



## **IDA Endorses Derby House Principles on Diversity and Inclusion in Professional Wargaming**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (March 2021)**—IDA is pleased to announce its endorsement of the [Derby House Principles](#) on diversity and inclusion in professional wargaming. Wargaming provides an opportunity to test military concepts through a simulation.

“I am delighted to affirm our endorsement of the principles and to reinforce IDA’s commitment to an inclusive environment,” says IDA President, Norty Schwartz. “As we continue to perform and support wargaming in the defense community and the broader U.S. Government, we will action these values by promoting inclusion and diversity in professional wargaming.”

“IDA’s new headquarters in the high-tech Potomac Yard corridor [expected move in early 2022] will allow us to conduct state-of-the-art wargaming for the Department of Defense in facilities that will be unmatched in the National Capital Area,” says Daniel Chiu, Director of the Joint Advanced Warfighting Division at the IDA Systems and Analyses Center. “We will have a large conference center that we are also looking at using to host wargaming competitions with universities and service academies as a way to help create opportunities for new and underrepresented groups with an interest in defense wargaming.”

Yuna Wong, a research staff member in the Joint Advanced Warfighting Division, is an expert and leader in the wargaming community. She is an early advocate of the Derby House Principles and founder of the Women’s Wargaming Network. She is passionate about advancing opportunities for underrepresented groups in the community. Wong dedicates her time to training and mentoring others to increase their exposure to the wargaming community and to encourage them as they develop.

“Wargaming provides an opportunity to figure out what could happen against a thinking adversary,” says Wong. “You come into a setting with strategies to simulate conflicts that are erupting. Many in the wargaming community are retiring, and there’s a great opportunity to bring in people with diverse backgrounds, which will help us think about situations and solutions in ways that we simply couldn’t have before.”

Wargames benefit from diverse perspectives and viewpoints, ultimately resulting in better solutions. “Providing opportunities for underrepresented groups to take part in their interests regardless of their background demonstrates a commitment to elevating their visibility and providing credit where it is due,” Wong says.

“It is challenging for women and other minorities to get recognized as wargamers in the field,” she says. “Furthermore, as a minority in hobby wargaming, women are often left out or assigned roles as note takers and announcers. They are presented with fewer opportunities than their male counterparts to participate as wargame designers or adjudicators.”

Taking an introspective look at existing conditions in wargaming is essential to tackling sexism, racism, and other forms of discrimination. Furthermore, examining the barriers that historically marginalized groups face and need to overcome is essential to broadening opportunities and breaking free from patterns and roles that have been historically reinforced.



By cultivating an inclusive environment, IDA provides a space for these groups to succeed and meets the needs of the evolving wargaming community.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical, and analytic expertise.



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