TRUE NORTH

August 2026

TED STEVENS CENTER FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES MONTHLY BULLETIN

Gallery of TSC divisions strengthening Arctic Partnerships

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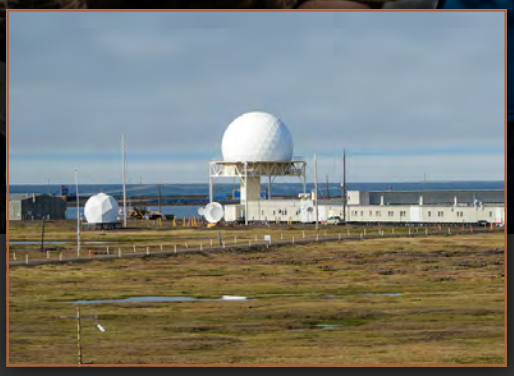

Strategic Insights from the High North: Highlights from the 2026 North American Arctic Field Workshop

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INNOVATE | EXPERIMENT | EDUCATE | ANALYZE | ENGAGE

Strategic Insights from the High North: Highlights from the 2026 North American Arctic Field Workshop

Between August 17 and 20, 2026, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies conducted its highly anticipated North American Arctic Field Workshop in Utqiaġvik, Alaska. As a critical component of the TSC's Regional Security Dialogues, this immersive, in-region field workshop was designed to educate security practitioners, policymakers, and defense leaders on the strategic and operational realities of the Arctic.

By experiencing the unique geography, infrastructure limitations, communication challenges, and community dynamics of the Arctic firsthand, participants built durable networks and generated actionable insights to support future national defense and Arctic policy.

High-Level Praise for a Substantive Program

The success of the 2026 workshop has already resonated at the highest levels of leadership in Washington, D.C. Following the program's conclusion, the Assistant Secretary of War for Homeland Defense and Americas Security Affairs commended the TSC and praised the field workshop.

The Assistant Secretary commended the intense effort put into creating a highly substantive and engaging format, noting that the program was well worth the time of busy national security colleagues. This high-level recognition underscores the value of the TSC's hands-on approach to Arctic education.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of our participants, organizers, and regional partners. Thank you for your partnership and collaboration as we work together to help Arctic policy makers and military practitioners learn more about the reality of living and operating in the Arctic.

Continued on next page

Participants visited the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue Department. The hanger houses operations for the borough's airborne response system, which handles medical evacuation, search and rescue missions, and emergency responses across the region.

The Team also visited the Barrow Utilidor System in Utqiaġvik, Alaska, is a 3.2-mile underground utility tunnel network built in 1984 by Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, Inc. to transport heated water, sewage, electricity, telephone lines, and fiber optics. Meeting the challenges of continuous permafrost, the Utilidor keeps essential services accessible and operational year-round.

Strategic Insights from the High North: Highlights from the 2026 North American Arctic Field Workshop

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Our regional hosts and scientific partners were indispensable in delivering a world-class training experience. Following the site visits, Dr. Andrew Glen, PhD, Manager of Atmospheric Sciences at Sandia National Laboratories, shared his reflections on the program's value:

"It was my pleasure to join the group on the visit to Utqiaġvik, and I hope all of your cohort found the site visit informative and of value. Please let me know the next time you are planning another field visit and we will endeavor to provide another tour to suit the scope of your agenda."

