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# CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Rock Roszak '71 (left), the Corps' former alumni director, and Gary Lerch '72, chairman of the Corps' alumni board, led the alumni regiment on the field during pregame activities for Corps Homecoming. Nearly 200 alumni participated in the march-on and enjoyed a great weekend of reminiscing and camaraderie. Please join us for next fall's Corps Homecoming weekend!

Serving with TF Lightning Horse in the Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, as an OH-58D pilot, Capt. Andrew Howell '07 showed his Hokie pride while flying over the Arghandab River in the Zharay District. Howell was our Hokie Hero for this year's football game versus Duke University. *Ut Prosim!*



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Gary Lerch '72, *Chairman*

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, *Commandant of Cadets*

Col. Patience Larkin '87, *Alumni Director and Editor*

David Stanley VT'95, *Art Director*

Juliet Crichton, *Assistant Editor*

Col. David L. Spracher '70, *Director of Development*

Michael Diersing, Bradley Larkin, Randal Fullhart, Kathy Fullhart, *Photography*

Melissa Richards, *Director of Marketing and Publications*

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**Front cover photo:** Bradley Larkin

**Back cover photo:** Michael Diersing

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Mel and Maria Sabale with their children, Michaela and Matthew.



A Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle integrated with full communications package. Photo courtesy of BAE Systems.



Sabale with a Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).



From left, Sabale on game day with former high school classmates and fellow cadets Rolando Farrales '99 and Joel Castaneda '00.

# Fulfilling the Objectives

by Mel Michael Sabale '99

**Our beloved university motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), has resonated in my mind since I first heard the phrase more than a decade ago during freshman orientation at Virginia Tech.**

I grew up as a Navy brat in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and was lucky to have great role models early in life. My dad had been given the opportunity to join the U.S. Navy when he was drafted out of Subic Bay, Philippines. After seeing his dedication and service to a number of admirals, including Adm. Jeremy Boorda and Vice Adm. Daniel Cooper (retired), who commissioned me in 1999, I knew early on that my goal was to be a member of an organization that made a difference. And I can say, without hesitation, that the Corps of Cadets, one of the greatest organizations that I have ever been a part of, was the starting point for me fulfilling that goal.

During high school, as a member of an Air Force Junior ROTC program, I had one thing on my mind: to earn an ROTC scholarship for an opportunity to pursue a good degree and then serve my country. To say the least, I was one

excited young man when I heard the news that I had been awarded a four-year Air Force scholarship to any university that accepted me into its engineering program.

I was offered admission to several state universities, but my eyes were on Virginia Tech. I wanted to be challenged academically, physically, and emotionally. As my cadet first sergeant in the Corps always said, “Tough times and challenges build character.”

Although the stellar engineering program was a big factor in my decision to attend Virginia Tech, the Corps of Cadets made the university an even bigger draw. The idea of all four military branches wearing one uniform across all branches and working together as one unit was unique, not only in Blacksburg, but also around the country. Without a doubt, my four years in the Corps aided me in real-life situations—from my involvement in Operation Enduring Freedom in the Middle East to my current position as a defense contractor.

Looking back, I can say that cadre week almost had me regretting my decision to attend Virginia Tech. Waking up to “Welcome to the Jungle” blasting through the halls of Rasche and Brodie

is something that I will never forget. The banging of the trash cans and the cadre’s screams were a rude awakening and welcome to the Corps of Cadets. I was humbled during that week and definitely challenged to a level I had never before experienced in my life. I certainly was “building character.”

But throughout that week, as well as during the rest of my freshman year in E-Frat and later as first sergeant of Bravo Company during my junior year, I was also meeting friends for life, understanding teamwork, and learning how to cope with stress. I found courage in myself that I never knew I had, and I learned how to rely on others, how to follow, but also how to lead, and too many other aspects to list here.

I was having such a good time at Virginia Tech in the Corps and as part of the Air Force ROTC program that I requested to have my scholarship extended to a fifth year. The Air Force graciously accepted, and I was able to enjoy my “super-senior” year as a civilian before commissioning in 1999. By the fall, I was ready to take my college experiences and apply them to the real world.

My first assignment was like my college experiences, challenging and

Sabale with his wife and parents following his promotion to captain.



