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TED STEVENS CENTER FOR ARCTIC
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International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) Communications Workshop

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Photos courtesy of Justin Campfield, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs

International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) Communications Workshop

Earlier this month, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies hosted an International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) Communications Workshop in Hanover, N.H., in partnership with the U.S. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC).

“When we bring together practitioners with researchers, we know we have the right set of ingredients to advance the conversations that matter,” said Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Randy “Church” Kee, Director of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. “Together we are creating essential knowledge products that we can put in the hands of both researchers and programmers to close whatever gaps exist and make communication more effective.”

Director Kee commented on how significantly communications have improved across high latitudes, especially in austere field environments, since he was first introduced to these capabilities in the 1980s. He attributed that improvement to the hard work of researchers and programmers across multinational collaborations.

“Leadership from the Department of War’s Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies and the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory are to be congratulated for holding a most impactful workshop on the topic of military communications in the Arctic region,” said Dr. John W. Farrell, U.S. Arctic Research Commission Executive Director.

Dr. Farrell noted that traditional means of connectivity often don’t work in the Arctic region given the unique polar geography and austere environmental conditions.

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Director Kee stands with (from left to right) MIT Lincoln Laboratory Colleagues Dr. David Whelihan, and Ms. Ella Wawrzynek, and Ryan Nichols, Chief Operations Officer with Havguard AS, and U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Matthew Schell.



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OUR WORKSHOP HOSTS



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ICE-PPR Workshop (Continued from previous page)

"By focusing in on communication challenges both beneath the sea surface, and far above it, participants were able to identify critical research topics that will result in products and services beneficial to the military operator," said Farrell.

The ICE-PPR, coordinated by the Office of Naval Research, is an agreement between seven partner Nations' government agencies engaged in polar research to help advance polar science and technology. These Nations include the U.S., Canada, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden.

The goal of this ICE-PPR workshop was to enhance the resilience, security, and interoperability of critical communication systems across the high-latitude operational environment.

Presentations by Arctic Allies introduced ongoing research with potential for mutual advantage through collaboration. Very Low Frequency research underway in Norway, for example, has implications for monitoring naval operations in the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) Gap.

"Military communication has one purpose - to serve a command," said Dr. Johnny Grøneng Aase, Ph.D., a Norwegian Navy OR-8, which in NATO equivalence corresponds to a U.S.

U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Matthew Schell, TSC Deputy Associate Director, Research and Analysis, introduces Dr. Johnny Grøneng Aase during the ICE-PPR in Hanover, NH.

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer. "The electromagnetic spectrum is contested. We should never forget that colleagues from countries that do not share our Western values are extremely competent in the field of electronic warfare. This challenges our ability to utilize the electromagnetic spectrum on our terms."

Dr. Aase, who has extensive experience in satellite communications, Arctic operations, and applied research, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend this year's ICE-PPR. "I'm thankful to share some of the results from my research with such a competent and dedicated community and listen to colleagues sharing their own original research. I believe that scientific collaboration among equals is the way forward to give our commanders and warfighters the upper hand."

Participation in the workshop was open to members of the Joint community, all service branches, service research facilities, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, U.S. government agencies, academia including University Affiliated Research Centers, and industry partners.



Ted Stevens Center and State of Alaska Sign Memorandum of Understanding Establishing Governor as State of Alaska Arctic Chair

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (TSC) and the Office of the Governor of Alaska today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Governor of Alaska as the State of Alaska Arctic Chair for the Center, formalizing a unique partnership to strengthen collaboration on Arctic security, defense, and regional priorities.

The MOU signing marked a significant milestone in advancing cooperation between the State of Alaska and the Department of War's newest Regional Center. Under the agreement, Governor Michael Dunleavy will serve as the inaugural State of Alaska Arctic Chair for the remainder of his term in office.

The Arctic Chair role recognizes Alaska's indispensable position as America's Arctic state and reinforces the state's partnership with the Ted Stevens Center in support of national security, economic prosperity, and regional stability.

"Alaska is at the forefront of the opportunities and challenges that will define the future of the Arctic," said Governor Dunleavy. "This partnership with the Ted Stevens Center ensures Alaska's voice, our knowledge, and our priorities are at the table as our nation addresses the growing strategic importance of the Arctic. I'm honored to serve as the first Arctic Chair and to deepen Alaska's partnership with this vital institution."

The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for continued engagement between the Center and the State of Alaska on issues affecting the Arctic region. Through the Arctic Chair position, the Governor will provide strategic perspectives on emerging Arctic opportunities and challenges while helping foster collaboration among federal, state, local, Indigenous, academic, and international partners.

"The Ted Stevens Center was established to advance understanding of the Arctic's growing importance to national and international security," said Director Kee. "As America's Arctic state, Alaska brings unparalleled experience, expertise, and leadership to these discussions."

