance relationship building that supports the rules-based order in the Arctic.



11th ABN DIV Soldiers conduct foot march during JPMRC 26-02

NATO in the North (N2C)

26-01: April 7-9, 2026

N2C is a three-day, 12-hour, virtually presented course that examines NATO's evolving role and presence in the Arctic region amid rapidly changing security dynamics. The curriculum analyzes how recent developments, including Russia's war against Ukraine, increased Chinese regional activity, and the accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO, have fundamentally altered Arctic security considerations. The course explores how these changes affect NATO's core tasks of deterrence and defense, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security, while examining the growing importance of resilience in Arctic operations.



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TSC LAUNCHES NEW REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUES PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN ARCTIC HOMELAND DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies launched a new Regional Security Dialogues program Jan. 29 to create a standing, operationally focused forum that connects warfighters, planners and security practitioners across the Arctic in support of homeland defense, deterrence and allied burden sharing.

The enduring program links digital and in-person engagements across four Arctic sub-regions and is designed to translate strategy into practice by giving defense professionals recurring access to partner perspectives, regional expertise and mission-relevant security discussions. Center leaders say the Dialogues directly support Department of War priorities and the National Defense Strategy by strengthening practitioner networks, improving shared awareness and accelerating practical cooperation across the Arctic operating environment.

Through regionally focused discussions covering the Arctic Pacific, North American Arctic, Transatlantic Arctic and European High North, the Dialogues align expert insight with operational audiences and real-world security requirements.

“The purpose of the dialogues is to foster a sub-regional community of practice of Arctic security practitioners across the U.S., our partners, and our allies in

government and military,” said Maddox Angerhofer, engagement programs coordinator for the TSC’s Strategic Engagement Division. “To essentially come together and discuss the biggest issues in Arctic security affecting both the circumpolar Arctic and specific sub-regions.”

TSC officials say the structure supports the National Defense Strategy’s emphasis on defending the homeland, strengthening cooperation with allies and partners, and improving the effectiveness of the joint force in strategically important regions.

Turning strategy into practitioner-level engagement

The Regional Security Dialogues program is built to move Arctic security engagement from periodic conferences to continuous professional exchange. Webinars, podcasts, written analysis and in-person dialogues are organized into a recurring cycle so practitioners can follow developments, compare approaches and stay connected across regions and institutions.

The regional framework is central to the design. Each sub-region faces different operational conditions, infrastructure limits and threat considerations. By organizing discussions geographically, the program keeps conversations tied to operational reality and decision

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TED STEVENS CENTER
FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES

ACADEMIC CATALOG
2026-2027

United States Department of War
Regional Center
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

2026-2027 ACADEMIC CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies 2026–2027 Academic Catalog is now live on our website, offering a comprehensive look at the Center’s expanding portfolio of Arctic-focused education and engagement. The catalog outlines virtual courses, alumni programming, and executive-level seminars designed to advance understanding of the rapidly evolving Arctic operating environment. From Arctic crisis logistics and multi-domain legal frameworks to emerging challenges in cyber, maritime, and strategic competition, the 2026–2027 academic year reflects our continued commitment to building strategic insight and strengthening networks across the Arctic and beyond. We invite partners, practitioners, and scholars to explore the catalog and join us in shaping informed, collaborative approaches to Arctic security.

TSC LAUNCHES REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUES

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needs rather than abstract policy debate.

“It’s a geographic framework used to look at different issues across the Arctic, all the components that go into Arctic security,” Angerhofer explained.

Some Dialogue sessions are invitation-only to support senior leader exchange, while others are open-access and built for broad practitioner participation across government, military and partner organizations.

“We’re looking now towards an integrated operational plan that brings together those digital programs with in-person programming to make sure that the dialogue is as productive as possible,” she said.

Supporting homeland defense and deterrence in the North

Program discussions are tied to defense priorities that emphasize homeland defense, early warning, operational preparedness and coordinated action with allies and partners across the Arctic.

Organizers say the Dialogues help connect policy direction with field-level understanding by putting operators, planners and regional experts into the same recurring forums.

Participants include personnel and planners from multiple combatant commands, including United States Northern Command, United States Indo-Pacific Command and United

States European Command, along with interagency and international partners.

“These events help warfighters first by informing them,” Angerhofer explained. She noted the Dialogues also give operational personnel a channel to raise field-driven concerns and emerging risks. “It provides them to raise key issues that they’re identifying from the front line as challenges in Arctic security.”

Because Arctic operations often involve multiple nations, long distances and limited infrastructure, faster coordination and better shared understanding can directly affect response timelines and mission success. Program leaders say recurring contact across practitioner networks helps reduce friction during crises and improves day-to-day planning.

Strengthening allies, partners and burden sharing

A core objective of the Dialogues program is to strengthen cooperation with allies and partners and improve burden sharing across

the Arctic security community. Sessions will regularly include international participants and regional experts who outline national capabilities, constraints and priorities.