The Reality of Living and Operating in Utqiaġvik

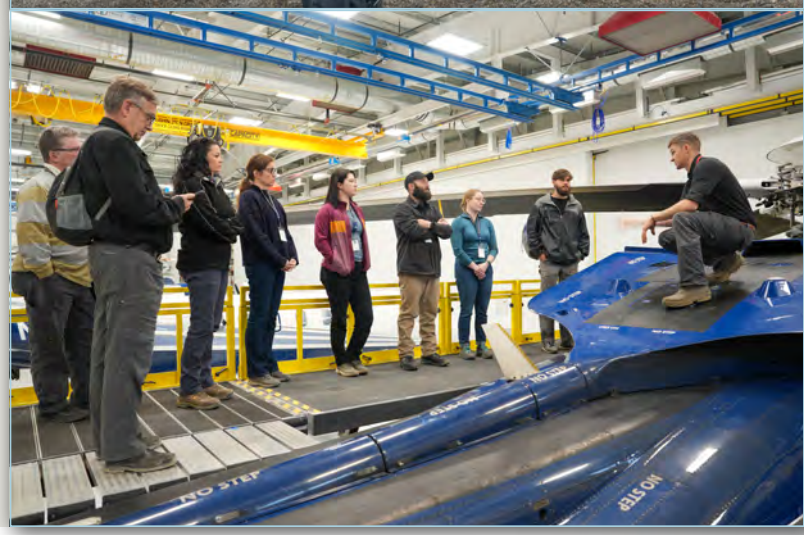
Grasping the operational realities of the High North requires an intimate understanding of the severe environmental constraints defining life in Utqiaġvik. Located roughly 660 nautical miles northwest of Anchorage on Alaska's North Slope, the community operates under extreme solar cycles, characterized by 24-hour "Midnight Sun" from May 10 to August 2, followed by the profound darkness of the "Polar Night" from November 18 to January 24.

Weather conditions in this coastal region are notoriously unforgiving. Temperatures routinely swing between a freezing -55 degrees Fahrenheit and a brief summer high of 75 degrees, with daily minimum temperatures dipping below freezing an average of 324 days each year. Operating in such a climate is further complicated by severe logistical isolation; the town is accessible year-round only by air via the Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport, and cellular and internet connectivity remains highly limited. For the workshop participants, these conditions provided a visceral lesson in the extreme physical, technical, and communications challenges that define modern Arctic civic and military operations.

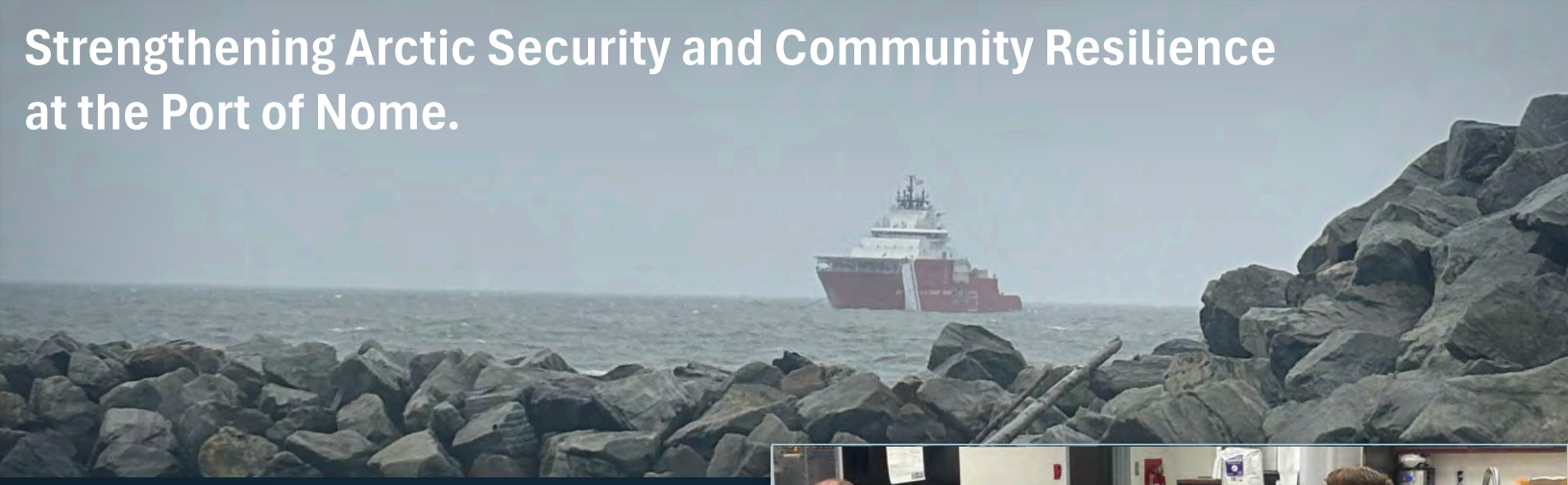
Deep Dive: Recommended Operational Readings

To build on the physical and operational insights gained during the workshop, several core research papers served as intellectual anchors for the academic discussions. To understand the baseline of tactical operations, participants examined the recent logistics and communications challenges documented in Arctic Warfighting: Lessons from JPMRC 25-02. Building upon those operational lessons, the U.S. Department of War technical manual UFC 3-130-05: Arctic and Subarctic Utilities provided an essential framework on the specialized engineering required to construct and sustain utility systems in permafrost.

