# Table of Contents

Welcome from the President.................................................................................. III
Welcome from the Vice President for Student Affairs................................. IV
Welcome from the Commandant......................................................................... V
Welcome from the Regimental Commander............................................. VI
Staff Biographies............................................................................................... VII
Foundations of the Corps of Cadets.............................................................. 5
Chain of Command.......................................................................................... 9
Ranks and Uniforms......................................................................................... 15
Awards and Competitions.............................................................................. 24
Reference........................................................................................................ 30
Military Courtesies.......................................................................................... 44
Corps of Cadets History.................................................................................. 50
Virginia Tech Trivia......................................................................................... 76
Greetings from the President

Welcome to your first year at Virginia Tech and congratulations on your decision to become a member of one of our greatest institutions, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The university’s motto, Ut Prosim – “That I May Serve,” is embodied in the Corps. Because of the Corps’ prominence, you and your fellow cadets demonstrate to students, faculty and the world - every day - what those words really mean. As one of only two Senior Military Colleges in the country that are part of a large, public university, the Corps offers unmatched support for academic excellence while developing global, ethical leaders in a military-style environment to meet the challenges of our time. Whether you are pursuing a commission in our nation’s armed forces or a member of the Corps’ distinguished Citizen-Leader track, please accept my sincere best wishes as you begin a great adventure filled with worthy challenges and exceptional rewards. We are proud to have you as a member of “The Corps.”
Congratulations! You are now a member of a distinguished institution with a proud history of service and honor. It is also a caring community committed to your development as a scholar and as a person. Each year, I have the privilege of working with and getting to know many of the servant-leaders in the Corps of Cadets. I am continually amazed by how they exhibit their individuality while, at the same time, upholding the corps’ code of conduct, discipline, and ethics.

I have met cadets who have mentored middle school students, organized study groups, advocated for ending violence against women, courageously spoke out against injustice, and served as a chaplain liaison. I have seen cadets who have guided, enlightened, positively influenced, and helped others be the best they can be. These are young leaders of integrity who are truly making a difference in people’s lives. These are your cadet peers. And, next year, I trust I will be saying the same about you.

I join President Sands and Major General Fullhart in welcoming you to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. You have made a commitment to an experience that will transform who you are and what you aspire to be, one that will prepare you to serve our world! I look forward to seeing how you distinguish yourself at Virginia Tech.
Commandant of Cadets

Welcome to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If you are reading these words it is because you have made a commitment to a life of service...to something greater than yourself. You are becoming part of an institution that has developed young men and women into outstanding civilian and military leaders.

To do so, you have committed to achieving a level of excellence that is above and beyond your peers. Much will be asked of you in the coming months and years. The Corps presents these challenges to stretch you beyond what you once thought was possible. That’s what the New Cadet System is designed to do. When you look back on the experience, you will do so with a sense of pride, but also humility.

Why humility? As you learn more about the history of the Corps, you will find it rich with men and women who have gone on to make a difference in their communities, our nation, and the world. They do so without fanfare, without seeking fame. Rather, they and you, embody the motto that is etched in stone at the Virginia Tech War Memorial: “Ut Prosim – That I May Serve”.

I, my staff, and the upperclassmen are here to challenge you, inspire you, and to help you succeed. We have every confidence that you will. Now...get ready...the future is yours to create!

Major General
Randal D. Fullhart
U.S. Air Force, Retired
Commandant
Cadet Class of 2020,

I commend you on your decision to become a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the premier senior military college. Since it’s inception in 1872, Virginia Tech has been committed to graduating leaders with exemplary character, the highest levels of discipline, and an unwavering commitment to service. While you are here I urge you to reject a passive and complacent lifestyle, and instead to strive for excellence in all you do.

I applaud you for choosing a path less traveled. Whether you desire to serve as an officer in the armed forces or as a leader in the civilian sector, the growth you experience as a cadet at Virginia Tech will equip you with the necessary skills for your future career.

Your freshmen year will begin when you arrive in August. Hand-selected cadre staffs will be primarily responsible for your new cadet training, teaching you how to be a competent and capable leader and inspecting your efforts. They are among the best that the Corps has to offer and will give you everything they have – I expect you to reciprocate that effort.

How you respond to the challenges you will face is up to you. Those who maintain a positive, humble attitude will emerge victorious. Hold nothing back. Ut Prosim.

MICHAEL C. SCHOKA
Cadet Colonel, VTCC
Regimental Commander
Major General Randal Fullhart, USAF (Retired)

General Fullhart received his commission as a 1979 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and serves as the Commandant of Cadets. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels, and has also commanded two expeditionary flying squadrons, an expeditionary operations group in Operation Allied Force, and an expeditionary wing in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, he has served as the Commandant of the Air Command and Staff College. General Fullhart has held staff assignments that include experience in operations, safety, acquisition, and government affairs at the major command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels. He served as the Assistant Director of Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and has joint experience at U.S. Transportation Command as well as joint, inter-agency experience as Deputy Chief, Central Security Service, National Security Agency. The general was Vice Commander, Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional), Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, prior to his final assignment as Director, Global Reach Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

General Fullhart is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours in the C-141, KC-135, C-17, F-16, T-38 and T-37.

General Fullhart’s major awards and decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Aerial Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device and three oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster Combat Readiness Medal.

General Fullhart is joined by his wife, Kathy. Their son, Stephen, lives and works in Texas.
CDR Michael Weaver, NOAA (Retired)

Commander Michael Weaver, NOAA (Ret.) is a 1988 graduate of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets and serves as Deputy Commandant of Cadets for First Battalion. In 1990, Commander Weaver was commissioned in the NOAA Corps, a uniformed service that operates ships and aircraft in support of the scientific and survey missions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He served as an officer aboard the NOAA Ship MT MITCHELL, conducting oceanographic and survey operations in the Atlantic, and in the Persian Gulf immediately after the first Gulf War. Following flight training, Commander Weaver flew several NOAA aircraft in support of nautical and coastal environmental surveying, including a Cessna Citation II (CE-550). As Chief of the Remote Sensing Flight Program, he flew NOAA missions in support of the response to the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. Commander Weaver is a rated aviator with over 1,500 flight hours, and he is certified as an Airline Transport Pilot and Multi-engine Flight Instructor.

Commander Weaver’s assignments ashore included leadership positions at the Space Environment Center, Boulder, Colorado, and the Remote Sensing Division of the National Geodetic Survey, Silver Spring, Maryland. He later served as Operations Director of the National Geodetic Survey, overseeing daily operations and leading strategic and program planning efforts of an organization that maintains the National Spatial Reference System and supports land surveyors across the nation. Commander Weaver attended leadership training as a member of the NOAA Leadership Competencies Development Program, which trains senior civilian and uniformed service officers for leadership in NOAA. His personal awards include the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal, the NOAA Corps Commendation Medal (with two gold stars), and the NOAA Corps Achievement Medal (with two gold stars). He received a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University in 2004.
CAPT James S. Snyder, USN (Retired)

Captain James S. Snyder, a native of Pennsylvania and graduate of Pennsylvania State University, received his commission via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Program. Following his commission and basic surface warfare training, he served principally on frigates and operational staffs in support of cruisers, destroyers and frigates. He commanded the Knox Class frigate USS AINSWORTH. He completed six deployments including Cold War operations against the Soviet Fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, North and Mediterranean Seas; maritime interdiction ops off Central America, Lebanon and Haiti; counter-drug ops in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific areas; and served on the Task Group Commander’s staff for the 1986 US strike on Libya.

Ashore, Captain Snyder was assigned as a recruiter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and served four tours in Washington, DC - on the Joint Staff, the Navy Staff, and as the Navy Representative to the Congressional Commission on Military Training and Gender-Related Issues. Selected and assigned to major command, he served as Commanding Officer, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, San Diego, California. For his final assignment, Captain Snyder was the Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Virginia Tech. He is a graduate of the National War College and attained a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.
LTC Charles T. Payne, USA (Retired)

Lieutenant Colonel Payne joined the U.S. Army in July 1973, three weeks after his high school graduation. He served seven years as an enlisted man and obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant, having served in the 82d Airborne Division, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), and as a Drill Sergeant.

Lieutenant Colonel Payne graduated from Officers’ Candidate School in August 1980. Afterwards he served in the 82d Airborne Division and the Berlin Brigade before attending graduate school at the University of Georgia. In 1990 he reported to the U.S. Military Academy, where he taught Military History.

Following West Point, Lieutenant Colonel Payne served as the Deputy Chief of Current Operations for the Army’s Special Operations Command. Afterwards, he returned to the 82d Airborne Division, where he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade. He served as brigade logistical officer, battalion executive officer, and brigade executive officer. After four more years at Fort Bragg, Lieutenant Colonel Payne was reassigned as Professor of Military Science to Oklahoma State University, where he served until 2000.

Lieutenant Colonel Payne was reassigned to the Pentagon in June 2000. He served on the Army staff as a resource analyst in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. After 28 years of active federal service, he retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel on July 1st, 2001.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Sciences from Campbell University and a Master of Arts Degree in History from the University of Georgia. His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Pathfinder Badge, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal.

LTC Payne is married to the former Rosemarie Mazzoni, of Toms River, NJ, and has four children: Jason, Jennifer, Meghan, and Joshua.
Lt Col Donald G. Russell, USAF (Retired)

Lieutenant Colonel Donald G. Russell, USAF (Ret.), is Deputy Commandant of Cadets for the VPI Civilian-Leader Track. He is a 1990 graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder and received his commission through Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He first served as a Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile combat crew commander before cross-training in 1994 as an aircraft maintenance officer. He held various flight line officer positions in Air Mobility Command units and led air expeditionary deployments to Italy, France, Turkey, Egypt, Kuwait, and to Tanzania following the 1998 terrorist attacks on two U.S. Embassies.

Lt Col Russell commanded two squadrons, the 92nd Maintenance Operations Squadron at Fairchild AFB, WA, and the 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Moody AFB, GA. He served 3 years as Deputy Director of the Air Force Fleet Viability Board leading independent technical assessments of aging aircraft for senior USAF leadership, prior to his final assignment as Deputy Commander for the 55th Maintenance Group at Offutt AFB, NE. Lt Col Russell led teams supporting KC-135R/T, C-141B, C-5A/B, C-17, HC-130P, HH-60G, RC/OC/WC/TC-135, and E-4B aircraft. He retired from active duty in August 2012 following 22 years of service. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He received a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of South Dakota in 1994, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree from Air University in 2005.

Lt Col Russell is married to the former Carolyn Schuster of Philadelphia, PA. They have one daughter, Rachel..
Dr. Elaine Humphrey

Dr. Elaine Humphrey is the Director of the MG W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development.

Dr. Humphrey has worked more than 17 years in higher education to include Assistant Director for Academic Support and Associate Director for Research and Assessment for the Student Success Center (formerly known as the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence) at Virginia Tech and Director of the Miller Academic Center and Director of Teacher Education at Virginia Military Institute. She has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate level. While at Virginia Tech she served as the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors and was selected as a Virginia Tech Multicultural Fellow. Dr. Humphrey currently serves on the Executive Board of the National College Learning Center Association as the Certification Officer and is a member of a number of professional organizations to include the National Association for Developmental Education and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. She also served the Virginia Association for Developmental Education as the Four-Year Institutional Representative.
Col Patience C. Larkin, USAF (Retired)

After graduating from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets in 1987, Col Larkin entered intelligence school in Apr 1988 at Goodfellow AFB, TX. From there she reported to the Tactical Air Warfare Center (TAWC), Eglin AFB, FL where she was course director for the Tactical Electronic Combat Intelligence Course.

In 1991, Col Larkin moved to Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan, where she served as the intelligence officer for the 44th Fighter Squadron (F-15C/Ds)

Subsequent to attending Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, AL, Col Larkin was reassigned back to the Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB, FL in 1993 and served as a flight commander in the 26th Intelligence Squadron.

In 1996, Col Larkin was assigned to HQ Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA where she was a program manager for the General Defense Intelligence Budget (GDIP). She also deployed to Camp Doha, Kuwait and served as the intelligence officer for a Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) HH-60 squadron in 1997.

Col Larkin crossed the James River in 1998 to work at Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) where she first was assigned to J7 as the Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) Project Officer. While in this position, she got underway twice on the USS Mount Whitney to take part in exercises. In 2001 she was selected as the Aide-de Camp to JFCOM’s Deputy Commander.

In 2002, Col Larkin was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency at the Pentagon and was selected as the executive officer for DIA’s Directorate of Military Intelligence.

From 2005-2008, Col Larkin was assigned to the U.S. Mission to NATO at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium.

Col Larkin returned to the States in 2008 to work at the National Security Agency where she served as Chief of the Plans and Exercises Division, and Deputy Associate Director, Community Integration, Policy and Records. Her final assignment (Apr 2011) was as the Director, Operations and Outreach in the Office for Cyberthreat Analysis. During this period she led DIA’s outreach efforts to Congress, the National Security Staff, Office of the Director of National Intelligence and Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Col Larkin earned a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the greatest University in the nation…Virginia Tech, and a Master’s Degree in Counseling from Troy State. She is married to Brad Larkin and has one awesome daughter, Colleen.
LTC Mariger, a graduate of Purdue University, served eight years in the U.S. Navy. She received her commission via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Program. Following her commissioning and basic surface warfare training, she served aboard the combat logistics ship, USS SHASTA (AE-33), as the Combat Information Center Officer. During the second half of her three year tour on SHASTA, she completed a six month deployment in the Arabian Gulf as the Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer and as the Intelligence Officer.

For her follow-on sea tour, LTC Mariger was privileged to be hand picked to be one of the first women to serve aboard a Pacific Fleet cruiser, the USS PORT ROYAL (CG-73). She served as the Strike Officer, Public Affairs Officer, and Female Crew Integration Officer. She completed another six month deployment aboard PORT ROYAL, qualifying for Tactical Action Officer and serving as the Tomahawk Launch Area Coordinator for three Battle Groups during increased tensions with Iraq. Upon returning to Hawaii, she transferred to Commander Third Fleet’s staff to train deploying battle groups in Tomahawk tactics developed while on PORT ROYAL’s cruise, before reporting to shore duty as the Junior Class Advisor at the Virginia Tech Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, where she also served as the NROTC Recruiting Officer.

She attained a Master of Business Administration in Marketing and E-Commerce from Virginia Tech in 2001, and spent five years conducting research for the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute before joining the Commandant’s staff in March 2006.

LTC Mariger is married to Dr. Christian Mariger. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Danya and Katie.
CPT Alexandra Oberoi, USAR

Captain Allie Oberoi is the Executive Officer for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. She graduated from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets in 2010.

During her time on active duty, CPT Oberoi served as a Military Police officer in the 42nd Military Police Brigade in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. Shortly after reporting into the 42ND MP BDE, CPT Oberoi was deployed to join the 54TH Military Police Company and take lead of a platoon in Wardak province, Afghanistan, as part of an Afghan Uniformed Police mentorship mission. She continued as a platoon leader after redeploying until February 2013, when CPT Oberoi was assigned as the Logistics Officer for the 504TH Military Police Battalion.

