



NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
WILLIAM J. PERRY
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WASHINGTON D.C. 20319-5066

WJPC

7 May 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR William J. Perry Center Employees

As this week is designated by Congress as Public Service Recognition Week, I want to take the opportunity to say thanks for your dedication and service to our Nation. I consider myself lucky that I'm in a position where I can observe each and every day the extraordinary efforts –and sacrifices-- you make not only in accomplishing our collective mission, but also the individual efforts you make to ensure that every participant in our programs feels welcome and supported. I know these efforts begin long before the participants take their first steps into Lincoln Hall or in our OCONUS events and extend long after they return home. This point is reinforced in almost every exchange I have with our participants and alumni as they remark on the people and support of the Center.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Perry Center, a logical point to pause, celebrate, and reflect on the many successes of the Center. There is little doubt that the organizational successes we have achieved were only possible by your hard work and the dedication and mutual support that you provide to one another. I think it is also important not just to recognize your contributions, but to also think of the outcomes of the service you have provided. Many of our graduates have cited the Perry Center as being instrumental in their professional development and have gone on to serve in significant positions in their communities, and countries. Warren Buffet said "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." In essence, that is what we do –plant developmental seeds, then watch them grow and bear fruit.

This will be the last Public Service Recognition week that I will have the privilege of recognizing as the Perry Center Director. As I prepare to move onto other adventures in life, I consider myself honored and privileged to be associated with such a group of outstanding professionals. I know that you will continue the tradition of excellence for which we are known and look forward to following your accomplishments for many years to come.

With sincere gratitude,

Mark S. Wilkins
Director

