From: Director, Command and Staff College
To: Students of the Command and Staff College Class of 2019

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend resident Professional Military Education at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC). Your performance and professional record have been noteworthy to this point – thus your selection for this opportunity. Our mission is to build on your operational experience and academic credentials by way of the college’s challenging and informing curricula. Ultimately, we will help you further develop as a critical thinker, innovative problem solver and ethical leader.

2. CSC emphasizes professional military education over training. The curriculum demands that you think, write, and speak at the graduate level. Your interaction within seminar to share ideas and experiences with contemporaries, joint colleagues, international officers and interagency professionals will be a career enhancing experience. While our schedule will provide predictability, allowing you to regain some balance in your lives and reconnect with family, it is, in fact, a demanding curriculum.

3. To gather academic momentum as you prepare for the transition to Marine Corps University (MCU), we will post guidance and course readings to this website for the first few academic lessons. In addition to this academic prep effort, Marine students will undergo an inventory physical assessment and have their height/weight recorded within the first week of the academic year. The results of this assessment will inform the initial counseling session you will have with assigned Faculty Advisors (FACADs). Keep the MCU/CSC website in your crosscheck to support a smooth arrival to the campus.

4. Those interested in earning a Master of Military Studies (MMS) degree will have the opportunity to apply for this optional program. The MMS program is your chance to research and write about a topic of your choice. A regionally or nationally accredited undergraduate degree is a prerequisite for the MMS program. Also, an official transcript from your college/university must be sent to MCU Registrar as part of the application process. Details for transcript submission are available in the “New Student Check-in” guidance on the MCU website.

5. The CSC curriculum is supported by the learning management system, Moodle. We use this technology to share the academic calendar, post lesson requirements and assigned readings, and to submit graded assignments. You will need to bring your own electronic device (laptop or tablet) to class each day in order to take advantage of wireless connectivity to the course material.
on Moodle as well the .edu network. Ensure you follow the guidance on the MCU website to establish a Moodle account before your arrival.

6. The International Military Student (IMS) program is an important mission for the college and adds tremendous value and diverse perspectives within the seminar. The sponsor program for the international students is critical to its success. For U.S. students, a formal commitment of some personal time can result in a rewarding experience and lifetime friendship. Please consider volunteering to sponsor one of our international students. We intend to assign sponsors before the start of the academic year, so complete the sponsor form and submit as highlighted in the “New Student Check-in” guidance.

7. Review the MCU website for additional reporting instructions and for information pertaining to the local area (e.g. housing, schools, vehicle registration). Attending to these matters early will help you focus on the curriculum once the academic year begins.

8. Finally, our faculty of active duty military and civilian PhDs will be your guides through a year designed to better prepare you for the challenges of future leadership and staff positions within your respective service/agency. We are committed to you and I ask you to commit yourself to this experience.

9. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to call the college at (703) 784-3330 or (703) 784-1020. Safe travels and we look forward to welcoming you and your family aboard at the end of July.

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