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Iris Ferguson president and founder of IAF Strategies, an advisory firm at the intersection of national security, energy, and innovation. She holds affiliations as a global advisor to Loom Strategy and as a visiting scholar at Penn Washington. She previously served as the inaugural U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience, advising senior leadership on Arctic security, freedom of navigation, critical minerals, and energy security. Earlier, Iris was a Senior Advisor for U.S. Air Force, where she authored the first Air Force Arctic Strategy and developed policies focusing on energy security and resilience.



Iris previously worked at the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, helping launch SelectUSA, the first federal investment promotion program, and served as a national security and foreign policy aide for then Senator Biden on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She is a former Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow focusing on the nexus of Arctic and space. She holds degrees from the University of Arkansas and Johns Hopkins SAIS.