

For Immediate Release  
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**National War College Student wins 2012 Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC) Essay Contest**

(Washington, DC) [National War College](#) student Ms. Eva Shinagel won first place in the 2012 Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC) Essay Contest with her manuscript about the importance for the Afghan government to “reflect and embody the Islamic values of its population” in order to be seen as legitimate. The contest is sponsored by the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) and the SOLIC Chapter of National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA).

Her work, *Hearts and Minds: Islam and Afghanistan’s Moral Center of Gravity*, was judged to be the most original, relevant, and coherent to this year’s NDIA symposium theme, “The New World Dynamic: The Changing Roles of Special Operations, General Purpose Forces, and the Interagency.”

Ms. Shinagel, a career civil servant with the Department of State (DoS), is the first National War College student to win the JSOU-NDIA SO/LIC Essay Contest which is open to students attending Professional Military Education (PME) institutions. Her work, which was informed by her two years as a DoS advisor with U.S. and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) military units in Afghanistan’s Regional Command-East, will be published in the NDIA symposium proceedings. It will also be included in a Joint Special Operations University Press monograph.

The National War College is one of five colleges of the National Defense University (NDU). NDU 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, 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).

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