

National Defense University
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Wilson Becomes 12th National Defense University President

(Washington, DC, July 14) Lieutenant General Frances C. Wilson, USMC, assumed duties as the 12th President of the National Defense University today from Lieutenant General Michael M. Dunn, USAF, in a ceremony presided over by General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Wilson will be responsible for the management of the premier center for joint professional military education in the United States. The university provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed services, State Department, other civilian agencies, and international friends and allies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. General Wilson served most recently as the Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, one of four colleges of the university. She is the first Marine and the first woman to be the university's president.

General Dunn will be retiring after more than 34 years of military service.

Since its founding in 1976, the university has grown organizationally and broadened its educational focus to include civilian and Reserve Component education, information warfare, and regional studies. NDU is now a center for joint, multinational and interagency education.

NDU is comprised of the National War College; Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Joint Forces Staff College; Information Resources Management College; School for National Security Executive Education; Institute for National Strategic Studies; Institute for Homeland Security Studies; Center for Technology and National Security Policy; Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction; and seven special programs including Capstone, Pinnacle, Keystone, Joint Reserve Affairs Center, International Student Management Office, Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows, and the NATO Staff Officer Orientation Course.

Education, research, and outreach are the University's primary missions. With facilities located in Washington, D.C. and Norfolk, Va., more than 5,500 students study annually at the University, 1,000 students are in class on any given day, some 500 conferences and 20,000 visitors are hosted each year, and University faculty members conduct research and outreach in scores of countries around the world. NDU is an accredited graduate-level university, awarding more than 500 master's degrees annually.

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For additional information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

Dave Thomas
Director of Public Affairs
National Defense University
Thomasd2@ndu.edu
(202) 685-3140