These infrastructure realities directly impact emergency response timelines, a vulnerability analyzed deeply in the study on tactical hypothermia management and medical evacuations, Casualty evacuation in Arctic and extreme cold environments. Ultimately, addressing these compounded challenges requires a united regional front, making the strategic arguments for shared domain awareness and interoperability in U.S.-Canadian Security Cooperation is Critical to Achieving a Stable Arctic a vital final read for defense practitioners looking to secure the High North.



Strengthening Arctic Security and Community Resilience at the Port of Nome.



The Arctic is rapidly evolving, and strategic infrastructure is vital to national security, regional economic growth, and northern sovereignty. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Randy "Church" Kee, TSC Director, and Janae Cooley, Associate Director for the TSC's Strategic Engagement Team, recently visited Nome, to engage with key regional partners and examine critical Arctic infrastructure firsthand.

Key Engagements & Highlights:

- Infrastructure & Economic Growth: Met with Port Director Joy Baker and City Manager William "Lee" Smith to discuss the transformative Nome Port Expansion Project. As America's Arctic Deep-Draft Port, this initiative directly supports national security, expands Alaska's economy, and drives high-value regional employment.

- Frontline Defense: Engaged with the dedicated Alaska Army National Guard service members maintaining readiness in the High North.

- Indigenous & Community Partnerships: Held productive discussions with regional Native leadership and organizations, including Bering Straits Native Corporation, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, and Kawerak, Inc.—a tribal consortium serving 20 federally recognized Tribes in the Bering Strait Region.

📈 Did You Know?

Since 2020, vessel transits through the Bering Strait have more than doubled compared to 2011 levels, with traffic from 2023–2025 exceeding those historic baselines by more than 2.5 times. As maritime activity accelerates, robust infrastructure and enduring partnerships remain essential.

Strengthening Arctic Partnerships Through Key Strategic Engagements

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies had the distinct privilege of hosting a series of pivotal engagements with key stakeholders in the U.S. Arctic mission. Central to these discussions was the Center's ongoing contribution to bolstering the Nation's homeland defense, enhancing deterrence capabilities, and enhancing enduring partnerships among the Nations of the region.

These engagements underscore the growing recognition of the TSC's impact on Arctic security, education, and strategic alignment within the Department. As national focus and investment in the high north continue to rise, the TSC remains at the forefront of preparing our leaders, forces, and families for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The next few pages spotlight a series of these engagements.

Advancing Allied Arctic Capabilities: Italian Air Force Academy

The TSC welcomed senior leaders and cadets from the Italian Air Force Academy during their multi-nation strategic studies tour. Leadership delivered an Arctic orientation briefing to the delegation, led by Maj. Gen. Davide Cippelletti and Brig. Gen. Emanuele Chiadroni. The engagement underscored the growing strategic relevance of the Arctic to international allies and provided emerging military leaders with critical insights into high-latitude operations and domain awareness.

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Enhancing Critical Infrastructure Resilience: CISA & DHS Leadership Dialogue

TSC Deputy Director Craig Fleener and Chief of Staff George Tolar hosted senior executives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The delegation was led by Mr. Scott Breor, Executive Assistant Director for CISA's Infrastructure Security Division, alongside Alaska-based and regional resilience directors. Discussions focused on physical security assessments, defense critical infrastructure protection, and collaborative approaches to fortifying vital infrastructure across the Arctic region.

Shaping Future Air and Space Capabilities: SAF/ICO & AFRL Leadership Engagement

The TSC hosted senior defense science and technology leaders, including Dr. Eli Niewood, Lead for the Department of the Air Force Integrated Capabilities Office (SAF/ICO), Dr. Don Shiffler, Chief Scientist for the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate (AFRL/RF), and Ms. Carrie Jackson, Integration Officer.