“The number one line of effort that the regional security dialogues help advance is our initiatives to enlist and expand our allies,” Angerhofer said.

By helping participants understand where partner strengths and capability gaps exist, the Dialogues support more realistic planning and more efficient distribution of effort across missions. That approach reinforces deterrence by demonstrating coordination, capability awareness and collective resolve across the Arctic region. Program discussions also examine how partner capabilities in areas such as maritime operations, infrastructure, technology and emergency response can complement U.S. efforts and contribute to shared security outcomes.

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TSC LAUNCHES REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUES

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Advancing Arctic security through networks and solutions

Beyond information sharing, the Dialogues are intended to produce practical outcomes by connecting the people responsible for Arctic missions and security decisions. Organizers say that practitioner networks built through recurring engagement often become first points of contact during fast-moving events.

The Dialogues advance Arctic security by “developing networks of security practitioners that can be the first line of contact in the event of an Arctic crisis,” Angerhofer explained. “It puts people in touch with one another and creates that kind of connective tissue between countries.”

Upcoming topics will include operational challenges, technology adoption, partner coordination and region-specific risks tied to Arctic conditions and access. Discussions will also include stakeholders such as North American Aerospace Defense Command and other security organizations and militaries involved in northern operations. “You’ll see a focus on homeland defense and the North American Arctic’s role in that,” Angerhofer said. “There will definitely be an emphasis on innovation and partnering with private sector to accelerate the adoption of new technologies into the Department of War and our warfighting capabilities in the Arctic.”

Continued engagements

Future sessions will continue across each Arctic sub-region, culminating annually in the Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue. Program webpages allow practitioners and partners to follow region-specific tracks and receive updates on upcoming engagements.

For more information about upcoming dialogues, visit the Ted Stevens Center website and the Regional Security Dialog pages, and sign up for region-specific updates through the official registration form.

TSC HOSTS ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD TYPHOON HALONG RESPONSE POST-OPERATION UPDATE WEBINAR

On 20 February 2026, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies hosted a virtual briefing featuring a post-operation update from the Alaska National Guard on its response to Typhoon Halong. The session featured MAJ Zachary Miller, Alaska National Guard Deputy J5, who provided detailed insights into the Guard’s operational approach during the crisis.

The storm presented significant challenges across Alaska’s vast and remote operating environment, requiring rapid coordination among military, civilian, and interagency partners. Conducted under the Center’s Regional Security Dialogue framework, the webinar directly supported the North American Arctic Security Dialogue (NAASD) line of effort by grounding strategic-level discussions in real-world Arctic operational experience.

The session examined the Alaska National Guard’s role in supporting civil authorities, with emphasis on interagency coordination, search and rescue operations, remote and austere logistics, and operational decision-making in the Arctic domain. MAJ Miller also highlighted key lessons learned from the largest civilian air evacuation conducted in the State of Alaska.

This engagement surfaced actionable insights to strengthen North American Arctic security, resilience, and preparedness, while reinforcing the Ted Stevens Center’s commitment to connecting operational practice with strategic dialogue across the NAASD series.



176th Wing C-17 Globemaster III evacuation



211th General Support Aviation Battalion





NATO in the Arctic

TED STEVENS CENTER REVAMPS BRAND IDENTITY

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies is launching a refreshed brand identity that modernizes its visual presence while aligning with the latest Department of War branding standards. The update marks a significant transformation in how the center communicates its mission and engages its network of defense, security, and international allies and partners.

As part of the rollout, stakeholders can expect to see updated products, platforms, and materials designed to bring greater consistency and clarity across all TSC channels. The new look reflects a deliberate effort to ensure center outputs remain current, recognizable, and aligned with evolving DoW visual guidance.

Central to the update is a reimagined brand experience that is immersive yet succinct, drawing direct inspiration from the terrain, climate, and operational realities of the Arctic. While defense institutions have historically been viewed as conventional, TSC brings a modern, experience-driven approach rooted in operational realism and the environments in which Arctic security challenges unfold.

The refreshed brand emphasizes the latest DoW modernization while positioning the TSC as a leader in Arctic security and defense. As the center continues to deliver Arctic expertise, the updated brand experience will facilitate learning and discovery across the center's platforms.

While the visual identity is evolving, the TSC's core mission remains unchanged: advancing understanding of Arctic security challenges and opportunities through education, research, and strategic engagement. The updated branding strengthens how the center communicates its role within the DoW and the broader security community.

The new branding will roll out in phases over the coming weeks. The TSC network can expect updated products and resources to support the Arctic security and defense practitioner with refinement and sophistication.

