

National Defense University
News Release No. 11-027
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2011

Contact: Dave Thomas
Director of Public Affairs
202-685-3140
ThomasD2@ndu.edu

National Defense University Graduation to be Held June 9th

(Washington DC) The National Defense University's Graduation exercises will be held on Thursday, June 9th, at 10:00 a.m., at Fort Lesley J. McNair in southwest Washington, DC. A total of 649 students from the College of International Security Affairs (90), the National War College (221), the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (318), and the Information Resources Management College (iCollege) (20) will participate in the ceremony held in front of historic Roosevelt Hall.

General James N. Mattis, US Marine Corps, Commander, United States Central Command, will be the graduation speaker. Gen. Mattis has 39 years active duty service in the Marines, and took command of USCENTCOM Aug. 11, 2010. Prior to that, he served as Commander, US Joint Forces Command. The mission of the Central Command is to promote cooperation among nations, respond to crises, and deter or defeat state and non-state aggression, support development and, when necessary, reconstruction in order to establish the conditions for regional security, stability, and prosperity with the cooperation of national and international partners.

Admiral Thad Allen, US Coast Guard (retired) will receive an honorary Doctor of National Security Affairs degree, *Honoris Causa*.

Admiral Allen joined RAND as a Senior Fellow on October 4, 2010, after more than 39 years of service with the United States Coast Guard. Allen completed his distinguished Coast Guard career as its 23rd Commandant, retiring from that position in June 2010.

On May 1, 2010, President Barack Obama selected Admiral Allen to serve as the National Incident Commander for the unified response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico—a position he held concurrently while finishing his tenure as Commandant of the Coast Guard. In that position, Allen was charged with oversight of all response efforts to cease the flow of oil and mitigate the effects of the worst oil disaster in U.S. history. Allen was also in charge of coordinating with various state and local entities, as well as directing the efforts of BP, the responsible party in the spill.

Prior to his assignment as Commandant, Allen served as Coast Guard Chief of Staff. During his tenure in that position, in 2005, he was designated Principal Federal Official for the U.S. government's response and recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita throughout the Gulf Coast region. Other Coast Guard assignments included Commander, Atlantic Area and Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic—where in 2001 he led the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area forces following the September 11 attacks. He previously served as Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, where he oversaw all operations in the southeastern United States and in the Caribbean.

His numerous awards and decorations include the Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal with gold star, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal with two gold stars, and the Legion of Merit. Allen is a native of Tucson, Arizona. He is a 1971 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds a Masters in Public Administration from The George Washington University—from which he received the Alumni Achievement Award in 2006. He also holds a Master of Science in Management from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was elected a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow in 2003.

Approximately 54 percent of the graduates are senior officers from the U.S. armed services. Federal government civilians, international students from more than 60 countries and private sector civilians make up the other 46 percent.

Students in the College of International Security Affairs will receive a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Security Studies with a Concentration in Combating Terrorism. Industrial College of the Armed Forces students completing degree requirements receive a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy. National War College students receive a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy. iCollege graduates receive a Government Information Leader Master of Science Degree.

The National Defense University is the nation's premier center for joint professional military education. The University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as a graduate-level institution that prepares future leaders of the armed forces and other civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities.

Media organizations interested in covering the Graduation ceremony should contact Dave Thomas, NDU Director of Public Affairs, at (202) 685-3140 or ThomasD2@ndu.edu to make arrangements to do so.

-NDU-