



# TRUE NORTH

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies Monthly Activity Report

FEBRUARY 2024



## TSC launches new Coffee Talk initiative

In an effort to foster stronger community relationships and promote collaborative security solutions for the Arctic region, the TSC has launched a new Coffee Talk initiative. This program aims to connect with stakeholders in the local community, facilitate discussions, and build a network of security leaders, both domestically and internationally.

"Our goal is to use Coffee Talks as a means of promoting a whole-of-government approach to implementing policy and Arctic security initiatives," Courtney Guinan, an Event Planning Program Manager at the TSC explained.

To schedule a Coffee Talk contact the TSC Public Affairs Office at: [TSC.Arctic.PublicAffairs@groups.af.mil](mailto:TSC.Arctic.PublicAffairs@groups.af.mil).

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## Strengthening international security cooperation: Mongolian Armed Forces visit TSC

In another significant stride toward increased international security cooperation, Colonel T. Galbadrakh, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, made a pivotal visit to the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies on Feb. 14.

Welcomed by Randy "Church" Kee, the Director of the Stevens Center, and other TSC leaders and staff, Galbadrakh's visit marked a significant milestone in enhancing ties between Mongolia and the United States, particularly in the realm of defense and security.

The visit, coordinated through the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP), underscores the program's evolution into a vital instrument for bolstering U.S. security cooperation on the global stage.

Originating from a U.S. European Command initiative in 1991, the SPP has burgeoned over its 30-year history, encompassing 88 partnerships with nations worldwide. Alaska and Mongolia formalized their partnership under the SPP in 2003, laying the groundwork for enduring collaboration in defense and security affairs.

"Alaska is at the intersection of the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic. Like Mongolia, our location is strategic, and the importance of our security partnership cannot be understated," explained Kee.

During the visit, discussions between Galbadrakh and TSC leadership delved into avenues through which the center could extend educational opportunities to members of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Emphasizing the importance of

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Colonel T. Galbadrakh, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, with TSC leaders at the center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Feb. 14, 2024.

innovation in enabling decisive multidomain operations, both parties explored strategies to harness the expertise housed within the TSC to address contemporary security challenges effectively.

“Mongolia and the United States have many shared security interests. By facilitating the Mongolian Armed Forces’ participation in our courses, we expand our network of like-minded security practitioners from the Indo-Pacific to gain insights about the developing strategic challenges of the Arctic region,” said Kee.

Central to the mission of the TSC is the establishment of robust, sustainable networks of security leaders, both domestically and internationally. Anchored in promoting and conducting focused research on Arctic security, the center aims to advance DoD security priorities in the region. The center's School for Arctic and

Climate Security Studies is dedicated to offering courses and fellowship opportunities to nations with Arctic interests, reflecting its commitment to fostering a cadre of alumni focused on security cooperation.

“Our international course participants are essential to developing a shared understanding of the contemporary security environment. Their perspectives are invaluable to address current and emerging security concerns,” continued Kee.

While Mongolia may not be geographically situated in the Arctic, its strategic partnership with the United States underscores a shared interest in ensuring stability and security in the region. Galbadrakh's visit to the TSC served as the inaugural step in welcoming the Mongolian Armed Forces to engage in the center's programs, ranging from courses to research papers and fellowship initiatives.

“Central to this relationship with the Mongolian Armed Forces is our enduring partnership with the Daniel K. Inouye Center for Asia Pacific Security Studies. While the Mongolian Armed Forces are well familiar to the outstanding programs on the Inouye Center, they now have the benefit of two DoD regional centers working seamlessly from the Pacific into the Arctic,” said Kee.

Looking ahead, both parties expressed enthusiasm for fortifying this burgeoning relationship, integrating the Mongolian Armed Forces into the international network of security practitioners cultivated by the TSC. Together, they aim to enhance interoperability in the Arctic region alongside Allies and partners, contributing to a stable, rules-based order.

