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

Subj: COVID-19 Impact to Academic Year 2021

1. Much has transpired since my initial “Welcome Aboard” correspondence, dated 7 November 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the way we plan, develop and deliver Command and Staff College (CSC) curriculum. Since mid-March, CSC pivoted to “remote learning” for the Class of 2020. While we have our share of lessons learned, the faculty and students performed admirably; applying education and information technologies to engage and meet learning objectives. This experience will have a positive impact on the teaching/learning methodologies we will apply when you arrive on the Marine Corps University (MCU) campus this summer; which gets me to the intent of this message.

2. Your health, and the health and wellness of your family, are my top concern. This pandemic injected friction into our planning efforts for the upcoming academic year. Review the MCU “New Student Check-in Guidance” for revised report dates that aligns to a delayed academic start date of 1 September. Your report date is dependent on your current duty location. For example, those of you traveling to Quantico from outside the National Capital Region will need to conduct a 14-day Restriction of Movement (ROM) as part of the check-in process. If you plan to request permissive TAD upon arrival, you must complete the 14-day ROM first. Carefully review reporting guidance and plan accordingly. Social distancing parameters to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will impact timelines associated with a change of station; everything from getting utilities established to school registration for your children will be effected. I ask for your due diligence to ensure a smooth transition to the academic year.

3. The delayed start forced a 30-day cut in the available academic days. We made adjustments to the curriculum without sacrificing the requisite course content to meet student learning outcomes. This condensed schedule will demand you arrive at MCU prepared to work.

4. The staff and faculty at MCU and CSC are committed to making the onboarding and check-in process as smooth as possible. There is no guarantee that COVID-19 mitigation practices will alleviate this summer. Thanks in advance for your flexibility and resilience in support of this process. Safe travels, stay well, and stay positive.

T. J. GORDON