

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS UNIT, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

THE MARINE OPTIONS

THE SPRING SEMESTER WRAP UP 2017

Hello Families,

We are so excited to bring to you, an official Marine Option Newsletter encapsulating the progress and accomplishments that we have done this semester!

Each semester a Marine Option will be in charge of creating this awesome Newsletter (with the help of the others of course. When do we ever do anything alone?) To kick it off, I have volunteered to go first.

With that said, let us get into what we have been up to this semester.

As Marines (and future Marines), we always want to improve and

continue to get better, and the start of spring 2017 did not disappoint. We hit the ground running and quickly found that many of us had forgotten how to stay in shape over the winter and had to get warmed back up after spending time back home. It took about three weeks, but we all stepped it up and are learning that training is a way of life in the Corps, not something we can pick and choose when to do. I am happy to say that as we put a close to the semester,

our physical fitness averages are all well higher than when we started the semester, with most, if not all Midshipmen setting new personal bests. We also agreed that it was time to change the pace for Physical Training (PT) and we all pitched in our ideas for a PT plan throughout the month of March. This new plan included more fun and engaging physical activities,

such as swimming. We even had a game of water polo in Southern University's swimming pool (which had a broken heater at the time). Now let us talk about some events.

"WHAT SEPERATES THE
BOYS FROM THE MEN, THE
CHAMPIONS FROM THE
DEFEATED, AND THE LIVING
FROM THE DEAD IS THE
ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS
TO TAKE THE PERCISION
SHOT WITHOUT HESITATION"

Our first major event was the Mardi Gras parades where we all got to walk in a parade and represent our unit. Our biggest event for the Marine Options came two weeks later where we linked up with the Tulane University and conducted a three day Field Exercise (FEX) at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, MS. It's here where we gain the best inside experience to what it will be like when we get the opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School (OCS).

WHO AM I?

My name is Midshipman 4th Class Young. I am a Freshman enrolled at Louisiana State University studying Biochemistry. I came to Louisiana from Maryland to get away from the cold and make my dream of being a pilot a reality. I came from a military family where my dad was enlisted in the Marine Corps and I am now working to become an Officer with my fellow Marine and Navy Midshipmen.

Sparing the fun details (ask your Marine Options), we covered everything; a 9-mile hike with a simulated combat load, land navigation with squad movements, and some lessons and practice in close

quarters combat and house clearing. This was all coupled with firing blanks using real functioning weapons. All that thrown together with a little stress and chaos made for an excellent exercise,

and one where we stood out and were often looked to for guidance and direction by the other Marine Officer hopefuls that attended.

WE STAY BUSY AND ALWAYS INVOLVED!! AREA EIGHT DRILL MEET, MIDTERMS, MCMAP, FINALS, AND MORE

Shortly after the FEX, we jumped onboard with the Area Eight Drill Meet. This is a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) high School meet where several (about 15-20) high schools bring their JROTC Teams to Southern University to compete in one of the few regional qualifying meets. This meet is put on entirely by Navy and Marine Midshipmen and requires precision in planning and delegation of duties. All the Midshipmen from Southern University and A&M College get involved in this meet. Many of the upperclassmen oversaw judging the schools in their events, while the 4th Class Midshipmen were tasked with ensuring that every school gets to the correct location at the right time as well as running scores from the judges up to the scoring room. The Meet ran smoothly to the end with only minor hiccups.

One of the unique activities that we have at NROTC Unit, Southern University and A&M College is

participating in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP). Our unit is unique in that it is the only one to offer this course to Midshipmen. Those who want to participate meet at the Unit during the week or on weekends to learn from the instructor and Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI) Gunnery Sergeant Del Angel. Both Marine and Navy Options can participate and get their qualifications. Our Platoon Commander MIDN 3rd Class Escajeda has earned his tan belt along with one of our Navy Options as well. They are both on their way to earning their grey belts. All the 4th Class Marine options are participating and are well on their way to earning their tan belts as well.

Of course, it is not all fun and games for Marine and Navy Options. We are all still college students and we all still must focus heavily on our studies. Those of us that are aspiring to be pilots are studying for the aviation examination in hopes of getting a flight contract. Most of us who have taken it

scored high enough to be considered for a flight contract and our Platoon Sergeant, MIDN 3rd Class Deboisblanc, scored exceptionally well on his. Everyone, however, is studying for finals and preparing for the final Physical Fitness Test. Our new Physical Fitness schedule from the month of March has prepared us to do our best and set new personal records. Everyone is also studying diligently for Finals and plan to finish this semester strong.

We are all looking forward to the final Physical Fitness Test to see how much we have improved physically and we are motivated to witness the commissioning of our graduating seniors! Until the next newsletter, take care Family, remember to support your Marine Options in every way and continue to love and motivate, so that they will remember, each day, the reasons they have decided to support and defend their country! Semper Fidelis.

THE Marine Options after a weekend long Field Exercise