As the world navigates an evolving security landscape, partnerships forged through initiatives like the SSP reaffirm the enduring commitment to collective security and cooperation. The visit of Galbadrakh and his delegation to the center signifies a pivotal moment in advancing these shared objectives, underscoring the importance of education, research, and collaboration in safeguarding the interests of nations in the Arctic and beyond.





Dr. Kelsey Frazier, Acting Associate Director for Research and Analysis at the TSC, shared insights during the panel event titled "Navigating a Changing Arctic: Innovations for Sustainable Maritime Development, Part 3," where she emphasized the importance of understanding surface conditions in the Arctic for sustainable development. Additionally, both Stepetin and Frazier appeared on podcasts to amplify the discourse on Arctic security cooperation.

During the event, Tracy Smith, Deputy Dean of SACSS, and Terrence Shanigan, Deputy Associate Director for the Strategic Engagement Division, engaged with members from Arctic Voice and Canadian and Greenlandic partners to explore potential collaboration opportunities in advocating for security cooperation across their extensive networks.

As Arctic Frontiers 2024 concluded, TSC leaders reaffirmed the center's commitment to fostering international security cooperation and network building in the Arctic region. Through collaborative efforts with Allies and partners, the TSC aims to strengthen resilience, promote stability, and uphold shared security interests in the dynamic Arctic environment.



## TSC delegation strengthens international security cooperation at Arctic Frontiers 2024

In a resolute effort to advance the objectives outlined in the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, members of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies converged at Arctic Frontiers 2024 in Tromsø, Norway, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2024. This strategic gathering served as a pivotal platform for the TSC delegation to engage in panel discussions, breakout group events, and networking sessions, all aimed at fostering collaborative relationships among military and civilian security practitioners, directly supporting the strategic vision outlined in the National Strategy for the Arctic Region.

Led by Randy "Church" Kee, Director of the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, the team emphasized the significance of embracing a local community approach to Arctic security during the "Big Picture session on Arctic Security and Local Resilience" panel discussion. Kee underscored the

strategic importance of forging partnerships with local communities, integrating local customs and traditions, and leveraging Indigenous Knowledge Systems to enhance security resilience in the Arctic, consistent with the principles outlined in the National Strategy for the Arctic Region.

Panel discussions at Arctic Frontiers delved into various topics, including geopolitical shifts, rising military presence, and NATO expansion, while stressing the necessity of resilient communities in the high North. Dr. Halihana Stepetin, Assistant Professor for the School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies at the TSC, hosted a panel on "Perspectives of Indigenous Women on Human and Environmental Security in the Arctic," highlighting the diverse experiences of climate change and the vital role of Indigenous Knowledge in crafting climate solutions.

### Arctic Senior Leader Dialogue:

On Jan. 18, more than 40 Department of Defense and interagency leaders met in the Pentagon for an Arctic Senior Leader Dialogue that the TSC helped coordinate on behalf of U.S. Northern Command and the Office of Arctic and Global Resilience. This engagement facilitated dialogue between senior leaders in the U.S. Government to share perspectives on current and emerging trends, shape thinking about Arctic security, institutionalize knowledge, enhance future collaboration with Arctic and like-minded nations, and aid strategic decision-making regarding investments in critical Arctic capabilities. This ASLD event directly aligned with the focus of the DoD Regional Center mission to offer executive outreach programs that foster long-term collaborative relationships, develop and sustain relationships and communities of interest among Arctic focused security and defense leaders, and advance efforts that will build enduring partnerships among Allies and partners.

### U.S. Coast Guard Academy Center for Arctic Studies and Policy (CASP) visit:

On Jan. 22, U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Joseph “Grant” Thomas and Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Jones visited the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, to meet with the leadership of the USCGA’s Center for Arctic Studies and Policy to collaborate on future Arctic research initiatives and academic partnerships. Additionally, Thomas

and Jones hosted an “Operations Spotlight” with the USCGA’s Corps of Cadets that was attended by approximately 400 USCGA cadets. The event focused on the strategic importance of the Arctic and the roles the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security play in this region. This engagement integrated and expanded the TSC network of Arctic practitioners and national security professionals to a U.S. Government federal service academy.

