



## Arctic Capability and Allied Cooperation Highlighted During Briefing to Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

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## Ted Stevens Center Hosts Inaugural Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue to Advance Allied Readiness in an Accessible Arctic

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## Arctic Capability and Allied Cooperation Highlighted During Briefing to Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies convened senior leaders and subject matter experts from across Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for a focused briefing to the Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) on strengthening Arctic capability, enhancing allied interoperability, and advancing integrated approaches to security in the region.

The briefing included participation from U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Peter Welch, Lt. Gen. Robert Davis, the Commander of Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, and Eleventh Air Force, Maj. Gen. John Cogbill, Commanding General of the 11th Airborne Division, and Brig. Gen. Brian Kile, Deputy Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard.

Discussions centered on the evolving Arctic operating environment and the increasing need for coordinated, multinational approaches to ensure readiness across the region. Presenters emphasized that Arctic capability now requires integrated approaches across domains, strengthened partnerships, and sustained investment in people, systems, and infrastructure.

Ted Stevens Center Deputy Director, Craig Fleener, focused on the role of education in building Arctic expertise. He highlighted the Center's ongoing educational programs designed to develop Arctic-literate leaders, strengthen professional networks, and build shared understanding across partner nations.

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# Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region Visit (Continued from previous page)

These programs were reinforced as critical to ensuring that current and future decision-makers are prepared to operate effectively in Arctic conditions.

Speakers noted that as activity in the region increases, success will depend not only on platforms and infrastructure, but also on the ability of allied and partner nations to develop common approaches and build enduring relationships.

The briefing reinforced the importance of continued collaboration between legislative leaders, military organizations, and Arctic-focused institutions to ensure sustained progress in building capability and readiness across the region.



## TED STEVENS CENTER RELEASES VOLUME 3 OF THE JOURNAL OF ARCTIC SECURITY

Volume Three of the Journal of Arctic Security continues the publication's commitment to delivering rigorous, relevant, and practitioner-focused analysis on the most pressing defense and security challenges in the High North. This volume explores the evolving character of warfare and strategic competition in an increasingly accessible Arctic, with particular attention to operational capability and strategic adaptation.

Featured articles examine critical issues such as icebreaking capacity in the Western Hemisphere and its role in ensuring persistent presence and freedom of navigation, innovative concepts like landing C-130 aircraft on frozen lakes to expand logistical and power projection options, and the transformation of Arctic command structures in light of NATO expansion with Finland and Sweden. Collectively, these contributions are designed not only to advance academic discourse but to inform policy, shape strategy, and strengthen the ability of the United States and its allies to deter aggression and operate effectively in one of the world's most demanding environments.

Scan here to read the Journal of Arctic Security



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# Ted Stevens Center Hosts Inaugural Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue to Advance Allied Readiness in an Accessible Arctic

The 2026 Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue (APSD) brought together senior leaders, practitioners, and subject matter experts from across the United States, the Arctic, and the Indo-Pacific for a two-day forum focused on advancing readiness and strengthening collaboration in an increasingly accessible Arctic.

Hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, APSD 2026 combined high-level dialogue with an in-region field component, reinforcing the connection between strategic discussions and operational realities. The event is part of the Center's Regional Security Dialogue series, which builds toward the annual Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue.

This year's theme, "U.S. and Allied Readiness to Secure an Accessible Arctic Ocean of the Future," framed discussions around the growing strategic importance of Arctic waterways, evolving environmental conditions, and the need for coordinated approaches among allies and partners.

In opening remarks, the Director emphasized that the Arctic is no longer a peripheral theater, but a central domain for security planning and operations.

"The Arctic is no longer a distant or seasonal concern, it is an emerging operational domain," the Director said. "The question before us is not whether the Arctic matters, but whether we are prepared—together—to operate effectively, persistently, and responsibly in this environment."

He underscored that readiness must be comprehensive, spanning operational capability, institutional alignment, and allied integration.



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# Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue

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“Readiness in the Arctic is not defined by access alone. It is defined by our ability to sustain operations, share awareness, and act in concert with trusted partners across domains and regions.”

The first day of the dialogue focused on the future maritime environment, beginning with a panel on *Arctic Sea State 2050*, which explored how the dynamic environment is reshaping ocean conditions and operational planning. Discussions throughout the day addressed maritime sovereignty, legal frameworks, and the challenges associated with increased activity in Arctic waters.