After transitioning to the civilian workforce in 2014, CPT Oberoi spent six month as a warehouse supervisor for Pepsi Beverage Company in Baltimore, MD. She is now a Military Police officer in the Virginia National Guard. CPT Oberoi earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Virginia Tech and a Master’s Degree in Human Resources from Brandman University. She is married to Jason Oberoi, who is also an alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.
Senior Chief James Bean, USN (Retired)

A native of Beverly, MA, and a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, James Bean joined the Naval Academy Band in 1985 and was named principal trumpeter three years later. A distinguished Naval career for 22 years, Bean performed with the Naval Academy’s jazz ensemble, led the brass quintet, and was featured as soloist with the concert band on numerous occasions. Achieving the rank of senior chief musician, he was one of the band’s ceremonial leaders, and conducted countless ceremonies for many national and foreign dignitaries, including the Vice President and the Secretary of the Navy. In addition to playing professionally with the Navy, he has been fortunate enough to perform with such luminaries as world-renowned maestro Leonard Slatkin, composer Marvin Hamlisch and jazz greats Phil Wilson, Eddie Daniels, Bobby Shew, and Clark Terry. Recently, he performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Pops in a series of performances featuring the music of John Williams. After retiring from the Navy in 2007, Bean began a second career as a music educator. A teacher in Queen Anne’s County for 6 years, Bean was director of bands at Matapeake Middle School, building the program from some 40 students to well over 100, earning superior and excellent awards at multiple Music in the Park competitions. A regular contributor of reviews of new music for the International Trumpet Guild, he has also served as an adjudicator for the National Trumpet Competition, high school division. Recently, Bean finished his Masters of Music in Performance at Towson University on the G.I. Bill and is looking forward to his new position as the Regimental Band Director of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech..
Command Sergeant Major Daniel R. Willey is the Senior Enlisted Advisor for First Battalion, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Command Sergeant Major Daniel R. Willey joined the North Carolina Army National Guard on 28 April 1982, and entered active duty a year later. His first duty assignment was with the 82d Airborne Division as a Forward Observer.

Other positions CSM Willey has held in his career are: Aerial Fire Support Observer, Fire Support Sergeant at company, battalion, and brigade levels, Tactical NCO at the United States Military Academy, Operations Sergeant, and First Sergeant.

Upon graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy, he served as the SGM for the New River ROTC Training Battalion. CSM Willey then returned to the 82d Airborne Division as the CSM for 3-319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and deployed as a Battalion Maneuver Task Force (Task Force Gun Devil) to Afghanistan in support of OEF VI.

Upon redeployment he was selected to serve as the Fort Lewis Garrison Command Sergeant Major. He next served as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the Field Artillery. CSM Willey was then selected to serve as the Command Sergeant Major to the Deputy Commanding General, NATO Training mission Afghanistan.

His military education includes: The Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, Battle Staff Course, First Sergeants Course, Sergeant Majors Course Class 53, and the Command Sergeants Major Course. He is also a graduate of the Basic Airborne Course, Jumpmaster Course, Air Assault School, Naval Gunfire Spotter Course, Joint Fire Power Controller Course, and the Jungle Warfare Training Course. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from Excelsior College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (1stOLC), Bronze Star Medal, MSM (3d OLC), Air Medal, ARCOM (6th OLC), AAM (6th OLC), Good Conduct Medal (6th OLC), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, NCOPDR w/numeral 4, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Canadian Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Excellence in Competition Marksmanship Badge, and the French National Defense Medal (Bronze).

He is married to the former Sandra M. Varley of Hamilton, Ontario Canada. They have two sons: Christopher and Zachary.
MGySgt Lance Jones, USMC (Retired)

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lance L. Jones is the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Second Battalion, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Jones joined the Marine Corps on May 5, 1984, attending boot camp at Marine Corp Recruit Depot San Diego, Ca. After three months of intense training he proceeded to Infantry Training School at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Following graduation, he was assigned to his first duty station at Marine Barracks 8th & I, Washington, D.C. While there he served three years on the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team. He then proceeded to Camp Lejeune, N.C. where he served with 1st Battalion 6th Marines as a squad leader. He served on two combat deployments during his tour at Camp Lejeune.

He then proceeded to Okinawa, Japan where he served as a Team Leader at the Jungle Warfighting School. After his tour on Okinawa, Japan he proceeded to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. as a Basic Warrior Instructor. After the Parris Island assignment, he proceeded to Charleston, South Carolina as Canvassing Recruiter. During this tour he was meritoriously promoted to the next rank for his efforts and success.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Jones returned to Marine Base Camp Lejeune N.C. where he served for 12 years as an Infantryman and Warfighter at various units and executed three combat deployments to include Operations Iraqi Freedom(Iraq), Operation Enduring Freedom(Afghanistan) and eight contingency deployments.

After his successful tour in North Carolina, he received orders to the Pentagon to serve as the Infantry Occupational Field Sponsor and Enlisted Advocate for the Marine Corps.

Following his tour at the Pentagon, Master Gunnery Sergeant Jones was selected as the Deputy Director of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Okinawa, Japan.

His final, active duty assignment was at Twenty-Nine Palms, California as the Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lance L. Jones served 28 years of faithful service to God, Country and the Marine Corps.

Following his retirement, he served at Hargrave Military Academy as a Training Advisor and Counselor for Post-Graduate students.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.
SGM David M. Combs  
USA (Retired)  

Sergeant Major David M. Combs is the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Third Battalion, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Sergeant Major Combs entered the U.S. Army in August 1986. Upon completion of Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, and Airborne School, he reported to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC as a private in December of 1986. SGM Combs was assigned to 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment where he served until March of 1990. SGM Combs was then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment where he served for the next year as a UH-60 Blackhawk Door Gunner.

In April 1990, SGM Combs was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Kobbe, Panama where he served as Team Leader. In November 1991, SGM Combs was then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division where he served as Squad Leader. In November 1995, SGM Combs was then assigned to Company D, 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, LRSD, Camp Hovey, Korea where he served as Surveillance Team Leader.

In October 1996, SGM Combs was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division where he served as Squad Leader for two years. SGM Combs was then assigned to Fox Company, 51st Infantry, (LRSC) 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC where he served as Surveillance Platoon Sergeant.

In September 1999, SGM Combs was assigned to the U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (NCOA) where he served as Small Group Leader while teaching the Warrior Leader Course (WLC). In July 2001, SGM Combs was assigned to 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, U. S. Army Alaska where he served as Scout Platoon Sergeant.

In September 2003, SGM Combs was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry, Fort Drum, NY where he served as Platoon Sergeant for 18 months. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry where he served as Rifle Company First Sergeant for three years.

In August 2007, SGM Combs was assigned to the Combat Applications Group (CAG) (ABN) Fort Bragg, NC where he served as Squadron Training NCO, Training Sergeant Major and Operations Sergeant Major for six years.

After 27 years of active military service, SGM Combs’ awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman’s Badge (2nd award), Expert Infantryman’s Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC) and the Air Medal.

SGM Combs is married to the former Deborah R. Potter from Grundy, Virginia and has three children: Jessica, Justin and Michael.
Ms. Alece Alderson is the Residential Learning Coordinator for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. She graduated Cum Laude from Chapman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Advertising. Ms. Alderson holds a Masters of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of San Francisco.

Since 2013 Ms. Alderson has worked in the Division of Student Affairs in the Office of Housing and Residential Life. In her role as a Residential Learning Coordinator, Ms. Alderson will serve the Corps as a liaison and advocate to Housing and Residence Life, provide support and connections to academic and co-curricular resources on and off campus, and assist in cadet leader training in partnership with the Rice Center for Leader Development, to include Commander Residential Advisor training.

In addition she will partner with Deputy Commandants and staff in the conduct of various cadet learning activities. As a Residential Learning Coordinator, Ms. Alderson will live on the Upper Quad in an apartment in Pearson Hall.
Shay Barnhart

Ms. Shay Barnhart is the Communications Director for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, she graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Journalism degree.

Since 2010, Ms. Barnhart has worked at Virginia Tech in University Relations, where she created content for Virginia Tech's top-level social media accounts and webpages and worked with Virginia Tech News products. Before working in University Relations she spent nearly two decades as a reporter, designer, and editor at newspapers around the country.

In her role as Communications Director, she will maintain a comprehensive communications and marketing program for the Corps of Cadets, serve on the Corps of Cadets’ advancement team, and support cadet recruitment and marketing efforts.
Jason Oberoi

Jason is the Assistant Director for the Citizen-Leader Track. Jason is a 2010 graduate of the Corps of Cadets. After graduation, he was commissioned into the Army as an Armor Officer, serving as a Platoon Leader for the 1st Squadron of the 14th Cavalry Regiment, at Joint Base Lewis McChord and Zabul Province, Afghanistan. After redeploying to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Jason was an Executive Officer and Operations Officer.

After transitioning out of the military, Jason worked as a Logistics Manager for USIC and as an administrator for the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. He has also served as an EMT with the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad since April of 2015. Jason earned a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech and a Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

Jason is married to Allie Oberoi, who is also an alumnus of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets.
Samantha Riggin

Samantha Riggin is Curator for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets’ Museum. Samantha holds a M.A. in Material Culture and Public Humanities from Virginia Tech with a B.A. in History from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Prior to Samantha’s return to university studies she was the owner of a successful estate liquidation and personal property appraisal business for twenty-five years in Western Pennsylvania. Samantha has also served as an expert witness in U.S. District Court and Orphan’s Court in several counties in Pennsylvania, and has also earned her professional auctioneers license.

Samantha considers herself a Hokie for life, and is honored and proud to be a part of the Corps. She makes her home in Narrows, Virginia with her husband, Ray.
The Real Techman

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are freshmen, newcomers, but by this time you will feel that you are college students, students of the world starting out on a big career. No one can deny the fact that you are starting a big career, but do not make the mistake of telling everybody about it. Remember that there are others of greater and wider experience than you at Tech. You are in a new world, and it would do you well to learn the customs and traditions of this campus in order that you may become a part of it.

Your former position in high school does not interest other Techmen in the least nor will they care to hear you tell about it. Your progress at Tech will depend entirely upon your conduct and achievement, not on prior records. At first you are only one among many other freshmen, and it is up to you to establish your place here not by your words, but by your works. You will find that courtesy and willingness to learn will pay dividends.

It is the fine old tradition of VPI that everyone speaks to everyone else whether he knows him or not. The true Techman treats visitors and town people with all consideration and his fellow students as comrades. A man’s name is music to his ears, and effort is well spent in learning the names of those with whom you come in contact, for this is often the first step towards friendship. Fights and ill-feelings are out of place at Tech. Get to be pals with your classmates in particular. They may become your lifelong friends.

Learn to take disappointment and unpleasantness with a smile, then forget about it. If you cannot easily forget, convert your aroused emotional energy to constructive action on another front, whether it be your work, your relations with other people, or any other helpful thing that might divert your attention long enough for you to cool down.

Let your friends see that you are still on your feet with a grin on your face, but with determination in your heart. Disregard the possibly foul but probably temporary blow at your ultimate opportunity in your fight for achievement. Keep fighting, for your great chance may cross your path but once. Quitting the fight, or taking time out for brooding over your misfortunes, certainly does not help you win anything but the disappointment of your friends.
Techmen respect the uniform they wear, because it is a part of the college, and the student who does anything to discredit the school while on leave, or under any circumstances, will not be tolerated. So, no matter where you go, remember that you are a Techman, known everywhere as ladies and gentlemen and as people of honor.

Study the Honor System. It is the pride and the making of VPI, and you are expected to cherish it as it has been cherished and upheld in the past. Let it guide you while at Virginia Tech and after you have left. Honesty at VPI is very practical, as there is little chance that you will receive a complete education at VPI and graduate unless you are honest. There is no stigma attached to failure in the difficult courses at VPI, but to be branded as a cheat is a lifelong curse, even if no one else but you does the branding. True success is founded on self-respect.

Remember that when you enter VPI, you are considered responsible. You can do as you please about your work; nobody will make you do it. Be practical and be honest with yourself, you are here for a purpose. Keep your objectives in sight. “Wildness” wastes money; you are only losing other things that you would rather have. Rest or play on Sunday; you will need recreation weekly.

Remember, also, that you are more on your own initiative now than you have ever been before. Remember that you are working for yourself and that it is for you to decide what you want to make of your college career and of your later life. Now is the time to begin building for success in your studies, in your relations with other people, and in your relations with yourself. Practice moderation and good judgement in all things. Do all this and at the end of your four years at VPI, you will graduate as an adult in all respects.

-Taken in part from 1938, 1940 Guidon
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets
Honor Code

“A Cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.”

Definitions

Lying – Includes intent to deceive in all activities including written and oral statements.

Cheating – Includes the actual giving or receiving of unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of work which is to be presented as one’s own.

Stealing - Includes the taking of personal or institutional property without the consent of the owner of the property either temporarily or permanently.

Toleration - Cadets will not tolerate any incidents of lying, cheating, or stealing. Knowledge of and failure to report such an incident is evidence of dishonorable intent and is considered a violation of the Cadet Honor Code.
Cadet Knowledge Basics

Purpose Statement
The purpose of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is to develop leaders of exemplary character who are imbued with the concept of selfless service, and prepared to serve the commonwealth and the nation – either in or out of uniform – for a lifetime.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is to graduate leaders of exemplary character who are instilled with the values and skills essential for leadership success in service to the nation.

Vision
Global, Ethical Leaders. Now....More Than Ever

Cadet Creed
I am a Virginia Tech Cadet committed to the ideals upon which the Institute was founded: Brotherhood, and Honor, Leadership and Loyalty, Service and Sacrifice, Duty and “Ut Prosim.”

As a cadet I strive to embody the highest standards of discipline, dignity, and integrity in all that I endeavor. I know that I am at all times an ambassador of the Institute and will conduct myself accordingly.

Above all, I recognize that my membership in the Corps of Cadets places upon me the responsibility to obey the cadet regulations, and to respect the lawful orders of those Officers and cadets appointed over me in order “That I May Serve.”
On the top step of the court are carved the words, “That I May Serve,” a free translation of the Latin motto for Virginia Tech, “Ut Prosim.” Bordering Memorial Court are eight massive pylons with sculpted figures. On the pylons are carved the names of Virginia Tech’s war dead. At the court’s center is a marble cenotaph, a symbolic tomb. It also displays the names of graduates who received the Medal of Honor. The pylons embody the values that members of the Hokie Nation hold in the highest regards and serve as a touchstone for the traditions, Honor Code, training programs, policies, and regulations of the Corps of Cadets. It is important that all understand the meaning behind each of the pylons.

**Ut Prosim [That I May Serve]:** Alma Mater advising her son, “My son, forge your life on the principles I strive to teach. I cherish four major virtues: Brotherhood, Duty, Honor, and Loyalty.” Whether one chooses to serve our nation through military or civilian service, the Corps of Cadets provides a base on which the ideal “Ut Prosim” is founded. Service to the Corps and University is the true meaning of “Ut Prosim.” It is best exemplified by those who have given their lives in the defense of our country. The seven Tech alumni who hold the nation’s highest honor, the Medal of Honor, exemplify without question the true meaning of Ut Prosim.
**Brotherhood:** Brotherhood is akin to the Golden Rule; let no wall be high enough to separate you from your fellow citizens in spite of dividing factors—be they geographical, political, religious, or social.

**Duty:** Duty is a sublime word. With God’s help you will learn its meaning and have the courage to follow its call. Be faithful in the performance of your day-to-day duties aware of the larger obligation to humanity. It is your obligation to know what you ought to do and to do it.

**Honor:** Honor is your personal integrity; your intuitive sense of what is right, and your shield against evil. The shield as a symbol of personal honor dates back to Knighthood. Here the unblemished shield of honor gives protection against evil and temptation symbolized by the serpent.

**Loyalty:** Loyalty is unswerving allegiance to family and friends, to me…your school, and to your community, state, or nation. The low relief building in the background is barracks number one…Lane Hall.

**Leadership:** Cultivate these four character traits and you will be eligible for leadership. Only then can you raise your hand and say, “Follow Me.”

**Service:** Be warned. Life is demanding and courageous leadership means service. The symbolism stresses the readiness to put aside the pursuit of one’s own work and career to enter into service for one’s country and fellowmen.

