TRUE NORTH

September 2026

TED STEVENS CENTER FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES MONTHLY BULLETIN



From Arctic Pacific to Arctic Europe: TSC Forges Allied Interoperability

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Arctic Security Researchers Weigh the Future of Adak

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U.S., Sweden Deepen Arctic Defense Ties Amid Broad Allied Push in the High North

STOCKHOLM — Defense leaders, scholars, and practitioners from the United States, Sweden, and allied nations concluded a landmark educational dialogue in Stockholm this month, discussing allied operational readiness, and cooperation across the High North.

Hosted jointly by the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, the Swedish Defence University, and the Swedish Armed Forces, the two-day engagement highlighted the rapid operational integration of NATO's newest Arctic ally into the collective defense architecture of the polar region. The dialogues brought together operational warfighters and academic experts to bridge high-level scholarship with frontline requirements, directly advancing our Nation's priorities.

As shifting geophysical conditions and geostrategic friction reshape polar operating environments, participants emphasized that the Arctic cannot be treated as a monolithic theater. Rather, stark variations in geography, seasonal extremes, logistics infrastructure, and operational access demand close bilateral synchronization to match sovereign capabilities with collective alliance requirements.

In late September, Secretary of State Marco Rudio met with Arctic Allies in New York to reinforce the strategic imperative of sustained allied investment and coordination on shared challenges in the Arctic. During these meetings on September 21, U.S. State Department Spokesman Tommy Pigott stated that, "Allies agreed that Arctic security requires continued investment to safeguard this vital region and deter strategic competitors."

The TSC's work at the SEDU represents the implementation of that broader national mandate. As Washington reinforces the strategic imperative of securing critical access points and bolstering sovereign capabilities, the Ted Stevens Center assists the U.S. with infrastructure, cooperation, and operational readiness are fully prepared for future challenges.

To operationalize that mandate, the working groups evaluated operational lessons learned from recent northern exercises, worked to develop common operating frameworks, and assessed the resilience of the transatlantic defense industrial base.

Among the outcomes of the Stockholm engagement was a mutual commitment between the Stevens Center and Swedish defense counterparts to explore designing future courses, creating a lasting pipeline for allied tactical and operational education.

While discussions explored the operational impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum systems, participants repeatedly emphasized that cutting-edge systems cannot replace the human foundation of northern warfare. Much of the Arctic continues to lack the resilient energy, transportation, and communications infrastructure common to lower latitudes, making local environmental literacy, seasoned judgment, and physical resilience indispensable.

That sentiment resonated strongly with regional partners, including attendees from the Nordic Defence Cooperation. NORDEFCO representatives praised the dialogue for clarifying the multifaceted demands of Arctic security, with one participant remarking that the sessions provided the exact foundation needed to better understand what research and analysis to complete to support Arctic operations. Delegates concluded that Arctic regional knowledge represents a vital strategic asset—one that requires a whole-of-government approach and rests upon an enduring cultural baseline of institutional trust.

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U.S., Sweden Deepen Arctic Defense Ties Amid Broad Allied Push in the High

The momentum generated in Stockholm reflects a broader surge in allied educational engagement, coming directly on the heels of the Ted Stevens Center's third iteration of its flagship NATO in the North Course. The three-day, 12-hour intensive curriculum analyzed the Alliance's evolving northern footprint amid Russia's war against Ukraine, increasing Chinese regional interest, and the historic accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO.

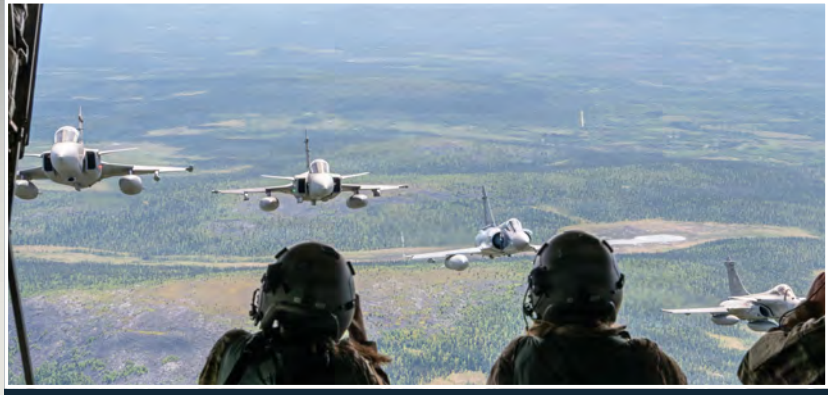
Demonstrating practical burden-sharing, the course was conducted in close partnership with Norway's NATO Centre of Excellence for Cold Weather Operations, an institutional collaboration that grew out of a reciprocal visit to the Stevens Center in August 2024. The latest iteration convened more than 70 practitioners and national security leaders across 11 allied nations using a hybrid and expeditionary model that blended live virtual plenaries with distributed, in-person breakout sessions, including a dedicated cohort of U.S. Air Force Special Operations personnel participating out of Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

"I especially valued the sessions on the Arctic operational environment, NATO and Allied deterrence and defense, and capability requirements and interoperability. The emphasis on cold-weather readiness, sustainment, resilient communications, multinational [Command and Control], and the human dimension helped connect strategic concepts to real operational problems." remarked a participant of the course.