THE LATEST EDITION OF ARCTIC SECURITY UPDATE IS LIVE

This week, we explore NATO in the Arctic through:

- The Big Picture: Arctic Sentry
- From the Field: The Arctic Drone Laboratory
- From the Oval Office: Maritime Action Plan

ASU offers forward-looking news recaps and analysis tailored for today's warfighters, policy and planning professionals, frontline DoW components, Arctic security practitioners, and government leaders.

Each edition cuts through the noise to explore how today's world events shape the Arctic security landscape.

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ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES



Wesley Moerbe

Colleagues

As many of you know, the strength of the Ted Stevens Center lies not only in its programs, but in the enduring network of practitioners, scholars, and partners who continue to engage long after a course concludes. It has been a privilege to support that network in my role as Alumni Coordinator.

I will be transitioning from this position to a researcher role with TSC, where I will continue to contribute to the Center’s mission through applied research and analysis focused on Arctic security challenges. While my day-to-day responsibilities will change, my commitment to the alumni community and to TSC’s broader objectives remains unchanged.

During this transition, Patricia Johnson will assume the role of Alumni Coordinator on an interim basis. She will ensure continuity in alumni engagement and ongoing initiatives until Doug “Nomad” Hulseley returns to the position. I am confident the program is in capable hands and will continue to grow and adapt in support of our alumni.



Patricia Johnson

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the alumni community for your engagement, feedback, and continued interest in the work of the Ted Stevens Center. Your participation is what sustains this network and gives it purpose. I look forward to remaining connected with many of you in my new role and to continuing our shared work in support of Arctic security and cooperation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Best

Wes,

Scan the QR code for the latest alumni updates



CONGRATULATIONS AMLC 26-01 AND ACLC 26-01 GRADUATES

Welcome to our alumni network

We are proud to welcome the newest graduates of the Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course and the Arctic Contested Logistics Course into the growing alumni network of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. Your commitment to deepening expertise in Arctic legal frameworks and operational logistics strengthens not only your respective organizations, but the broader community of security practitioners focused on the region. As alumni, you now join a dynamic, international network dedicated to collaboration, professional exchange, and continued learning in support of a stable and secure Arctic. We look forward to staying connected, amplifying your work, and engaging you in future dialogues, research, and regional initiatives.



DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY NOTE

Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

As we close out January and February 2026, the pace of engagement at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies reflects the growing strategic weight of the Arctic. The start of the year has been defined by practical learning, renewed partnerships, and the launch of new forums designed to strengthen regional collaboration. Across every engagement, one theme has been consistent: readiness in the Arctic demands integration—across domains, across governments, and across allies and partners.

Our Arctic Crisis Logistics Course brought together practitioners to confront one of the region's most persistent operational challenges—distance. In a theater where infrastructure is limited and the environment unforgiving, logistics is not a supporting function; it is decisive. Similarly, the Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course underscored that competition in the Arctic is shaped as much by law and governance as by force posture. As maritime activity increases and new technologies expand into cyber and space domains, understanding the legal frameworks that govern operations is essential to maintaining legitimacy and stability.

We were also thrilled to reconnect with our growing network through a series of alumni events, reaffirming that the strength of this Center lies not only in our courses, but in the enduring professional relationships formed here. Our alumni continue to serve on the front lines of policy, planning, and operations, and their insights enrich our collective understanding of the region.

Finally, the launch of our Regional Security Dialogues marks an important step forward. These dialogues are designed to create sustained, candid conversations among Arctic stakeholders about shared challenges—from infrastructure resilience to strategic competition. By fostering routine, structured engagement, we aim to strengthen transparency, build trust, and align efforts in support of a stable and secure Arctic.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our mission.

Very respectfully,
Randy "Church" Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
Director
Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

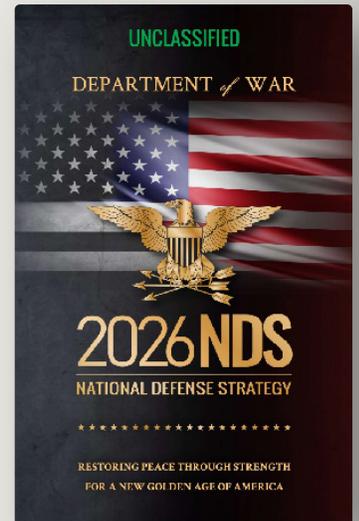


DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

2026 National Defense Strategy

United States Department of War

The 2026 National Defense Strategy provides the strategic framework guiding how the United States will defend its interests in an increasingly contested security environment. The strategy underscores the centrality of deterrence, the importance of campaigning across domains, and the imperative of strengthening alliances and partnerships—priorities that resonate deeply in the Arctic. As strategic competition intensifies and the region's operational tempo increases, the National Defense Strategy challenges us to think critically about posture, presence, and the integration of emerging technologies in harsh and dynamic environments. For those engaged in advancing security and defense in the Arctic, this document offers essential insight into how national objectives translate into operational realities.



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