Julia Warshafsky Receives IDA Award for Research Excellence

ALEXANDRIA, VA (January 2022) – Julia Warshafsky was awarded the 2021 David S. C. Chu Award for Excellence in Research, named in honor of the former IDA President. Warshafsky has been a research associate in the Information Technology and Systems Division of a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) that IDA operates since 2015.

"Julia reflects the outstanding qualities IDA seeks in its best researchers at all levels," says IDA President Norty Schwartz. "She proposed an IDA-wide series of events to improve division productivity; provide visibility into ongoing projects; and help newer staff members better understand the IDA organization, expertise, and projects they could support."

The award is presented annually to a research associate who has made one or more outstanding analytic contributions in support of IDA's mission. Warshafsky has made significant contributions to numerous research projects, including an assessment of the cyber workforce needs of the Air National Guard for the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

"Alerting NGB leadership to the unique financial stressors Air Guard members faced to complete required cyber training far from their homes was most rewarding," says Warshafsky. "With our analysis, the NGB could review and update existing policies at the root of these challenges."

Warshafsky was instrumental in shaping two final reports, one for Congress and one for internal NGB use. She briefed the results to NGB leadership and IDA's board of trustees. Warshafsky has also been a member of a team in the Intelligence Analyses Division of a FFRDC that IDA operates for three years, helping to support U.S. planning and policy development for the Indo-Pacific region.

Throughout her career, Warshafsky has been motivated by a desire to do something meaningful to help improve the world around us.

"It's about public service in the broadest sense," she says. "Whenever I feel my motivation or sense of purpose begin to wane, I return to the memoirs of public servants I admire — especially women in national security — to regain my drive and inspiration."

Warshafsky earned her bachelor's degrees in political science and Spanish from The Pennsylvania State University's Schreyer Honors College in 2015, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. As an IDA Scholar, she completed a master's degree in security studies from Georgetown University with a focus on strategic competition with China in December 2020.

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.