Hosted by TSC Deputy Director Craig Fleener and led by Dr. Kelsey Frazier, the briefing centered on regional threat perceptions, operational realities across Alaskan installations, and strategic requirement modeling over the next 5–15 years. The insights gathered will directly inform SAF/ICO's threat-informed capability development, resource prioritization, and future technology investments for the Air Force and Space Force in the Arctic operating environment.

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Supporting Congressional Oversight: Senate Staff Delegation Briefing

Continuing the momentum, the Center hosted a bipartisan Senate Staff Delegation for an executive briefing and working lunch led by TSC Director Randy "Church" Kee. The delegation included senior national security advisors and legislative assistants representing Senators Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, Mazie Hirono, and Catherine Cortez Masto.

The dialogue examined Alaska's vital role in missile defense architecture, cold-weather operational readiness, and force contributions to the broader Indo-Pacific Strategy. Director Kee provided direct programmatic updates on TSC initiatives, emphasizing the resources and strategic focus required to support homeland defense and maintain security across the Arctic domain.

Driving Innovation and Prototyping: Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

The Center engaged with Mr. Larry Dobbs, Homeland Defense Mission Area Chief Engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL). Hosted by Deputy Director Craig Fleener, alongside Dr. Kelsey Frazier, Associate Director for Research and Analysis, Matt Schell, and Hannah Smith, the dialogue focused on bridging advanced research with operational needs. The discussion explored transition pathways for prototyping and fielding homeland defense technologies in high-latitude environments, as well as future collaborative opportunities involving partner agencies such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

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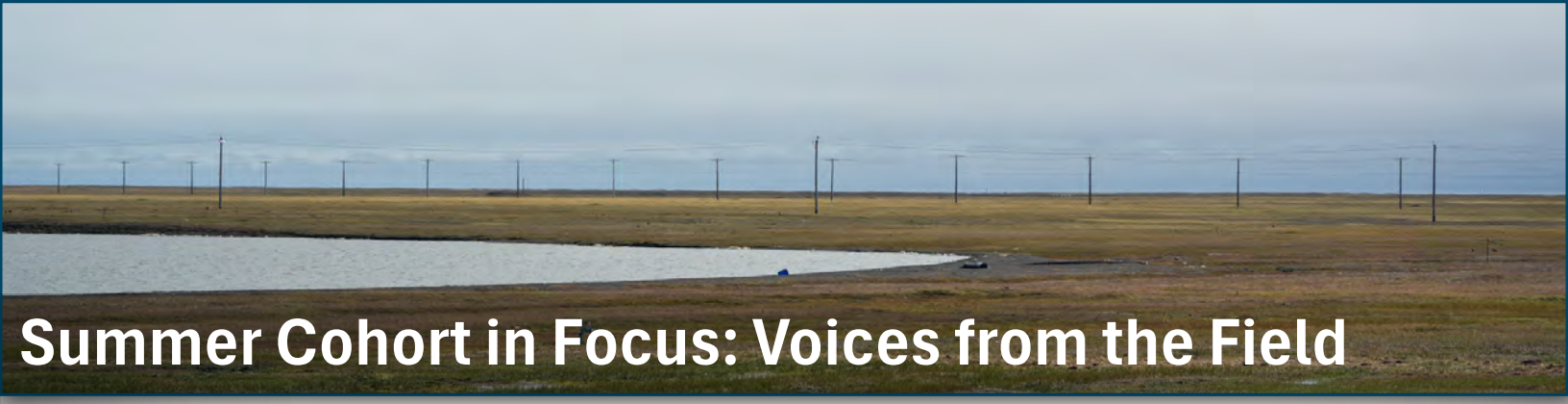
Convening Regional Defense Leadership: Alaska Defense Forum 2026

Reinforcing regional defense partnerships, TSC leadership participated in the Alaska Defense Forum 2026: “Readiness in Action.” The Alaska Defense Forum is an annual conference dedicated to building and sustaining partnerships between military installations and local communities. Because of its strategic location, Alaska plays a pivotal role in homeland defense and national security operations across the Indo-Pacific and Arctic regions.

