From: Commanding General, Education Command
To: All Hands

Subj: ENDURING COMMANDER’S GUIDANCE

1. Combat readiness is why America has a Marine Corps. We exist to put combat-ready forces in the field at the service of our Nation. That fact should drive our daily actions.

2. Combat readiness is a product of our people, equipment, training, and education. We here at Marine Corps University (MCU) have a unique responsibility to contribute to readiness by maintaining a sharp focus on “teaching officers and NCO’s how to win in combat by out-thinking as well as out-fighting their opponents.” This was General Gray’s initial guidance to us and will continue to be the essence of what we do.

3. We are on the right track. Our current approach to developing such leaders is sound: problem-solving; critical and creative thinking; military judgment; learning by doing; teaching how to think not what to think; developing a bias for action. But the environment in which our Marines operate is changing rapidly in all domains; our charge is to stay ahead of that change. There should be a sense of urgency regarding how well the MCU Enterprise anticipates, articulates, and responds to emerging educational requirements.

4. We will focus our efforts in four essential areas: students, faculty, curricula, and infrastructure:

   a. Students: Our foundational goal will be to develop in them a Maneuver Warfare mindset that will ensure their success as part of the Joint Force in future conflict.

   b. Faculty: We will actively recruit, develop, and retain the civilian and military faculty best able to provide high quality instruction today and anticipate and respond to the change required to meet the demands of tomorrow.

   c. Curriculum: Our curricula must be relevant and responsive to the current and future environment. We will ensure this through continuous assessments and regular reviews.

   d. Infrastructure: Our facilities, information and education technologies, and outreach activities must maximize learning and research opportunities for both students and faculty.

5. Our Nation expects the Marine Corps will be ready when needed. Our primary mission is to ensure our students are prepared to meet that expectation.

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