The agreement reflects the shared commitment of the Ted Stevens Center and the State of Alaska to promote dialogue, education, research, and collaboration on Arctic security. It also reinforces the Center's mission to serve as a global hub for Arctic security studies, bringing together military, civilian, academic, Indigenous, and international stakeholders to address the region's most pressing challenges and opportunities.



TSC Hosts Arctic Security Primer

This month, the TSC conducted an Arctic Security Primer in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This activity kicked off NORAD & US Northern Command Arctic Week, hosted in partnership with the Homeland Defense Institute.

As the strategic importance of the High North continues to grow, this educational primer provided Warfighters and Homeland Defense enablers the foundational context necessary to enhance Arctic Readiness.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Randy "Church" Kee, Director TSC, stands with two colleagues; Mr. David Kang, Director (J7) Training and Exercises NORAD & USNORTHCOM, and Maj. Gen. Akshai "Abu" Gandhi, Director of Exercises and Assessments U.S. European Command.





TSC Pioneers Asynchronous DoW Education

with Warfighter's Arctic Foundations Course

Just six duty days into the 10-day Warfighter's Arctic Foundations Course (WAFC), more than half of the participants have already fully completed the assessments for all five content modules. Participants of the course have reached out to staff with overwhelmingly positively reviews.

"The inaugural launch of the WAFC course has achieved phenomenal success, with over 50% of participants completing all five modules within the first six duty days," said Dr. Cody Dees, TSC Professor of International Security who designed the WAFC. "This milestone demonstrates the TSC's capability to deliver high-level, asynchronous education that allows warfighters to balance critical thinking with operational mission requirements."

Support staff and proctors have received a steady influx of direct emails praising the course's composition, depth, organization, and format. Crucially, this feedback comes from established military personnel—professionals with rigorous duties, informed expectations, and a clear understanding of what they need from professional military education.

The TSC is currently leading the sector in digital course delivery by introducing an entirely self-paced, asynchronous educational model—a novel achievement for Department of War education.

While legacy Computer Based Trainings (CBTs) have existed for decades, they fundamentally differ from this initiative:

- Training (CBTs): Focuses on Stimulus = Response (prescribing exactly what to do and how to do it).
- Education (WAFC): Focuses on Engagement -> Critical Thinking -> Application.

"Fostering critical thinking in a fully self-paced setting is notoriously difficult. The resoundingly positive feedback from the operational, tactical, and strategic levels proves that WAFC is successfully bridging this gap, delivering far more than a standard introductory course," said Dr. Dees.

Participants across diverse sectors—including professional researchers, medical personnel, and mobility command—have reported significant impacts.

"I've been working my way through the online course... It's a truly excellent primer on the region, and the structure is incredibly engaging," said operational-level participant.

"Just want to thank you for putting the course together. I will absolutely recommend it to my co-workers... I would love to see more asynchronous course opportunities from TSC in the future about different subjects/more depth on all subjects covered," wrote a strategical-level participant.

The internally developed TSC content has proven so robust that participants have noted it significantly outshines

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TSC Pioneers Asynchronous DoW Education with Warfighter's Arctic Foundations Course

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The internally developed TSC content has proven so robust that participants have noted it significantly outshines third-party supplementary materials. Beyond the fulfilling praise, this launch validates a scalable educational process.

The TSC has proven it can support nearly 100 participants with only one proctor and two support staff, all while those staff members continue to manage other roles and projects. This efficiency means the TSC is one of the few institutions capable of reaching security practitioners exactly where they are—without forcing them to choose between their education and their mission.

By pioneering simultaneous, asynchronous course delivery without overloading staff, the TSC is innovating ahead of the field and meaningfully supporting our warfighters, allies, and partners.

WAFC Story Photos by Alejandro Pena, a Military photographer with the Alaska National Guard based at JBER. This page's photograph documents the U.S. Army 207th Aviation Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard, members of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Sitka Search and Rescue volunteers respond to a simulated avalanche during SAREX 2026.

Previous page photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Jenkins. A Marine deployed to Elvegårdsmoen, Norway in preparation for exercise Cold Response 26 observes the northern lights.



NATO's Arctic Fighting Force

Read the Latest Arctic Security Update

The latest edition explores NATO's Arctic fighting force through:

- The Big Picture: The Summit & the Arctic
- By the Numbers: Ramstein Flag
- From the Field: Sweden's New Arctic Strategy

If you operate in the defense or security space, this newsletter is built for you.

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.

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Walking in the footsteps of those who served at Nike Site Summit, a fascinating and sobering component of our Cold War Arctic defenses helped the cadets contextualize today's challenges for Arctic operations.

- Kristi Swain, TSC Research Analyst

Familiarizing with the Arctic Security Past

This month, TSC staff, military fellows, and service academy interns attended the Arctic Missile Defense Field Workshop to examine Cold War era U.S. Army missile defense systems in Anchorage.