### U.S. Naval War College Newport Arctic Scholars Initiative (NASI):

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Joseph “Grant” Thomas and Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Jones represented the TSC at the Newport Arctic Scholars Initiative (NASAI) hosted by the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, from Jan. 23-25. This event brought together more than two-dozen scholars and naval forces personnel coast guards and navies from around the Arctic to examine ways to strengthen cooperation through integrated deterrence against malign influence and military aggression in the Arctic maritime region. The findings from this symposium will be presented to the heads of Allied and partner navies and coast guards at the next International Seapower Symposium and advances U.S. National Security and Defense strategic objectives by deepening cooperation with Arctic Allies and partners while addressing strategic competitors grey-zone

activities in the region and building strategic alignment to counter these activities.



### National Guard Arctic Interest Council meeting strengthens U.S. Arctic security cooperation

The National Guard Arctic Interest Council 2024 Annual Meeting convened in Essex, Vermont from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, showcasing the pivotal role of the National Guard in fostering security cooperation with Arctic Allies and partners.

This year's NGAIC featured distinguished speakers from Finland, Sweden, and Canada's armed forces, underscoring the National Guard's increasing stake in Arctic security. Central to this expansion is the State Partnership Program, which has burgeoned over its 30-year history to encompass 88 partnerships with nations worldwide.

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Highlights from the Swedish Defence University visit.

### Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC):

The School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies held a virtual session of ARSOC, Jan. 22-26. The purpose of this course is to provide baseline knowledge to security practitioners, focusing on historical, environmental, commercial, geopolitical, and strategic issues concerning the Arctic region in order to encourage discussion, intellectual curiosity, and critical thinking. Congratulations to the 135 participants who graduated from this course!

### Sámi Parliament of Norway

**meeting:** On Jan. 30 Randy “Church” Kee, Director of the TSC, met with the President of the Sámi Parliament of Norway, Silje Karine Muotka. During the meeting Muotka discussed the Sámi Parliament members’ views on the relationship between the Sámi people and the Norwegian government. This meeting provided key insights from the Sámi community and the importance of Arctic Indigenous perspectives in all aspects of Arctic security.

### Arctic Multidomain Legal

**Course (AMLC):** The School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies held a virtual session of AMLC, Jan. 30-Feb. 1. This course provided an informative educational experience to participants as they developed a basic understanding of the legal frameworks, instruments, and concepts related to the Arctic in relevant domains. AMLC equips participants with analytical tools to identify, assess, and understand Arctic legal issues as related to current challenges. Congratulations to the 83 participants who graduated from this course!

### Meeting with MOD State

**Secretary Aanerud:** On Feb. 1 Randy “Church” Kee, Director of the TSC met with U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Nathan Moore and Ministry of Defense State Secretary Anne-Marie Aanerud. Aanerud emphasized the importance of Allied presence in Norwegian waters as part of its overall national defense strategy. Aanerud said many Norwegians, especially in the Norwegian Arctic who had hoped

for improving relations with Russia, were “brokenhearted” by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. U.S. military presence is more favorably perceived, as evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive public response to the visit of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford to Oslo in May 2023. Moore noted that the USCG plans to participate in an Arctic maritime exercise with the Norwegian armed forces in 2024, and Kee noted the Stevens Center’s desire to work closely with the government of Norway, including on such initiatives as the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research (ICE-PPR), as well as with Norwegian think tanks such as the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and Institute for Defense Studies. The leaders agreed that increased engagement with, and presence of, U.S. military institutions is explicitly for defense and deterrence purposes, aimed at preventing conflict before it starts.