E-98 buds on the Upper Quad (l. to r.): Marc Johannsen '98, Sabale, Kimberly Sullivan '98, Amy (Karibinos) Caron '98, and Matthew Pascarella '99.



With Col. Rock Roszak '71 at Tech's first ACC home game in 2004.

rewarding. I was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., as a member of the Mighty 8th Air Force, where I worked as a joint tactical communications engineer. The uniqueness of having interacted with all four branches in the Corps of Cadets paid off right away in my new position.

I learned by fire while participating in several military exercises: Blue Flag, Red Flag, and Roving Sands, to name a few. Roving Sands was a joint training exercise working with Army and Navy

elements that I definitely enjoyed the most. I was trained on tactical radios, networks, data links, long-haul communications, multiplexing, phones, and several operating systems. The people, to say the least, were exceptional, inspiring, and wonderful to work with. I still look back today and am amazed at how much I was exposed to in such a short amount of time.

There are two experiences during my first assignment that will live with me forever. The first occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. I remember getting a panicked call from one of the other lieutenants in my unit to ask me how to reserve our conference room for a "special guest." That special guest turned out to be President George W. Bush, who would give his first address to the nation on the day's horrific events. The undisclosed base to which the president had flown that morning after leaving the Florida elementary school was Barksdale, home of the 8th Air Force. Bush was able to use secure phone communications at our facility and then addressed the nation from the same conference room where we held our weekly staff meetings and where I had been promoted to first lieutenant. That same podium from which he addressed

the nation on 9/11 is now enshrined in the 8th Air Force Museum.

The second experience occurred a month after 9/11, when I was hand-picked by my commander for a special deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom. I was told to get my gear ready because I would be leaving the next day for an undisclosed location. I did not deploy with my unit, but instead worked with new troops to get the job accomplished in the field. I received a whirlwind tour of the desert—or as I liked to call it, "the Stans"—setting up bare-base tactical communications for forward-deployed troops. I ended up spending most of my time in Kuwait, where I worked on relaying Predator communication feeds stateside for situational awareness.

After three years at 8th Air Force, I was transferred to Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and became a program manager for several Air Force weather-communication programs. I gained useful knowledge and experience in the acquisition process that proved to be very beneficial in my transition to the civilian world. During my second assignment, I also attended night school and received an M.S. in engineering management.

In 2003, I made the decision to leave the Air Force and see how I could apply in the civilian world what I had learned so far in my short but eventful military career. My biggest worry was being able to continue my life goal of being part of organizations that made a difference. I



The Sabales' wedding-day sabre arch, courtesy of the Langley Air Force Base, Va., honor guard.

received several offers from companies that valued my leadership experience in the Corps, my quality engineering degree from Virginia Tech, and my experience as a young officer in the Air Force. I ended up choosing a position that I considered a perfect match for my skill set.

As a defense contractor and system engineer with BAE Systems in Chesapeake, Va., I am involved in the design and integration of communications systems in tactical vehicles (HMMWV, MRAP, MATV, Strykers), non-standard commercial vehicles (Suburbans, Land Cruisers, pickup trucks), ships, and transit-case-based systems. We support a variety of customers, including Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Special Forces, Coast Guard, and many government agencies. Once again, my exposure to working in a joint environment both in the Corps of Cadets and in the military benefits my work with my customers today.

Working with BAE, I definitely feel I am making a difference. We constantly receive feedback from the field that the systems we build allow our customers to do their jobs and complete their missions

without any worries of communication failures. Some troops have even directly stated that the vehicles built by BAE Systems saved their lives.

I feel fortunate to have been part of such great organizations in my life so far. The Corps of Cadets was the foundation of my being able to succeed in the military and in my current job as a defense contractor. Currently, I am an engineering supervisor and lead engineer on several projects.

On the personal side, I married my college sweetheart, Maria, whom I met during my sophomore year at Virginia Tech, and we have two wonderful kids, Matthew and Michaela. Maria has been my support and strength through all the college hardships and military moves. We live in the Hampton Roads area, surrounded by thousands of hardcore Hokie alumni, and we hope that our children will one day have the opportunity to experience life as a student at Virginia Tech and maybe even in the Corps of Cadets. In the meantime, I will continue to do my best to fulfill the objective of *Ut Prosim*.