**Sacrifice:** And finally, service means sacrifice…even unto life itself.
“Integrity is the fundamental premise for military service in a free society. Without integrity, the moral pillars of our military strength, public trust, and self-respect are lost.”
- General Charles A. Gabriel

“Leadership is intangible, and therefore no weapon ever designed can replace it.”
- General Omar Bradley

“Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.”
- Major General Norman Schwarzkopf

“What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower
The American Fighters Code of Conduct

I
I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give up my life in their defense.

II
I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III
If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV
If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful order of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V
When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI
I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.
Chain of Command

University/State Chain of Command
President of the United States  Pres. Barack Obama
Governor of Virginia  Gov. Terry McAuliffe
President of Virginia Tech  Dr. Timothy D. Sands
VP for Student Affairs  Dr. Patricia A. Perillo

Academic Colleges and Deans
Agriculture & Life Sciences  Alan Grant, Ph.D.
Architecture and Urban Studies  Jack Davis, Professor
Science  Sally C. Morton, Ph.D.
Business  Robert T. Sumichrast, Ph.D.
Engineering  Richard Benson, Ph.D.
Liberal Arts & Human Sciences  Elizabeth Spiller, Ph.D.
Veterinary Medicine  Cyril R. Clarke, Ph.D.
Natural Resources  Paul M. Winistorfer, Ph.D.

ROTC Department Heads
AFROTC  Col Cameron Torrens, USAF
AROTC  COL Kevin Milton, USA
NROTC  CAPT Michael Fisher USN

Commandant’s Staff
Commandant of Cadets  Maj Gen Randal D. Fullhart, USAF (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant 1st BN  CDR Michael Weaver, NOAA (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant 2nd BN  CAPT James S. Snyder, USN (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant 3rd BN  LTC Chuck Payne, USA (Ret.)
Senior Enslited Advisor 1st BN  CSM Daniel Willey (Ret.)
Senior Enslited Advisor 2nd BN  MGySgt Lance Jones, USMC (Ret.)
Senior Enslited Advisor 3rd BN  SGM David Combs (Ret.)
Deputy Commandant, VPI  Lt Col Donald G. Russell, USAF (Ret.)
Assistant Director, VPI  Mr. Jason Oberoi
Director, MG W. Thomas Rice Center  Dr. Elaine Humphrey, PhD
Director, VTCC Alumni  Col Patience Larkin, USAF (Ret.)
Assistant Commandant | LTC Rewa Mariger, VA Militia
---|---
Director, Regimental Band | MUCS James Bean USN (Ret.)
Executive Officer | CPT Alexandra Oberoi, USAR
Communications Director | Mrs. Shay Barnhart
Museum Curator | Mrs. Samantha Riggin
Budget/Scholarship Mgr/Exec Asst | Mrs. Leketa Miller
Program Support Specialist | Mrs. Nicole Ward
Executive Assistant | Mrs. Patsy Hosner
Executive Assistant | Mrs. Robin Atkins
Residential Learning Coordinator | Ms. Alece Alderson

**Regimental Staff and Command**

Regimental Commander | C/COL Michael Schoka
Regimental Executive Officer | C/LTC Tiffany Borden
S-1 (Adjutant) | C/MAJ Aidan Hughes
S-2 (Public Affairs) | C/MAJ Nikkole Lenardson
S-3 (Operations and Planning) | C/MAJ Christopher Hintz
S-4 (Supply and Finance) | C/MAJ Daniel Wallace
S-5 (Academics) | C/MAJ Judith Skinker
Command Sergeant Major | C/CSM Nicholas Masella

**Regimental Special Staff**

Honor Court Chief Justice | C/MAJ Alex Rastovac
Executive Committee Chairman | C/MAJ Walter Gonsiewski
IG | C/MAJ Aaron Reed
Recruiting | C/CPT Adam Moritz
Athletics | C/CPT Thomas Fogwell
Chapel Liaison | C/CPT Zachery Scott
RISO | C/CPT Andrew Shivers
Medical Officer | C/CPT Matthew Weese
Safety Officer | C/CPT Mac Hussey
Historian | C/CPT Adam Summers
Regimental Armorer | C/CPT Cullen Anderson
Regimental Bugler | C/CS Cacie Grecol
Regimental Alumni Liaison Officer | C/CPT Kylie Himmelberger
Liaison to University Organizations | C/CPT Caleb Carney
VTCC Director Hall Council | C/CPT Matt Remson
Battalion Staffs

1st Battalion – First Above All

CO C/LTC Kevin Byerly
XO C/MAJ Madison Foreman
SGM C/SGM Paul Aanestad
S-1 C/CPT Josh Miller
S-3 C/CPT Sean Cantlon
S-5 C/CPT Sean Kelly

2nd Battalion – Honor First, Duty Always

CO C/LTC Charles Duncan
XO C/MAJ Kirk McConnell
SGM C/SGM Sean Crittenden
S-1 C/CPT Bradley Gifford
S-3 C/CPT Andrew Greenwood
S-5 C/CPT Laura Palombella

3rd Battalion – Strength from Unity, Pride through Perseverance

CO C/LTC William Brannen
XO C/MAJ Evan Landry
SGM C/SGM Ian Pezzella
S-1 C/CPT Kevin Ng
S-3 C/CPT Augustus Stevens
S-5 C/CPT Erica Chuang

VPI Battalion

CO C/LTC Peter Wilson
XO C/MAJ Austin Hess
SGM C/SGM Brooke Edwards
Company Staffs

**Alpha Company – Still Kickin’ Ass**
- CO C/MAJ Sarah Mitchell
- XO C/CPT Zachary Lanman
- FSG C/FSG Joshua McGuire

**Bravo Company – Forged in Flame**
- CO C/MAJ Gregory Milhiser
- XO C/CPT John Cabrera
- FSG C/FSG Thomas Meyer

**Charlie Company – Semper Primus**
- CO C/MAJ Austin Leake
- XO C/CPT Austin Shumate
- FSG C/FSG Parker Manning

**Delta Company – Spirit of Delta**
- CO C/MAJ Lindsey Bittinger
- XO C/CPT Chas Blais
- FSG C/FSG Ian Campbell

**Echo Company – Unity and Pride**
- CO C/MAJ Brandon Ward
- XO C/CPT Scott Fisher
- FSG C/FSG Rebecca Leonard

**Foxtrot Company – Praebate Exemplium**
- CO C/MAJ Claire Blume
- XO C/CPT Liam Garrity
- FSG C/FSG Andrew Caldwell

**Golf Company – Non Concedo**
- CO C/MAJ Hunter Garth
- XO C/CPT Joshua Taylor
- FSG C/FSG Benjamin Reilly

**Hotel Company – Pride Now, Tradition Always, Hotel Forever**
- CO C/MAJ Cody Reuss
- XO C/CPT Jack Crockett
- FSG C/FSG Natalie Rosas
India Company – Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus
CO  C/MAJ Tyler Phillips
XO  C/CPT Stephen Bologna-Jill
FSG C/FSG Jacob Payne

Kilo Company – Ne Te Molesti Deprimant
CO  C/MAJ Ellice Sisson
XO  C/CPT Katie Dyer
FSG C/FSG Michael D’Avella

Lima Company – Non Timebo Mala
CO  C/MAJ Aaron Richardson
XO  C/CPT Joshua Conyers
FSG C/FSG Matthew Levison

Band Company – Deeds Not Words
CO  C/MAJ Nathaniel Oslund
XO  C/CPT David Robison
DM C/CPT Kavi Muraleetharan

Band Company A Orange
CO  C/CPT Zachary Stossel
XO  C/1LT Bradley Cooley
FSG C/FSG Noah Staples

Band Company B Maroon
CO  C/CPT James Tucker
XO  C/1LT Beth Demyanovich
FSG C/FSG Brian Kehs

Color Guard Commander
C/CCS Jackson Warley

Skipper Crew Gun Captain
C/ASG Connor McNamara

Gregory Guard Commander
C/CPT Noel Sheaffer
Second Semester
Chain of Command

Company ___________

CO ________________________________

PL ________________________________

PSG ________________________________

SL ________________________________

FTL ________________________________

XO ________________________________

FSG ________________________________
Corps of Cadets Rank Structure

Crossed Sabers denotes VPI Position

Highly Tighties

Color Guard
Officer Armed Services Ranks
# Enlisted Armed Services Ranks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air Force</th>
<th>Marines</th>
<th>Navy</th>
<th>Army</th>
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<td>Recruit</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Private First Class</td>
<td>Seaman Apprentice</td>
<td>Private First Class</td>
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<td>Lance Corporal</td>
<td>Petty Officer 3rd Class</td>
<td>Private First Class</td>
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<td>Staff Sergeant</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Petty Officer 2nd Class</td>
<td>Sergeant (Sgt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Sergeant</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Petty Officer 1st Class</td>
<td>First Sergeant (1st Sgt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Sergeant (Sgt)</td>
<td>Sergeant Major</td>
<td>Chief Petty Officer (CPO)</td>
<td>First Sergeant (1st Sgt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Master Sergeant</td>
<td>Sergeant Major</td>
<td>Command Master</td>
<td>Sergeant Major (SCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Master Sergeant 1st Class</td>
<td>Sergeant Major</td>
<td>Chief Petty Officer (CPO)</td>
<td>Sergeant Major (SCM)</td>
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Uniforms of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

Standard Patrol Cover
Insignia
Freshman: None
NCO: Corps Crest
Officer: VPI

Subdued and Embroidered Nametape
-OR-
Standard black plastic Nametag flush with seam

Approved badges worn 1/2 inch above tape
"VTCC" tape (Subdued & Embroidered)
White Shirt w/Garrison Cover

Garrison Cover Detail

Detail of Senior Collar Device

Gray Shirt w/Wheel Cover

Windstrap Detail

Belt Detail
Gigline Freshmen
Buttons cut through center of waist plate.

Gigline Upperclassmen
Buttons cut through “P” of blackbelt.
Dress A

White Collar extends 1/8 inch
“ROTC” Headlight
Branch of Service Headlight
One hand’s width
Citation Cord
ROTC emblem
Class service stripes

White Cuff extend 1/8 inch

Dress B

Rear View of Crossbelts

White Collar extends 1/8 inch
“ROTC” Headlight
Branch of Service Headlight
Citation Cord
ROTC emblem
Class service stripes

White Cuff extend 1/8 inch

Senior Collar Detail
OG and OD Wraps

- Overcoat with Crossbelts
- Dress A with OD Wrap
- Skirt
Paletot

Shoulder Boards
Regimental Crest
Class Service Stripes
Bottom of Ribbons at top of pocket seam
Authorized Pin
Citation Cord (an additional infantry-style cord may be worn on right shoulder)

Service Designation
Army - Crossed Rifles
Air Force - Prop & Wings
Navy - Anchor
Marine - Eagle & Globe
Corps Only - Crossed Cannons
(Seniors - Crossed Sabres)

Men's Formal (Paletot)
Class Service Stripes
Citation Cord

Lapel Detail (Senior)

Women's Formal

White Skirt/Gold Cumberbun
Corps Awards and Competitions

**Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award (Gold Cord)**

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. award was first presented to the VTCC by Beverly S. Parrish, Sr. on 24 May 1956. The award consists of a plaque which will be displayed in the winning unit’s area and a cup which has been retired and is displayed in Brodie Hall. All members of the winning unit will wear the Gold Citation Cord on the cadet blouse and the Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Ribbon when in the grey uniform.

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award is presented annually to the unit in the Corps of Cadets which accumulates the greatest number of competitive points in Corps competition during the school year. This award is the most sought after in all Corps competitions. It is named in honor of a graduate of Tech of the Class of 1953. Cadet Parrish, during his years at Tech, was a star athlete and outstanding student, and served as Regimental Commander. He was the Acting Cadet Wing Commander of the newly established Air Academy and was serving in this capacity when he was killed in a plane crash at Charlotte, North Carolina on 11 February 1956. The Air Force Academy has named its honor committee award for him.

The points to be awarded in competition for the Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award will be contained in a supplement to the cadet regulations. Points are awarded for grades, Eager Squad, Eager Individual, room inspections, regimental inspections, recruiting, intramurals, and other categories approved by the Regimental Commander.

The winning unit also has the privilege of carrying the Beverly S. Parrish Memorial Streamer (gold) on its guidon staff.
The Kohler Cup

The Kohler Cup, presented by John F. Kohler in 1931, is awarded each year to the cadet unit that demonstrated its superiority in drill competition. The trophy is retired and displayed in Brodie Hall. The winning unit also has the privilege of carrying the Kohler Cup Streamer (red) on its guidon staff. The Kohler Cup will be based on the result of the Homecoming Review, other announced reviews, or marching events.

Drill Competitions

The annual drill competitions held between individuals, squads, and units are important events of the school year for all cadets. Judging teams composed of ranking cadets, Commandant’s staff, and ROTC personnel judge these units on the basis of appearance, drill precision and accuracy, knowledge of regulation drill movements, and proficiency. The annual drill competitions include the Jaffe Eager Squad, Eager Individual, and others as announced by Regimental Staff. Drill procedures will be specified by the Regimental S-3 prior to the competitions.
Awards and Ribbons

- Regimental Presidential Service
- Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Award
- Eager Individual
- Eager Squad
- Presidential Inaugural Award
- Regimental Cadre
- AFSOPT
- Black Shirt
- Cadet Achievement
- Civilian Leadership Track
- PFT Excellence
- Color Guard
- Community Service
- Conrad Calvary
- Eagle Scout Association
- Gregory Guard
- Historian
- IG Staff
- Naval Aviation Society
- Ranger Company
- Recruiting
- Robert F Femoyer Service Squad
- Sash n Sabre
- Scabbard n Blade
- Signal Corps
- Skipper Crew
- Society of American Military Engineers
- Submarine Society
- Summer Orientation Staff
- Surface Warfare Society
- Gold 3.75-4.00 GPA
- Orange 3.40-3.74 GPA
- Maroon 3.00-3.39 GPA
- EMT Staff
- Honor Court
- Inspector General
- Ordinance Staff
Academic Wreaths

3.75-4.00 Cumm. GPA
3.40-3.74 Cumm. GPA
3.00-3.39 Cumm. GPA

Citation Cords

Regimental Staff
Regimental Special Staff
Battalion Staff

Presidential Unit Citation
Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Award
Air Force Flyers
Reporting Procedures and
The Knock System

When reporting to a commissioned officer or cadet officer, all cadets should knock three times, wait for authority to enter, and then to proceed to a position two paces from and directly in front of the officer or upperclassman’s desk or person, salute and report in the following manner: “Sir/Ma’am New / Cadet (LAST NAME) (INITIALS) (COMPANY) (CLASS) reports.” Note: if entering another cadet’s room, the door should remain open. When the officer or upperclassman has indicated that all business is completed, the cadet will come to attention, salute and say, “Sir/Ma’am New / Cadet (LAST NAME) (INITIALS) (COMPANY) (CLASS) requests permission to be dismissed.” When the salute is returned, the New/First-Year Cadet will execute an about face (unless on carpet) and leave the room by the most direct route.

Note: If exiting an upperclassmen’s room, the door should be closed.
Note: Navy cadets do not salute Navy or Marine Corps Officers indoors, even if formally reporting.
If reporting to a Non-Commissioned Officer or an upperclass cadet who is not an officer, follow the procedures from the preceding paragraph except a salute is not required.
Knocks are identified as follows:
2 knocks – by officers or Regimental Staff entering on official business.

