



NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY  
WILLIAM J. PERRY  
CENTER FOR HEMISPHERIC DEFENSE STUDIES  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20319-5066

WJPC

4 May 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR William J. Perry Center Employees

This week is designated by Congress as Public Service Recognition Week and I just would like to take a moment to thank you for your dedicated work in support of the Center and our Nation. Since my arrival here at the Center, I have been amazed at your willingness to tackle the tough jobs, your flexibility to adjust to changing work conditions, focus and organizational alignment.

Twenty years ago, in recognition of Public Service Recognition Week, then Secretary of Defense Perry, our namesake, made remarks that are still as applicable today as they were back then:

*"Public Service Recognition Week gives me the opportunity to do something that I like to do and that I feel deeply about, which is thanking the people in this department for the work that they do... You are living proof that public service attracts some of the best that America has to offer, and I, for one, deeply appreciate it."*

I know you have faced considerable turmoil and uncertainty over the past year and despite it all, you have pulled together and accomplished amazing things. I am confident your track record of success will continue, and I am very glad to be part of such a winning team. Over the course of the next few months, we continue to strengthen our linkages with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and we will continue to work diligently to ensure our programs are well designed, well executed and support OSD objectives for our Center. As we concentrate activities on our number one mission focus area, Defense Institution Building (DIB) to build partner capacity, we are breaking new ground every day. I think our work may be characterized by the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

It is my distinct honor to work with you and to be part of such a trail breaking organization.

With humble thanks,

Mark S. Wilkins  
Director



MENS ET FIDES MUTUA