Go, Hokies!



A message left on a MRAP vehicle from the field. Photo courtesy of BAE Systems.



Sabale (center) with fellow Air Force engineer communication officers during training at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.



# Our Charge of **MENTORSHIP**

*by Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Schang '01*





Lt. Schang enjoys steel beach picnic during evening underway onboard USS John S. McCain in the South Pacific Ocean, summer 2008.



Forward-deployed USS Patriot prepares to set sail from Sasebo, Japan, flying the Virginia Tech flag, alma mater of the commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Schang.

As I reflect on my 11 years of naval service, what comes into focus is how vital the role of mentorship is to the health of a command and the success of its individuals. True mentorship can mean the difference between just surviving and thriving. My awareness of this powerful phenomena of mentorship began with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) and grew throughout my naval service and continuing education in the fleet.

A mentor is someone who takes an active interest in your personal and professional growth, someone who has experience perhaps where you do not and shares his or her insights and knowledge. A mentor listens to you and helps steer you in a positive direction.

Being receptive to being mentored is just as important as giving mentorship. By graciously receiving mentoring, you are modeling for others the ability to open yourself up and make growth a partnership, a practice that enriches both parties.

Mentorship might be mentioned in formal curriculum or training, but you can't really teach it or force it. You can promote it when you recognize it. You can model it and foster an environment in which it is free to flourish.

The healthiest, happiest, most-productive commands are the ones in which everyone recognizes this nebulous but critical human relationship. The exciting part is that, at any given moment, you have the opportunity and capability to contribute to this unique human relationship of mentoring by reaching out and sharing your knowledge and experience—however limited—with the people around you. It is through this pro-

cess that we best “train our reliefs” so that we ourselves can continue to advance to the next professional level and keep our forces full and strong.

I came to be in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets through my Navy ROTC scholarship. I couldn't have known at that age what a wonderful and meaningful springboard the Corps' experiences would give me into my military career.

The dynamic and unique spirit of mentorship was first modeled for me by the cadre in the VTCC. Here was an entire population of young adults—each at his or her own stage of maturation and growing respect for the military—thrust together as members of the Corps and charged with training each other.

As a freshman alongside my buds in the Highty-Tighty Class of 2001, I remember having to earn the privilege of listening to music. Since I hadn't come from a military household, the structure and heritage of the military was completely foreign to me. Away from home for the first time, I missed the comfort that I got from listening to music.

Knowing this from our phone conversations, my mother called and had my dorm room answering machine record



Lt. Cmdr. Schang's official photo as commanding officer of USS Patriot.

“St. Elmo's Fire (Man in Motion)” performed by John Parr, a childhood favorite that had served to motivate me during my grade-school years. I would play that recorded song on speaker phone in my Highty-Tighty dorm room and listen to it over and over again, squeezing every ounce of encouragement I could out of the familiar and motivational tune.

Well, my offense was eventually discovered, and I was appropriately admonished by the upperclassmen. But what was impressed upon me most by the whole experience was why I had gotten in trouble. I was in trouble for having indulged in a forbidden privilege, yes, but I was in deeper trouble for not having shared my spoils with my buds.

There are perhaps several takeaways one could glean from this scenario. But

what my 18-year-old self took away was that I needed to think not just of myself, but of my comrades, my shipmates. I was part of a group whose members had to look out for each other as we progressed through our freshman year and earned all the privileges of being full-fledged cadets and upperclassmen.

The striking part is that this valuable life (and fleet) lesson had been relayed by cadets only a few years older

than I. Already, the act of reaching out and teaching—not just the knowledge, but also the values of an organization—was being modeled for me by, essentially, my peers.

The mentoring continued throughout my college years. Upon graduation and commissioning as a brand-new ensign, I enthusiastically—and with a strong sense of adventure—reported to my first assignment, the USS Hopper (DDG 70), in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I was ready to learn and work.

And work I did, making plenty of mistakes along the way even though I was strictly mentored by a crusty warrant in the engineering department. In fact, he drove me so hard that when I left that ship two years later, I had earned not only my officer of the deck and surface



During a snowstorm, (l. to r.) Lt. Cmdr. Schang, commanding officer; Ensign Ian Allen, conning officer; and Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Hopkins, executive officer, prepare to maneuver USS Patriot out of Sasebo Harbor to depart for spring patrol.