Keynote speaker General (Ret.) Christopher Cavoli, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Commander of U.S. European Command, urged graduates to serve as operational catalysts within their home commands to spread shared understanding of High North security. Paul Dodge, Director for Arctic Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Policy at the Pentagon, provided closing remarks reinforcing Washington's commitment to allied polar readiness. Course graduates will sustain their operational collaboration through a newly established NATO in the North Community of Interest.

High North Security dialogue between the U.S. and Sweden continues to gather pace. Swedish Defence Attaché Maj. Gen. Rikard Askstedt recently led a delegation of Washington-accredited foreign defense attachés to the Ted Stevens Center, reinforcing academic and operational ties. That dialogue will continue next month when Swedish defense officials and allied leaders convene in Alaska for the annual Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue, scheduled for October 27–29 in Anchorage.

Learn more about and register for the Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue at https://tscdialogue.org.



Military aircraft from the Czech Republic, Sweden, and France fly in an echelon formation alongside NATO Allied aircraft over Finland as part of exercise Ramstein Flag, June 2026. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Annaliese Billings)

TSC, Finnish National Defence University Partner in Arctic Security

HELSINKI — Representatives from the Ted Stevens Center conducted an introductory engagement with the Finnish National Defence University this month, opening discussions on defense education, research partnerships, and regional security cooperation in the High North.

The visit brought together leadership from both institutions to assess shared strategic priorities across the Center's core mission areas of education, research, and engagement. FNDU leadership, including Col. Jussi Viinamäki, hosted the delegation alongside university researchers and faculty.

Over the course of the two-day visit, FNDU researchers briefed the delegation on critical dimensions of Finnish defense analysis. Discussions focused heavily on Finland's comprehensive security framework—the nation's whole-of-society model for resilience and civil-military preparedness—as well as ongoing research into China-Russia cooperation in the Arctic and Russia's hybrid activities, military posture, and broader regional strategy.

The talks emphasized avenues for linking Finnish research with the Center's wider Arctic community of practice. Participants identified potential initiatives for future cooperation, including reciprocal research exchanges, joint educational curriculum development, and professional defense engagements.

The meetings also highlighted the value of deepening ties with Finland as an Arctic nation and NATO Ally following its formal accession to the Alliance in April 2023.

Both institutions characterized the visit as an initial step toward building long-term academic and defense collaboration focused on Arctic stability.

Fortifying the Allied North: Ted Stevens Center Workshop Tackles Emerging Strategic Challenges in the Arctic



U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade emplace a Patriot radar system under night conditions, July 19, 2025. The Janus Program, the Army's next-generation nuclear power program, aims to deliver secure, resilient, and reliable energy to support national defense installations and critical missions. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Frank Spatt)

ANCHORAGE - As strategic competition accelerates across the circumpolar region, defense practitioners, allies and partners, and regional security scholars convened at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for an intensive workshop examining critical security challenges facing the Arctic theater.

The Advanced Microreactors Arctic Deployment Workshop brought together leaders from across the Department of War, interagency partners, international allies, and indigenous communities to bridge long-term strategic policy with immediate operational realities in the extreme cold.

Participants analyzed how rapid environmental shifts, evolving geostrategic dynamics, and increased adversary activity are redefining the operational environment from the North American Arctic to the High North.

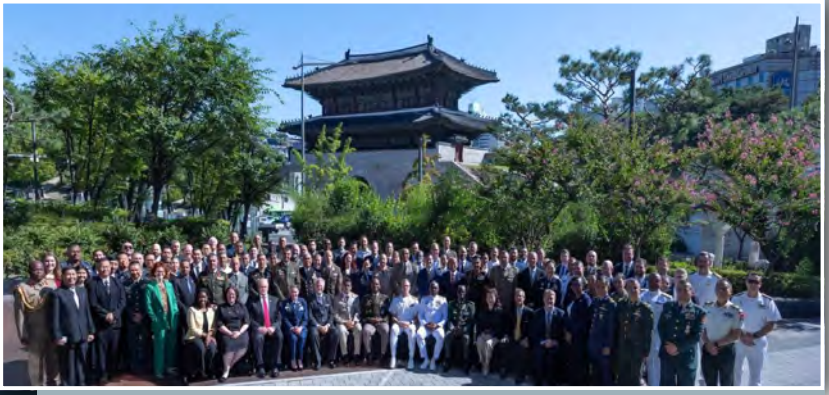
A central priority throughout the sessions was addressing persistent capability gaps in Arctic domain awareness, particularly across intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, satellite communications, and navigational infrastructure.