A key highlight was the site visit to the Alaska Chadux Network (ACN) 24/7 Monitoring Center, where participants gained firsthand insight into industry-led oil spill response and maritime environmental protection capabilities. The visit reinforced the importance of public-private partnerships in ensuring safe and secure Arctic operations.

The keynote address was delivered by Tom Dans, Chairman of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, who emphasized the foundational role of science, infrastructure, and governance in Arctic security.

Day two shifted focus toward innovation, economics, and international cooperation, including discussions on emerging technologies, maritime security investment, and the role of industry and regional stakeholders. Scenario-based discussions further challenged participants to apply insights to real-world contingencies.



A second keynote was delivered by His Excellency Katsuhiko Takahashi, Ambassador from Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who highlighted the growing linkage between Arctic and Indo-Pacific security dynamics.

Throughout the dialogue, participants examined persistent challenges, including limited infrastructure, domain awareness gaps, and the impacts of a dynamic Arctic operating environment. At the same time, the forum emphasized opportunities to deepen collaboration through joint exercises, education initiatives, and coordinated capability development.

Building on the Arctic Waterways Security Strategy and the Maritime Action Plan, APSD 2026 advanced efforts to strengthen collaboration between Arctic and Indo-Pacific partners—underscoring that the future of Arctic security will be shaped by shared commitment, collective readiness, and sustained engagement.



## TSC Hosts EU Deputy Head of Delegation

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies was honored to host Ms. Ruth Bajada, European Union Deputy Head of Delegation to the US, for a substantive discussion on Arctic security. As strategic competition intensifies, the Arctic is increasingly central to homeland defense, critical infrastructure security, and deterrence. Our conversation focused on strengthening transatlantic cooperation through enhanced EU contributions that build resilience and capacity.

With key European allies playing an essential role in Arctic security, continued coordination between the United States, the European Union, and NATO will be integral to advancing stability and resilience in the region.

The Ted Stevens Center remains committed to serving as a platform for dialogue, partnership, and practical solutions in the Arctic.

# Exploring the Role of Autonomy in Allied Defense Cooperation at the Norwegian American Defense Conference

At the Norwegian-American Defense Conference, TSC Director Randy "Church" Kee moderated a forward-leaning panel titled "From Seabed to Space: The Role of Autonomy in Allied Defense Cooperation Across Domains." Across today's strategic environment—and especially in the Arctic and High North—we are witnessing a fundamental shift in how we think about presence, awareness, and operational reach. From the seabed, where critical infrastructure underpins the global economy, to space, where data and connectivity enable decision advantage, the domains are more interconnected than ever. And increasingly, autonomy is what ties them together.



Autonomous systems are no longer niche capabilities. They are shaping how we monitor vast and remote regions, how we deter adversaries, and how we respond at speed and scale. They extend our reach into environments that are too contested, too costly, or too complex for traditional approaches alone. But just as importantly, they challenge us to rethink how we operate together.

Discussion focused on how autonomy is accelerating multi-domain awareness and decision advantage, while also raising important questions around interoperability, trust, data integration, and allied governance frameworks. The panelists, representing operational leadership, acquisition, industry, and analytical perspectives, shared a comprehensive view of how autonomy is being developed, fielded, and integrated across domains—and across the Alliance.

## Understanding Multi-Domain Operations in the Arctic at 2026 Henry Bacon Seminar



The Henry Bacon Seminar brought together senior defense leaders for a timely discussion on "Multi-Domain Operations in the Arctic" moderated by TSC Director Randy "Church" Kee.

Hosted by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the panel highlighted how the Arctic region is no longer defined solely by its geography, but by the convergence of domains—land, sea, air, space, and cyber—each shaping how we project power, ensure security, and maintain stability in the High North.

Multi-domain operations in this environment present unique challenges: vast distances, extreme conditions, limited infrastructure, and evolving strategic competition. But they also present an opportunity—an opportunity to innovate, to integrate across services and with allies, and to refine how we operate in one of the most dynamic regions in the world.

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## U.S. Maritime Strategies for Arctic Dominance at Sea-Air-Space 2026

At Sea-Air-Space 2026, TSC Director Randy "Church" Kee contributed to a timely discussion on "Securing the Polar Frontier: U.S. Maritime Strategies for Arctic Dominance."

