From: Director, Command and Staff College  
To: Students of the Command and Staff College Class of 2023  

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD

1. On behalf of the entire Command and Staff College team, congratulations on your selection to attend Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC). Selection to in-resident professional military education is a clear indicator of your performance and the confidence your respective service/agency/nation has in making this substantive investment in your professional development. Be rightfully proud of your achievement, as we are indeed proud to have you as a teammate!

2. The CSC mission centers on developing critical thinkers, innovative problem solvers, and ethical leaders capable of confronting future challenges in complex and uncertain security environments. This mission informs our curriculum and, when coupled with your commitment, delivers graduates prepared to excel in the next chapter of their service. Your experience here will be underpinned by a team of talented and committed faculty. These military and civilian professionals will lead you through a rigorous, relevant, and rewarding curriculum that will challenge you to think, write, and communicate at the graduate level. Additionally, your interaction with joint colleagues, international officers, and interagency professionals will provide unique learning opportunities that will broaden your professional aperture and expand your network.

3. In many ways, this next year will be one of the most rewarding you will have during your time in service, but to be clear, it will be demanding. For our U.S. students, as a part of the curriculum you will partner with a PhD mentor to earn a Master of Military Studies degree. This same opportunity will be provided to our international students. And while your time at CSC is professionally demanding, I expect each of you to actively reflect on the investments you make in yourself and your family outside of work and use this year to improve the balance amongst those areas.

4. To arrive prepared and to facilitate a smooth on boarding process, please review the Marine Corps University (MCU) website (https://www.usmco.edu/Students/New-Student-Check-In/) often for further guidance ensuring you complete necessary administrative requirements in a timely manner. The MCU Registrar and Student Services will post additional guidance to facilitate this effort as the time draws closer. One opportunity that will be communicated in more detail that I want to emphasize to our U.S. students is sponsorship of our international teammates. This special opportunity fosters rich and rewarding experiences as well as lifelong friendships for all involved. Please give real consideration to participating in this program.

5. As we continue to navigate the global pandemic know that we are dedicated to your safety. With over two-years of practice delivering our curriculum under these trying conditions, I am confident that with your commitment and flexibility we will continue to meet our mission in a manner that will be enjoyable and rewarding for us all.

6. Travel safely. We look forward to welcoming you all and your families to our team this summer.

B. W. TIPPETT