The multi-day forum brought together military commanders, industry partners, academic leaders, and community stakeholders from across Alaska to address power projection, homeland defense, and disaster response amidst evolving strategic demands.

"Ready missions need ready communities," said Brittany Smart, senior advisor for defense communities research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute. "In Alaska, many of the investments that strengthen communities also strength our National Defense. That's why these relationships matter. We have to understand what the mission needs, what communities need, and where can we solve problems together."

During their panel, U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Randy Kee, TSC Director stands with U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert D. Davis is the Commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John P. Cogbill, Commanding General of the 11th Airborne Division, Maj Gen Torrence Saxe, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Bob Little, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Arctic District, and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Johnathan R. Townsend, Commander of Navy Region Northwest. (Photos by the Alaska Defense Forum)



Summer Cohort in Focus: Voices from the Field

The true strength of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies SkillBridge program lies in the diverse backgrounds and operational contributions of its fellows. During the summer cohort, transitioning warfighters embedded directly into the Center's daily operations, proving that military operational experience and strategic civilian defense scholarship create an immediate mutual benefit.

Serving as a Data/Research Analyst fellow, Senior Airman Sebastian Saverino brought technical capabilities to the Center's ongoing research initiatives while navigating his transition into the California Guard. During his fellowship, he focused on high-impact data deliverables, including the development of an Alaska communications dashboard.

"Throughout my time with the Center, I was given the opportunity to develop professionally while also having the flexibility to work toward transitioning out of the military," said Saverino. "This included attending job fairs, interviewing for new opportunities, working toward my transition to the California Guard, and completing medical and other out-processing requirements."

While reflecting on his time at the Center, he noted that collaborating with senior researchers and regional security experts allowed him to translate technical methods into practical tools for defense practitioners.

"At the same time, I was able to continue developing my skills as a data analyst by working on meaningful projects, including an Alaska communications dashboard and collaborating with extremely knowledgeable individuals in the areas of Arctic security, research, and project development," said Saverino. "Being able to apply my technical skills to real-world problems while learning from subject matter experts made this an outstanding experience."

Also participating in the summer cohort was U.S. Air Force Captain Joseph Wallace, an acquisitions officer with an extensive background in remote Arctic infrastructure and capability development including flight commander and C-UAS. This fellow sought an internship that aligned with a commitment to Arctic Security and long-term residency in Alaska.

"I specifically chose the Ted Stevens Center because of my fascination with the Arctic and my desire to continue my career within the Department of War," said Wallace. "The Center's mission aligns closely with my interests, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their mission while preparing for my transition from active duty."

Rather than staying within a single branch, the fellow completed rotations across the Mission Support Division, the Center Action Group , and the Research and Analysis Division. Explaining the value of this multi-division model, the fellow observed:

"Embedding within multiple divisions has provided a broader understanding of how the Ted Stevens Center accomplishes its mission. Each division contributes a unique perspective, and seeing how they work together has helped me better understand how the organization advances Arctic security and prepares the DOW for future challenges," Wallace noted.

According to Wallace, there is a common misconception that the Skillbridge program only partners with private companies. However, many government organizations are also Skillbridge partners and provide valuable opportunities for those who want to continue serving the DoW as civilians.

"The SkillBridge program is an extremely valuable opportunity for separating military members. Whether you are an Army infantryman or an Air Force acquisitions officer, transitioning out of the military is a major life change," said Wallace. "The program helps make that transition smoother by allowing service members to gain experience, build connections, and better understand what life after active duty looks like."

The fellow also candidly addressed the cultural shift that comes with leaving active duty, noting that the program provides an essential bridge to civilian life.

"One thing I rarely thought about while serving was what it would be like to no longer wear a uniform every day," said Wallace. "The TSC has been a huge help in my transition by allowing me to experience a different work environment while continuing to use the skills and experiences I gained during my military career."

STAFF UPDATE

Major Marie-Eve, MF, Lemoine
Canadian Senior Intelligence Officer
Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

Welcoming Our Inaugural Canadian Arctic Fellow: Major Marie-Eve Lemoine

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies marks a historic milestone in international defense cooperation with the arrival of Canadian Armed Forces Major Marie-Eve Lemoine.