The excursion provided Air Force and Coast Guard cadets with a hands-on, historical perspective of Arctic security challenges.

"Our summer cadet curriculum is a holistic dive into the different areas of risk to our Nation. Our intent with these experiences is to expose cadets to the past, present, and future of the U.S. Arctic to help our services prepare for emerging Arctic needs," said U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Taylor Peace, TSC Coast Guard Fellow. "Looking at historic operations alongside present operations, allows our interns to prepare for emerging areas of risk from increased Arctic presence, as it pertains to capabilities gaps and threats from adversaries."

The tour was guided by a local historian with the Friends of Nike Site Summit, an Anchorage-based 501(c)(3) community organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the historic Nike Site Summit.

The objective of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Fellows, Intern, Scholars and Honoraria program is to increase skills, competency, and expertise for select Department of War, U.S. interagency, international allied/partner personnel, and emerging leaders with a broader understanding of the DOW role in Arctic security. Because each U.S. military service has differing priorities for advanced education, fellowships, and internships, the TSC can tailor the Arctic Fellows program to each service specific needs within the confines of applicable DOW and service policies.



Workshop Participants examine a U.S. Army trainer missile during a visit to the historic Nike Site Summit in Anchorage, Alaska. Hosted by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, the event explored Cold War missile defense systems and their relevance to modern security challenges.



STAFF UPDATES



Janae Cooley
Associate Director for
Strategic Engagement

Strategic Engagement Division

The Strategic Engagement Division (SED) convenes Arctic security practitioners and leaders to address some of the most pressing geostrategic and geophysical challenges in the region. SED embodies the collaborative ethos of the Center, facilitating opportunities for strategic dialogue among Allies and partner to reinforce the rules-based order and build a network of like-minded Arctic security practitioners.

TSC Welcomes New Associate Director

My road to the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies has run through some of the most strategically consequential terrain in today's security environment: the High North.

At U.S. European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart, my role as Deputy Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) included Arctic security—advising EUCOM leadership on strategic engagement at a pivotal moment that Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO and the alliance's renewed focus on defending its northwest flank together defined.

That portfolio drove a range of Arctic engagements: coordinating the first visit of the Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs to EUCOM, supporting cross combatant command coordination on Arctic security policy and operations, and engaging Nordic counterparts on protecting the High North against Russian and Chinese malign intent. The common thread? The work aligned diplomacy with military objectives and made interagency and allied coordination click across a region of growing strategic weight.

That work led to an onward assignment U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), where the Arctic mission I worked on turned toward homeland defense.

As Deputy POLAD at NORTHCOM, I supported the command engagements in Greenland in line with the updated unified campaign plan—building foundational policy processes and engagement frameworks at the ground-floor level—while advising military leaders on strategic engagement with the Kingdom of Denmark and sustaining close coordination with U.S. Embassy Copenhagen and U.S. Consulate Nuuk.

My tours at EUCOM and NORTHCOM were the culmination of a 25-year Foreign Service career as a U.S. diplomat with the Department of State, spanning postings across five continents. That experience taught me the vital importance of a whole-of-government approach to national security—one that keeps our homeland safe and protects American interests abroad. It was fitting, then, that the final chapter of my career would lead me to a new strategic frontier: the Arctic.

Across these experiences on both sides of the Arctic theater, one through-line held steady: diplomacy joined the other instruments of national power to advance U.S. national security interests in a rapidly evolving Arctic. I am thrilled to be at the Ted Stevens Center, where we educate, engage, and connect the civilian and military practitioners who secure the Arctic to keep our homeland safe.

Coming Soon

ANCHORAGE SECURITY AND DEFENSE DIALOGUE

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Anchorage, Alaska | By invite only

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Alumni Spotlight - Airman Earns Arctic Tab



Giancarlo "Hemlock" Moats
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col.
Michigan Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Giancarlo "Hemlock" Moats is no stranger to the Arctic. Long before he stepped into a classroom at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, he was getting a firsthand look at the High North from the cockpit.

His early days flying in the region gave him the tactical appreciation needed to operate in such an unforgiving environment, but it also left him wanting to know more. That drive to understand the broader picture led him to the military's Arctic educational enterprise early on. In fact, Lt. Col. Moats began his coursework before the TSC even officially opened its doors, completing the European Security Seminar-North course at the Marshall Center in 2021. Since then, he has been a frequent face at the TSC, completing the Arctic Regional Security Orientation, Arctic Multidomain Legal, and NATO in the North courses.

The jump from tactical operator to strategic planner isn't always easy, but Lt. Col. Moats credits his Arctic coursework with bridging that gap. In his current role developing strategy for the U.S. Air Force, he relies on the perspectives he gained at the center on a daily basis.