Lt. Cmdr. Schang salutes during the July change of command ceremony when she was properly relieved as commanding officer of USS Patriot.

warfare qualification, but also my engineering officer of the watch (EOOW) qualification.

I will never forget how it felt to sit in that EOOW chair and fumble my way through engineering drills under the afloat training group's (ATG) critical eyes at the beginning of the training cycle. I was mortified. I didn't understand that the warrant was teeing up a transformation from fumbling-ensign-EOOW to "best-drilling-EOOW-on-the-water-front" months later at the end of the training, which would ultimately lead to Hopper's engineering certification.

At the time, I didn't really see the warrant as a mentor, and I resisted his focus on me, particularly the way he thought he could order me around and was always telling me what was best for me. It took me several years, along with some distance and perspective, to realize that the warrant who was so tough on me had actually ushered me into a position where I was much more competitive than many of my peers because of my numerous qualifications.

Jumping forward to my first department-head assignment, I applied for and was accepted to the early command program during my tour as operations

officer on USS John S. McCain (DDG 56). I was next detailed to USS Patriot (MCM 7) to serve as executive officer and eventually fleet up to commanding officer.

Although I had previously been on four ships, it was on the Patriot that I felt the strongest sense of the collective spirit of a ship. Never before had I seen the concept of mentorship demonstrated so strongly on a daily basis. What's more, I saw it throughout the entire crew, including the most-junior people on the ship. First and second class would regularly be seen counseling, coaching, training, and educating the third class and seamen/firemen. The chief's mess molded the first class to be the cadre of the ship and to eventually join the chiefs in the mess. The junior officers returning from Surface Warfare Officer School took it upon themselves to regularly hold surface warfare officer training sessions with the unqualified officers. They were all training their reliefs!

Here was such a small and young group of people—only 89 professionals in all—that got it. The ship had a flourishing, dynamic culture of mentorship that a formalized program could only hope to inspire.

The Patriot was an exciting and energizing atmosphere to be a part of, and we promoted these positive habits in every way we could. Junior officers were coached and then encouraged to try their ideas for handling the ship. During execution, the more experienced ship-handlers would step in as necessary for the safety of the ship. We took the time to debrief evolutions, discussing what we did well and what we could have done better.

The best growth happens when we are allowed to try our ideas, have some successes, make some mistakes, discuss with and receive guidance from our mentors, and learn from the entire process: the way the warrant put me out there in front of ATG and then coached me towards achievement on Hopper; the way the cadre took my mistakes and steered me to see the larger lessons at Virginia Tech.

These experiences affirm what every milestone of my professional career has been showing me all along: that embracing and fulfilling our charge of mentorship—as mentor and mentee—is truly what makes the difference between just surviving and thriving. I am honored and humbled to be a part of it all.



New Cadet Yambrick received a haircut on College Avenue within two hours of arriving on campus.

# Keeping it in the Family

by Gary Cope VT '97

**As the hair from his head fell to the floor of a barbershop in downtown Blacksburg, Philip Yambrick, a member of the Class of 2016, began his journey down a path that his parents had taken more than 25 years ago.**

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Thomas M. Yambrick '87 and retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Laura Garza Yambrick '87, his wife, are celebrating their 25th class reunion the same year that their son, Philip, enters the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as a freshman.

"I've grown up with both my parents being Virginia Tech alumni," Philip said the day before he officially became a "rat." "Throughout all the places we've lived, Virginia Tech has just been the one place I can return to, watch the football games, and it just feels so much like home."

Philip's love for Virginia Tech undoubtedly stems from his parents who, despite living all over the world during their military careers, have made giving back to the university, the Corps of Cadets, and their communities a priority for the entire family.



Laura Garza Yambrick '87 with son Phillip on move-in morning of New Cadet Week.

Thomas Yambrick was able to attend college only because of scholarships, including an ROTC scholarship and a Class of 1934 Scholarship from the Corps. The generosity of others helped pave the way for his college education and eventually his military career.

