

National Defense University News Release  
No. 10-019  
For Immediate Release  
November 23, 2010

### **NDU Senior Information Assurance Officer Finalist for Frank B. Rowlett Award**

Ms. Donna Bennett, National Defense University (NDU) Senior Information Assurance Officer, was selected as a finalist for the National Security Agency sponsored Frank B. Rowlett Award for Individual Excellence in the field of information systems security.

The Rowlett Awards recognize individual and organizational, one-time or long-term, achievement in the improvement of national information systems security, information assurance readiness, or defensive information operations. The Individual Achievement Award is awarded annually to the individual within a U.S. Government organization who is recognized for making the most significant contribution to the improvement of the element's information systems security, operational information assurance readiness, or defensive information operations posture.

Ms. Bennett is responsible for creating and directing the NDU Information Assurance (IA) Program. She also serves as the Certifying Authority by providing analytical and IA advice to support and defend major policy and business decisions for NDU.

Since arriving at NDU in 2009, Ms. Bennett completely revamped the IA program from the ground up. She defined policies and procedures which focused on providing security to faculty, students, and staff. She also spearheaded investigations of network intrusions and attack attempts, working closely with all parts of the organization to identify, diagnose, and resolve shortcomings and eliminate vulnerabilities.

Asked to comment about the award nomination, Ms. Bennett stated that, "this award nomination and recognition is validation, from an outside source, that NDU is now one of the most improved DoD components and good stewards in the fight against cyber attacks. The question that must always be asked is are we better off today than one year ago? In the case of NDU, the answer is most definitely, we are. There is still more work to be done."

Colonel William J. Adams, USA, NDU's Chief Information Officer, said that "the success of NDU's IA program is directly attributed to the leadership and professionalism of Donna Bennett. She is continuing to build on her success by developing leaders in the IA community with the same combination of technical expertise and professional savvy that she brings to the organization."

Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, National Defense University President, said "Donna possesses the technical skills, knowledge, and leadership qualities that enable her to

recognize and understand what has to be done, set the direction, and motivate up and down the chain to reach an outstanding result for the organization and its people. She is to be congratulated for this most significant professional recognition by her peers.”

The National Defense University is the nation’s premier center for joint professional military education. The university is an accredited graduate-level institution that provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. For more information about the National Defense University, please contact: Dave Thomas, Public Affairs Officer, at 202-685-3140 or [ThomasD2@ndu.edu](mailto:ThomasD2@ndu.edu); or visit [www.ndu.edu](http://www.ndu.edu).

###