From: Director, Command and Staff College  
To: Students of the Command and Staff College Class of 2021  

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend resident Professional Military Education (PME) at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC). The fact that your service/agency/nation selected you is more a testament of your potential than the competitiveness of your professional performance record — one worthy of further investment. Our mission is to develop critical thinkers, innovative problem solvers, and ethical leaders capable of confronting tomorrow’s complex and uncertain security environments.

2. Our high-caliber military and civilian faculty are prepared to deliver a rigorous, relevant, and rewarding curriculum — one that will challenge you to think, write, and communicate at the graduate level. Your interaction with joint colleagues, international officers, and interagency professionals within a seminar learning environment will broaden your perspective and expand your network. While the academic schedule provides a degree of predictability to allow you to regain some balance in your personal life, know that the curriculum is demanding and the workload is heavy. While at CSC, you will be given the opportunity to build upon the core curriculum and apply for the Master of Military Studies degree or as a candidate for the Gray Scholars Program. Here, aboard the Marine Corps University (MCU) campus, you will find numerous resources to broaden your intellectual curiosity and prepare you for the challenges ahead.

3. To arrive prepared for the first day, review the MCU website often for further guidance and complete the necessary administrative requirements to ensure a smooth on-boarding process. The MCU Registrar and Student Services will post additional guidance to facilitate this effort as the time draws closer. For our U.S. students, I encourage you to consider sponsoring one of our international students. This opportunity can result in a rich and rewarding experience and a lifelong friendship.

4. Our faculty of active duty military and civilian PhDs will guide you through a thoughtful curriculum to better prepare you for the security challenges on the horizon. We are committed to you, and I ask you to commit yourself to this experience.

5. Safe travels and the MCU/CSC team looks forward to welcoming you and your family aboard this summer.

T.J. GORDON