Participants engaged in structured working groups and scenario-driven table discussions to determine how emerging technologies—ranging from uncrewed aerial and maritime systems to cold-weather sensor grids—can be effectively integrated into existing command architectures such as NORAD and U.S. Northern Command.

The dialogue continuously reinforced that Arctic security remains fundamentally a collective enterprise. Delegates from Arctic and NATO allied nations highlighted the necessity of cooperative defense alignment to ensure mutual support across the North American Arctic and European High North. Discussions focused heavily on operational readiness and lessons gleaned from recent joint winter exercises to enhance logistics sustainment, combat capability, and cold-weather medical response, while also emphasizing civil-military coordination and deep partnerships.

Unlike conventional academic curriculum, the workshop prioritized generating concrete, practitioner-focused recommendations for defense decision-makers to support warfighters.

As the Ted Stevens Center continues its mission to advance defense education, research, and partnerships, initiatives like this workshop reinforce or Nation's enduring commitment to a secure, stable, and rules-based Arctic region.



Broadening Strategic Horizons: Pacific Security and the Evolving Arctic

SEOUL - The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies brought Arctic security and defense expertise to an international audience during the 2026 National Defense University Alumni Continuing Education Seminar (NDU ACES) in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

ACES 2026 brought together six geographic combatant commands, more than 80 participants and 15 faculty members representing 39 countries for a week of professional military education, strategic dialogue and engagement.

With 40% of participants serving as general and flag officers, the seminar provided a unique opportunity for senior leaders from across the international security community to exchange perspectives, strengthen relationships and explore shared challenges.

During the seminar, TSC experts conducted an Arctic security elective examining how developments in the region increasingly intersect with global security, maritime trade, strategic competition and irregular warfare. The discussion highlighted the Arctic's growing relevance to non-Arctic states.

Conducted under the Chatham House Rule, the elective encouraged candid discussion and brought together perspectives from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the United States.

For TSC, the engagement provided an opportunity to expand Arctic security education among senior international practitioners while strengthening relationships with allies and partners and gaining insight into how the broader international security community views the Arctic's evolving strategic significance.

Defense and Security Staff Tour Nome to Assess Arctic's Strategic Importance

NOME, ALASKA – Staff from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies conducted a focused field program in Nome to gain firsthand experience with the operational challenges and strategic opportunities in the North American Arctic. The one-day visit was designed to provide national-level defense and security personnel with a practical understanding of the region's unique environmental, logistical, and infrastructural landscape, which cannot be fully replicated in a classroom setting. Throughout their visit, the delegation engaged with local experts and community leaders to better connect local conditions to matters of homeland defense, resilience, and deterrence.