As geopolitical competition intensifies in the Arctic, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are advancing distinct yet complementary strategies to assert American sovereignty, deter adversaries, and secure vital economic interests. This panel explored the convergence of military power projection, persistent maritime presence, icebreaker modernization, and autonomous surveillance technologies.

Alongside panelists U.S. Navy Vice Adm. (Ret.) Bill Merz, U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Nathan Moore, and U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Doug Perry, and expertly moderated by Dr. Abbie Tingstad, the panel examined how U.S. maritime forces are reshaping Arctic security policy to protect national interests, counter Russian and Chinese expansion, and ensure freedom of navigation in a rapidly changing polar environment.

The discussion underscored the importance of integrated, multi-domain approaches and close cooperation with allies and partners to ensure stability, safeguard freedom of navigation, and deter coercive activity in the region.

## Read the Latest Arctic Security Updates: How Economics and Defense Converge in the Arctic-Pacific

This week, we explore how economics and defense converge in the Arctic-Pacific through:

- The Big Picture: Flag & Trade
- This Week in History: Operation Landcrab
- By the Numbers: Arctic-Pacific Energy

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# DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY NOTE

Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

April was a particularly significant month, marked by meaningful engagement with allies and partners, the release of new scholarship, and the launch of a major dialogue focused on the future of Arctic security.

One of the month's highlights was the opportunity to brief the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. The discussion underscored the importance of Arctic capability development, burden sharing among allies, and the growing need for coordinated approaches to defense and security challenges in an increasingly accessible Arctic.

The Center also proudly released Volume 3 of the Journal of Arctic Security Studies. This latest edition reflects the growing maturity of Arctic security scholarship and brings together diverse perspectives from military practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.

April also marked the inaugural Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue, convening experts, practitioners, and leaders

from across government, academia, and industry to examine the intersection of Arctic and Indo-Pacific security challenges. The dialogue highlighted the increasing connectivity between these regions and reinforced the importance of allied cooperation, resilient logistics, domain awareness, and emerging technologies in maintaining security across both theaters. The conversations generated during the event will help inform future collaboration and strengthen collective readiness.



As we move into the spring and summer months, the pace of activity across the Arctic continues to accelerate. The Ted Stevens Center remains focused on preparing defense and security practitioners, fostering meaningful partnerships, and generating practical solutions that contribute to homeland defense and allied security. We are grateful for the support of our partners, alumni, and stakeholders, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

Very Respectfully,

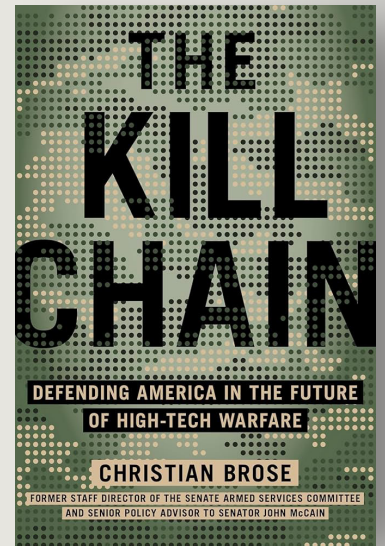
U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Randy "Church" Kee  
Director  
Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

## DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

### **The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech Warfare**

**Christian Brose**

For generations of Americans, our country has been the world's dominant military power. How the US military fights, and the systems and weapons that it fights with, have been uncontested. That old reality, however, is rapidly deteriorating. America's traditional sources of power are eroding amid the emergence of new technologies and the growing military threat posed by rivals such as China. America is at grave risk of losing a future war. As Christian Brose reveals in this urgent wake-up call, the future will be defined by artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and other emerging technologies that are revolutionizing global industries and are now poised to overturn the model of American defense. This fascinating, if disturbing, book confronts the existential risks on the horizon, charting a way for America's military to adapt and succeed with new thinking as well as new technology. America must build a battle network of systems that enables people to rapidly understand threats, make decisions, and take military actions, the process known as "the kill chain." Examining threats from China, Russia, and elsewhere, *The Kill Chain* offers hope and, ultimately, insights on how America can apply advanced technologies to prevent war, deter aggression, and maintain peace



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