“Tom wouldn’t have gone to college had it not been for those scholarships, and I think he really feels that connection with kids these days who can’t afford [college],” Laura Yambrick said. “He was just so grateful for every bit of scholarship money he got that he wants to make sure that he gives back.”

The Yambricks have lived in California, Virginia, Texas, Japan, Germany, and Bahrain and have traveled to several other countries. Along every step of the way, the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) has always remained an integral part of the family’s lifestyle. “It wasn’t as much about donating money; it was more about volunteerism, and that was something that I think the Corps also taught us,” Laura said of her family’s priorities. Whether that volunteerism was a community-service project on base or one of Philip’s Boy Scout service projects, the entire family got involved.

As part of their 25th class reunion, Thomas and Laura returned to Blacksburg for the Hokies’ football game against Austin Peay State University. There, they saw their son in a Corps uniform, caught up with old friends, and were reminded how much Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets affected their lives.

“We value Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets, and we recognize the benefits that the Corps offered to our own military service,” said Thomas. “We’re giving back to the institution, but we’re also giving back in a way that will benefit future Hokies like our son.”

*Gary Cope VT'97 is a Web editor for development communications.*

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The Yambricks are members of Virginia Tech’s Pylon Society, which recognizes those who give, year after year, to academic programs at the university. To learn more about the society, visit [www.givingto.vt.edu/GivingSocieties/pylon-society.html](http://www.givingto.vt.edu/GivingSocieties/pylon-society.html).

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The Yambricks reunited for a quick visit during the home football game against Austin Peay State University; Laura and Tom were in town for their 25th class reunion.



Waiting in line for a haircut on day one of New Cadet Week, Cadet Yambrick (right) and a bud start learning their Guidon information.

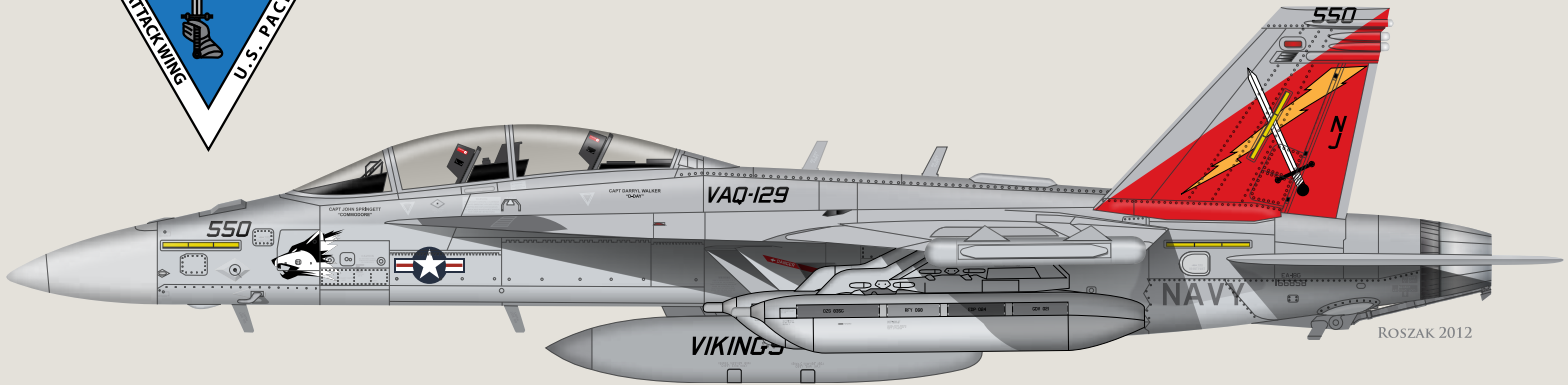


# Something Extra

by Capt. John Springett '87

What great times! I will never forget learning to “brace up” against the wall in Rasche Hall with my new E-Squadron buds as we began the phase of freshman year when we were known as “rats.” I think “new cadet” is the correct terminology today, but back then, we were still working our way through a gradual transition to less-archaic policies.

The late-summer heat and absence of air conditioning, combined with the feel of the itchy wool uniform, uncomfortable leather shoes and hat, white belt, and brass belt buckle that would never stay polished, are permanently etched in my brain. Learning the art of the “shirt tuck” is one of those details that still haunts me when I dress today.



