Greetings and welcome to NDU!

I want to let you know about an opportunity to enhance your academic year in partnership with NDU’s Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD Center), a premier research center within the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS). The WMD Center works on a wide range of strategic policy issues, including deterrence, nuclear strategy, regional conflict, and countering WMD, typically in collaboration with key offices in OSD, Joint Staff, Combatant Commands, the National Security Council staff, and other U.S. government agencies. Civilian and military leaders seek greater academic and policy attention to these increasingly salient issues as they search for innovative but practical ways to meet complex strategic, operational, and intelligence challenges. In addition to your coursework, NDU offers further resources for students interested in these topics.

For the coming academic year, NDU and U.S. Strategic Command are launching a USSTRATCOM Scholars Program that allows NDU students to focus their research and electives on strategic policy and deterrence issues. Students selected for the program will write a research paper on a topic of interest to USSTRATCOM, focus their electives on strategic policy courses, have the opportunity to brief a senior USSTRATCOM leader on their research findings, and receive a special certificate at graduation. USSTRATCOM will support the program by providing a liaison to help students gather information and funding for travel to support student research. USSTRATCOM’s current list of topics is being revised, but in recent years has covered a broad range of research questions on deterrence, assurance, escalation, nuclear policy, arms control, space, and adversary concepts. We will post or distribute that list as soon as it is available.

Other than delivering a briefing to a senior command official in the May/June 2016 time period, the program does not impose any requirements beyond those of your college. There is no requirement for a follow-on assignment at USSTRATCOM. The USSTRATCOM Scholars Program is available to military and civilian students who are U.S. citizens.

If you are interested in learning more or applying to the program, please contact me or my colleague Paul Bernstein at your first opportunity. We are located in Lincoln Hall Suite 2400.

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Thanks, and we look forward to working with you.