



BOSTON NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS CONSORTIUM  
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31 Jan 12

From: Major Craig Giorgis, Marine Officer Instructor  
To: MECEP Selectees and Potential Applicants  
Subj: BOSTON NROTC CONSORTIUM

1. For those of you have been selected into the program, congratulations on making the cut through a very competitive process. For those of you who are applying, good luck and feel free to contact me at any point.
2. Life as a MECEP will be like nothing that you have experienced before or probably expected to get out of the Marine Corps. You will be an active duty Marine assigned to a college campus for the sole purpose of earning your college degree and preparing you for OCS and commissioning. There are some inherent challenges that are associated with this type of environment but you would not have been selected if you did not have the character, fortitude and integrity to rise above those challenges. On the other hand, the benefits of your decision are life changing. Whether you decide to do four years or forty as a Marine Corps Officer, you will have earned a college degree from a very reputable institution and you will have gained experience that virtually every corporation in America would seek from its applicants. As I am sure you will agree - being a Marine is likely the most rewarding, satisfying thing you will ever do and serving as a Marine Corps officer means you will never have to prove yourself to anyone in your life ever again.
3. Regardless of which college you choose to attend, you will not be disappointed. Marine ROTC programs are only provided at the best institutions around the country. The Marine Corps only requires two things from you in order to get commissioned: 1) Pass OCS 2) earn an undergraduate degree. The Marine Corps does not care about what school you graduate from nor does it care what degree program you choose. Therefore, my advice to you is to relax when it comes to your decision making process. Choose a college or location that you will enjoy and choose a subject for your major that interests you. Viewing your decision through that lens is the best way to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding college experience. It doesn't matter if you are an Aerospace Engineer from MIT (although I am commissioning two this coming June) or a history major from a small state school. Get a four year degree, pass OCS and you can be an officer.
4. That being said, I want to provide you some information regarding the college opportunities and the NROTC program here in Boston. Am I recruiting? Of course -- I would be lying if I told you otherwise. The strength and value that a MECEP brings to a program is unquantifiable and highly desired. I would be surprised if you didn't see 55 other letters from MOIs across the country. But as I mentioned before, no matter where you choose to go school, you will be successful. I merely want to provide you information about our unit and staff to ensure you make an informed decision.
5. One of the most frequent questions I get is: Are Boston schools expensive? The short answer is yes. But you can make it work, and it is a worthwhile expense.

Starting August 2011, the GI Bill will only pay up to a maximum value for active duty members. You can find more information about that on the Veteran's Affairs website. The GI Bill will cover roughly ½ of your tuition here in Boston, but consider the schools that are available to you - Boston

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University, Boston College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. I am sure you have heard the expression "You get what you pay for." Do you want to drive a 1999 Hyundai or a 2012 BMW? While the Marine Corps may not care what your degree says, consider the weight of having any of those institutions on your resume when you eventually do leave the Marine Corps. You cannot put a price on education. Also then consider the caliber of your peer group. **These schools are among the very best in America.** Five of the six schools within our Consortium are ranked in the top 200 on the Times of London World University rankings. The Marine Option Midshipmen here are as passionate about the Corps as they are intelligent. They are physically fit and love the Marine Corps already on a level sometimes unparalleled by some we have served with in the fleet. Think about your units, sections, platoons that you have served with in the past. Now, consider if each of those units were made up of Marines who loved the Marine Corps as much as you did, who all prided themselves on physical fitness, who already wanted to prove to themselves and everyone else that they deserve the title Marine and who were among the most intelligent young adults in America. And yet, these kids inspire me on a daily basis. As with all NROTCs, we conduct a very aggressive training program in order to prepare midshipmen for OCS and service as company grade officers. You will assist in training them while you are also preparing yourself to become an officer. As one of a small group of MECEPs at the Boston Consortium, you will have a significant impact on these young midshipmen. Your experience and leadership will be invaluable and for that reason I ask you to consider being part of the Boston team.

6. The second question I often get is regarding the cost of living here. First, I will tell you that Boston is a great city. It is routinely rated as the number one sports town in America. Its historical value goes without saying. And yet, the city is very contemporary because we have the highest density of colleges and universities anywhere in the world. Therefore the average age is very young, the population is very transient and that keeps the entertainment industry here very modern. The city must cater to the college age group customer. Boston weather is very diverse, with four distinct seasons. So regardless of your interest, hobbies or passions, you will have the opportunity to experience them here as well as many other opportunities for you to explore. There are few large bases in the New England area and very few billets. So if you joined the Marine Corps to see the world and the country, this is a unique opportunity to live in the Northeast as a Marine.

As far as the cost of living in Boston is concerned, you will receive BAH that will easily support you in Boston. **There are plenty of affordable housing opportunities** that the current MECEPs can help you with. We also receive COLA which helps out as well. If you think you cannot afford the Boston area, reconsider. The MECEP we currently have attends Harvard; his tuition is less than that of a state school thanks to generous financial aid. He is also married with a young child, and he can easily make ends meet. We are also close to Hanscom AFB, which offers on-base housing for active duty military. Previously the AMOI and some MECEPs have lived there and had favorable experiences. Overall, although expensive, there is no reason to ignore the opportunities for education in the Boston Consortium.

7. I currently have one MECEP student and one Navy Officer Candidate in this unit and I have provided you their contact information (see encl 1). I would highly recommend you contact one, or all of them for the mere purpose of ensuring you have all the information when you make your final decision. If you want to travel abroad, our schools provide many great opportunities to do

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so. It is highly encouraged and supported by the command. MECEPs have studied abroad in China, New Zealand, and Ireland, to name a few.

8. Again, congratulations on your acceptance as a MECEP or your decision to apply. The MECEP program is one of the best deals the Marine Corps has to offer. If you decide to attend one of these universities, you have hit the trifecta: 1) you graduate from a prestigious university with national and international recognition 2) you get trained for success as a company grade officer and maintain a commensurate level of military discipline through your association with this unit 3) you get to enjoy college as a true college student. But as I mentioned before, where ever you decide to go to school, you will be making a good decision - so relax. I have provided you this letter, only to ensure that you are making the most informed choice about your future. Where ever your decision leads you, good luck and I commend you once again on your decision to become an officer.

C. A. GIORGIS

## **Boston MECEP/STA-21 Contact Information**

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3. Current MECEPs and Navy Officer Candidates assigned to the Consortium.
  - a. Sergeant Taylor Evans (Harvard College)  
(e) [tbevans@college.harvard.edu](mailto:tbevans@college.harvard.edu)  
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  - b. Officer Candidate Shane Halton (Boston College)  
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### 4. Recruiting Officers.

Boston University, Boston College, Northeastern University.  
LT Greyson Sieg, USN. [sieggk@bu.edu](mailto:sieggk@bu.edu)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard College, Tufts University.  
LT Steven Ford, USN. [sford@mit.edu](mailto:sford@mit.edu)

\* - The recruiting officers are the experts in admissions and housing knowledge at all of our schools. If you are interested in MIT, be sure to contact LT Ford regarding "Star Status" after you have applied.