### Swedish Defence University

**visit:** Dr. Christine Duprow, Curriculum Developer for the TSC, and Joel Kopp, Associate Director for National and Arctic Interest Chairs, visited the U.S. Embassy Stockholm and the Swedish Defence University Strategic Implications & Innovation Center in a recent trip to Stockholm, Feb. 7-9. During the trip Duprow and Kopp supported the efforts of the SDU Strategic Implications and Innovations Centre to develop an effective exercise, and to develop TSC relationships in Sweden.



Matthew Schell, Deputy Associate Director for Research and Analysis, at the NAVSEA Arctic IPT quarterly meeting.

**NAVSEA Arctic IPT quarterly meeting:** Matthew Schell, Deputy Associate Director for Research and Analysis, met with John Woods, Jonathan Chavanne, and Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Arctic IPT co-chairs Dave Sawyer and Jim Dempsey at the NAVSEA Arctic IPT quarterly meeting in Carderock, Maryland, Feb. 8. During the meeting Schell provided a TSC overview briefing as the keynote speaker, and Woods presented an update on the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research, also known as ICE-PPR. ICE-PPR is a multilateral framework Memorandum of Understanding that enables a 25-year engagement among the governments, academia, and industry of the U.S., Canada, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The MOU can be used to address various areas of interest including polar environmental modeling, prediction, and information sharing; polar

sensors and remote sensing techniques; polar communications and situational awareness; platform design and performance for polar environments; research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) infrastructure for polar environments, experimentation and demonstrations for polar environments; and operational research. A connection with NAVSEA's crosscutting IPT is a valuable relationship for the Stevens Center's Research and Analysis team in order to stay abreast of ongoing Arctic research throughout the Navy's RDT&E community, while also promoting international partnerships.

**Arctic Security and Defense Seminar:** Matthew Bell, Dean of the School for Arctic and Climate Security Studies, advanced Arctic awareness among community

security practitioners informing them of TSC missions, emerging topics, future initiatives and NATO relevancy during the Arctic Security and Defense seminar held at Akureyri University in Akureyri, Iceland on Feb. 8.

**Arctic 360 Conference:** Dr. Kathryn Friedman, TSC North American Arctic Policy Advisor, and Terrence Shanigan, Deputy Associate Director for Strategic Engagement, represented the TSC during the Arctic 360 Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada, Feb. 6-8. Friedman's reputation as a CANUS Policy expert, helped to provide valuable insights into side discussions while strengthen the TSC's network of international security practitioners in the Arctic.

**Arctic Spirit:** Arctic Spirit, hosted by the Embassy of Finland in the U.S., was an incredible opportunity for the TSC to strengthen our network of civilian and military experts dedicated to the Arctic's security and prosperity. The event featured the Arctic Centre and brought together experts from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss the future of the region. At this event, TSC supported meaningful discussions on environmental preservation, sustainable growth, security challenges and future strategies.



### Space Scotland and University of Alaska Fairbanks visits with TSC leaders

Last month representatives from Space Scotland and University of Alaska Fairbanks met with leaders from the Ted Stevens Center to discuss ways to collaborate to help further research and security. By working together with a range of Allies and partners we can identify innovative solutions and best practices to support an Arctic region that is peaceful, stable, prosperous, and cooperative.



### DEVCOM leaders visits TSC

The Ted Stevens Center was honored to welcome leaders from U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command to the TSC on Jan. 27. During the visit TSC and DEVCOM leaders discussed ways to partner together in order to help further research and security efforts in the Arctic region. By working together, we can identify innovative solutions to enable decisive multidomain operations in the Arctic by identifying cooperative science and technology opportunities.



### Commander of DLA Troop Support Indo-Pacific visits TSC

Recently, Ted Stevens Center leaders welcomed Cmdr. Erik A. Decker, commander of Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support Indo-Pacific, and his team to the TSC. Decker toured the future TSC facility and met with TSC leadership to discuss ways to collaborate to advance security priorities in the Arctic region. The TSC is committed to supporting DLA's operations by building interagency partnerships to understand and address Arctic and climate security challenges.



