Office of the President

Dear Strategic Leader/Warrior/Thinker to be...

Congratulations on your selection to be a student at the National Defense University (NDU), Class of 2015! I welcome you and your family to NDU, the premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship. Thank you for your career of dedicated and selfless service and for your willingness to take this next step. In the coming year, you will have an exciting opportunity to immerse yourself in a rigorous academic environment to further hone your strategic skills and propel your thinking, analysis, and leadership to the highest levels. As the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has charged us, we exist “to develop leaders who have the ability to operate and creatively think in an unpredictable and complex world.” Simply put, you are our mission.

You have been chosen because of your outstanding record of accomplishment, but also your proven potential for future service as a strategic leader. NDU is yet another step on the journey of life-long learning, a journey that will be vital to your future success. This year, with the help of a faculty mentor, you will build a student learning experience based on your previous experiences, abilities, and career aspirations. This will establish a solid strategic leader foundation infused with and informed by Character, Ethics, and the Profession of Arms, followed by deep exploration of the core competencies of your particular college. Your year will culminate with an Individual Strategic Research Project, where you will focus and apply your newly acquired skills and expertise to solve a challenging strategic problem. At every juncture, with the help of NDU’s world-class faculty, you will be challenged to innovate, adapt, and think critically and imaginatively.

Enclosed is an information packet to help you and your family make a smooth transition to Fort McNair and the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Please pay particular attention to our registration requirements in the enclosures and complete them as soon as possible. If you have any questions concerning your upcoming move, please contact our Human Resource Directorate at (202) 685-3921 or DSN 325-3921.

Finally, I encourage you to visit the "Incoming Student" student section of our website (http://www.ndu.edu/Students/IncomingStudents.aspx) for important information to help you prepare, including strategic documents which will form the baseline of your academic discussions. Additionally, we will solicit information from you to help you gain access to the student portal in Blackboard. The portal will further prepare you for an exceptional experience at NDU, and we encourage you to periodically revisit our homepage as we are constantly updating and adding key information. Finally, attached with this letter, you will find the Joint Forces Quarterly article “Break Out: A Plan for Better Equipping the Nation’s Future Strategic Leaders,” that details the exciting new curriculum which awaits you. Welcome to NDU!

Sincerely,

GREGG F. MARTIN, Ph.D.
Major General, U.S. Army
14th President

Looking forward to meeting you, learning from you, and having an awesome year as we "explore the strategic space," develop friendships and relationships built on trust, create life-long "networks of networks" to advance and achieve our common purpose and mission.

Wisdom, Character, Strength, Body, Spirit.