All occupants of room assume the position of attention

3 knocks – by a New Cadet desiring to enter a senior’s room
The Purpose of:

Dragging
The purpose of “dragging” is two-fold: Its primary purpose is to instill in new cadets a level of military discipline, a sense of urgency, and to teach them to act with confidence while under pressure; its secondary purpose is to assist new cadets to improve their marching skills early in the freshman year – particularly their facing and pivoting movements.

Sounding Off
The primary purpose of “Sounding Off” is to instill in each new cadet an appreciation for military courtesy, and to gain self-confidence in addressing classmates, upper-class cadets, and officers. The secondary purpose is to enable new cadets to quickly learn the first names of their classmates within their company, and to recognize the name and rank of members of their chain of command.

New Cadet Knowledge
The purpose of New Cadet Knowledge is to instill in each cadet a level of information essential for him/her to excel as a cadet and student at Virginia Tech, and to gain an appreciation of the traditions, customs, and history of the Corps of Cadets and the University.

New Cadet Haircut Policy
The purpose of the New Cadet Haircut Policy is to build group identity among the members of the freshman class, promote personal hygiene, and to aid the new cadet in his/her time management skills during a very busy New Cadet Week, and early part of the freshman year.
Terminology

Corps Terms

**AA Card** – Authorized absence card. This card is placed on the cadet’s door to indicated his/her whereabouts at all times.

**Ace** – To max a test.

**Brace Up** – A command given to new cadets meaning, “Come to Attention.”

**BRC** – Breakfast Roll Call. Morning formation.

**Bud** – A fellow member of a class who underwent Cadet Basic Training with you. Usually ends in a lifelong friendship.

**Cenotaph** – The large granite stone on the WWII Memorial located between the eight pylons.

**Cut** – to have an excused absence from a Corps activity such as formation.

**Dragging** – The act in which a freshman bears to the right side of the hall while marching.

**DRC** – Dinner Roll Call. Noon formation.

**Ducks** – White dress pants worn with the uniform.

**ECQ** – Evening Call to Quarters. 1800-2300 hours Sunday, and 1900-2300 Monday through Thursday, used as study time. During this time, freshmen do not sound off, and all cadets are expected to maintain quiet in the dorms.

**Flag** – Excessive belt material not properly aligned.

**Friendship** – an activity of both unity and comradery that reaches far beyond the average professional relationship between cadets

**Fraternization** – Socializing outside of your class; being too friendly with superiors, subordinates; performing undue personal servitude.

**Frat Lock** – Lock to a cadet’s room which prevents the door from closing.

**Growley** – Morning meal; Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) formation.

**GTD** – General Tightening Down, increased enforcement of regulations.

**Guidon** – A unit’s flag or standard; the new cadet knowledge publication.

**Head** – Bathroom.

**Highty-Tighties** – The Regimental Band of the Corps of Cadets.
Hokie – Any Virginia Tech student or alumni.
Horizontal Labs – Afternoon snooze.
Hose – To get a fellow classmate into trouble; person who commits the act.
Kangaroo – VMI mascot, any VMI cadet or alumni.
Koofer – Any test, quiz or homework saved to be used to study for future exams. Dates to early ’40’s.
MCQ – Morning Call to Quarters, 0800-1100 hours. More commonly used to refer to Marathon Call to Quarters, where ECQ standards are maintained through the entire day.
OD – Officer of the Day.
OD Wrap – Senior wrap where both maroon pieces are worn.
OG – Officer of the Guard.
OG Wrap – Senior wrap where one crossbelt with chest brass is worn with bottom maroon sash.
Old Corps – A condition harder than present.
Old Lady – Male cadets roommate. Used as far back as the 1880’s.
Old Man – Female cadet’s roommate.
Pieing – Hitting someone in the face with a shaving cream pie.
Pylons – Statues above the War Memorial Chapel.
QCA – Quality Credit Average
Rack – Bed in a cadet’s room.
Rack Monster – A fictional creature living in a cadet’s room who induces the cadet to sleep through classes.
Rakt – The act of sleeping in a rack.
Rag – To “chew out” a freshman guilty of an infraction.
Rat – An Old Corps term for a freshman cadet. Use is discontinued; used as far back as 1888
Rattamore – A cadet between his/her freshman and sophomore years; any cadet without a new cadet class below them.
Rat Daddy/Momma – Upperclassman who protects freshmen from harassment.
Rat Hole – Storage area above the closets.
Rat Path – Path leading to the PT pit.
Retreat – Evening formation where the flag is lowered.
Rock – The WWI Memorial between Brodie and Rasche.
Sails – A handkerchief or napkin with the unit’s logo on it which is worn by freshmen while under the new cadet system until VPI beats VMI in a major sport.
Shanks Plain – Area behind Shanks Hall.
Skipper – A fifth year cadet still in the Corps; the VTCC cannon.
Sound Off – To give the proper first year cadet call; to blow the bugle; to give a loud order.
SRC – Supper Roll Call, evening formation.
Stick or Treat – A tradition which occurs around Halloween when the freshmen give candy to upperclassmen.
Tapped – To be accepted as a candidate for membership into an organization.
Taps – Lights out at 2300 hours; to pay tribute on a bugle to someone who has died.
Tour – A period of time served as a punishment for excessive demerits
VT – Area in front of Lane Hall.
Zebra – A high ranking cadet officer.
Rah Tech

Rah Tech, Rah Tech, Rah Tech Rah
Via, Via
The Whole Dam’ Team!
The Whole Dam’ Team!
The Whole Dam’ Team!

Alma Mater

Sing praise to Alma mater, dear,
For V.P.I. we’ll ever cheer;
Come lift your voices, swell with the song,
Our loyalties to her belong.

So stand and sing, all hail to thee,
V.P., all hail to thee.

The Orange and Maroon you see,
That’s fighting on to victory;
Our strife will not be long this day,
For glory lies within this fray.

All loyal sons of V.P.I.
We raise our banner to the sky;
Our motto brings a spirit true.
That we may ever serve for you.
Tech Triumph

Techmen, we’re Techmen, with spirit true and faithful,
Back ing up our teams with hopes undying;
Techmen, O Techmen, we’re out to win today,
Showing pep and life with which we’re trying.
VP, old VP, you know our hearts are with you
In our luck that never seems to die;
Win or lose, we’ll greet you with a glad returning –
You’re the pride of VPI.

CHORUS:
Just watch our men, so big and active,
Support the Orange and Maroon, Let’s Go Tech!!
We know our ends and backs are stronger,
With winning hopes we fear defeat no longer
To see our team plow through the line, boys
Determined now to win or die; so give a
Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi-Ray Ri, old VPI!

LAST VERSE:
Fight, men, oh, fight, men, we’re going to be the champions-
Adding to our list another victory;
Football or baseball, the games in which we star,
They’re the sports which made old VP famous.
Hold’em just hold’em, you know the Corps’ behind you
Watching every movement that you make.
Winning games was nothing for our teams before you –
Keep the “rep” for VP’s sake.

-W.P. Maddox
Old Hokie

Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!
Tech! Tech! VPI
Sol-A-Rex, Sol-A-Rah;
Poly Tech Virginia;
Ray! Rah! VPI
Team! Team! Team!
- O.M. Stull

VPI Victory March

VERSE:
You have seen the Hoyas tumble,
You have made the Indians cry;
And you know the Army mule
Once took a kick at V.P.I.
Worthy teams from Lexington
Have fought with all their might;
And now it’s time to show the world
That victory is ours tonight!

BREAK STRAIN:
GO, TECH!
GO, TECH!
H-O-K-I-E-S, HOKIES!
- C.D. Steinweddel ’43
Marching Through History

The date was 1 October 1872. The path was 26 miles from a Craig County farm to what was then, the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. The journey was taken by one man, William Addison Caldwell. “Add” Caldwell was the first student to enroll in the school we now know as Virginia Tech. In honor of Addison Caldwell and to serve as a symbolic reenactment of part of the University’s heritage, the Corps of Cadets has incorporated the Caldwell March in its training schedule.

In recent years, the administration of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has been trying to improve the effectiveness of the training system, focusing on the gradual initiation of freshmen into the Corps. With the assistance of a resident history expert, Clara B. Cox, the Commandant of Cadets, Major General Stanton R. Musser, and his staff, a route was plotted that would most likely match the one that Addison would have traveled over a century ago. In the spring of 1997, during the celebration of Tech’s 125th Anniversary, several cadets volunteered to do the Caldwell March as a kind of commemorational reconstruction.

Many cadets voiced the opinion that they wanted a right of passage connected with the history of the University. During 2000, with the input of the cadet leadership, it was decided to officially include the Caldwell March in the Corps’ training schedule. The march is broken into two parts. The first half is to be conducted to mark the end of the initial training phase, and the
The final half of the march is to take place near the end of the second semester, shifting the emphasis of First Year Cadets from followership to leadership.

The significance of the Caldwell March is to give cadets the idea to strike out and seek to better themselves through education and that they are not adverse to undergoing some hardship to accomplish that. Addison Caldwell is a mirror of the students who come to the Corps. They want an education and are not afraid to undergo a sort of trial by fire to achieve it.

Preparing the freshmen for this endeavor gives the companies a mission. It is the goal of the upperclassmen to condition the freshmen, as well as themselves, for this march. It is the goal of the freshmen to complete both parts of it in order to earn their place among the ranks of a tradition over 135 years old, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.
Duty and Discipline

Duty

“But an officer on duty knows no one—to be partial is to dishonor both himself and the object of his ill-advised favor. What will be thought of him who exacts of his friend that which disgraces him? Look at him who winks and overlooks offenses in one, which he causes to be punished in another, and contrast him with the inflexible soldier who does his duty faithfully, notwithstanding it occasionally wars with his private feelings. The conduct of one will be venerated and emulated, the other detested as a satire upon soldiership and honor.”

Brevet Major William Jenkins Worth, 1820
Battalion orders, West Point, New York

“Duty then is the sublimest word in the English language. You should do your duty in all things. You can never do more. You should never wish to do less.”

General Robert E. Lee
Discipline

“The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than make an army. It is possible to impart instructions and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or the other of dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself, while he who feels, and hence manifests disrespect toward others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself.”

Major General John M. Schofield’s graduation address to the class of 1879 at West Point
Federal Flag Code

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(a) The Flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(b) The Flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.

No other flag or pennant should be placed above, on the same level, or to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea when the church pennant may be flown above the flag.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag’s own right, that is, to the observer’s left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory.

That no disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(e) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or any drawing of any nature.

(f) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons, except those in uniform, should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note.
Military Courtesies

Salute

The most important of all military courtesies is the salute. It is a greeting initiated by the subordinate and is always accompanied by an appropriate greeting such as “Good morning Sir/Ma’am.” Salutes are required both on and off campus for all official greetings in the line of duty, for ceremonial occasions, and when the national anthem is played or the colors pass by. When in uniform, a salute is rendered at the appropriate time regardless of place or whether an individual is with a member of the family or a date. Those persons entitled to the salute are the following:

1) President of the United States
2) Vice President of the United States
3) State Governors
4) Secretary of Defense
5) Deputy Secretary of Defense
6) Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
7) All commissioned officers of the military service
8) All cadet officers; a lower ranking cadet officer must salute a higher-ranking cadet officer; it is unnecessary for two cadet officers of the same rank to salute.

Members of friendly governments to include:

1) Heads of state
2) Ambassadors
3) Ministers of Defense or other civilian leaders of defense establishments and their assistants at or above the level of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
4) Officers in any of the armed forces

The smartness with which a salute is rendered indicates the degree of pride one has in the organization. Accordingly the salute must never be rendered in a casual or perfunctory manner, nor with pipe, cigar, cigarette or chew in the mouth or hands.

The salute is rendered at approximately 6-30 paces from the superior and at the position of attention while walking or at a halt. When saluting, cadets will look the officer or cadet officer in the eye and render an appropriate greeting with the salute.

Cadets in uniform will salute commissioned and warrant officers, even if the officers being saluted are in civilian clothes. Cadets in uniform will not salute cadet officers in civilian clothes.

A salute is rendered only once if the senior remains in the immediate vicinity and no conversation takes place. If a conversation takes place, the subordinate
again salutes when either leaves.

When making reports at such occasions as formations, inspections, parades, etc., the person making the report salutes first, regardless of rank.

In formation, individuals do not salute or return salutes except at the command, “Present, Arms” Commanders of units in formation will render proper salutes after calling the unit to attention.

When an officer approaches a group of individuals the group is called to attention by the first person noticing the officer. The senior ranking cadet will render a greeting and will salute.

In general, one does not salute when:

1) Out of uniform
2) Engaged in routine work if the salute would interfere
3) Indoors, except when reporting to a senior or on duty as a sentinel on guard, or under arms and covered.
4) Carrying articles with both hands or so occupied as to make saluting impracticable.
5) Working as a member of a detail, or engaged in sports or social functions.
6) Driving a moving automobile and saluting is not practical.
7) In public places such as theaters or churches, and in public conveyances.

Staff cars with designator license plates, paint schemes, or marker flags are saluted. If the officer is driving, it may be impractical for him/her to return the salute.

While outside in uniform and when the flag is being raised or lowered, one should halt, face the flag and render a salute if the flag can be seen. If the appropriate bugle calls or music can be heard but the flag cannot be seen, halt, face toward the music, come to attention, and if in uniform, render a salute. If in civilian clothes, place the right hand over the left breast. If civilian headdress is worn, grasp it in the right hand and place it over the left breast. Cadets will salute while in VTCC PT gear and will follow Service protocols when wearing ROTC PT gear. (Air Force and Army salute, Navy and Marine Corps do not.)

When in uniform, cadets will salute all uncased colors. When not in uniform, cadets will come to attention as the colors pass by.

During indoor ceremonies and when inside and uncovered, during the national anthem, stand at attention. If in civilian clothes, place the right hand over the left breast. If civilian headdress is worn, grasp it in the right hand and place it over the left breast.

In accordance with public law, cadets reciting the Pledge of Allegiance will render the appropriate respect as follows:

US. Flag present:
1) If in uniform and uncovered or in civilian attire, cadets will render honors to the flag by standing at attention. The hand will not be placed over the heart.
2) If in uniform and covered, cadets will salute the flag.

US. Flag absent: In or out of uniform, the right hand will be placed over the heart while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

When outside and Taps is played, come to attention, face in the direction of the music and, if in uniform, render a salute. In civilian attire, the cadet will come to attention and place the right hand over the heart. If inside and Taps can be heard, all cadets will observe a moment of silence until Taps is finished. BDO’s and the chain of command will enforce quiet in hallways during taps. Knock-ups will not occur until Taps is finished.

All cadets while in uniform will salute the Rock located at the base of the VT. They will salute as they pass the Rock, facing the Rock (similar to the head movement performed in an eyes-right) three paces before and three paces after it. All cadets in civilian attire will put their hand over their heart and look at the Rock as they pass it (similar to the head movement performed in an eyes-right), three paces before and three paces after. The Rock is a memorial to all VTCC graduates killed in World War I and while not dedicated so, it is also a symbol to all former VTCC graduates who have died in conflict.

Cadets in uniform will remain covered and will salute superiors while walking in the Burruss tunnel.

Similar to policies used by the armed forces, cadets will not use portable electronic devices with earbuds/earphones while walking in uniform. Similarly, cadets will not use such devices with earbuds/earphones while running on or crossing streets used by motorized vehicles whether wearing Corps or civilian athletic attire. This is to ensure the ability of the cadet to hear oncoming traffic.

Cadets may utilize mobile phones/smartphones while in uniform, however they should stop walking and move to the side of walkways or areas until such time as the call is completed. Cadets will not normally render salutes or greetings during such calls, but should remain cognizant of their surroundings.