"The TSC gave me a deeper appreciation for the complexities, challenges, and opportunities in the High North," said Lt. Col. Moats. "These courses provided me with invaluable perspectives that no other institution can compare to."

For Lt. Col. Moats, the value of the TSC goes well beyond the curriculum—it's about the people in the room.



“

The TSC gave me a deeper appreciation for the complexities, challenges, and opportunities in the High North

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He highlighted the diverse mix of experts and international students as one of the most rewarding parts of his experience. Learning alongside professionals from a wide array of disciplines, societal backgrounds, and international locations made the coursework both enjoyable and professionally expansive.

Watching the evolution of Arctic military education, from a single offering at the Marshall Center to the robust, dynamic catalog the TSC offers today, has been a profound and heartening experience for him.

Despite his already extensive resume, Lt. Col. Moats isn't done learning. Proudly wearing his Arctic tab, he hopes to eventually take every course the TSC has to offer. As he puts it, he will always maintain a "lifelong passion to learn more about the Arctic environment and to work with the awesome professionals that are dedicated to educating and informing about this important and beautiful corner of our world."

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UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Warfare History Course (AWHC)

26-02: 13-24 July 2026

The Arctic Warfare History Course is a two-week blended program consisting of approximately 20 instructional hours and two synchronous sessions. Throughout the course, participants will develop the ability to analyze historical Arctic campaigns and understand their strategic and operational implications. They will also examine the environmental and logistical challenges unique to Arctic warfare, assess the importance of human performance and morale in extreme conditions, and compare past and present Arctic military operations to identify both continuity and change. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply lessons learned from historical examples to contemporary Arctic security scenarios.



Arctic Operational Risk Course (AORC)

26-01: 13-17 July 2026

This five-day, 35-contact hour executive education course examines the complex operational risks inherent in Arctic security activities across all domains. It focuses on how practitioners can assess, mitigate, and manage risks unique to the Arctic's challenging environment, characterized by extreme weather conditions, limited infrastructure, and constrained transportation networks. The curriculum incorporates local and place-based knowledge to enhance risk assessment and decision-making capabilities.



Arctic Lawfare, Counter Lawfare, and Strategic Competition (ALCLSC) Course

26-01: 1-3 September 2026

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.



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DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY NOTE

Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

June is a special time in Alaska as we celebrate the summer solstice and experience the longest days of the year. The nearly continuous daylight is a reminder of the unique environment that defines the Arctic, one that presents both extraordinary opportunities and complex security challenges. As communities across the North mark the arrival of summer, the Ted Stevens Center continues its mission of preparing defense and security practitioners to better understand, operate, and collaborate in this increasingly strategic region.

This month, our team had the opportunity to engage with partners across the circumpolar Arctic, reinforcing the collaboration and knowledge-sharing that are essential to preparing for the evolving strategic environment in the Arctic.

In Hanover, New Hampshire, we hosted the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR) Communications

Workshop, in partnership with the U.S. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

We also had the privilege of delivering the Arctic Security Primer in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Hosted in partnership with the Homeland Defense Institute, the primer served as the opening event for NORAD & U.S. Northern Command Arctic Week, providing military and civilian leaders with a foundational understanding of the rapidly changing Arctic security environment.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for an active summer of education, research, and engagement. The Ted Stevens Center will host several virtual and asynchronous courses designed to equip defense and security practitioners with the knowledge needed to operate effectively in the Arctic. If you have not yet participated in one of our courses, I encourage you to join us. By doing so, you will

become part of a growing network of more than 5,000 Arctic security practitioners committed to strengthening Arctic security and defense through education, collaboration, and shared expertise.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to advancing security across the Arctic. We look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead.



Very Respectfully,

Randy "Church" Kee,
Maj Gen, USAF (Ret.) Director

Ted Stevens Center
for Arctic Security Studies

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle

Stephen Biddle

In war, do mass and materiel matter most? Will states with the largest, best equipped, information-technology-rich militaries invariably win? The prevailing answer today among both scholars and policymakers is yes. But this is to overlook force employment, or the doctrine and tactics by which materiel is actually used. In a landmark reconception of battle and war, this book provides a systematic account of how force employment interacts with materiel to produce real combat outcomes. Stephen Biddle argues that force employment is central to modern war, becoming increasingly important since 1900 as the key to surviving ever more lethal weaponry. Technological change produces opposite effects depending on how forces are employed; to focus only on materiel is thus to risk major error—with serious consequences for both policy and scholarship. In clear, fluent prose, Biddle provides a systematic account of force employment's role and shows how this account holds up under rigorous, multimethod testing. The results challenge a wide variety of standard views, from current expectations for a revolution in military affairs to mainstream scholarship in international relations and orthodox interpretations of modern military history.

MILITARY POWER

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