

## **National Defense University Scholars Program (NSP) Pilot**

**Purpose:** Provide high potential officers (senior O-3s/junior O-4s) the opportunity to accelerate their growth as strategic leaders through an 18-36 month assignment at NDU dedicated to the Profession of Arms by:

- Being individually mentored by flag officers while working a real-world strategic wicked issue.
- Earning a Master's Degree through NDU, Information Resource Management College.
- Researching, authoring and presenting to a senior leader panel a publishable quality work.
- Completing JPME I.
- Serving in a follow-on tour related to their research as directed by their sponsor/command.

**Students:** Cohort of mid-grade officers across diverse disciplines who have clearly demonstrated:

- Promotion potential to achieve the highest ranks.
- Agility, passion, tenacity and character to imagine, create, innovate and lead.
- The desire to make the Profession of Arms their identity and need to work to their potential.

**Focus:** During the tour, the students will enhance their strategic level development by:

- Studying, researching and writing on a real-world national security issue wicked problem that has been approved and mentored by their sponsor and the NDU faculty.
- Attend the Strategic Leaders Foundational Course with senior leaders.
- Earning a Master's Degree that emphasizes leader development in the area of Cyber .
- Building a global network of relationships and a bonded cohort of NDU scholars across various strategic domains.

**Funding:** Sponsoring command is responsible for costs associated with:

- PCS to/from NDU/Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- TDY associated with research, Master's Degree domestic field study and JPME 1.

### **Nomination/Acceptance/Follow-on Assignment Process:**

- Sponsoring Command Flag level (Due to NDU NLT 1 Apr to NDU for the Aug cohort):
  - Recommends an active duty senior O-3/junior O-4 with the highest potential to intellectually and emotionally grow and serve at the strategic level.
  - Identifies the flag/SES from the sponsoring command who will mentor the nominee during the NSP tour.
  - Seeks concurrence for fellowship with Services' Human Resources authorities that have orders/ PCS approval authority, and specifies this assignment coordination has taken place.
  - Works with their respective personnel system to target the student's post NDU assignment to leverage their strategic level growth, potential, and research.
- Nominees (Due to NDU NLT 1 Apr to NDU for the Aug cohort):
  - Submit a nomination package consisting of their Officer Record Brief/Summary, 1-page bio, official photo, post-secondary transcripts.
  - Include a statement of purpose that addresses why they want to participate, what they hope to gain from the program, their desired area of focus for scholarship, and their career goals.
- NDU/President (Due 1 May to selected students for Aug cohort)
  - Selects class cohort (maximum of 12 students/year) based on flag level recommendations, nominees' packages, and desired diversity across the strategic domains.
  - Sends letters of invitation to the selected cohort members with to cc their flag/SES sponsor and mentor.