

ALUMNI NEWS

NDU International Fellows Alumni



Spring 2023 (Mar - Jun)

Field Studies Programs, award ceremonies, thesis presentations, and graduation have kept our Class of 2023 busy.

FSPs to **Detroit and Hawaii** by CIC, ES, and NWC Fellows demonstrated the diverse cultures (and weather) of the US. Fellows visited universities, prominent business headquarters, and continued to **strengthen their networks** outside of program activities. Schools also hosted their own onsite visits, with **CISA students going to Miami and Tampa** to learn more about US national security sites in Florida.

JAWS and JSOMA Fellows met in person during an FSP in Miami. Back in Norfolk, JCWS fellows wrapped up an engaging quarter before heading back to their home countries.

General Mark A. Milley, the 20th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over Commencement and made remarks to the graduates. There were over **130 IFs from 70+ countries at the Ft. McNair graduation**. We look forward to all the Class of 2023 will accomplish in the future.

Previous Fellows have been making moves in their own career. Notably, we now have our first alumnus who has been elected as a head of state! A big **congratulations to Edgars Rinkēvičs (ES '00) who is now President of Latvia**.

ACESS 2023 will kick off in about 30 days in Prague, Czech Republic from 20-25 August. We look forward to welcoming alumni from nearly 40 different countries to the event!

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES



CIC, ES, and NWC students participated in a Detroit and Hawaii FSPs during the spring. Visits included the General Motors Factory, the University of Michigan, Pearl Harbor, US INDOPACOM, and much more.



Topics and visits focused on the two programs included **urban challenges and solutions, economic development, cultural history of places visited**, and much more.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



After a COVID pause, the **International Fellows Luncheon** was back and better than ever! NDU-P gave welcome remarks to kickstart the event (*top left*). We had **Fellows and their families from 50+ countries** prepare food from their homeland for the NDU community.



Students, families, and staff feasted on delicious offerings lined up and down Marshall Hall. Many commented on how **this was the best event of the year!** Thank you to our wonderful Fellows and their families for sharing a *bite* of their culture with us.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



The National Defense University held a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023 on June 8. General Mark A. Milley, the 20th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over the ceremony and made remarks to the graduates. We had **130+ IFs from over 70 countries** graduate from the four colleges based at Ft. McNair - **congratulations!**

Additionally, CISA students finished up their thesis symposium, college award ceremonies were held, and mementos were presented to NDU leaders in the weeks leading up to the big day.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Picturesque Virginia

JCWS 23-2 fellows started the quarter off with a Sponsor Brunch Cruise on the locally famous Elizabeth River. They mingled with their community sponsors, college leadership, and others. A scenic introduction not only to Norfolk but the Navy's Atlantic Fleet as well. The fellows also visited Richmond, Virginia just in time to catch the cherry blossoms blooming around the city. They also had the opportunity of learning more about the diverse contributions of central Virginia in U.S. history and the impact of the Civil War on the state's development and self-identity.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



JAWS and JSOMA fellows gathered in Miami for their final FSP. They visited SOUTHCOM to better understand how it coordinates joint and combined operations to further international peace and security in its AOR.



The Sunshine State:

Fellows enjoyed getting to know each other as they learned more about Miami, including its diverse population and some of the unique environmental challenges it faces. One of their stops was at the Army Corps of Engineers where they learned collaboration between the Corps and civil society organizations.



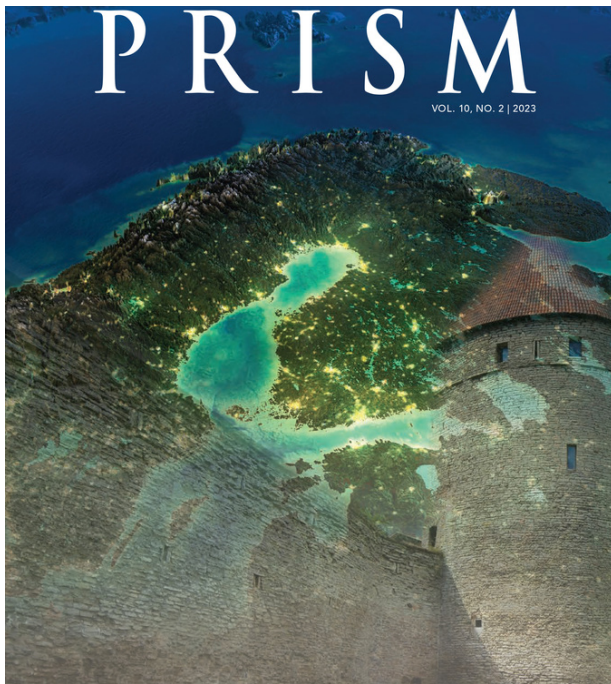
SPICE IN SPRING



There were a few **country briefs** given by SpICE participants which were well received! Kenyan Deputy Chief of Mission, Ambassador David Gacheru, stopped by during the country's brief. Below are some photos **celebrating the 40+ spouses** who graduated from the **National War College's Spouse Elective Program**.



