



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

Office of the Dean of Students

February 11, 2026

Dear Member of the Class of 2027,

On behalf of the National War College “Warriors,” congratulations on your selection to attend the National War College (NWC). This opportunity places you in the footsteps of many historic strategic leaders. Graduates consistently describe their time at NWC as the most rewarding and transformative year of their careers—both professionally and personally.

The NWC faculty and staff look forward to your arrival. Your class includes approximately 200 students representing the U.S. Government, Armed Forces, and International Fellows from over 30 countries. NWC is the only military service college whose central focus is National Security Strategy. While your overall experience will be deeply rewarding, it will not be without challenges. NWC is a fast-paced, academically rigorous, 10-month program that will develop your ability to think more strategically. You will find the journey both demanding and fulfilling.

As one of six colleges within the National Defense University (NDU), NWC recognizes that your success begins with a thorough in-processing and orientation. You are expected to take an active role in managing your specific entrance requirements. Your primary points of contact (POCs) for initial guidance are the Service and Agency Chairs assigned to the College. Many tasks must be personally coordinated between you, your parent Service or Agency, and your designated Chair. If you have any questions regarding a specific requirement, please reach out to me or your Chair directly.

In the coming months, all incoming AY27 students should have received an auto-generated email regarding the NDU-Connect student portal and enrollment process. The website is comprehensive, please ensure each field is completed accurately, as it will save you time later. If you cannot access the NDU-Connect Student Portal, email: connect_admin@ndu.edu. Please note that the NDU campus operates in a Bring-Your-Own-Device environment, supported by a government-provided wireless network. Government-furnished computers are extremely limited; therefore, you must arrive at NWC with a personal laptop. Tablets and smartphones can augment your learning experience, but some academic applications will require a laptop.

I look forward to welcoming you at **0730 on August 3rd in Roosevelt Hall**, where you will begin this incredible journey. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at lee.m.rush.mil@ndu.edu or at (202) 685-8680.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. M. Rush".

L. M. Rush
Colonel, USMC
Dean of Students, National War College