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

National Defense University Graduation to be Held June 10th

(Washington DC) The National Defense University's Graduation exercises will be held on Thursday, June 10th, at 10:00 a.m., at Fort Lesley J. McNair in southwest Washington, DC. A total of 603 students from the College of International Security Affairs (63), the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (319), and the National War College (221) will participate in the ceremony held in front of historic Roosevelt Hall.

The Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, USN, will be the graduation speaker. He is the 17th chairman and serves as the principal military advisor to the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States.

Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker will receive an honorary Doctor of National Security Affairs degree, *Honoris Causa*.

Ryan Crocker was confirmed as Ambassador to Iraq on March 7, 2007. He assumed Chief of Mission duties at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on March 29, 2007, serving in that post until February 13, 2009. He was U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan from October 2004 to March, 2007. He served as the International Affairs Advisor at the National War College from August 2003 until September 2004. From May to August 2003, he was in Baghdad as the first Director of Governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from August 2001 to May 2003, and served previously as Ambassador to Syria (1998-2001), Ambassador to Kuwait (1994-1997) and Ambassador to Lebanon (1990-1993). Since joining the Foreign Service in 1971, he also has had assignments in Iran, Qatar, Iraq and Egypt, as well as Washington. He was assigned to the American Embassy in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the bombings of the embassy and the Marine barracks in 1983. He grew up in an Air Force family, attending schools in Morocco, Canada and Turkey, as well as the U.S. He received a B.A. in English in 1971 and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2001 from Whitman College (Washington).

Ambassador Crocker received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award in 2009. He also holds the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, the Presidential Meritorious Service Award and the National Clandestine Services Donovan Award as well as the State Department Distinguished Honor Award, Award for Valor and the American Foreign Service Association Rivkin Award for Creative Dissent. In January 2002, he was sent to Afghanistan to reopen the American Embassy in Kabul. He subsequently received the Robert C. Frasure Memorial Award for "exceptional courage

and leadership" in Afghanistan. In September 2004, President Bush conferred upon him the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the Foreign Service. Ambassador Crocker currently serves as Dean of the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University.

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. And, National War College students receive a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy.

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 Commencement ceremony should contact Dave Thomas, NDU Director of Public Affairs, at (202) 685-3140 or ThomasD2@ndu.edu to make arrangements to do so.

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