Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your son or daughter’s acceptance into the University of Texas Naval ROTC program. Whether attending the University of Texas at Austin campus or at our cross-town affiliate Huston-Tillotson campus, whether Navy or Marine Corps option, and whether or not on an NROTC scholarship, we look forward to having your son or daughter join the Longhorn Battalion.

Your students will be challenged both academically and physically in our program. While academics will be our primary concern, physical fitness and leadership development will be equally important. You can help by ensuring they begin (or maintain) an aggressive physical fitness routine as soon as possible. Every fall we inevitably have to tell some parents that we cannot pay their scholarship student’s tuition because the student has failed to meet the minimum fitness standards. While most students eventually get within fitness standards, and retroactively receive their tuition, it is unnecessary stress levied upon the families that we would like to avoid.

I recommend you focus their efforts on push-ups, sit-ups, running, and exercises that support these events. Grab your watch and time them for two minutes doing sit-ups, let them rest for five minutes, and then time them for two minutes doing push-ups. We provided the minimum numbers to achieve in the Welcome Aboard package mailed separately this summer, but I want you to know that at our last fitness test the average number of sit-ups attained was 100 (both males and females) and 80 push-ups (males) and 40 push-ups (females). The run is one and a half miles for Navy and three miles for Marines. While some struggle with the time limit requirement on this event, the bigger problem I see is endurance. The Navy options should arrive being able to comfortably run for 30 minutes and the Marines 45 to 60 minutes.

New Midshipmen will need to begin to think, behave, dress, and perform like military professionals. Language, grooming, posture, and punctuality are but a few of the areas that will become integral to their character as they stand in front of others as examples and leaders. Do not worry, as you are well aware the University of Texas is not a military school, and they will be free to dress like and socialize with all the other college students when not engaged in NROTC activities. However, the life of a military officer is a 24/7 responsibility. We need to be as sharp and ready in our civilian behavior as in our military behavior. Good habits and practices should begin this summer at home.

I also ask that you encourage your son or daughter to begin their professional reading career over the summer. They do not need to read On War by Karl von Clausewitz just yet, but there are plenty of biographical books on Navy and Marine Corps leaders, historical books on our services, and excellent books on particular campaigns, battles, and engagements. Both the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps have published reading lists and are outstanding selections for future officers to begin reading.
We are entering our 77th year of Navy and Marine Corps officer training here on the Forty Acres. We are fortunate to have a supportive university and one of the most generous and engaged NROTC alumni programs in the nation. Our alumni Midshipmans Foundation annually provides nearly $70K in scholarships directly to the midshipmen each fall. There are 77 NROTC units around the country and I have not yet met a counterpart of mine that has such strong support from alumni. Your sons and daughters are joining a program with robust and sincere support from their predecessors.

My staff and I stand ready to answer your questions, and we look forward to meeting you at the Parents’ Brief and picnic following the completion of NROTC New Student Orientation on Sunday, 27 August 2017. Hook ‘em!

Sincerely,

Captain Brian Teets
Commanding Officer