Major Lemoine serves as the Center's first-ever Canadian Arctic Fellow and the first international military fellow in TSC history.

Major Lemoine integrates senior operational intelligence expertise with academic research, reinforcing the enduring Arctic defense partnership between Canada and the United States.

Major Lemoine's military journey began in a small Canadian town, driven not by a family military lineage, but by a deep passion for athletics, camaraderie, and a thirst for adventure. A former competitive basketball player, she sought the shared purpose and mutual trust found in high-performing teams.

Major Lemoine's career reflects a rich blend of technical precision and operational intelligence across the Canadian Armed Forces. Beginning her service as an enlisted meteorological technician before commissioning as an intelligence officer, she has supported conventional, joint, and special operations missions across Canada and the Arctic.

Her operational background spans critical aviation and tactical assignments. She directed weather support operations at the Joint Meteorological Centre, delivered specialized tactical intelligence for 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, and served in both intelligence and meteorological roles supporting Canadian Special Operations Forces Command with 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron. Today, as C Flight Commander with the Canadian Detachment at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, she integrates directly into the 611th Air Operations Center, supporting NORAD operations across the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division, the Combat Operations Weather Team, and the Training and Exercise Division.

Her distinguished service includes deployments and operational tours recognized with the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command Commander's Commendation, Task Force Commander's Commendation, the General Campaign Star - Expedition, and the Operational Service Medal - Expedition.

Major Lemoine's fellowship combines operational duty at the 611th Air Operations Center with rigorous academic study at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Over the next two years, she will pursue a specialized Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies focused on Arctic Security.

Behind every successful deployment is a strong support system. Major Lemoine credits her husband—an automotive mechanic whom she met while serving in the military—for his steadfast support throughout multiple relocations, enabled in part by military service spouse initiatives. Together, they look forward to exploring Alaska while deepening international defense relationships.

Please join the Ted Stevens Center team in extending a warm welcome to Major Marie-Eve Lemoine as she embarks on this groundbreaking fellowship.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Maj. Gen. Michele Kilgore
Director, Programs and Requirements
National Guard Bureau

> "True Arctic readiness is not just the ability to survive in the cold, but to sustain and operate effectively in the harshest of winter conditions. If you don't exercise and field the team in the locker room during the dead of winter, you're just whiteboarding away the real concerns."

From Operator to Strategist: An Arctic Journey

During the latest iteration of the Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC), Maj. Gen. Michele Kilgore—a distinguished alumna from the June 2022 cohort—addressed emerging Arctic practitioners, senior leaders, and defense planners. General Kilgore highlighted how foundational education from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies directly informs strategic decision-making, joint warfighter readiness, and homeland defense posture. Her address reinforced a clear imperative: the Department of War must shift from theoretical planning to rigorous, winter-tested operational execution to defend the northern approaches.

As former commander of the ski-equipped LC-130 fleet, General Kilgore executed deep polar logistics for the National Science Foundation, Danish Joint Arctic Command, and interagency partners. Her mission experience across the Greenland Ice Sheet and Antarctica underscored the stark logistical demands unique to polar airlift—from continuous engine runs in sub-zero conditions to dynamic skiway landings.

The Strategic Imperative: Defining "Arctic Readiness"

A foundational theme of General Kilgore's address was the urgent need to move the defense enterprise past oversimplified, one-dimensional benchmarks of cold-weather preparedness. True Arctic readiness cannot be calculated merely by meeting arbitrary temperature thresholds on paper; Operating at negative 40 degrees Fahrenheit places severe, non-linear stress on electrical infrastructure, specialized flight equipment, and mechanical systems that standard operational planning models consistently underestimate.

General Kilgore emphasized that the military definition of readiness must fundamentally evolve beyond basic tactical survival. While emergency survival training—such as the rigorous "Barren Land" curriculum she experienced on the Greenland Ice Sheet—remains an indispensable core capability, homeland defense requires units capable of projecting power, maintaining complex command and control, and sustaining distributed combat logistics under continuous darkness and extreme thermal stress.