Also in keeping with normal procedures of all the military services, cadets will wear their covers at all times when outside. This includes when seated on benches or other areas on the campus while outside. If a cadet officer or commissioned officer passes in the vicinity, a junior cadet should stand and render a salute and appropriate greeting. An exception to the wearing of covers will be while in the stands at sporting events.

The confines of Lane Stadium and other sporting venues, outdoors, will be considered “no-salute’ areas.

Cadets wearing VTCC PT gear will salute. (Air Force and Army – salute, Navy and Marine Corps, do not salute.) Cadets wearing ROTC PT gear will follow Service protocols with regards to saluting. The only exception would be a group of cadets who are engaged in a group activity such as running in formation.
In any case not covered by specific instructions or in case of doubt, the following guide will be used: “WHEN IN DOUBT - SALUTE.”

**Traditional Customs and Courtesies**

Cadets will always address armed forces personnel by rank and last name. If the rank and last name are not known, commissioned and cadet officers will be addressed as “Sir” and/or “Ma’am.” However, general and flag officers are addressed as “General,” or “Admiral.” In written communication always write out the full title.

Normal courtesy demands that, when an officer of the armed services addresses a group of cadets, those cadets will come to attention regardless of the officer or cadet’s attire.

In the event there is more than one officer, they will be addressed as “gentlemen” or “ladies” as appropriate.

In the ranks of a formation; when at ease in a formation, come to attention when addressed by a senior.

When a cadet is under arms or on guard duty he/she will always be covered and therefore execute a salute when passing by or reporting to an officer both indoors and outside.

While on professional business, cadets will address other cadets by rank and last name.

Cadets will follow the chain of command and will not go over a superior’s head without notifying him or her. The act of jumping the chain of command is disrespectful and against military procedure.

Superiors always have the right of way and subordinates will make room to allow for officers to pass by saying: “Make a hole.”

Cadets will always walk to the left of any commissioned officer or superior ranking cadet officer when accompanying said officer. Additionally the cadet will walk in step with the superior.

No cadet will use the first floor of Brodie’s old wing for cadet activities. First-year cadets may not use the wind tunnel entrance to Brodie Hall.

Cadets will not run past the Rock. The reasoning is the same as for rendering it a salute.

Cadets will not walk, lie out, or play in the grass of the “VT.” The “VT,” as the location of the beginning of Virginia Tech, is traditionally considered a special, ceremonial place. As such, it is only to be used for official functions.

Walking on grass is only authorized when wearing PT Gear, MDU’s, civilian attire, or while conducting drill in formation. This applies to all classes, and seniors will not be permitted to walk on grass in any case but those specified here.

Other details specifically concerning New Cadet customs and courtesies are stated in the chapter on Training.
General Conduct

(1) Cadets must maintain a proper appearance in public. Cadets will not chew gum, smoke, or drink alcoholic beverages while in uniform.
(2) Cadets will refrain from spitting, chewing, cursing, or any other acts which discredit the uniform.
(3) Uniforms will not be defamed. Sleeves will not be rolled up, hats will be worn squarely on the head, all buttons will be buttoned, and hands will be kept out of pockets.
(4) Conduct of officers will be above criticism. A cadet will be judged on appearance and behavior. Remember perception is just as important as an overt act.
(5) Cadets will refrain from public display of affection while in uniform.
(6) Avoid going over an officer’s head. The act is disrespectful and against military procedure.
(7) Never volunteer excuses unless an explanation is required. Excuses for failure are always unacceptable.
(8) Do not criticize or correct in public. Normally all corrections, criticisms, and admonishments are done privately. Embarrassment is not a proper way to improve performance.

Phonetic Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-Alpha</th>
<th>H-Hotel</th>
<th>O-Oscar</th>
<th>V-Victor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-Bravo</td>
<td>I-India</td>
<td>P-Papa</td>
<td>W-Whiskey</td>
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<td>C-Charlie</td>
<td>J-Juliet</td>
<td>Q-Quebec</td>
<td>X-X-ray</td>
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<td>D-Delta</td>
<td>K-Kilo</td>
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<td>E-Echo</td>
<td>L-Lima</td>
<td>S-Sierra</td>
<td>Z-Zulu</td>
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<td>F-Foxtrot</td>
<td>M-Mike</td>
<td>T-Tango</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-Golf</td>
<td>N-November</td>
<td>U-Uniform</td>
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</table>
The National Anthem

Oh say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there
O say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
VTCC History

Corps Crest Symbolism

Flaming Grenade – Preparation for war
4 Golden Stars – Four major wars in which Tech graduates have fought (To date seven major wars fought)
Laurel Wreath – Symbolizes presidential citation given to the Cadet Band for Spanish-American War service
Color Red – Strength and courage
Sword – Command

On November 26, 1965, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Corps of Cadets became the first unit outside the regular Army to receive a formal grant of Coat of Arms from the Army Institute of Heraldry.
“Lest We Forget”

This simple stone monument honors the memory of the VPI alumni who died in World War I. Remembering the courage and idealism of these heroes who gave their lives for democracy, Tech cadets regard it with love and reverence. It is customary for every cadet, whenever they pass “The Rock” to salute it as a mark of respect.

“What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower

“The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we would appear to be; all human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them.”
- Socrates
“We Will Prevail”

This memorial set in front of Burruss Hall commemorates the 32 Virginia Tech students, faculty, and staff that lost their lives during the tragic events of April 16, 2007. The student-driven volunteer organization Hokies United placed 32 Hokie Stones on the Drillfield in a semi-circular pattern in front of Burruss Hall which transformed into the present day memorial. As a community, we dedicate 32 engraved Hokie Stones in honor and in memory of the members of our Hokie family who lost their lives. Hokie Stone has long symbolized the foundation of Virginia Tech. Now, it also symbolizes our relentless spirit, our courage to move forward, and our determination never to forget. Among these names is Cadet Matthew Joseph LaPorte, Highty-Tighties class of 2009, Air Force ROTC.
Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross Recipients
Medal of Honor Citations Awarded to Virginia Tech Alumni

The Medal of Honor was first awarded during the Civil War, ten years prior to the establishment of Virginia Tech. Of the millions of Americans who have served in our nations armed forces only 3,461 have received America’s highest award for valor. Among those few are seven alumni of Virginia Tech.

Captain Antoine A.M. Gaujot
& Colonel Julien E. Gaujot

Antoine A.M. Gaujot, Class of 1901, and Julien E. Gaujot, Class of 1894, are one of a few brothers ever awarded the Medal of Honor and the only pair to receive the Medal for actions in different wars. Antoine Gaujot received the medal for actions as an Army corporal at the Battle of San Mateo during the Philippine Insurrection. He made persistent effort under heavy enemy rifle fire to locate a ford in order to help his unit cross the swollen river to attack. Unable to accomplish this, he swam across the river with a companion to the enemy side while under enemy fire and against a dangerous current. There he secured an enemy canoe and returned it to the friendly side of the river.

Julien, his brother and regular Army officer, became obsessed with his brother’s achievement. Referring to Antoine, Julien said “He wears it for a watch fob, the damn civilian, I got to get me one of them things for myself if I bust.” Julien Gaujot received the medal for actions on the Mexican Border in 1911. He is the only soldier ever awarded the Medal for true actions of a peacekeeping nature. Fighting between Mexican rebels and a government troop left gunfire from across the Mexican border which accidentally killed some Americans in Douglas, Arizona during the Madero revolution. Julien was infuriated, mounted his beloved horse, “Old Dick,” and rode across the border into the teeth of the revolutionary’s fire. There he moved between the two groups of belligerents who were often under fire for an hour. The provided cover, along with spouting Spanish profanity at which he was an
acknowledged master, enabled Julien in succeeding to save Douglas from further bloodshed by securing the safe passage of the Mexican soldiers and American prisoners over the border to the United States. His actions saved five Americans taken prisoner by the Mexicans, 25 Mexican soldiers along with various Americans and Mexican rebels who would have died in the continued fighting. He also was successful in making the Mexican government furious. General Leonard Wood later said in referring to the incident that Julien’s action warranted “either a court martial or a Medal of Honor.” The Medal was very much deserved, and no American court martial would have ever convicted him anyway.

Julien served in the army from 1897-1934 and participated in five major engagements: Spanish-American, Philippine Insurrection, Cuban Pacification, Mexican Campaign, and World War I. He received two bronze leaves on his service ribbon for action in two major World War I offensives. Both Gaujot brothers died in Williamson, West Virginia. Antoine died April 14, 1936 and Julien died April 7, 1938.

Sergeant Earle D. Gregory

Earle Gregory, a native of Chase City, Gregory was a member of the class of 1923 and graduate of Fork Union Military Academy who then studied Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech. As a senior at Virginia Tech he was a Cadet Captain and Company Commander, President of the Corps of Cadets, and selected as Most Popular Cadet. He received the Medal of Honor for actions as an Army Sergeant during the Meuse Argonne Offensive in World War I. He was the first native Virginian to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The medal was awarded for gallantry at Bois de Consenvoye, north of Verdun, France on October 18, 1918. With the remark, “I will get them” Sergeant Gregory seized a rifle and a trench-mortar shell, which he used as a hand grenade, left his detachment of the trench-mortar platoon, and advancing ahead of the infantry, captured a machine gun and three of the enemy. Advancing still further from the machine gun nest, he captured a 7.5-centimeter mountain howitzer, and entering a dugout in the immediate
vicinity, single handedly captured 19 of the enemy. Gregory also was awarded Croix de Guerre, Medal of the Legion of Honor, Medaille Militaire, and the Montenegrin Order of Merit. Gregory died on January 6, 1972. The Gregory Guard took its name in his honor in May 1963.

First Lieutenant Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.

Lieutenant Monteith (USA) was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism on Normandy beachhead at D-Day during World War II. He was a native of Richmond and graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. A member of VPI’s Class of 1941, he studied Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech and played football.

Monteith landed with the initial assault waves on the coast of France under heavy enemy fire. Without regard for his own personal safety, he continually moved up and down the beach reorganizing men for further assault. He led the assault over a narrow protective ledge and across the flat, exposed terrain to the comparative safety of a cliff. Retracing his steps across the field to the beach, he moved over to where two tanks were buttoned up and blind under violent enemy artillery and machine gun fire. Completely exposed to the intense fire, First Lieutenant Monteith led the tanks on foot through a minefield and into firing positions. Under his direction, several enemy positions were destroyed. He then rejoined his company and under his leadership his men captured an advantageous position against repeated vicious counterattacks. He continued to ignore his own personal safety, repeatedly crossing the two or three hundred yards of open terrain under heavy fire to strengthen links in his defensive chain. When the enemy succeeded in completely surrounding First Lieutenant Monteith and his unit and while leading the fight out of the situation, First Lieutenant Monteith was killed by enemy fire.

Monteith Hall is named in his honor.

Sergeant Herbert J. Thomas

Herbert J. Thomas, Class of 1941, was a native of Charleston, West Virginia and graduate of South Charleston High School. At Virginia Tech
he studied Business Administration. Cadet Sergeant Herbert Thomas was a legendary football player and is a member of Virginia Tech’s Athletic Hall of Fame. His senior year he was the second highest scorer in the Southern Conference, and received All American honors.

Sergeant Thomas (USMC) was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism while in action against enemy Japanese forces during the battle at the Koromokina River, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands, on 7 November 1943 in World War II. Although several of his men were struck by enemy bullets as he led his squad through dense jungle undergrowth in the face of severe hostile machine gun fire, he was successful in destroying two enemy machine gun positions. Halted by a third enemy machine gun, he positioned his men to rush the enemy after he threw a hand grenade. He threw the grenade only to have the jungle vines drop it back among his men. Sgt. Thomas deliberately flung himself upon it to smother the explosion, valiantly sacrificing his life for his comrades. Inspired by his selfless action, his men unhesitatingly charged the enemy machine gun, and with fierce determination, killed the crew and several other nearby defenders.

Thomas Hall is named in his honor.

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Femoyer

Robert Femoyer was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II. He was a native of Huntington, West Virginia and studied Civil Engineering as a member of VPI’s Class of 1944. During World War II, he left college and enlisted in the Army Air Force.

While on a mission in Germany, the B-17 bomber on which Lieutenant Femoyer served as navigator was struck by three enemy antiaircraft shells. The plane suffered serious damage and Lieutenant Femoyer was severely wounded in the side and back by shell fragments which penetrated his body. In spite of extreme pain and great loss of blood, he refused an offered injection of morphine. He was determined to keep his mental faculties clear in order that he might direct his plane out of danger and save his comrades.

Unable to rise from the floor, he asked to be propped up to enable him to see his charts and instruments. Bleeding steadily he worked with
amazing clarity despite pain described as “almost beyond the realm of human endurance”. Femoyer successfully guided the lone bomber through six changes in course around enemy antiaircraft concentrations for two and a half hours to avoid enemy flack and returned to the field without further damage. As the crippled aircraft crossed safely over the English Channel, Lieutenant Robert Femoyer finally allowed an injection of morphine. Thirty minutes after landing he died of wounds.

Femoyer Hall is named in his honor. Virginia Tech’s chapters of Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Society are also named in honor of Robert E. Femoyer.

First Lieutenant Richard Thomas Shea, Jr.

Richard Shea, Class of 1948, a native of Portsmouth graduated from Churchland High School. He first studied in uniform at Virginia Tech at the height of World War II. Enlisting in the army, he served as a Sergeant, and entered West Point where he graduated. He was an All American in track and said to have been the greatest track star to attend Virginia Tech (where he ran his first competitive race) or West Point. Turning down the opportunity to attend the Olympics, he joined his classmates in the Korean War. Richard Shea received the Medal of Honor for actions as a army first lieutenant at Pork Chop Hill during the Korea War.

First Lieutenant Shea was assigned as the Executive Officer for Company A, 7th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division near Sokkagae, Korea. He distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy from 6-8 July 1953.

On the night of 6 July, Shea was supervising the reinforcement of defensive positions when the enemy attacked with great numerical superiority. Voluntarily proceeding to the area most threatened, he organized and led a counterattack. In the bitter fighting which ensued, Shea closed with and killed two enemy soldiers with his trench knife. Calmly moving among the men, he fought side by side with them through the night. Despite heavy losses, the hostile force made an all out attempt at dawn to overrun
friendly elements.

On the afternoon of 7 July, after 18 hours of heavy fighting and having lost key personnel through casualties, Lt. Shea rallied a group of 20 men and again charged the enemy. Although wounded in the action, he refused evacuation and continued to move among the defenders of Pork Chop Hill ensuring a successful defense. When the assaulting element was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire, he personally rushed the emplacement and, firing his carbine and lobbing grenades, neutralized the weapon and killed three of the enemy soldiers single handedly. Lt. Shea coordinated and directed a holding action throughout the night and the following morning.

On 8 July, the enemy attacked again. Despite additional wounds he launched a determined counterattack and was last seen in close hand-to-hand combat with the enemy. He died leaving both a wife and unborn son.

**Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy and Air Force Cross Recipients**

Virginia Tech has a long record of military valor that is now over one hundred years old. The first Alum recognized with an Award for Valor was Lieutenant Edward Anderson Class of 1883. Years after his actions in the Santiago Campaign, during the Spanish American War, he was presented a Silver Star. American’s second highest award for valor is the Army’s Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy’s Navy Cross and the Air Forces’ Air Force Cross. Incredibly, at least twenty alumni have received these awards. Virginia Tech can also boast of at least 82 individuals awarded the Silver Star and at least 94 awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Valor among our alumni has not been uncommon. Neither has their sacrifice, with 424 dying in service during World I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and most recently Operation Iraqi Freedom.
**WORLD WAR I**
First Lieutenant John R. Castleman ’19
Lt. Commander Francis M. Collier (USN) ’07
First Lieutenant David R. Doggett ’16
Major Bernard Hewlett Kyle ’06
Sergeant Samuel A. Loyd ’14
Captain J.W.G. Stephens ’15
Major James Vernon Ware ’14
Captain (USMC) Lloyd W. Williams ’07

**WORLD WAR II**
Major William R. Washington ’40
Lieutenant (USNR) Carl F. Robison ’34
Captain W. Bruce Davis * ’38
Lieutenant JG (USNR) William W. Patterson ’52
Lt. Colonel Woodrow Wilson Bailey * ’35
Colonel William Ford ’18
First Lieutenant Charlie E. Linkous * ’42
Captain Richard P. Walker * ’35
Private Frank E. Palco ’45
Captain (USN) Ben Tate ’42

**KOREAN WAR**
Captain Moir E. Eanes ’49

**VIETNAM WAR**
First Lieutenant (USMC) Paul F. Cobb * ’66
Brigadier General (USAF) Robert Titus ’48
First Lieutenant Ronald S. Taylor

“ * “ denotes posthumous award
History of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

On October 1, 1872, Virginia Tech opened as the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. All students were cadets organized into a battalion of two companies with an enrollment of 132. The Commandant of Cadets was General James H. Lane, formerly the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia, who was wounded three times in combat. He worked to provide both the best education and the best military training in the state for his cadets based on his experience in the Civil War, as a student at VMI and UVA, and teacher at Florida State Seminary and North Carolina Military Institute.

General Lane is considered the father of the Corps. He wrote the first cadet regulations and began a tradition of academic and military excellence. In 1878, President Charles Minor wanted to do away with the strict military requirements. Lane opposed him and their disagreement became so heated that a faculty meeting ended with a fist fight between the two. Both left campus in the ensuing scandal but the Corps remained.

The VAMC cadets made their first Corps trip in 1875 to Richmond to the dedication of the Lee Monument. Through the years the Corps has made many trips. These trips were more frequent in the early years including the Pan–American Exposition in New York in 1901 and the St. Louis Worlds Fair in 1904. In 1880, political mismanagement from Richmond helped enrollment drop to 78 cadets. That same year William & Mary dropped to 27 students and closed temporarily. In the ensuing years, however, enrollment and educational opportunities were expanded. E Battery, manning four Civil War artillery pieces with upperclassmen, existed between 1883 and 1907.

In 1896, VAMC, by law changed its name to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Agriculture and Mechanical College. Right away usage took on its new designation abbreviated as VPI or Virginia Tech. Also, that year began a tradition that lasted nearly three-quarters of a century, the VPI-VMI annual football game in Roanoke. Known as the Military Classic of the South, the annual Corps trips and associated parades ended in 1969.

In 1898, with the outbreak of the Spanish American War, the Corps of Cadets formally volunteered to the governor for combat service. This request
was declined, but most of the band and the director enlisted as the Band of the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. Many alumni served in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Among them, one was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Philippine Insurrection; another was cited for gallantry at the Battle of Santiago, Cuba and awarded the Silver Star.

The band had first been organized in 1892. Prior to that, as early as 1883 music was provided by the “Glade Cornet Band,” an organization made up of towns people. The summer of 1902 saw the band serving as part of the 70th Virginia Infantry during large-scale national military maneuvers held in Manassas. Alumni also participated in the Mexican Border Conflict between 1910 and 1919, including one who received the Medal of Honor for actions of a true peacekeeping nature. in 1911.

With the approach of World War I, ROTC was established at Virginia Tech. In January of 1917, Infantry ROTC was established followed shortly by Engineer and Coast Artillery. During the war, Virginia Tech became an army post. Cadets were inducted and became enlisted men of the Student Army Training Battalion and its Navy detachment. They were uniformed in Army and Navy uniforms. Two army-training detachments of between 226 and 308 men each trained on campus.

CPT J.W.G. Stephens ’15, of the 26th Infantry, led the first American forces “over on top” in combat near Montdidlier, France. Many alumni served with distinction with the 1st, 2nd, 29th and 80th Divisions, all of which saw heavy combat. A hero of note was MAJ Lloyd Williams ’07, US Marine Corps. One of the famous quotes of the war, used for years as a Marine standard was attributed to him. “Retreat, Hell No!” was his reply to the French orders to retreat his company. His company held its ground but he was killed in the action and awarded the Distingusihed Service Cross. In the air, alumni, even as early as World War I, foreshadowed VPI’s contribution to the Air Force. CPL Robert G. Eoff, ’18, French Foreign Legion, attached to the 157 French Fighter Squadron shot down the first of 6 enemy aircraft credited to Techmen. LT John R. Castleman ’19 was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in completing an aerial recognizance despite an attack of 12 enemy aircraft of which he shot down two.

Virginia Tech’s contribution to the war effort included 2,297 in uniform. These included 2,155 in the Army, 125 in the Navy, 19 in the Marine
Corps, 6 in the Coast Guard, 1 in the British Army and 1 in the French Foreign Legion. One alumni was awarded the Medal of Honor, seven the Distinguished Service Cross and one the Navy Cross. At least eight were awarded the Silver Star. Twenty-six died in service and another twenty-six were wounded. Based on this Virginia Tech was designated as one of twelve Distinguished Colleges by the War Department.

After World War I, veterans both as new cadets and returning cadets impacted positively on the corps and university. At the same time, two other Corps of Cadets, Louisiana State and Mississippi State disbanded due to the negative reaction of post war students and veterans. In 1921, women were admitted as civilian students and attended classes as day students. The next year the Corps was reorganized into a regiment of two battalions. Two years later, military service as a cadet was reduced from four years to two; however after two years of the camaraderie of Corps’ life, very few cadets chose to convert to civilian student status. During the national rail strike of 1923 the Corps again volunteered to the Virginia Governor for active military service. They were not called upon.

A Third Battalion was added to the regiment by 1927. Rapid growth followed as Virginia Tech’s reputation as both an outstanding academic and military institution grew. In 1939, a Fourth Battalion was added.

For the duration of World War II, academic sessions and the Corps operated on a twelve-month cycle. The Corps had grown to a brigade of 2,650 cadets consisting of two regiments with a total of five battalions. The First Battalion was primarily Infantry ROTC. The Second Battalion was Engineer ROTC and the Third, Fourth and Fifth consisted of Cadet Batteries taking Coast Artillery ROTC. The war demanded that seniors were graduated and commissioned early. Juniors were on an accelerated schedule and brought on active duty. Finally, sophomores and freshmen over 18 were largely inducted into military service. The Corps soon numbered under 300 and was organized into a single battalion.

The Commandant, in addition to the cadet battalion, supervised a unit of the Army Specialized Training Program and Army Specialized Training Reserve Program (ASTRP) (soldiers under 18 years of age) and a Navy pre-flight training unit. These units included many former cadets and
they adopted many of the traditions of the Corps to include the Honor Code and saluting the Rock. The young men of the ASTRP were actually uniformed in cadet gray. Once again Virginia Tech was largely an active duty military installation.

During World War II, 7,285 alumni served in uniform. The army had 5,941 men, the navy 1,059 men, 110 in the Marine Corps, 29 in the Merchant Marine, 23 in the Coast Guard, and one in the Royal Air Force. These included ten brigadier generals, five major generals and a rear admiral. Three Hundred and twenty-three died, three were awarded the Medal of Honor, seven the Distinguished Service Cross, two the Navy Cross and at least 73 the Silver Star and 94 the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Following World War II, returning veterans were not required to serve in the Corps and the great influx of veterans swelled the number of civilian students. Civilian students outnumbered cadets for the first time in 1946. That same year Air Force ROTC was introduced to Virginia Tech. Initially civilian-cadet relations with the corps were not good as most veterans were attending Virginia Tech for the first time. Thanks to the regimental commander, Cadet Rolfe Robertson ’49, a World War II Coast Guard veteran, greater understanding was promoted among his fellow veterans and the Corps continued to grow and flourish. At the same time the Corps at Clemson was disbanded.

During the following years the Corps would expand again back to a regiment and eventually organize into four battalion size units. The Cadet 1st Battalion was housed at Radford Army Arsenal for two years at “Rad-Tech”. There in World War II Army barracks, the cadets lived and took many of their classes. For classes unavailable there, a fleet of buses brought them back to the main campus. As new dorms were completed, the battalion returned to campus.

During the Korean War, 1,867 alumni served of whom 30 died in service and one was awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1952, the university employed a retired general as the commandant of cadets. This was a departure from the policy since 1884 where the senior active duty military instructor functioned as commandant. In 1958, Virginia Tech became the first traditionally white southern college to graduate an African American, with the graduation of
Cadet Charles Yates ’58.

In a move to expand educational opportunities at Virginia Tech, the board of visitors made participation in the Corps completely voluntary starting in 1964. However, the taking of ROTC continued to require Corps membership. Similar action had been taken the prior year at Texas A&M. The Vietnam War period saw unrest on campus outside the Corps ranks. In 1970, demonstrations were conducted with the aim of halting Corps drill. Cowgill and Williams Halls were occupied and over 100 arrested. Various other disorderly incidents occurred including the suspected arson of an on campus building. Civilian-Cadet relations were at an all time low. Throughout all of this, the Corps maintained discipline and high morale while at the same time the Pennsylvania Military College disappeared.

The post Vietnam years saw the Corps numbers decline and reorganization to a two-battalion size regiment. In 1973, Virginia Tech was one of the first Corps of Cadets in the nation to enroll women, assigning them to L Squadron. In 1975, the first female cadet was assigned to the Band Company. In 1979, L Squadron was disbanded and female cadets integrated into the line companies. In 1981, the Cadet dormitories became coed.

Naval ROTC was established in 1983. The cadet regiment expanded to a three-battalion structure in 1998. Today the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is one of only six senior military colleges outside the five federal military academies. Virginia Tech is one of only two large, public universities in the nation that maintains a full time Corps of Cadets. The other is Texas A&M.

The Corps at Virginia Tech has seen many turbulent years and weathered them all. Since the Spanish American War the Corps has provided leadership in our nation’s times of need. Most recently, Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom saw nine Virginia Tech alumni killed, five of which were Corps alumni. The valor of our alumni is legendary, with seven Medal of Honor recipients, and 22 recipients of the nation’s second highest award for valor - the Distinguished Service Cross or Navy Cross. The Corps continues and always will because the spirit and devotion of its cadets and alumni will never waiver. Whenever the nation has called, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was ready to live up to the University motto Ut Prosim - That I May Serve.
The Story of the Skipper
The Dream

The famous game cannon of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was born in the dreams of three cadets of the class of 1964 and its metal tested in the heat of battle between VPI and VMI.

For a third year, two close friends in the Corps, “Butch” Harper aka Alton B. Harper, Jr. and “Sonny” Hickam aka Homer Hadley Hickam, sat in the stands of Victory Stadium in Roanoke, VA in anticipation of the Thanksgiving Game with VMI. The Tech Corps formed on the field first and took position while the VMI Corps marched into the stadium.

Both Corps of Cadets took their traditional positions on opposing sides. And for the third time that Butch and Sonny had witnessed, VMI brought in its game cannon, “Little John.” Oh, it was a small thing that looked more like a mortar than a cannon. They loaded it, fired it, and the whole VMI Corps swelled with the chant, “Where’s your cannon?” as a perfect smoke ring rose towards the sky.

This was too much to bear! Butch looked at Sonny and Sonny looked at Butch and the two made a solemn pact right there in the stands. This would be the last time that VMI would be allowed to “out cannon” Virginia Tech. They vowed to build the largest game cannon in the world. We won the game.

The whole thing took on the form of a major military operation. Sonny found blueprints for a Civil War cannon barrel and Butch looked to find out where they could get a carriage made for the cannon. But the proverbial problem soon became evident. Where on Earth would they get the money?

They attacked it on two sides. First, they decided that it would have to come from the Corps itself with some help from Alumni. Now just how do you convince 1,700 folks to give money? Sonny came up with the idea to have a wooden mold made of the barrel at our college of mechanical engineering. They took it on as a class project.
Sonny and Butch decided on a strategy. They would call a meeting of every company and every squadron and they would take the wooden mold of the barrel of the cannon to every meeting. George Fox, another friend from A Squadron, volunteered to help.

What a wonderful moment. Every person should have one magic moment in life where they could enjoy something so accepted as “Skipper.” The huge wooden mold of the barrel did its job. It inspired every member of the Corps. The meetings, 16 in all, made it evident that never again would the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets go into battle without a gun.

At the end of each meeting, each cadet got up, went back to his room, and brought back what he could spare. We asked each for just one dollar and all of the brass they could give.

They brought their grommets, they brought their brass plates, they brought their old brass buckles. This cannon would not simply be built with their dollars, but with their hearts. It is for this reason that you can find the class numerals of 64, 65, 66, and 67 on the face of the barrel.

It was a moving experience. Sonny and Butch found it hard to look at each other after each meeting because they knew they would each see a tear in the eye of the other. These were the best guys in the world. They had never seen anything so emotionally supported then or now. They would not trade that feeling of being a member of a group of which they were so proud for anything in the world.

The Making

The money was raised, they were a little short on brass, but Sonny brought in some brass fittings from his father’s mine in West Virginia to fill it out and some bullet casings were gathered from the firing range. All the brass was taken to the Virginia Foundry Company in Roanoke Virginia.

Butch had called the President of the Company a few months before and told him what they were about to do after swearing him to secrecy. Butch asked him how much it would cost and he astounded him with his response. “You don’t have enough,” he indicated, “but I’ve thought we needed a cannon for a long time too. Son, I’m a member of the Corps Class of ’37. We’ll be making that barrel for you for nothing. Just blow the heck out of them for us, will ya?”
It was a deal. He took our brass and wooden mold and set about the task of casting the barrel.

A few days later, Butch received a phone call from Mr. Hoffman. He asked where they had gotten the brass for the barrel and Butch told him the story. It seems that not all of the shell casings they picked up from the floor of the firing range were empty. He said when they poured the brass into the vat for melting, everybody was ducking for cover as the foundry was filled with the sound of gunfire. Well, after all, no good cannon worth its salt is made without a little effort. He indicated that the brass they had given him was too soft without support and recommended that they let him add some navy gun metal brass for safety. It was done.

Hoffman asked if he could bring the Roanoke Times in on the secret. Butch told him yes, if he would wait until the edition that prints directly after the game because they had big plans for VMI and it absolutely depended on their not knowing. He agreed, and Butch knew he could trust him because he was one of them.

It was now time to turn to the carriage. They found the place that made the old Civil War gun carriages for the National Battle Field Parks like Gettysburg. It was the Lorton Reformatory, in Lorton, Virginia just outside of Washington, D.C.. They were given all of the money that Butch and Sonny had saved by not having to pay for the barrel and they agreed to make the carriage to hold “Skipper.”

The Name

The cannon did not yet have a name and no one could have ever dreamed of the circumstances that would cause it to have one.

Time was getting short. The big game was fast approaching. Everything was in place.

It was time to pick up the barrel and the carriage. They rented a truck that Sonny and Butch drove and a chase car was driven by George Fox and a few others also from A Squadron.

They stopped by the Foundry in Roanoke first to pick up the barrel. After all, if the barrel wasn’t ready, there was no need to go on to Washington. The whole foundry turned out. They were as proud of the barrel as Sonny and Butch were. They shook hands, wished them well, and gave a big Tech
cheer as they headed off to get the carriage.

It was a long trip, all the way across the state. The Reformatory was a bit foreboding, but the carriage was waiting just as promised. It took all of them to load it into the truck.

They had it! They had it done! And they were on the way back to show it to the whole Corps. It was the best feeling in the world. Nothing like it.