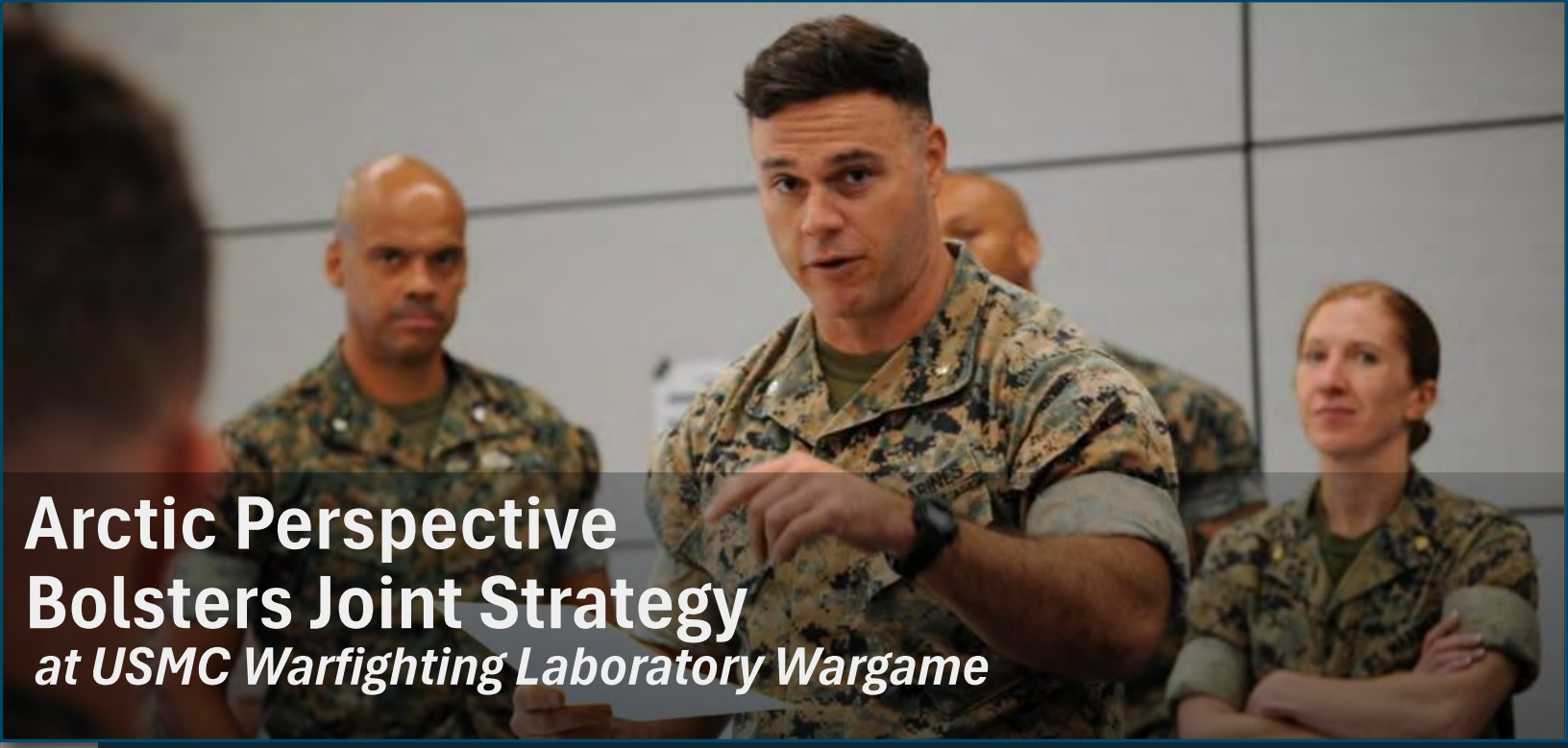
A major focal point of the visit was the ongoing expansion of the Port of Nome, a project carrying significant national security implications. Port Director Joy Baker met with the delegation to brief them on the harbor's development and its vital role in future northern operations. Addressing the strategic necessity of the project, Baker stated, "The deep-water port under construction at the Port of Nome is of strategic national importance, and will strengthen the United States' presence in the Arctic by creating the necessary maritime infrastructure capacity required to refuel and resupply our national security fleet, while enhancing maritime domain awareness, and the readiness and deployment of these federal assets."

Baker also highlighted the critical value of academic and strategic engagement institutions in driving these northern defense initiatives forward. "The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies' focus on advancing Arctic security, strategic understanding and international cooperation signifies the ongoing benefits that continue to be realized by the establishment of the Center," Baker added. "The TSC has built a strong and effective team which will continue to translate Arctic security priorities into operational capability."

Beyond the maritime infrastructure briefings, the group visited the Katirvik Cultural Center to learn about the region's diverse peoples and cultures, met with the Alaska Army National Guard to discuss rescue operations, and held discussions at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus.

Ultimately, the field program successfully enhanced the staff's understanding of how factors like distance, weather, and infrastructure directly impact Arctic operations, reinforcing the value of direct engagement between national security stakeholders and Arctic communities.

Background Photo by U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Grant DeVuyst.



Arctic Perspective Bolsters Joint Strategy

at USMC Warfighting Laboratory Wargame

QUANTICO, Va. — As global competitors and their proxies advance all-domain counter-intervention strategies designed to complicate the deployment, employment, and sustainment of the Joint Force, Department of War planners are intensifying efforts to examine how service components will operate in contested future environments.

To address these emerging challenges, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Deputy Director Craig Fleener recently participated in an intensive five-day wargame hosted by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL). The event brought together senior military leadership, strategic analysts, and regional specialists to evaluate the Marine Corps' recently published doctrine, First to Fight: A Capstone Operating Concept, within the framework of a joint campaign.

The wargame focused on testing the U.S. Marine Corps ability to conduct military and naval activities in coastal regions and shallow waters where open sea and land closely interface operations against sophisticated military challenges. Analysts examined doctrine operational tasks integrate into joint campaigns and worked to identify key multi-domain joint enablers —spanning logistics, communications, and intelligence— required to sustain operations under persistent adversary pressure.

With northern approaches and high-latitude operational environments gaining increased strategic prominence, the inclusion of dedicated Arctic expertise provided a critical dimension to the operational scenarios.



TSC's participation drew strong praise from the MCWL Wargamining Division Director.U.S. Marine Corps Col. David Tran.

"Partnering with the Ted Stevens Center injected critical Arctic expertise into our wargaming," said Col. Tran. "This collaboration directly sharpens our warfighting concepts, ensuring the Joint Force remains ready to operate and win in any clime and place, including the high latitudes."

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Deputy Director Fleener praised the high level of rigor and leadership present throughout the exercise.