To bridge the gap between policy objectives and joint warfighter capability, General Kilgore cautioned against the systemic habit of scheduling high-visibility demonstrations in temperate climates or mild summer months. Demonstrations conducted in favorable conditions obscure fatal supply chain bottlenecks, rapid battery degradation, and maintenance friction points. To validate genuine capability and ensure the joint force is prepared to defend the homeland, the Department of War must rigorously test and exercise its personnel, equipment, and logistics systems during the dead of winter across the most demanding operational environments of Alaska, Canada, and allied territory.

The Value of the Ted Stevens Center

For senior defense officials and strategic planners, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies provides an essential bridge connecting tactical operational realities with comprehensive national strategy. General Kilgore credited her own participation in the June 2022 ARSOC cohort with fundamentally broadening her perspective beyond service-specific stovepipes and purely military responses.

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

From Operator to Strategist: An Arctic Journey

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While her tactical background as a command pilot and wing commander immersed her in the physical rigors of extreme cold-weather operations, the Ted Stevens Center provided the strategic framework necessary to analyze the high north through all instruments of national power—diplomatic, informational, military, and economic (DIME). General Kilgore highlighted how this interdisciplinary education became directly applicable as she transitioned to shaping strategy on the Joint Staff, Headquarters Air Force, and U.S. Northern Command.

"That year and a half that I was working on Air Force Arctic Strategy—working with the Danes, Joint Arctic Command, Canadians, Greenland, and Sweden—was really an opportunity to take everything that I had learned from being tactical in the Air Force growing up, doing exercises in Alaska and Canada, and then using what we learned at ARSOC. These experiences assisted me in leveraging economic and diplomatic tools, to get beyond just the military strong-arming of our adversaries."

In addition to elevating strategic literacy, General Kilgore underscored the Center's practical role in optimizing Department of War resources. By establishing clear regional security priorities and serving as a collaborative venue for international allies, the Ted Stevens Center helps streamline disparate training efforts into premier, high-impact multinational exercises. This alignment reduces operational friction for partner nations, enhances joint interoperability across the services, and ensures that the warfighter is organized, trained, and equipped to deter aggression across an increasingly complex Arctic battlespace.

Strategic Outlook & Near-Term Imperatives

Looking toward 2030, General Kilgore presented clear-eyed assessment of the structural investments required to safeguard national security in the High North. Chief among these requirements is closing the polar access gap through surface fleet recapitalization and resilient infrastructure.

When asked to identify the single most critical capability the United States must secure before the end of the decade, General Kilgore delivered a direct and unambiguous response:

"We desperately need more icebreakers. If we truly intend to fight—either defending the homeland or countering a Russia or China threat—then you need those icebreakers and those ports, because you don't get to pick the month of a conflict."

Beyond maritime surface capability, General Kilgore emphasized that securing the northern approaches demands sustained investment in strategic infrastructure, such as deepwater port developments like Nome, alongside enduring bilateral cooperation in Greenland.

Highlighting Greenland's geographic proximity to Canada and its integral alignment within the North American defense envelope under U.S. NORTHCOM and NORAD, she stressed that defense investments in facilities like Pituffik Space Base demonstrate the island's irreplaceable position in safeguarding the homeland.

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

From Operator to Strategist: An Arctic Journey

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Concurrently, as great power competitors increase coordinated air and maritime patrols across polar corridors, the Department of War must integrate regional allies through initiatives like the State Partnership Program and NATO burden-sharing. By empowering Arctic allies to manage initial regional defense lines, the United States preserves the agility needed to deter aggression and defend vital national interests globally.

Guidance for Future Arctic Practitioners & Strategic Leaders

Addressing the graduating ARSOC cohort, General Kilgore urged future defense planners and operators to discard monolithic assumptions about high-latitude environments. True strategic mastery, she argued, begins with recognizing the operational and geographic diversity that defines the circumpolar region—from the mountainous terrain of Alaska and Greenland to the flat expanses of Western Sweden.

Reflecting on how foundational education at the Ted Stevens Center reshaped her own operational outlook, General Kilgore challenged emerging practitioners to maintain intellectual rigor and lean heavily on interagency and international networks.

"This course showed me where the seams are in our plans, the vast ally and partner network that we have, and how we can leverage that," said Gen. Kilgore.

