



**NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066**

31 July 2026

Warriors of the National War College Class of 2027,

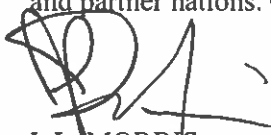
Welcome aboard! Congratulations on your selection to attend the National War College. You join a distinguished and world-renowned institution with an eighty-year history of preparing military officers, civilian leaders, and international allies and partners to serve at the highest echelons of national security leadership. The coming year will challenge you, broaden your perspective, and provide you with the opportunity to cultivate relationships of enduring value.

While at the National War College, you will learn how to develop strategy, lead strategy-making teams, and integrate military power with the other instruments of national power to achieve National objectives. Through extensive readings and rigorous writing, discussion, and engagement opportunities with experienced practitioners, you will strengthen your ability to analyze complex strategic problems, communicate with clarity and precision, think creatively, adapt to uncertainty, and operate effectively within joint, interagency, and multinational environments. The program demands considerable commitment, and you will be required to engage fully – intellectually and personally – in every dimension of the graduate-level academic and collegiate experience. The National War College curriculum culminates in an accredited Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy.

Our College's greatest strength is its people. Your classmates include leaders drawn from across the U.S. Armed Forces, Federal departments and agencies, and allied and partner nations from around the world. Each of you brings unique and valuable professional and personal experience and perspective to the classroom. We encourage you to approach the year with humility, commitment, intellectual curiosity, and a willingness to learn from one another. This is the time in your career to challenge yourself and grow intellectually, as the College environment provides space to explore ideas with respect and curiosity.

The National War College experience also extends well beyond the classroom. Spouses and adult family members may participate in the year-long National Security Strategy Elective, selected academic electives, and University social activities. These opportunities enable your families to become part of the broader NDU and College community, leading to priceless life-long friendships across the globe.

The faculty, staff, and leadership of the National War College are excited to welcome you to Roosevelt Hall and join you on this educational journey. We encourage you to arrive prepared to contribute meaningfully, question assumptions, support your classmates, make the fullest use of this exceptional opportunity to deepen your understanding of joint warfighting, the integration of military capabilities with the other instruments of national power, and the perspectives of our international fellows from allied and partner nations. Go Warriors! Win the President's Cup!



J. L. MORRIS
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant



GAUTAM A. RANA
U.S. Ambassador
Deputy Commandant