*Boeing EA-18G Growler flown by Captain John “Tater” Springett II, United States Navy  
Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet  
Electronic Attack Squadron VAQ-129 “Vikings”, NAS Whidbey Island, WA, 2012  
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1987*

I remember coveting the Corps of Cadets sweater and other privileges that came with the transition to being an upperclassman. There are so many other things I recall: square meals at the dining hall, haircuts at the barbershop, softball on the Upper Quad, pool parties (don't ask), beers at the Greek's Cellar or Top of the Stairs, and burgers at Mike's.

When I attend a football game today, I still think about sitting in the stands with the rest of the Corps on the 50-yard line, generally cold and wet—at least in

my memory— always looking forward to the post-game formation and being released on Blacksburg for Saturday-night liberty.

Even though I now remember my years as a member of E-Frat as some of the best in my life, my trip through Virginia Tech was not marked by much scholastic achievement. My non-ROTC, professional participation in the Corps was fundamentally limited by the fact that I had no real desire to be a part of the leadership cadre. My grades quickly

proved that the engineering curriculum was definitely not my forte, and I think I probably still hold the Navy ROTC record for consecutive quarters on academic probation.

While I had always desired to be an aviator, some friends and I decided that starting a Navy ROTC SEAL team was a great objective. We had a general idea of all the cool things we were going to do, but in the end, the initial program involved a tough selection course, a lot of physical exercise, minimal weapons



Capt. Springett conducting aerial refueling in an EA-18G.

and tactics training, and the occasional execution of daring—but questionable—stunts around campus.

Four years of school passed quickly, and as I approached the end of my tenure at Virginia Tech, my graduation couldn't happen soon enough. The Class of 1987 graduated at the end of the Reagan era, and we entered the service during one of the military's periodic drawdowns.

In June, I received my commission as an ensign with the rest of my classmates. Since I wasn't a scholarship student, I was immediately sent to the inactive reserves until the beginning of the next fiscal year. Post-graduation life without a paycheck was a real letdown and resulted in yet another summer at a public golf course. As I cut grass and fixed irrigation pipes, I was anxious to get out into the real world and find out what life as an ensign in the U.S. Navy was really like.

When October 1987 arrived, my first set of real Navy orders took me to San Diego, where I classed up with class 150 of Basic Underwater Demolition School. It proved to be my shortest professional experience in the Navy as I quickly discovered that I had no desire to be cold, wet, and sandy, so I "disenrolled."

My next stop was Pensacola, Fla., and the opportunity to learn to fly. Naval air stations at Pensacola; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Beeville, Texas, were my next three destinations. The naval aviation

training pipeline was an awesome experience. I am not going to say it was easy because it wasn't, but I had pretty good eye-hand coordination, which helped a lot. There wasn't a day that I did not realize how lucky I was to be wearing a flight suit.

During this part of my Navy adventure, several Corps classmates traveled with me in various stages of flight school.



Dave Dargan '87, Jeff Britton '87, John Gawne '87, Dave Hand '87, and Ed Frantz '85 were all there. There are lots of sea stories that could be told about those early days when we were all learning to fly, but they'll have to wait for another venue. When I finally completed flight school and got my wings of gold in 1990, I was ready to see what I could do.

After the completion of flight school, I was selected to fly the EA-6B Prowler

and was sent to Whidbey Island, Wash., to learn to fly the jet. Whidbey is two hours north of Seattle in a beautiful rural area on the Puget Sound—a nice place, but certainly not the rolling hills of Virginia. A four-seat variant of the A-6 Intruder, the Prowler is designed to conduct airborne electronic attack to suppress enemy air defenses.

The Prowler isn't the ugliest aircraft

on the flight deck, but it is close; and while I initially regretted not flying a fighter like some of my friends, I quickly realized that I was in a great community and that I was still going to be flying a tactical jet from an aircraft carrier. I graduated from the EA-6B Fleet Replacement Squadron just as Operation Desert Storm was nearing completion. At the time, I was disappointed to have missed the first war that the U.S. had fought in a long time, not realizing that most of the next 20 years would revolve around the region.