General Kilgore concluded by advising future leaders to look beyond purely military solutions by fully mobilizing the diplomatic, informational, and economic instruments of national power. By coupling hard-tested warfighter readiness with proactive allied collaboration, graduates of the Ted Stevens Center will serve as the vanguard ensuring that the Department of War remains agile, prepared, and dominant across every Arctic domain.

American Sovereignty & the Arctic

Read the Latest Arctic Security Update

This week, we explore America's Arctic through:

- The Big Picture: American Sovereignty & the Arctic
- Lat & Long: Defining the U.S. Arctic
- On the Hill: Arctic Security and Diplomacy Bill

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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UPCOMING COURSES

Arctic Multi-Domain Legal Course (AMLC)

November 3-5, 2026

AMLC is a three-day, 20-hour course that examines the most relevant Arctic legal frameworks, instruments, and concepts in relevant domains from U.S. and Allied perspectives. It situates the discussion in the context of current challenges, including freedom of navigation, aircraft interception, search and rescue, undersea cables, unmanned systems, lawfare, and cyber attacks.

Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC)

November 16-20, 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.

Transatlantic Arctic Futures Course (TAFC)

December 8-10, 2026

TAFC is a three-day, 21-hour executive education course that examines potential trajectories of Arctic change through 2035, focusing on disruptive shifts across multiple domains that will shape transatlantic security relationships. The curriculum analyzes how converging factors – including dynamic operational environments, technological advancement, resource development, changing maritime access, and evolving geostrategic dynamics – may fundamentally alter Arctic security considerations.

Warfighting Arctic Foundations Course (WAFC)

December 14-23, 2026

The Warfighting Arctic Foundations Course is a fully asynchronous, self-paced program conducted over nine days with an estimated 10–12 instructional hours. Throughout the course, participants will develop the ability to recognize the Arctic as a system of interconnected domains with global implications, describe the strategic interests of the United States, allies, partners, and competitors in the region, and explain how environmental, geostrategic, legal, and societal systems interact to shape Arctic security dynamics.

Arctic Logistics in a Contested Environment Course (ALICEC)

January 19-21, 2027

ALICEC is a virtual 3-day, 21-hour course which seeks to examine the challenges in Arctic operations and sustained support, providing participants opportunities to examine the impacts infrastructure, operating conditions, distance and dark within an Arctic contested logistics environment. Participants will work to identify and anticipate risks and potential threats, and apply strategic and predictive planning principles to contested logistics scenarios. It is recommended that ARSOC (Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course) be taken as a prerequisite to this course.

Scan the QR code to register

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY NOTE

Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

As the brief Alaskan summer draws to a close, I want to reflect on an exceptionally productive season at the Ted Stevens Center. Beyond our demanding mission tempo, summer gave us opportunities to build camaraderie, welcome new teammates, and host an impressive number of visitors from across Alaska, the United States, and our allied nations.

Our international partnerships continued to grow this month. We were honored to meet with the Chief of Defence of Denmark for operational discussions focused on the warfighter. We are also expanding our Arctic and National Chairs network and strengthening institutional ties with Canada, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland, while beginning a new partnership with the Canadian Defence Academy. Through initiatives such as the bilateral Arctic Security Working Group, we are connecting policy dialogue with practitioner-level collaboration across the circumpolar region.

Across our three core mission areas—research, education, and engagement—we are operating at full tempo. Our Research and Analysis Division is approaching 50 published works, with timely analysis on issues ranging from the infrastructure demands of Alaskan data centers to the strategic potential of Adak.

The School of Arctic Security Studies recently delivered its 20th Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course as well as a new course examining the weaponization of lawfare in gray-zone competition. At the same time, our Strategic Engagement Division continues to put our people in the field, from strategic site visits in Nome and participation in the Alaska Defense Forum to upcoming field seminars in Utqiaġvik and Adak.

None of this would be possible without the professionals across the Center who make the mission happen every day. As we look toward an active fall—including our flagship Arctic Security and Defense Dialogue, October 27–29—I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication.

Thank you for the gift of your service and your steadfast commitment to our mission.

Very Respectfully,

Randy "Church" Kee.
U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.)
TSC Director

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