



ARCTIC LAWFARE, COUNTER LAWFARE, & STRATEGIC COMPETITION

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Arctic Lawfare, Counter Lawfare, and Strategic Competition (ALCLSC) course is a three-day, 12-hour executive education program designed for mid- to senior defense practitioners and legal professionals who advise, work, or are embedded in military planning at the tactical, operational, or strategic levels. This course aims to strengthen the Arctic lawfare community of practice by educating warfighters on the Arctic lawfare battlespace. Hosted by the Ted Stevens Center (TSC), the course aligns with Department of Defense National Defense Strategy 2026 Lines of Effort to defend the Homeland and deter China and Russia, ensuring stability in the Arctic.

Course Objectives

- Educate mid- to senior-level defense and security professionals in the US and Arctic Allied nations on the Arctic lawfare battlespace.
- Incorporate capstone results into recommendations for counter lawfare strategies, operations, and tactics to COCOM leadership.
- Strengthen the Arctic lawfare defense and security network and community of practice.



Learning Experience

This virtual course features:

- Expert-led panel discussion and case studies.
- Capstone scenario for applied learning.
- Networking opportunities with Arctic defense practitioners and legal professionals.



Who Should Attend:

- U.S. legal or military personnel who advise, work, or are embedded in Arctic strategic, operational, or tactical planning.
- Legal or military professionals from Allied and Partner nations who advise, work, or are embedded in Arctic strategic, operational, or tactical planning.
- Graduates from the TSC Arctic Multidomain Legal Course or other TSC courses.
- Defense practitioners and legal professionals seeking an advanced understanding of lawfare in the Arctic.
- Understanding of international law is useful but not required.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Arctic is emerging as a primary theatre for strategic competition. Increasingly, that competition is playing out on the lawfare battlefield. Competitors and adversaries are wielding the law as a weapon to achieve a particular strategic, operational, or tactical objective, bolster their own legitimacy, or erode the legitimacy of the United States and its Allies and partners. Russia routinely uses international law instrumentally, e.g., filing dubious continental shelf claims, militarizing civilian infrastructure, and wrongly asserting sovereignty over the Northern Sea Route. China pursues a subtler but equally deliberative approach. As a self-declared “Near-Arctic State,” it is intent on norm-shaping through multilateral institutions, infrastructure investments, science diplomacy, and academic and civil society influence operations.

Despite this reality in the Arctic, US and Allied warfighters lack understanding of what lawfare is, how it is used by adversaries and competitors, and what the US and its Allies and partners can do about it. The ALCLSC course fills these gaps by preparing national security and defense professionals to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and counter lawfare activities of our competitors and adversaries in the Arctic. Armed with this understanding, the US and its Allies and partners will be able to exploit this competitive space to gain advantage over our competitors and adversaries, secure the US Homeland and the pan-Arctic region, and ultimately achieve favorable strategic outcomes.