



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066

8 July 2025

Dear CISA Class of 2026,

Congratulations on your selection to attend the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) at National Defense University (NDU). CISA educates joint warfighters, national security leaders, and partners and allies in the theory and application of irregular warfare (IW), building highly skilled irregular warfare strategists and preparing graduates for leadership at the strategic level of their respective organizations. Whether you are attending the JPME-II program at Fort McNair or the Joint Special Operations Master of Arts (JSOMA) program at Fort Bragg, I hope you find the academic year at CISA to be both professionally and personally rewarding.

As your Dean of Students, it's important to me that you are prepared to start the academic year. Prior to arriving, review the NDU Incoming Students Information page, which is located at the public facing site <https://www.ndu.edu/Students/Incoming-Students/>, and pay special attention to the hyperlinks under "Instructions for Incoming Students." The NDU campus is a Bring-Your-Own-Device environment, with a government-provided wireless network. It's imperative you arrive with a personal laptop computer and anything else you need to integrate into an academic environment.

If you have questions before the start of NDU and CISA Student Orientation on 4 August 2025, please do not hesitate to reach out. The International Student Management Office (ISMO), your respective Service/Agency Chair, and the Dean of Students office are your primary points of contact for initial information. CISA specific information, to include the CISA Student Orientation schedule and Service/Agency Chair contact information, can be located on the CISA Incoming Students page, located at <https://cisa.ndu.edu/Students/Incoming-Students/>.

While your studies are your priority during your time at CISA, you will cherish the connections and enduring friendships formed with your fellow students. Upon graduation, these connections and your affiliation as a CISA graduate will live on as you join the ranks of the prodigious, robust, and globally engaged CISA alumni network. Take advantage of the many opportunities to build these connections and enhance your student and networking experience outside of the classroom over the course of the academic year.

- **Intramural Sports** – A variety of intramural sports are open to students of all athletic capabilities.
- **Academic Travel** – Students will travel during the academic year as part of their CISA curriculum.
- **Student Council** – A student council will govern and shape the CISA student experience. Students may participate in the student council directly and/or in numerous student council planned events. Students should anticipate contributing to the student experience and social fund soon after arrival.

I encourage you to get involved, interact with, and learn from your peers from across the globe. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 685-2309. Welcome to CISA...Go Eagles!

Laurinda M. Reifsteck, Col, USAF  
Dean of Students  
College of International Security Affairs