



COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

— STUDENT COUNCIL —

Welcome Letter from the CISA Class of 2026 Student Council President

Dear Members of the CISA Class of 2027,

Congratulations and welcome to the College of International Security Affairs. On behalf of the CISA Class of 2026, it is my privilege to welcome you to Fort McNair and to the CISA community.

You are about to begin a challenging and rewarding year. The CISA program will push you to think critically about irregular warfare, strategic competition, and the complex security challenges facing the United States and our partners. The faculty and staff are exceptional, and the classroom discussions are enriched by the diverse operational and professional experiences represented across your cohort.

While the academic program is outstanding, many graduates will tell you that the most enduring part of the CISA experience is the community you build with your classmates. The relationships formed here often become lifelong friendships and professional networks.

Student leadership and committees play a major role in shaping the CISA experience. The work behind the scenes takes time and effort, so start projects early, communicate with your teammates, and share the workload. One of our favorite recurring events was Culture and Trivia Day, where students brought food from their country or state to share before a highly competitive trivia contest. We also celebrated birthdays every month; for some of our international fellows, it was their first birthday cake.

If you have questions as you prepare to arrive or once the academic year begins, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to welcoming you to CISA and wish you a successful and rewarding year.

Respectfully,

COL Holly Y. Maness

Student Council President

CISA Class of 2026

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