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**COMMANDANT'S OPENING ADDRESS FOR JOINT COMMAND  
AND STAFF COURSE NUMBER 34 ON 11 JANUARY 2021**

- ✓ The Deputy Commandant - **Gp Capt Thokozile Chihuri**
- ✓ Director of Studies - **Col Kennedy Makavanga**
- ✓ Chief Instructor JCSC - **Col Cosmore Kawondera**
- ✓ Chief Instructor Air Power - **Gp Capt Mubairo Dhliwayo**
- ✓ Director Academic Studies - **Gp Capt Morris Mukarakate**
- ✓ Director Logistics Division - **Col Ephraim Moyo**
- ✓ Director R & D - **Col Onward Tokoda**
- ✓ General Staff Officer Grade One Coord - **Lt Col Misheck Fana**
- ✓ SO1 Tactical Trainer - **Lt Col Constantine Nyagadza**
- ✓ College Staff and members of the Directing Staff
- ✓ Students of JCSC 34

**A very good morning to you all.**

Once again, I want to welcome you all to the Zimbabwe Staff College. Today marks the beginning of your course, the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 34. I have the honour to congratulate you for being selected to attend this prestigious course, a landmark in your careers which will open the horizon of abundant professional knowledge. The Course is an excellent platform to interact on aspects relating to Single and Joint Services environment. The Course is challenging interesting and enjoyable up to your graduation day.

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The aim of the course is two-fold; to develop the professional knowledge of selected officers to assume increasing responsibilities both in command and on the staff and also to identify those officers ready for the National Defence Course.

My special welcome goes to our colleagues from the sister security departments, that is the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service and the President's Department. We will learn a lot from each other as we share the same objective of ensuring a stable and peaceful environment conducive for the development of our country.

The curriculum has been designed to include subjects on Land, Air and internal security subjects related collective operation environment. The College is affiliated to the University of Zimbabwe for the Diploma in Defence and Security Studies (DDSS) which runs concurrently with your course which encompasses other contemporary issues vital in the studies of security, peace and international relations.

Your course is the second to run a double streamed group of more than 130 students of which 27 are female students. Term 1 is a Foundation Term, which prepares you for Term 2 and 3. You need to appreciate the relationships during this period for you to tackle the employment complications that come in the succeeding terms. You will be introduced to the Commandant's Research Paper during this Term. Research is at the heart of this institution as it contributes to your professional

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development as you interrogate contemporary issues that challenge organisations to meet the national security imperatives. I urge you to work hard to produce sound research papers that should attract informed decision.

Term 2 is a high intensity Conventional Warfare Term where you focus on studies of the core functions in war. Exercises are done jointly to enhance the concept of joint operations which is inherent in modern wars. The External Study Tour which takes you to regional countries enables you to comprehend the critical role of Security Forces in maintaining security and fostering economic development.

The third Term focuses on joint planning and formulation of concepts on Low Intensity Operations, Training and UN Peace Support Operations. The Peace Support Operations package will culminate in the Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) which is conducted jointly with Staff Colleges of Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. Packages covered in Term 3 will demand operationalisation in your various formations, bases, units or departments as you leave the course. The climax of Term 3 is your graduation, which has been set for 25 November 2021, which is officiated by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Head Government and the Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces.

Take note that academic geo-political studies modules have been incorporated into the mainstream JCSC syllabus to add value to the

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military curriculum. That will enable you to have a broader appreciation of the socio-economic environment and the strategic dimension of international relations. The objective is to develop your professional knowledge and appreciation of statecraft in order to prepare you for the assumption of increasing responsibilities.

Finally, each time the College embarks on a new course like yours, there are greater expectations. Your course is a much improved one after input from previous courses, which you will find interesting and challenging. I wish you the best in your studies.

# **Thank you**