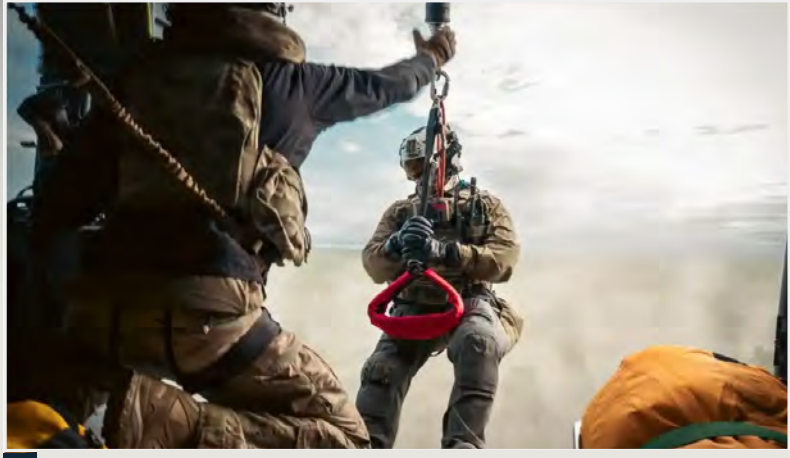
"It was an exceptional and highly valuable exercise," Fleener said. "These Marines truly represent the tip of the spear in operational and strategic analysis. Collaborating alongside a room filled with seasoned senior leaders who bring extensive operational experience added extraordinary depth and rigor to the entire evaluation."

Fleener, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, noted that the exercise underscored a substantial and growing demand across defense organizations for specialized regional insights.
"We are running simultaneous events and there was lots of appreciation for an Arctic subject matter expert," Fleener said. "We have been asked to be available for future engagements with the MCWL, including opportunities for expertise across the regional center enterprise."

The engagement drew strong praise from TSC Director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Randy "Church" Kee, who emphasized that supporting operational defense planners represents a core tenet of the organization's founding mandate.

"I am super pleased that you have made a powerful impact with a community that provides hard defense," Director Kee stated. "It matters and is a crucial reason why the Ted Stevens Center was formed. Providing Arctic expertise in such forums is a key point of our value to the Department of War."

Insights generated during the week-long wargame are slated to inform ongoing doctrine development, force design evaluations, and joint warfighting integration. The positive reception of Arctic subject matter expertise is expected to open avenues for continued collaboration with MCWL and other Department of War regional centers as the Joint Force postures for future operating environments.



Rescues, Rockets, and the Ring of Fire

Read the Latest Arctic Security Update

This week, we explore America's Arctic through:
- The Big Picture: Arctic Search and Rescue
- From the Field: TUNDRA MERLIN
- Lat & Long: 56.65° N, 161.36° E

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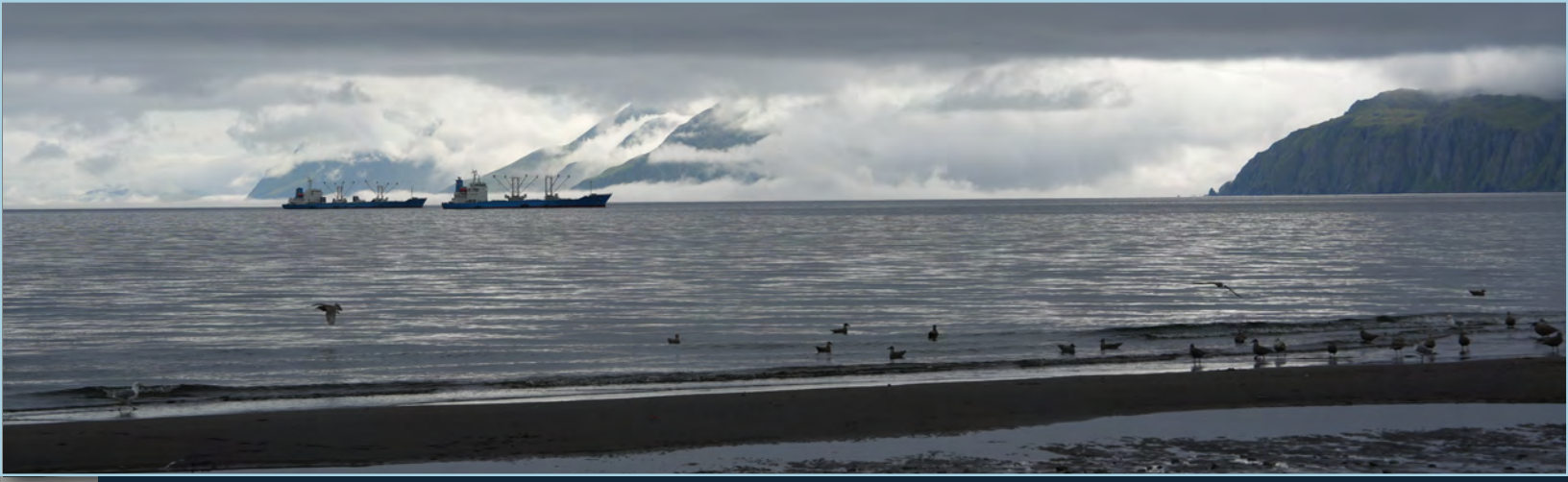