After about 20 minutes, the chase car that was now the lead car, pulled over on the shoulder and waved us to pull over. Our truck did not have a radio. George Fox came back to Sonny and Butch and inidicated that it had just been broadcast that the President had been shot in Dallas and that they did not know how severe it was. They continued back to Blacksburg, not in the exhilaration that they had experienced, but with a tremendous foreboding. In those days, they did not know whether it was an international plot, whether war was imminent, or what the future would hold. It was like going from basking in the warm sun to being plunged into the abyss of a cold dark tunnel. There was no more joy in the trip. Everyone was quite.

By the time that they arrived back in Blacksburg, the President was dead.

They all felt terrible, but wanted to do something in honor of our Head of State. They remembered an old military tradition that, at the death of a President, all military installations give a 50 gun salute to their fallen leader.

It was then that they knew what they had to do. It was then that they knew what they had to name their cannon. It would be named “Skipper” in honor of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and his naval background.

The Salute

The first firing of “Skipper” would be a 50 round salute to our fallen President. It would be the test of the barrel’s strength and it would be the salute of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

As they placed “Skipper” in position on the lawn in front of Brodie and Rasche Halls, General Schewe appeared. Sonny had quickly devised special charges that were quite rudimentary. But at the time, it was all they could do. Butch saw a look in the General’s eyes that spoke a thousand words. Never
did he dream when he allowed us to proceed on building the cannon, that it would be christened in this way. It was an emotional moment for everyone. “Skipper” did just fine. A tradition was born.

The Game

After they found out that the Thanksgiving Day game would indeed be held, they immediately began laying plans for introducing “Skipper” to the opposing Corps of Cadets from VMI.

They met with Curt Tompkins, Captain of the “Highty Tighties.” He was brought into the big secret. They would take the cannon to Roanoke the night before the game and hide it in the stadium. They would let our Corps and the VMI Corps march in the parade and into the stadium. They would take their place in the stands and let the VMI Corps form and take their place as normal. They would let them bring in “Little John,” their mortar, and fire it as usual. They would let them chant, “where’s your cannon?” as usual.

At that time, Sonny, Butch, and George would stand and signal Curt and the Highty Tighties to strike up the march of the Charioteers from Ben Hur. 50 Freshmen members of the rat class, with Sonny as their commander, would pull in “Skipper” with two long heavy ropes, place it in position aimed directly at the center of the VMI Corps of Cadets and fire it!

And fire it they did. Sonny and George placed a charge in the barrel and looked at Butch, with a twinkle in their eye, as if to ask if that was enough. Butch knew the answer they were looking for. Another charge would be appropriate and yet another. They placed a triple charge into the cannon that day.

What happened after that became a legend. The folks sitting next to the VMI Corps later told that it blew the covers off of half of the Corps and a huge announcement came pounding from the press boxes. It seems that the reporters had to place their hands on the glass of the press box to keep it from vibrating out of its frame.

The VMI Corps was quiet. They knew never again to challenge the veracity of VPI’s artillery. The mission was complete. The duty was done. The game was won.

To read more on the history of the Skipper, visit http://www.vtcc.vt.edu
**Company Heraldry**

**Alpha Company**
The Alpha Company logo incorporates a strong base of traditional values from the past and present. The Air Force Prop and Wings and the Army Crossed Rifles set behind the shield pay respect to Alpha’s early roll as a unit of Army cadets and later, of Air Force cadets. The shape of the shield is the same shape used from a previous logo from the 1960’s. Within the shield are two phrases, “Retreat Hell” honoring Alpha alumni Major Lloyd Williams and his refusal to retreat, and “Still Kickin’ Ass” emphasizing Alpha’s tenacity and its mascot. The two kicking donkeys represent the mascot, the three images around the Ace of Spades in the center represent the three tenets of the company today, Unity (Fleur de Lis), Pride (Lion), and Self Discipline (Greek Helmet).

**Bravo Company**
The motto of Bravo Co., engraved on the sword is ‘Factus n Flamman’... Forged in Flame. It illustrates that a successful company comes from the team struggling and persevering together. The sword is a symbol of the power created through hard work. The crest is in the shape of a shield. It symbolizes the tradition of every class to create and design a shield as they become part of the company. The phoenix is the current company mascot and is another symbol that compliments the motto. The bee is the old mascot from the 1960’s when the company was B Squadron. This honors the great men and women who have served in Bravo before us.

**Charlie Company**
The Charlie Corps emblem depicts a bloodied, broken shield, held together by a Blue Cobra. The red portion of the shield with a diagonal white strip symbolizes the Corps itself while the black band surrounding the shield symbolizes the Corps’ value and perseverance within a larger university. There is a crack in the shield and two blood drops symbolizing the steadfastness of Corp members over time and the two companies, India and Kilo, which earlier merged to form today’s Charlie Company. The original meaning of the yellow star in the bottom left corner is unknown, but today it stands in honor of past company members.
Delta Company

In 1980 the Delta Company crest was updated to better reflect the unit’s history. The 1970 superimposed over the “L” and “M” is the year Delta Company was established. The entire Corps of Cadets was reorganized that year and “L” and “M” companies were combined to form what is now Delta Company. Through the combined efforts of all classes, Delta Company achieved distinction as one of the top units in the Corps. Red letters on a yellow background symbolize the colors of the company. The bar in the center of the shield reflects the southern heritage of the University and the stars represent the four classes of the Corps of Cadets. The red and white stripes represent our nation’s flag and the service our Corps has rendered to the nation. Crossed sabers are symbolic of command and being unsheathed signifies duty, vigilance and readiness. “Spirit of Delta,” the company’s motto, speaks to the devotion of members to our unit.

Echo Company

The stripes in the bottom left quadrant are represent our unit colors and are also reflected on the stripes on the walls of our Unit Area… our home. The Eagle is the crest from the 1960’s. The SAC III represents Sam Carson. The A & B represent Alpha and Bravo merging to form Echo. The Eagle flying with the AB Shield is a historic crest that the sophomores continue to draw in their Echo Books as they join the company.

Foxtrot Company

The cannon in the upper right corner of the shield recognizes Foxtrot Company as the original caretaker of the Skipper cannon. Even today, Foxtrot Company sophomores shine the original Skipper in the Corps museum. The diamond in the lower left corner represents the Foxtrot Company First Sergeants who have the nickname “Diamond.” Red is Foxtrot Company’s color.
Golf Company
The Golden G in the Company logo represents member pride in the Company; while the Tasmanian Devil represents its member's unwavering tenacity. The ripping shield is symbolic of the fact that nothing is capable of preventing Golf from achieving their will. Non Concedo is the company's motto and roughly translates to “Never Give Up”.

Hotel Company
The Hotel Company crest symbolizes the spirit of Hotel in many ways. The dragon is the mascot of Hotel and is considered the Company's protector. In front of the dragon is the Flaming VT which was a tradition started decades ago in which members of Hotel Company light a giant VT on fire to energize the crowd at Homecoming Pep Rallys. The letters R and S were the original two squadrons joined together to make what is today's Hotel Company. On the top and the bottom of the crest are the words “Hotel Forever”; this is the company's motto and is a testament to the strong bonds between members of the company. Finally, the entire crest is red and green… the company's colors.

India Company
India company was first established in 1927 as an artillery battery represented by two crossed cannons. The bullet in the middle of the I represents the tradition of joining India Company. In earlier years, cadets joining India Compay, were given a live .308 round which they were to keep with them at all times. India cadets would fire their round to commemorate their acceptance into the company. Today incoming sophomores receive a .308 shell as a treasured keepsake. The Bengal Tiger became the official mascot for the company, along with the colors Black and Red (Gold is an adopted color). Every cadet in India Company lives by the motto “Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus”, which means “Not for self, but for all”.

74
Kilo Battery

The golden ‘K’ at the top of the crest symbolizes the nickname Kilo Battery and the fact that Kilo earned Gold Chord honors 9 out of 10 times the first decade the award was available. The actual design of the K is modeled after the K in the original Kilo Company crest. The flaming black horse is the Kilo Battery mascot known as nightmare. The punisher skull is the Six Pack (TC 3-3) mascot. Our motto, Ne Te Molesti Deprimant is on the scroll and translates to, “Don’t Let the Bastards Get You Down”. The cannons represent the two cannons next to the Corps flagpole. These cannons were found submerged in the Duck Pond and were later recovered by members of Kilo Battery. They were kept hidden in Rasche Hall until members of Foxtrot Company had cleaned them up and put them on display. The spider web, rifle, and bone are all elements on the original Kilo Company crest.

Lima Company

The Lima crest has four sections and is taken from the original design of the Lima crest of the 1970’s. The ‘L’ in the upper right section symbolizes both Lima, and our mascot, The Legion. The double meaning of the letter symbolizes the unity of Lima. In the bottom left, is a broken sword. The sword stands for power and strength, and even though it is broken, it is being held upward, showing that even through trials and difficult times, Lima will rise and continue to achieve excellence. The unit colors are reflected throughout the crest (red, white, and blue) and the motto “Non Timebo Mala” translates to, “I Fear No Evil”.

Band Company

The Highty-Tighty logo is a modern twist of the traditional Highty-Tighty Crest. Dividing the logo into four quadrants are the Mace and the Commander’s Sword. The Drum Major, while leading the band, carries the Mace. This tradition began in the mid 1990’s. The Commander’s Sword is an Army-style sabre carried by the Band Company Commander with a white blood knot, originally owned by Andre S. William HT’86. In the upper quadrant is a soaring eagle and the Highty-Tighty motto, “Deeds Not Words,” signifying the bands continued service from the Spanish American War to public events, today, representing Virginia Tech. The bottom quadrant contains a golden lyre similar to the ones worn on the sleeve of current bandsmen on the blue blouse uniform. The left and right quadrants contain flags. On the left is the flag of the United States of America and on the right a flag representing Virginia Tech. These symbolize all those whom the band serves when it performs: first our country and then the university.
Virginia Tech Trivia

• The Morrill Land Grant Act was signed by President Lincoln on 2 July 1862 (Land Grant College Act).

• Virginia Governor Gilbert Walker signed legislation on 19 March 1872 establishing Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, and Hampton Institute as land grant institutions. 19 March is Founder’s Day at Virginia Tech.

• Virginia Tech first opened as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC) on 1 October 1872.

• First student to register was Cadet William Addison Caldwell.

• First Commandant was General James H. Lane, a VMI graduate. He was the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia, wounded three times, led his brigade in Picket’s Charge, and was credited with saving General Robert E. Lee from capture during the battle of the Wilderness.

• General Lane served under both Stonewall Jackson and A.P Hill. His men were responsible for the mortal wounding of Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

• University president Lindsay Lomax (1886-1891) was a confederate general.

• University president Thomas Conrad (1882-1886) was a confederate spy & scout during the Civil War.

• The Father of Modern VPI is President John McBryde (1891-1907).
• Two former university presidents commanded Echo as cadets. Julian Burruss, 1898, commanded E Battery, while John R. Hutcheson, 1907, commanded E Company.

• Cadet James H. Clark, Class of 1881 functioned as the commandant of cadets 1880-1882.

• Lieutenant Sheldon W. Anding (USA) was the only Naval Academy man to be the commandant of cadets. LT. Anding was USNA Class of 1886 when during his senior year a severe case of typhoid prevented his graduation. With the outbreak of the Spanish American War he enlisted in the Army.

• Cadet O.M. Stull, 1893, wrote “Old Hokie” for a contest in which he won five dollars. The word “Hokie” from this cheer is actually a nonsense word, now used for Tech students and athletes.

• Cadet Wilfred Preston “Pete” Maddux, 1920, wrote the words to “Tech Triumph”.

• The Hokie Bird’s origins can be traced to the nickname given to cadet athletes during the early twentieth century. As early as 1908, the cadets were nicknamed “gobblers” for the way they ate in the dining facilities. In 1913, a live turkey began appearing at football games. For many years, the football team was known as the “Fighting Gobblers.” A costumed student replaced the live turkey in 1962.

• Virginia Tech’s official school colors are Chicago maroon and burnt orange.

The original school colors were black and gray, but the students thought they looked like prison colors. Instead, they chose two colors no other school had used together, and came up with the more familiar orange and maroon.
• The bushes around Lane Stadium turn orange and maroon.

• Shultz Hall originally had the largest university seal on campus. It was moved to the Holtzman Alumni Center.

• McBryde has the largest compass on the campus.

• The flagpole at Burruss leans 4.5 degrees N-NW.

• The flagpoles at Burruss are 77 feet apart.

• There are 14 gargoyles on campus: 4 at Eggleston, 4 at Hillcrest, 3 at Smyth and 3 at Saunders.

• The Mall is .25 miles from N. Main St. to the Pylons.

• The oldest academic building still in use is Henderson Hall, the original portion of which dates to 1876. It served as the president’s house until 1902.

• Virginia Tech’s oldest fraternity the G.E.R.M.A.N. club of Virginia Tech was originally founded as the Cadet Dancing Club in 1887.

• The bookstore is shaped like Virginia.

• The longest pipe on the organ in the Chapel is 16 feet.

• There are 61 bells in the Carillon.

• VPI&SU is located at 80.5 25’ 16”W-37.5 13’54” N.

• Two Virginia governors were born at Smithfield Plantation. Governor James Patton Preston (1816-1819) is buried in the Smithfield
Plantation cemetery behind the Cage.
• Women were not allowed into the Bugle until 1935.

• The first female cadet was admitted to the Corps in 1973.

• Two large universities Virginia Tech and Texas A&M, along with the smaller North Georgia College & State University, are the only public universities to have a Corps of Cadets along with a civilian, undergraduate student body.

• The creek under the drill field is Stroubles.

• The first three professors were Lane, Martin, and Carrol.

• Virginia Tech’s only Noble Prize winner is Robert Richardson ’58. This former Regimental S-1 discovered Liquid Helium -3.

• The movie “October Sky” is about Homer Hickam, class of 1964. The film is based on Hickam’s book “Rocket Boys”, which he wished the title of the film to be. The studio believed that title would not sell well, and changed the name. It just so happened that “October Sky” is an anagram of “Rocket Boys.”

• John Philip Sousa dedicated “Hands Across the Seas” to the Highty-Tighties.

• The regimental band has won three Presidential Inaugural Parades in 1953, 1957, and 1961. The parade was ruled non-competitive days before the 1965 Inaugural.

• Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded the Highty-Tighties a white cord in 1936 for their service in the 1898 Spanish-American War. Because the cord was supposedly pinned on backwards, the band wears the cord with the braid facing outward.
• The Highty-Tighties have gone to the Presidential Inaugural eleven times:
• General Lewis Pick, 1914, was the engineer who built the Burma Road
  (Pick’s Pike). It was “the road that could not be built.”

• Virginia Tech has over 100 Generals and Admirals among its alumni.
  These include two Four Star Generals.

• Virginia Tech’s highest ranking alumni are General Thomas Richards,

• Virginia Tech’s War dead number 428: World War I - 26, World War
  II - 323, Korea - 30, Vietnam - 37, Lebanon - 1, Gulf War - 2, Iraqi and

• General Eisenhower’s ranking engineer in the World War II European
  Theater was Major General Cecil Moore, 1916.

• On D-Day, June 6, 1944, six Virginia Tech alumni were killed in
  Normandy: Tech 5 Foster G. Nicherson; SSGT Meade H. Baker ’38; SGT
  Wesley D. Sisson ’40; SGT George B. Tullidge ’45; SSGT John B. Schenk
  ’40; LT Jimmie Montieth ’41. Two others died of wounds received that day:
  CPT Norman L. Aiger ’39 and PFC Raymond L. Sanford ’45. LT Giles B.
  Harris ’43, died on June 10, 1944, during continued engagements during
  Operation Overlord.