FROM THE CLASSROOM



This recent edition of *PRISM* examines the security transformations taking place in these diverse but aligned countries. [Read more here.](#)



[Joint Force Quarterly 109](#)
[Black Soldiers and the Promise of America](#)
[Featured: Integrating the Private Sector into US Cyber Strategy](#)

Congratulations to **CISA alumnus LTC Yovani Chavez, PhD (Class of '20)** on the publication of his article "The Panama Canal Expansion: A Failed Game-Changer for Port Throughput of Transshipment Ports." [Read more here.](#)



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The Panama Canal Expansion: A Failed Game-Changer for Port Throughput of Transshipment Ports

La ampliación del Canal de Panamá: Un cambio de juego fallido para el tráfico portuario de los puertos de transbordo

Yovani Edgar Chávez Rodríguez

Metropolitan University of Education, Science and Technology (UMECIT), Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá

ABSTRACT: The Panama Canal has played an important role in the history of the shipping industry. Therefore, it was reasonable to forecast that the Panama Canal expansion would impact port throughput in the six transshipment ports located in Panama. To examine this impact, two periods were analyzed. The first period covered October 2010 to June 2016. The second period covered July 2016 to March 2022. The Wilcoxon signed-rank test and the IBM SPSS Statistics software were used to analyze public data from the Central American Maritime Transport Commission (COCATRAM) measuring port throughput. The research concluded that the Panama Canal expansion has not produced a statistically significant impact on the port throughput of (a) cargo tonnage, (b) cargo TEU and (c) vessel calls.

KEYWORDS: canals; cargo tonnage; containers; Panama Canal; ports; port throughput; transshipment ports.

RESUMEN: El Canal de Panamá ha jugado un papel importante en la historia de la industria naviera. Por lo tanto, era razonable prever que su expansión repercutiría en el rendimiento portuario en los seis puertos de transbordo ubicados en Panamá. Para examinar este impacto, se analizaron dos periodos. El primero abarcó desde octubre de 2010 hasta junio de 2016. El segundo abarcó desde julio de 2016 hasta marzo de 2022. Se utilizó la prueba de rangos con signo de Wilcoxon y el software SPSS para analizar los datos de la Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo (COCATRAM). La investigación concluyó que la ampliación del Canal de Panamá no ha producido un impacto estadísticamente significativo en el rendimiento portuario de (a) tonelaje de carga, (b) carga contenerizada y (c) arribo de buques.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Canal de Panamá; canales; contenedores; puerto de transbordo; rendimiento portuario; tonelaje de carga



Revista Científica General José María Córdova

Yovani Edgar Chávez Rodríguez

Introduction

The Panama Canal is a 50-mile system of locks, channels, and lakes that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and receives more than 14,000 vessels every year (Ramos, 2014). Since its completion in 1914, this waterway worked for nearly a century without important changes. As a result, the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) envisioned the need to expand the canal to in order to adapt to the new demands of the maritime industry.

Therefore, the Panamanian population approved the Panama Canal expansion project through a referendum held on October 22, 2006, which authorized the PCA to start this expansion project (Gonzalez, 2008). This project consisted of three main components: the construction of new locks on both the Pacific and Caribbean sides, the expansion of new channels to connect the new locks, and the augmentation of Operational levels at Gatun Lake (Alarcon et al., 2011).

After nine years of construction, the Panama Canal expansion was officially inaugurated on June 26, 2016, with an investment of USD 5.6 million. However, some scholars wondered whether this project would significantly impact the maritime port sector (Bonney, 2016). With six major transshipment ports on the Pacific and Caribbean sides, Panama's port system has achieved an average of 7 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) per year, which makes Panama an important shipping player in the region (Lineros & Roca, 2020). For instance, many Asian container carriers use Panama's port infrastructure as a hub for transshipment to move containers through the Panama Canal toward North and South America and other regional routes (Hui-Huang, 2015). The Panama Canal has reduced both transit time and costs for the container shipping industry in particular. Once canal expansion is completed, container carriers will immediately face emission reduction demands in North America, and will be required to address problems regarding hull port selection for transshipments in the wider Caribbean region (WCR).

The Panama Canal has also experienced a gradual increase in revenue, vessel transit, container ship deployment, and competition from different business operators and commercial routes, which has highlighted the importance of the Panama Canal expansion for the growth of the shipping sector (Wang, 2017). Nonetheless, determining the effect of the Panama Canal expansion has been of interest to different scholars and the business sector. For example, a study on the top 50 U.S. ports in terms of TEU suggested that small ports would increase their import volume depending on how close they were to large ports, which in turn would eventually serve larger ships that were going to cross the expanded Panama Canal (Medina et al., 2021).

