



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066

July 15, 2025

Dear Members of the Class of 2026:

Welcome to the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) at the National Defense University (NDU). As one of NDU's five senior-level colleges, CISA educates joint warfighters, national security professionals and our international partners in the theory and application of irregular warfare (IW).

You've been selected for this program because your nation, your service, and your leaders recognized your potential. Over the year, you and your classmates will work together to develop strategic understanding of the security landscape and examine how choices we make may influence the future.

At CISA, we specialize in the study and application of irregular warfare. Irregular warfare is not abstract theory—it's a component of real-world strategy. Irregular warfare demands sharp minds, strong moral compasses, and warfighter instincts developed through both study and practice. During the year at CISA, you will be part of a world-class academic institution, learning from an exceptional faculty that includes accomplished civilian scholars, experienced military officers, and senior officials from U.S. agencies. I encourage you to visit <http://cisa.ndu.edu> to learn more about our programs and our distinguished faculty.

Beyond the academic rigor of our curriculum, one of the most rewarding aspects of CISA will be your engaging a cohort of your peers from across the globe. CISA proudly hosts the largest number of International Fellows of any comparable U.S. military education institution. That's not by accident—it's by design. The relationships you build here will expand your perspectives, challenge your assumptions, and reinforce the truth that trust and cooperation among allies and partners are force multipliers. Many of your peers will become your friends. Some will very likely be your trusted colleagues in future operations.

As you prepare to join us, if you have any questions ahead of your arrival, please contact the Registrar's office by email at [University-Registrar@ndu.edu](mailto:University-Registrar@ndu.edu). Arrive ready to contribute, prepared to learn from others and willing to relay your experiences and expertise. We all look forward to having you as part of the CISA team. Welcome aboard!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg P. Olson".

GREGG P. OLSON  
Chancellor  
College of International Security Affairs  
National Defense University