• Virginia Tech’s Gulf War dead were Machinist’s Mate 3rd Class Michael
  Mann (formerly Alpha Company), 1988, of the USS Iwo Jima, and 1st.
  Lt Donaldson Tillar (formerly of Golf Company), 1988, US Army 1st
  Infantry Division.

• The eleven names on the Rock are: Capt. Lloyd W. Williams, Lt. Howard

- The term “Rat” as in rat belt was first used for freshmen cadets in 1873. Its use was discouraged after 1935. “Mister” and more recently “New Cadet” became the official freshmen title. Unlike VMI’s “brother rat” applied to classmates there, the term or wearing of related items, such as rat belts, is dropped immediately and eagerly by all concerned upon achieving upper-class standing at Virginia Tech. Freshmen cadets were told in past years that the only thing lower in their chain of command is a senior at VMI.

- Christopher Kraft ’45, N company, was NASA flight director for the first spaceflight, first orbital, and first spacewalk. He was NASA’s Director of Flight Operations when the crew of Apollo 11 made the first lunar landing. Eventually he served as Director, Manned Spaceflight Center.

- The Cadet Corps owns two unmounted 3” Civil War cannons. They are on display at the flagpole. Both were purchased with the money won as a drill prize from the 1888 Virginia Exposition. C Company performed the prescribed drill with such proficiency that the attending Company from VMI refused to take the field. The carriages for these cannons were destroyed during World War II. Designated for the wartime scrap drive, these historical trophies were hidden in the Duckpond by cadets.

- The original “Skipper” was partially made from brass donated by the cadets from the Classes of ’64, ’65, ’66, and ’67. Most of the brass came from outside donations and shells. The name of “Skipper” was to honor President Kennedy, former skipper of patrol Torpedo Boat 109.

- One of the most famous quotes from WWI was, “Retreat? Hell! We just got here!” This is attributed to Major Lloyd Williams, 1907, USMC. This was in response to French orders to retreat. His company held its ground against a determined German assault. Major Williams was killed in the action and was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.
## Significant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Olin and Preston Institute opens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Morrill Land Grant Act (July 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Preston and Olin Institute chartered with collegiate powers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College established as a land grant institution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VTCC organized as one battalion with two companies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>First Corps trip (Richmond) was for the unveiling of the Jackson Monument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>All students required to live on campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Military system firmly established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Cadet Band organized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First football game played.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original colors adopted (cadet grey and black).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>First VMI game played.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>First Bugle published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>“Polytechnic Institute” added to name of college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current school colors.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Chicago maroon and burnt orange) adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Motto “Ut Prosim” adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Coat of Arms adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Corps petitions governor for active military service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bandmen and Director enlist as Regimental Band, 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>First out-of-state Corps Trip (Buffalo, New York) was to the Pan American Exposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Honor System established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>First Basketball game played.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Living Turkey first attends football game as mascot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>First Guidon published as the YMCA Handbook.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1917  First R.O.T.C. unit established (Army).
1918  VTCC enlisted as a unit of the regular Army and Navy Reserve.
1919  - Band first called Highty Tighties.
      - Virginia Tech designated as one of the nation’s “Distinguished Military Colleges”.
1921  Females admitted for first time as full-time students
1922  First Regiment organized.
1923  First female receives degree (Mary E. Brumfield).
1924  Only two years of Corps mandatory.
1926  Future Farmers of Virginia (later FFA) founded at VPI by Walter S. Newman.
1930  Civilian Student Union formed.
1934  First Ring Dance (for Class of 1935)
1935  Honor Court established.
1942  VTCC organized as brigade of two regiments (five battalions).
1944  Radford State Teacher’s College becomes VPI Women’s Division until 1964.
1946  Air Force ROTC detachment established.
1949  “Rad-Tech” campus (Radford Army Arsenal) closed.
1952  - Cooperative Education Program established.
      - BOV appointed first full-time Commandant since WWI.
1953  First African American student admitted (Irving L. Peddrew).
1958  First African American student graduates (Charles L. Yates).
1962  First costumed Gobbler.
1964  Corps of Cadets becomes a voluntary option.
1966  Cadets and civilians unite to form one student government.
1967  First African American student to receive athletic
grant-in-aid (Jerry Gaines).
1968 Female students out number cadets for the first time
1970 “and State University” added to VPI’s name.
1973 Females admitted to the Corps of Cadets and organized into L Squadron.
1975 - Highty Tighty Alumni Association established.
- The first female cadet, Marilyn Helmeyer ‘77, joined the Highty Tighties.
1976 Service academies admit females.
1977 Smallest corps since 1902 (325 cadets enrolled).
1981 Cadet dorms become the first co-ed dorms on campus.
1983 Naval ROTC detachment established.
1985 First African American Regimental Commander (Derek A. Jeffries ’86).
1987 - First Female Regimental Commander (Denise A. Shuster ’88).
- White Shirt introduced.
1990 - Company Commanders given rank of Cadet Major.
- Staff designators eliminated.
1991 - The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) is established.
- First Female Drum Major (Lori L. Keck ’92).
1993 Camouflage Pattern Battle Dress Uniform adopted. as Cadet field uniform, replacing OD green “Pickle Bag” fatigues.
1995 - Cadets eligible to earn a minor in Leadership Studies
- The Corps begins awarding Emerging Leader Scholarships.
1996 The Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development is established.
1998 3rd Battalion stands up with the addition of India and Kilo, with the inclusion of Band Company.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>War Memorial Chapel and the Memorial Court were rededicated after a two year renovation on September 8, three days before the 9/11 terrorist attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>First Pylon Dedication Ceremony honoring the death of Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Kaylor, class of 2001 (November 1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>First Female African-American Regimental Commander (Christina Royal ’06).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>First foreign national, Adnan Barqawi of Kuwait, to serve as the Regimental Commander (earned his citizenship prior to graduating in 2009).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2012 | - The VTCC rises to it’s largest number since 1968, with 1066 cadets.  
- Shultz dining hall closes. Corps dining facility in Lavery Hall opens.  
- Band Company splits into two sections.  
- Lima Company stands up as a new addition to 3rd Battalion.  
- Multicam is introduced to replace the Battle Dress Uniform. |
| 2013 | Rasche Hall, built in 1897 as Barracks No. 2, closed it’s doors for the final time and is demolished making way for Pearson Hall.  
Corps welcomes Battalion Senior Enlisted Advisors.  
Second Battalion is housed in Eggleston and Eggleston Hall West. |
| 2015 | Brodie Hall closed it’s doors for the final time. It is slated for replacement, during which time 2nd Battalion will be housed in Eggleston Hall. |
| 2015 | Cadet Matthew LaPorte is posthumously awarded the Airman’s Medal for his actions in Norris Hall on April 16th, 2007. |
University Knowledge

Seal of Virginia Tech

On November 8, 1963 the official seal of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was adopted by the Board of Visitors.

Meaning of the parts:
• A shield containing four quarters
  • The upper left quarter representing the obverse side of the great seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia;
  • The upper right quarter containing a surveyor’s level and leveling rod superimposed over a scroll which represents engineering;
  • The lower right quarter containing a partially husked standing ear of corn which represents agriculture;
  • The lower left quarter containing a chemical retort and graduate which represents science;
• Above the shield is a flaming lamp of learning with a right hand thumb, forefinger and part of the lower arm;
• Beneath the shield is the motto “UT PROSIM”; meaning “That I May Serve”
• Science, Engineering, and Agriculture were the university’s first curriculum.
The Five Names of Tech

Virginia Agriculture & Mechanical College (1872)
Virginia Agriculture & Mechanical College & Polytechnic Institute (1896)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (1970)
Virginia Tech (Recognized as an official name) (1980)

University Presidents

Charles L. Minor (1872-1879)
John L. Buchanan (March 1880)
Col. Scott Shipp (April 1880)
Prof. John Hart (Acting President 1880 -1881)
John L. Buchanan (May 1881- January 1882)
Thomas N. Conrad (1882-1886)
Lindsay L. Lomax (1886-1891)
John M. McBryde (1891-1907)
Paul B. Barringer (1907-1913)
Joseph D. Eggleston (1913-1919)
Julian A. Brruss 1898 (1919-1945)
John R. Hutcheson ’07 (1945-1947)
Walter S. Newman (1947-1962)
William E. Lavery (1975-1988)
Charles W. Steger ’69 (2000-2014)
Timothy D. Sands (2014-Present)
COMMANDANT OF CADETS

There have been 33 different Commandants (two served twice). West Point graduates have dominated with 15, Virginia Tech a total of 5, VMI had 3, one had attended the Naval Academy and two graduated from the Air Force Academy. Between 1884 and 1952, the senior military instructor was the Commandant. Thereafter the Commandant was a retired officer employed by Virginia Tech.

1872 – 1880   BG James H. Lane
1880 – 1882   Cadet James A. Clarke ’80
1882 – 1884   COL W. Ballard Preston
1884 – 1887   LT John C. Gresham
1887
1887 – 1890   LT John T. Knight
1890 – 1894   LT John A. Harmon
1895 – 1898   LT David C. Shanks
1898 – 1901   COL Adam T. Finch ’93
1906 – 1909   CPT George H. Jamerson ’92
1909 – 1911   CPT William R. Dashiell
1911 – 1914   LT Joseph F. Ware ’02
1914 – 1917   LT Sheldon W. Anding
1917
1917 – 1918   MAJ William P. Stone
1918 – 1919   MAJ John C. Skuse
1919 – 1920   MAJ Clifford C. Carson
1920 – 1924   MAJ F.E. Willford
1924 – 1929   MAJ W.R. Nichols
1929 – 1935   LTC John B. Maynard ’07
1935 – 1938   LTC C.H. Tenney
1938 – 1942   COL John H. Cochran
1942 – 1945   COL R.R. Wilson
1945 – 1946   COL George Henderson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Commanding Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1946 – 1951</td>
<td>COL T.M. Mumford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951 – 1952</td>
<td>COL W.B. Merritt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952 – 1961</td>
<td>MG John M. Devine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967 – 1972</td>
<td>MG Francis T. Pachler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972 – 1973</td>
<td>BG David S. Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973 – 1980</td>
<td>BG Earl C. Acuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 – 1989</td>
<td>Lt Gen Howard M. Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989 – 1999</td>
<td>Maj Gen Stanton R. Musser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 – 2011</td>
<td>Maj Gen Jerrold P. Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – present</td>
<td>Maj Gen Randal D. Fullhart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Air Force Song

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
    Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder
    At’em boys, giv’er the gun!
Down we dive spouting our flames from under
    Off with one hell-uv-a-roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame
    Nothing’ll stop the US Air Force!

Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder
    Sent it high into the blue
Hands of men blasted the world asunder,
    How they lived God only knew!
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer
    Gave us wing, ever to soar.
With Scouts before and bombers galore,
    Nothing can stop the US Air Force!

Here’s a toast to the host of those who love the vastness of the sky,
    To a friend we send the message of his brother men who fly.
We drink to those who gave their all of old,
    Then down we roar to score the rainbow’s pot of gold.
A toast to the host of men we boast
    The US Air Force!

Off we go into the wild sky yonder
    Keep the wings level and true
If you’d live to be a gray-haired wonder
    Keep the nose out of the blue
Flying men, guarding our nation’s borders
    We’ll be there followed by more
In echelon, we carry on
    Nothing can stop the US Air Force!
The Army Goes Rolling Along

March along, sing our song
with the Army of the free
Count the brave,
count the true,
who have fought to victory.
We’re the Army and proud of our name;
We’re the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation’s might,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle’s won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along

CHORUS:
Then it’s hi, hi, hey! The Army’s on its way
Count off the cadence loud and strong (two, three)
For wher-e’er we go, You will always know
that the Army Goes Rolling Along

Valley Forge, Custer’s ranks, San Juan Hill and Patton’s tanks,
And the Army went rolling along.
Minute men from the start,
Always fighting from the heart,
And the Army keeps rolling along.

CHORUS:
Men in rags, men who froze, still that Army met its foes,
And the Army went rolling along.
Faith in God, then we’re right,
And we’ll fight with all our might,
As the Army keeps rolling along.
Anchors Aweigh

Stand Navy out to sea
Fight our battle cry
We’ll never change our course
So vicious foe steer shy-y-y-y
Roll out the T.N.T.
Anchors Aweigh
Sail on to victory and
Sink their bones to Davy Jones hooray!

Yo ho there shipmate
Take the fighting to the far off seas
Yo ho there messmate
Hear the wailing of the wild banshees
All hands, fire brands
Let’s Blast them as we go. So

CHORUS:
Anchors Aweigh my boys
Anchors Aweigh
Farewell to college joys
We sail at break of day day day day
Through our last night on shore’
Drink to the foam
Until we meet once more
Here’s wishing you a happy voyage home!

Heave a ho there sailor
Everybody drink up while you may
Heave a ho there sailor
For your gonna sail at break of day
Drink Away, Drink away,
For you sail at break of day, Hey!
The Marines’ Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma
   To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country’s battles
   In the air on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
   And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
   United States Marine

Our flag’s unfurled to every breeze
   From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
   Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far off northern lands
   And in sunny tropics scenes;
You will find us on the job-
   The United States Marines

Here’s to health to you and to our Corps
   Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we’ve fought for life
   And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
   Ever look on Heaven’s scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
   United States Marines
Semper Paratus (Always Ready)

From the North and South and East and West,
The Coast Guard’s in the fight.
Destroying subs and landing troops,
The Axis feels our might.
For we’re the first invaders,
On every fighting field.
Afloat, ashore, on men and Spars,
You’ll find the Coast Guard shield.

CHORUS:
We’re always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through howling gale and shot and shell,
To win our victory.
“Semper Paratus” is our guide,
Our pledge, our motto, too.
We’re “Always Ready,” do or die!
Aye! Coast Guard, we fight for you.
The Minor in Leadership Studies

In 1996, Virginia Tech became the first Land Grant University in the nation to successfully combine the academic study of leadership with the practical application of leadership skills available through a Corps of Cadets experience. Cadets study the science of leadership through their ROTC curriculum or through selected courses from a number of academic departments within the College of Science, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences or the College of Business. At the same time, through the Corps, cadets have the opportunity to practice the art of leadership through the leadership progression – the four year developmental experience within the Corps where every cadet is evaluated in leadership positions of ever increasing responsibility, from the freshman through the senior year. Cadets are further developed through exposure to honor and ethics education, the Corps Leaders In Action Lecture Series, and the Corps program of physical development.

Cadets are eligible to receive the Minor in Leadership Studies along one of the three tracks described below:

The Military Track: Successful completion of the Army, Navy, or Air Force ROTC curricula combined with successful completion of the leadership progression in the Corps of Cadets.

The Civic-Professions Track: Successful completion of 24 credit hours from a number of courses selected from academic departments in the College of Science and College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences or the College of Business combined with the successful completion of the leadership progression in the Corps of Cadets.

The Combination Track: Cadets may use up to 12 credits from ROTC toward completion of the 24-credit requirement above.
The Regiment renders honors during the National Anthem while a B-52 conducts a flyover of Lane Stadium during Corps Homecoming, Fall 2013.
Now...

The World expects, nay needs, more from a Techman than others. Thus, to attain the status of a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is not an obligation to be taken lightly for with it comes immense effort and the call to sacrifice. These works, however, do not go without reward as the greatest of victories can only occur by first partaking in the greatest of tribulations. Be not like the meek and mild who choose to waste their lives in pursuit of a moment’s comfort. Enter the arena of Life with a fervor of courage and enthusiasm to take on the Goliaths that afflict the weak and falter the noble pursuits of Mankind such that with every trial You are renewed within your purpose. You are a Techman. The world awaits to elate in your triumphs.

More than Ever

1872