



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066

February 23, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Office of the President

The Honorable Richard H. Solomon  
President  
The U.S. Institute of Peace  
1200 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ambassador Solomon:

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the valuable contributions the US Institute for Peace (USIP) brings to US national security and in particular National Defense University (NDU). USIP and NDU have a long-standing relationship between two institutions that are at the center of education and inquiry in the areas of international conflict, national security affairs and the establishment of the rule of law to foster human security. Both institutions have a mutual interest in national and international security affairs and share in the responsibility for the preparation of leaders and practitioners. Congress has recognized the importance of this strategic relationship by directing the NDU President sit on the USIP Board of Directors.

USIP has an essential role in joint professional military education at NDU. They provide independent and unduplicated skill sets of those who work overseas to prevent, manage and resolve conflict. USIP ensures we have relevant, practical curriculum. Specifically, USIP has developed incredible institutional knowledge in "peacebuilding," a skill set cultivated while working in conflict theaters such as Iraq and Afghanistan. USIP provides us content and insights on how to mend the military civilian partition so we may effectively and efficiently rebuild societies and shift to a peaceful society following conflict. More recently, USIP has agreed to provide a critical assessment of our curriculum. They have the knowledge and independence to ensure we are delivering appropriate, relevant content for the leaders and future leaders that attend NDU.

Collaborating on joint conferences, research and gaming projects has and will continue to strengthen our national strategies on rule of law procedures and steady state conditions in many critical areas worldwide. These activities are critical to maintaining a strong US presence which supports our global national security strategy and protects US interests, personnel and properties abroad. Without the fine men and women of USIP who dedicate their efforts in these endeavors, the US risks being poorly prepared to face on-going and future contingencies.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann E. Rondeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann E. Rondeau  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
President