### Maj. Gen. Matthew McFarlane from America's First Corps (I Corps) visits TSC

TSC leaders welcomed Maj. Gen. Matthew McFarlane, the deputy commanding general of America's First Corps (I Corps) to the Ted Stevens Center, Feb. 21. McFarlane toured the center and met with TSC leadership to discuss ways to collaborate to advance security priorities in the Arctic region. The Stevens Center is committed to supporting I Corps operations by building partnerships to understand and address Arctic and climate security challenges. Through innovative and collaborative education, research, and engagement, we can empower Arctic security practitioners.



### Seventeenth Coast Guard District delegation visits with TSC leaders

A delegation from the Seventeenth Coast Guard District recently had the opportunity to visit the TSC on Feb. 7. TSC and Seventeenth District leaders discussed the importance of interagency partnerships to understand and address Arctic and climate security challenges. The TSC is grateful for the opportunity to facilitate interagency collaboration to further our Nation's whole-of-government approach to Arctic security.

## UPCOMING COURSES

**Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) 24-03**  
Virtual, April 15, 2024

**Arctic Multi-Domain Law Course (AMLC) 24-03**  
Virtual, May 7-9

**Arctic Regional Security Orientation Course (ARSOC) 24-04**  
Virtual, July 15-19, 2024

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### TSC welcomes newest faculty member

Dr. Matthew A. Rhodes joined the Ted Stevens Center in January 2024 as our newest faculty member and Professor of International Security. Prior to coming to the Ted Stevens Center, he served on the faculty of the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany and the U.S. Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and policy papers dealing with U.S. foreign policy, transatlantic relations, and European security.

He currently resides in Anchorage.

Dr. Rhodes and his wife Bridget have two adult children and one grandson and enjoy hiking, skiing, and other outdoor activities.



### DR. KATHRYN FRIEDMAN

*Leading the charge in Arctic security legal education*



Innovate Experiment Educate Analyze Engage

### Dr. Kathryn Friedman: Leading the charge in Arctic security legal education

In the realm of Arctic security studies, Dr. Kathryn Friedman stands as a guiding force, leading initiatives to enhance understanding and cooperation in this critical domain. As the North American Arctic Policy Advisor at the TSC, Friedman's expertise and leadership have been instrumental in the development and success of the Arctic Multidomain Legal Course, a flagship program under the School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies.

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### Congratulations to our newest PhDs!



#### Dr. Christine Duprow

Dr. Duprow is the Curriculum Developer for the TSC and recently completed her doctorate in Education with an E-Learning specialization from National University.



#### Dr. Kelsey Frazier

Dr. Frazier is the Acting Associate Director of the Research and Analysis Division at the TSC and recently completed her doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

### Director's Monthly Note



Dear and Distinguished Colleagues,

The Stevens Center is off to a great start this year with significant contributions to several high-level Arctic forums. We truly value the opportunity to meet and partner with many of you in the Arctic community and welcome you to our network of like-minded Arctic security practitioners.

On Jan. 18, the Stevens Center was integral in conducting the DoD Arctic Senior Leader Dialogue, co-hosted by U.S. Northern Command and DoD's new Office of Arctic and Global Resilience. The ASLD brought together senior interagency leaders to enhance collaboration regarding Arctic security and inform decisions regarding Arctic capability investments.