In the Cradle of the Aleutian Winds, Arctic Security Researchers Weigh the Future of Adak

ADAK, Alaska — Across the windswept expanse of Adak Island, where the footprints of past military infrastructure dot a landscape bordered by the churning waters of the Bering Sea and the North Pacific, military history and modern Arctic strategy meet.

This month, personnel from the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies touched down at this remote outpost—situated some 1,200 miles southwest of Anchorage and about 500 miles from the closest Russian Territory—to assess what it takes to operate on the western edge of the American frontier. The Arctic-Pacific Field Site Survey served as a hands-on pilot program designed to immerse defense researchers and analysts in the stark operational and logistical realities of the Aleutian Chain.

Long nicknamed the "birthplace of the winds" for its notorious storm systems and gusts regularly topping 50 miles per hour, Adak is a study in contrasts. During the height of World War II and the Cold War, the former Naval Air Station bustled with tens of thousands of service members monitoring Soviet submarine routes. Following the base's closure in 1997, the population plummeted, leaving behind massive airfields, deep-water ports, and sprawling military housing now partially owned by the Aleut Corporation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





For researchers at the Ted Stevens Center, stepping onto the tarmac provided lessons briefing or academic seminar could replicate. Over several days of historical field study, site visits, and direct discussions with local leaders, the survey team confronted the intricate mechanics of sustaining an outpost in the maritime Arctic.

This visit served as an educational prototype designed to build an experienced cadre of staff and refine a repeatable model that the center can replicate across other critical, austere locations throughout the Arctic theater. It also shed light on a frequently overlooked geographical reality: under the federal statutory framework established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, the U.S. Arctic encompasses not only lands north of the Arctic Circle, but the entire Bering Sea maritime frontier and the Aleutian chain. Defense research in Adak reinforces this wider definition, ensuring national security planning reflects the full scope of U.S. maritime approaches.

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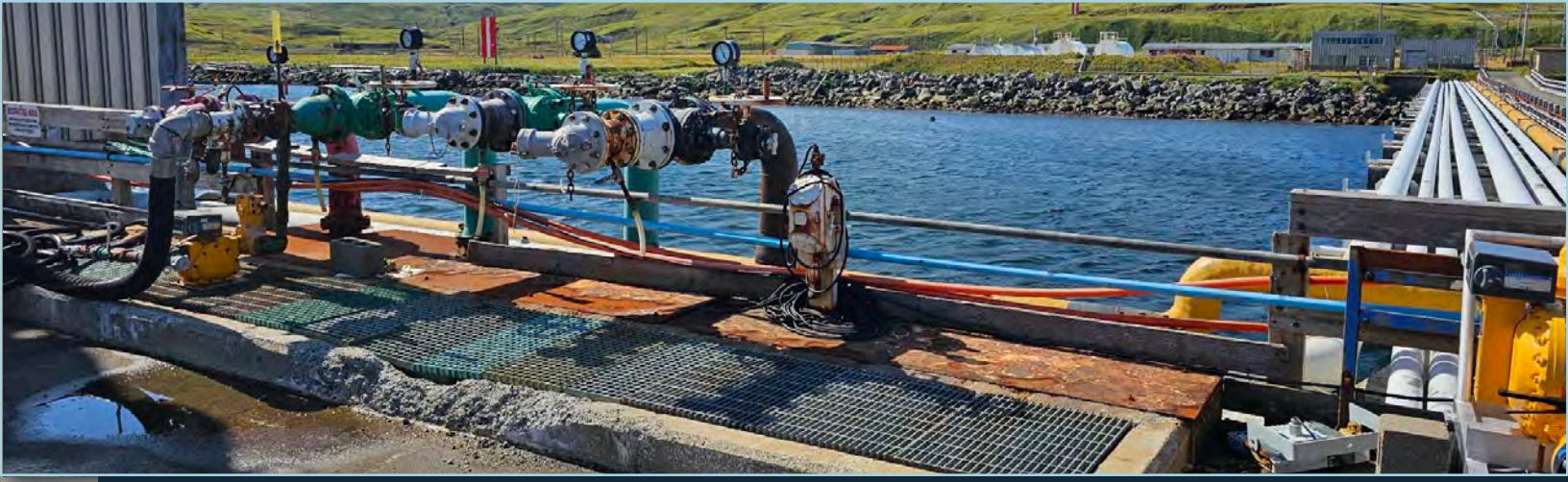

In the Cradle of the Aleutian Winds, Arctic Security Researchers Weigh the Future of Adak

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A central insight emerging from the trip is that Adak's primary hurdle is not simply a lack of modern investment, but a profound scale mismatch. The island inherits infrastructure built to support a large military base, yet any renewed defense interest demands modern, scalable, and modular solutions. Key lifelines across the island—aviation fuel, electricity generation, potable water, wastewater management, and satellite communications—are tightly interdependent with virtually no built-in redundancy.

