From: Lieutenant Jason Hovey, Freshman Advisor,
Southern University Naval ROTC
To: New Prospective Midshipmen

Subj: 2013 NAVAL ROTC MIDSHIPMAN ORIENTATION

Encl: (1) Naval ROTC Midshipman Orientation Guide
(2) Cross-Registration Instructions (LSU, SELU, BRCC Students Only)
(3) Physical Training Guidelines
(4) Driving Directions to Southern University Naval ROTC Unit Building
(5) Personal items required for Naval ROTC Midshipman Orientation

1. The purpose of this letter is to give you all the information that you will need in order to prepare for your entry into the Southern University Naval ROTC Unit. The five enclosures to this letter will spell out the various things that you will need to do. Please review these enclosures. Following their directions will make Orientation flow more smoothly for you and your fellow midshipmen. You will be joining your fellow freshmen during the unit’s Orientation session. This session is scheduled to begin on the morning of Monday, August 12th, and will conclude on the afternoon of Friday, August 16th.

2. Naval ROTC Midshipman Orientation facilitates your smooth transition into the Battalion of Midshipmen for the fall semester. We have worked it out so that this Orientation will not interfere with the start of any classes. Enclosure (1) will give you more information about the dates and times for our Orientation session. Additionally, enclosure 2 contains information on what you will need to do in order to register for the Naval Science classes that you will be taking.

3. Orientation will basically go like this: Day 1 will start the Orientation. You will need to check in with the unit at 7:00 A.M. Your parents are welcome to come with you. Enclosure (4) has directions on how to get to the unit. We will introduce you and your parents to our staff and some of our senior Midshipmen. We will then allow your parents to ask our staff any questions they may have while you and your fellow students start checking in and get issued your new uniforms. You will need to have already sent me the Uniform Sizing Sheet from the information packet. Once the parents are finished, we will administer the oath that will officially make you a Midshipman. After that, your parents will be asked to depart and you will finish your check-in and uniform issue.

Once your parents leave you will not have contact with them again until Friday afternoon. Please prepare accordingly.

Then you will attend a series of classes designed to help you integrate into the unit. You will also start performing some basic drill and marching sessions. In the afternoon, we will check you into your temporary dorms on campus. (I’ll discuss housing a bit later.) The end of each day will allow you some personal time before “Lights Out”. We will then begin Day 2 at 5:00 A.M., or simply 0500.

For Days 2-4, we will continue classes and drill. You will learn what part you play in the unit and what a typical week and semester are like for you. You will also know some basic drill movements. The goal for these days is to help you understand what is expected of you over the course of the next 4 years as we prepare you for the fleet. We will also be showing you how to prepare and wear your uniforms.
Day 5 will be the final day. Since you will have learned how to wear your uniform, you will undergo an inspection by the Commanding Officer to ensure that you are properly wearing it. Wearing a proper uniform is very important, and this will be stressed to you throughout the academic year. After a final set of classes and drill sessions, we will celebrate the end of Orientation with a BBQ event. You can bring your parents to this event, and many of your fellow upperclass midshipmen will be in attendance.

As far as housing goes, Southern University students will be staying in Southern’s dorms, LSU students will be returned to their dorms after dinner via a Naval ROTC shuttle van. You will be fed three meals a day on the Southern University Campus during Orientation. After Orientation, you will be responsible for food until your meal plans start. Once Orientation is done Southern students can move into their dorms for the semester. LSU students will have a few options regarding housing until the dorms open up:

A. You can stay with friends or relatives in the area.
B. You can leave the area and return when the dorms open.
C. Stay at a hotel.
D. Move into housing early for a daily fee.

With all these options we cannot reimburse you for any expenses and you will be responsible for your meals.

Please inform me of what housing option you will exercise as soon as you decide.

4. A major part of your participation in the unit will consist of Physical Training, or “PT” for short. Once the semester begins, we will be conducting a physical fitness test for the entire unit. For Navy Option Midshipmen, the test consists of 2 minutes of as many sit-ups as you can do, 2 minutes of as many push-ups as you can do, and a 1.5-mile run. For Marine Option Midshipmen, the test consists of 2 minutes of as many sit-ups as you can do, as many pull-ups (male) or as long as you can hang on the bar with a flexed arm (female), and a 3-mile run. Assess your physical ability. Enclosure (3) contains PT guidelines. Be ready to PT at least 3 times a week as a part of the unit, and even more on your own if necessary.

Additionally, you must be able to swim. We will be conducting a swim test early in the semester as well. This will consist of a 10-foot jump into the water, a 50-yard swim, a 5-minute prone float, and a trouser inflation. If you are not comfortable in the water, please get swimming lessons and take the time to get comfortable. You are joining the Navy. Failure of swim tests can result in disenrollment, and we want to prevent that. If you are not a strong swimmer and cannot pass the Navy 3rd Class swim test during Orientation, we will enroll you, free of charge, in a YMCA sponsored swimming course. It will be your responsibility to attend these classes and learn to swim proficiently.

5. Enclosure (5) is a list of the minimum personal items required during Orientation. Due to limitations on storage, please do not overly exceed the items listed, but ensure that you bring all items necessary to maintain good health and hygiene. Likewise, if you require additional items (e.g. books, school supplies, furniture, etc.) prior to the first day of academic classes, we recommend they be delivered after you move into your permanent room for the fall semester.

6. I look forward to getting you off to a great start. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (Jason_hovey@subr.edu) or by phone at (225)771-4517.