During the first week in February, our experts brought their extensive knowledge to Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø, Norway to present on topics such as "Perspectives of Indigenous Women on Human and Environmental Security in the Arctic" and the Alaska Ocean Observing System. Our sincerest

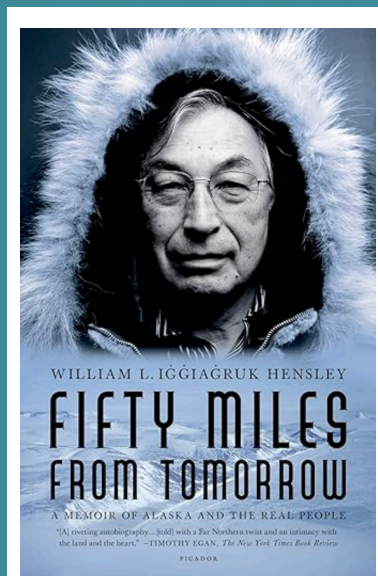
thanks and appreciation to Anu Fredrikson and her team for a remarkable Arctic Frontiers 2024. The venue proved again to be an excellent place to collaborate with an array of Allies and partners, as well as connecting ideas to future projects and initiatives. In the next few months, the Stevens Center will host a number of dialogues and courses, convening security practitioners of the United States and our Allies and partners across the Arctic region to promote discussion and understanding. Stay tuned for more opportunities to join our exceptional network.

Very best wishes and very respectfully,  
Church

## DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY READING RECOMMENDATION

### Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People

Born twenty-nine miles north of the arctic circle, William L. Iggiagruk Hensley was raised to live the seminomadic life that his Iñupiaq ancestors had lived for thousands of years. In this stirring memoir, he offers us a rare firsthand account of growing up Native Alaskan, and later, in the lower forty-eight, as a fearless advocate for Native land rights. In 1971, after years of tirelessly lobbying the United States government, he played a key role in a landmark victory that enabled the Inupiaq to take charge of their economic and political destiny.



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# T E D S T E V E N S C E N T E R F O R A R C T I C S E C U R I T Y S T U D I E S

proudly presents

## Arctic Maritime Health Security Indicators Workshop

March 21st, 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland

As the Arctic maritime domain continues to increase in accessibility, so too do the health security threats associated with increased maritime commerce. Robust monitoring and risk assessments are needed to predict and prevent health security crises before they occur. However, little research has focused on the intersections between increased maritime shipping in the Arctic and health security. Furthermore, conventional health security assessments are focused on the country-level, and may lack the indicators particularly relevant to health security at the local community-level. This is problematic, as coastal Arctic communities are at the front lines of increased maritime shipping and play a critical role in regional health security.

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies invites you to participate in a 1-day workshop focused on identifying the indicators of community-level health security as it relates to increased maritime commerce in the Arctic. This workshop will inform a pilot test aimed at developing an Arctic Maritime Health Security Risk Index.

This workshop is open to all attendees of the Arctic Science Summit Week in Edinburgh. We are particularly interested in seeking perspectives from those who have lived and/or worked in Arctic coastal communities. The workshop will be capped at 30 participants. Please complete the sign-up form at the following link to participate in the workshop: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/qDjhRz3Ak8>. You will receive a confirmation email that you are signed up for the workshop.

PLEASE NOTE, this is not a registration link for ASSW, you must register separately for the conference.

Please join us during Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) on March 21st in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Please use the QR code below to register





Scan the QR Code to see  
**JACSS, Vol. 1, Ed. 1**

## Journal of Arctic and Climate Security Studies (JACSS) Volume 3 Call for Submissions

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies announces an article deadline of **15 March 2024** for contributions to JACSS Vol. 3.

Potential authors are invited to focus on Arctic security issues ranging from geophysical to geostrategic such as:

- Security cooperation in the Arctic
- Arctic climate data science
- Climate security within the Arctic region
- Arctic governance
- Arctic Indigenous Peoples security studies
- Arctic domain awareness
- Women, peace, and security in the Arctic
- Arctic health security

Please submit article and CV or inquiries to the editorial staff [TSC-JACSS@groups.af.mil](mailto:TSC-JACSS@groups.af.mil) for expected publication in the autumn of 2024.

JACSS is a peer-reviewed publication. Articles are unclassified, and readers can access articles from all over the world. Submissions will be received in English language, clearly written for an informed audience of defense and security affairs practitioners and academics.