The visit also spurred deeper strategic conversations regarding broader posture in the North Pacific. Participants debated the trade-offs between financing permanent, shore-based facilities like Adak versus relying on flexible, mobile platforms such as expeditionary vessels and amphibious task forces. The discussions also grappled with workforce realities, including the enduring challenges of recruiting, housing, and retaining both civilian specialists and service personnel in isolation.

These ground-level evaluations support high-level Department of War priorities articulated by senior military leadership.

Last year, in formal testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of Pacific Command, underscored the pressing strategic necessity of the Aleutian corridor as Russian Pacific Fleet assets increasingly transit the Great Circle route through Alaskan waters. Paparo affirmed official support for reactivating facilities on Adak, pointing out that operating from this westernmost position affords the Joint Force vital "time and distance on any force capability that's looking to penetrate" while potentially increasing maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft coverage across an increasingly contested space.

Beyond the strategic assessments, the survey yielded immediate diplomatic and coordination dividends. Following extensive



engagements with local community members and regional entities, the Ted Stevens Center received a formal invitation to join the Adak Integrated Coordination Committee, an interagency body dedicated to synchronizing activities across the island.

While unusually cooperative weather favored last month's inaugural trip, organizers noted that future iterations will account for the harsh, unforgiving weather that defines the Aleutians. As defense leaders continue to refine national Arctic and Pacific strategies, firsthand field programs like the Adak survey will play an increasingly vital role in grounding national security policy in northern realities.

Ultimately, the Adak survey serves as an operational cornerstone for the Ted Stevens Center's flagship Regional Security Dialogues, a continuous line of effort that pairs in-region field programs with practitioner forums across key Arctic sub-regions. By bringing analysts and planners face-to-face with the frontier's physical constraints, the program directly reinforces the center's core mission: cultivating specialized regional expertise, building durable practitioner networks across joint, interagency, and allied forces, and delivering actionable, ground-tested insight to

STAFF UPDATE

Welcoming New School of Arctic Security Studies Colleague

Dr. Twayne R. Hickman
Professor of Military Strategy
Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies



I've spent more than 25 years supporting the Marine Corps, including 12 years on active duty. My career has included operational assignments, two deployments to Iraq, professional military education, and most recently, future force design and development at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. My academic background is in organization development and conflict analysis and resolution, with a particular interest in the gap between what we think military organizations should do and what happens when we put those ideas into practice on the ground.

In plain English, I'm most interested in how military organizations operate, why they do the things they do, and how they adapt to changing circumstances. How do organizations prepare for complicated environments? How do commanders make decisions? Why don't things always work out the way we planned? Much of that interest grew out of my experiences in Iraq, particularly in Ramadi, and eventually became the focus of my doctoral research.

At the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, we examined future operating environments, developed concepts and capabilities to address emerging threats, and used analysis, experimentation, and wargaming to inform the design and development of the future Marine Corps. In many ways, this was the other side of the same coin: rather than examining why military organizations operate the way they do, we were asking how they should operate in the future and what changes would be necessary to get there. That experience reinforced my interest in connecting strategic challenges to practical operational requirements—and ultimately determining what capabilities our warfighters will need to succeed.

The Arctic presents a fascinating extension of those questions. Understanding the region is important, but so is exploring together what its unique conditions mean for military operations—and how we might organize, equip, train, and employ forces to meet future challenges. Bringing together different experiences, disciplines, and perspectives to work through those questions offers an opportunity to develop insights that are both strategically informed and practically useful to our warfighters.

What attracted me to TSC was the opportunity to work alongside colleagues and students who bring a wide range of experiences and perspectives to understanding an increasingly important strategic region. There's a tremendous opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas, and work through the difficult questions of what Arctic strategic competition means for military operations, capabilities, and decisions. I look forward to contributing my own experiences in military strategy, future force design, and operational planning to those conversations, while learning from the considerable expertise already at the Center and among our students. Ultimately, it's about collectively developing a better understanding of how our military organizations operate today, what they'll need to do tomorrow, and how we can better prepare for those challenges.