As a result, the Panama Canal expansion has been an interesting subject for the business and academic sectors in its environment. It was reasonable to forecast that the 2016 Panama Canal expansion would significantly impact the container port through-

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Our congratulations to any and all alumni.



BG Nestor Caro
Colombia



RADM Martin Enrique
Barney Montalvo
Mexico



COL Emmanuel
Thome
France



BG Mark Parsons
Canada



BG Alvin Luzon
The Philippines



Mrs. Susan Lilleväli
Estonia



COL Radek Haratek
Czech Republic



MG Ahmed bin
Tahnoon Al Nahyan
UAE

Congratulations to:

- Brigadier General Nestor Caro (NWC '18) for his appointment as Deputy Director, J7/9 at USSOUTHCOM
- Rear Admiral Martin Enrique Barney Montalvo (CISA '12) for his appointment as Chief of Staff at Base Naval Isla Mujeres
- Colonel Emmanuel Thome (ES '18) for his appointment as Head of the Combined French, German and Spanish NGWS (FCAS) program team at DGA - Direction générale de l'armement
- Mark Parsons (CIC '20) for his promotion to Brigadier General
- Alvin Luzon (ES '20) for his promotion to Brigadier General
- Mrs. Susan Lilleväli (ES '23) for her appointment as Undersecretary for Defense Readiness at the Ministry of Defense of Estonia
- Colonel Radek Haratek (CIC '22) for his appointment as Commander of Information and Cyber Forces at the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of the Czech Republic
- Major General Ahmed bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan (ES '11) for his appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces

HAVE YOU RECENTLY BEEN PROMOTED, ASSIGNED TO A NEW POSITION, OR RETIRED? LET US KNOW! SEND AN EMAIL TO ISMO@NDUALUMNI.ORG OR [FILL OUT THIS SURVEY](#).

Keep in Touch

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ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Edgars Rinkēvičs (ES '00) is now President of Latvia



Edgars Rinkēvičs, a Class of 2000 graduate of the Eisenhower School (formerly the Industrial College of the Armed Forces) and **member of the NDU International Hall of Fame, has been elected President of Latvia.** He said immediately after being elected, "I would like to say thanks to those who supported me and those who did not. I think that this process, the discussions with my rivals, showed Latvian democracy at a very high level. I will do everything so that our country blossoms and so that our society is unified ..."

Rinkēvičs has served as the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2011 – making him the **longest-serving Foreign Minister in Latvia's history.** Prior to that, he was Head of the Chancery of the President of Latvia from 2008-2011. He began his career as a journalist for Latvian Radio covering foreign policy and international relations. [Read more here.](#)

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ACCESS 2023 - PRAGUE

We're getting ready for our premier NDU Alumni Event.



ACCESS 2023

Alumni Continuing Education Security Seminar



Disruptive Forces: Implications for Regional Order and Global Stability

Network



Learn



Collaborate



NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Alumni Continuing Education Security Seminar (ACCESS) 2023



Disruptive Forces: Implications for Regional Order and Global Stability Prague, Czech Republic | 20-25 Aug 2023



Schedule to include:

- Networking Opportunities
- Academic plenaries on topics like:
 - Existing International & Regional Regimes / Architectures for Security, Stability, & Prosperity
 - Advancing Human Security - Drivers and Disruptors
 - IW and Gray Zone Activities
- Cultural Excursion

Academics: The event will feature keynote addresses, plenaries, breakout working group sessions and electives. On the final day of the event, participants will present the findings of their discussions in brief-back sessions, and learn the culture of the host location through a program activity.

Uniform: Military attendees will attend the seminar in military uniform. At least one day will require Class A uniform. Subsequent days may be Class B. Civilian attendees will follow equivalent guidelines.

Flights & Meals: For funded participants - covered. For self-funded participants - not covered.

Lodging: For funded participants - NDU will book and pay for all rooms in the to-be-finalized hotel. For self-funded participants - Can book a room in NDU's courtesy block.

Spouses: A Spouse Program will run concurrently with the security seminar, taking advantage of local cultural and sightseeing opportunities. Spouses are encouraged to participate in the program and invited to attend the week's evening networking events.

Pre-Registration: For self-paying NDU alumni interested in attending the event, registration for the event is on a first-come, first-serve basis due to space limitations. Registration will be open for participants from **Monday, May 15 to Friday, June 16**. Instructions to register will follow shortly.

Contact Email: ismo@ndualumni.org

Thank you to the sponsors who have made these events possible: the Department of State, the Regional Defense Fellowship Program, and the National Defense University Foundation.