On a personal note, Alaska was a big part of the attraction. My wife and I are enjoying getting settled in Anchorage, exploring the outdoors, and taking advantage of everything Alaska has to offer.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

TSC Alumni Builds Multidomain Coalition for Arctic and Nuclear Security



Lt. Col. Travis "Pred" Halleman
Chief, Nuclear Policy
Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe - Air Forces Africa
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

I joined in 2004 following Operation Iraqi Freedom and wanted to do my part in the military to give back to the United States following the Events of 9/11. I have spent nearly my entire career with the nuclear enterprise. Ten years were spent at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota where cold weather operations were normal as we figured out how to make things happen. As nuclear strike aircrew, we trained for strike operations and survival in the arctic environment that we knew was without mercy.

The DoW Regional Security Centers are a tremendous opportunity that most military and civilian personnel do not utilize or even know exist. A fellow B52H colleague recommended the TSC program to me saying any of the courses would challenge my perspectives on NATO security and open doors to academic thought. Since April 2026, I have taken three courses: NATO in the North, Warfighter's Arctic Foundations, and Arctic Warfare History Courses with the Multidomain Arctic Legal Course scheduled in November. These courses have provided me with a strategic perspective of our NATO Allies' perceive an entire geographic area that was only "flyover territory." Conversations and assignments sharpened my critical analysis skills used for joint military planning and allied coordination.

TSC has provided me with tremendous benefits. Most importantly though has been the professional and personal connections from around the world made from these classes. I have gained connections to people in defense and foreign ministries in United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Iceland, Germany, Netherlands, and United States. When there are questions surrounding certain subjects, I can connect with these subject matter experts in those nations to confirm planning factors and synergize efforts. This collaboration across these relationships provides one with additional fulfillment and excitement seeing your work take on another dimension.

In September 2026, I presented "A Shared Shield: Nuclear Deterrence for the 21st Century" at the Sarajevo Security Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia. The presentation argued NATO Allies (both defense and foreign ministries) must accept the awful realities of nuclear war upon their own countries for nuclear deterrence and compellence to work. The room was full of not only public, private, and academic professionals, but the next generation leaders; all who were eager to listen to a topic they did not know much about. Individuals were shocked to hear such perspectives, but by the end of the presentation an appreciation for the challenge was accepted. There is additional education and understanding across the NATO Alliance in all matters related to nuclear operations and deterrence especially for the Northern Tier Allies' concerns. Attendees were eager to learn more and understand these topics that have been quietly sidelined since the end of the Cold War.

An unintended consequence of the conference was connecting attendees to TSC. During one side discussion, a Danish Navy Lieutenant Commander who instructs at the Danish War College who was interested in the cognitive portion of nuclear deterrence. In our discussions, he expressed his interests and experiences in the Arctic. In the end, I connected him with TSC personnel so that there can be additional coordination for research and sharing.

These situations demonstrate the strength through partnerships and the vital importance of how we work with our NATO Allies and other partners to ensure our combined interests. TSC programs have enabled these collaborative events.

Between classes and engagements, as TSC alumni, the key is to stay engaged in conversations with those who have Strategic Studies interests. I have enjoyed the TSC Webinars that introduce topics from across the world and allow me to meet even more contacts across the world. Using LinkedIn, we all communicate to one another and share other webinars, classes, and conferences across the enterprise; all with the goal of improving policy and warfighting.

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,

This month, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies continued advancing Arctic security through allied engagement, field-based learning, and exploration of emerging technologies.

In partnership with the Swedish Defence University and Swedish Armed Forces, the Stevens Center participated in a two-day engagement examining Sweden's rapid operational integration into NATO's collective defense architecture in the Arctic. The engagement underscored the importance of strengthening allied coordination, interoperability, and operational readiness across the region.

The Arctic Field Program in Adak, Alaska, provided valuable opportunities to examine the operational realities of the Arctic and North Pacific. Meanwhile, the Stevens Center hosted the Advanced Microreactors Arctic Deployment Workshop to explore innovative energy solutions that could support operations in remote and austere Arctic environments.

Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to strengthening partnerships, advancing defense capabilities, and addressing the challenges shaping Arctic security.

I look forward to welcoming our allies, partners, and colleagues to Anchorage at the end of October for the Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue. This is an important opportunity to strengthen partnerships, exchange operational perspectives, and advance practical solutions to the challenges facing Arctic security. Our focus remains clear: strengthening deterrence, improving readiness, and delivering meaningful outcomes for the Arctic warfighter.



Very respectfully,

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

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

PRISM: The Journal of Emerging Threats | Complex Statecraft

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC)



This issue of PRISM: The Journal of Emerging Threats | Complex Statecraft examines how adversaries exploit complexity across domains that were once treated as analytically distinct: nuclear strategy, information operations, proxy warfare, financial systems, critical infrastructure, illicit economies, and societal resilience. Taken together, the articles and book reviews in this volume show that irregular warfare is no longer best understood as peripheral to "main" conflict. It is increasingly the grammar through which state and non-state actors compete, coerce, erode, shape, and prepare the strategic environment before—and often instead of—decisive conventional force.

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