Since then, my professional career as a naval officer has taken me around the world. I have been in five squadrons and commanded two, logged nearly 4,000 flight hours in six different aircraft, executed more than 700 arrested landings, and

participated in more than 300 combat missions in the Middle East and in the Balkans.

I unexpectedly spent a year and multiple deployments in Afghanistan flying combat missions from an airfield a long way from the nearest ocean. My non-flying experiences during these years included multiple tours at the Pentagon on the Navy and joint staffs, as well as war college, during which my academic





Capt. Springett as the commanding officer of Electronic Attack Squadron VAQ-129.

performance was much improved from my undergraduate experience.

I have worked with and for the most dedicated, patriotic Americans you will ever meet in all of the uniformed services. While I joined for the adventure, I stayed because of the people with whom I have worked. I now find myself in major command, responsible for thousands of sailors, airmen, and marines, more than a dozen subordinate organizations, and more than a hundred of the world's most technically advanced aircraft. I can honestly say that I never imagined how my career would go, and I certainly don't know where it is going to take me.

My siblings are also graduates of Virginia schools: one from Radford, one from James Madison, and one from Virginia Tech. Needless to say, my parents spent a lot of time on Interstate 81. All of us have fond memories of the undergraduate experiences that shaped our lives.

That said, I think I got something extra from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. I got forced out of my comfort zone, learned to work as part of a team, learned to handle pressure, and received,

early in my career, real-world feedback on what honor, courage, and commitment really mean. I also got the great lessons on what it means to be a good follower, and I think those experiences made me a better leader.

Finally, as I enter my 26th year of naval service, I am amazed at how fast

time goes. It seems like only yesterday when my friend Ed thought it would be a good idea to paint his feet black instead of wearing shoes for the graduation formation.

I look forward to the next 25 years so that I can make it into the Old Guard and perhaps write another retrospective.



E-Frat alumni gathered for a mini-reunion (l. to r., back): Al Flick '86, John Springett '87, Dan Delargy '86, Rob Bartholomew '86, Pete Ryan '86, Darryl Motley '87, Ray Motley '89, (front) Howard Watson '88, Paul Mazzeno '90, Patience Larkin '87, and Jim "Goldie" Godek '87.

# New Faces on the Commandant's Staff



**Alumni Director**  
**Col. Patience Larkin '87, USAF (retired)**

Twenty-five years after leaving Blacksburg, Col. Patience C. Larkin '87, USAF (retired), has returned to her alma mater to serve as alumni director for the Corps. Larkin graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.A. in political science and later earned an M.S. in counseling from Troy State University. During her years in the Corps, she was a member of E-Frat 87, Gregory Guard, Scabbard and Blade, and Arnold Air Society and the Second Battalion S1 during her senior year. Larkin served 24 years in the Air Force as an intelligence officer, serving in the Pacific and Europe and finally retiring out of the Defense Intelligence Agency this year. In honor of Virginia Tech, Larkin had Metallica's "Enter Sandman" play during the official party's arrival at her retirement ceremony in June.



**Deputy Commandant of Cadets for VPI Citizen-Leader Track**  
**Lt. Col. Donald G. Russell, USAF (retired)**

Lt. Col. Donald G. Russell, USAF (retired), has joined the Corps as its deputy commandant of cadets for the VPI Citizen-Leader Track. Russell, a 1990 graduate of the University of Colorado with a degree in political science and a commission through Air Force ROTC, served 22 years in the Air Force, primarily as an aircraft maintenance officer. He held several operational and staff assignments, commanded two maintenance squadrons, and retired this year from active duty as a maintenance group deputy commander. Russell earned a master's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota and a master of military operational art and science from Air University.



**Residential Learning Coordinator**  
**Jeananne Tiffany VT'07**

Jeananne Tiffany, who earned a B.S. in psychology from Virginia Tech and an M.Ed. in college student affairs administration from the University of Georgia, serves as residential learning coordinator for the Corps of Cadets. Hailing from an Air Force family with her mother, stepfather, and brother all serving, she spent four years in Air Force and Army JROTC while in high school. Tiffany will serve the Corps as a liaison to and advocate for 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. Tiffany lives alongside the Corps on the Upper Quad in an apartment in Thomas Hall.

Started in 2006 by IMG College and sponsored by the University Bookstore, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted during the radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games by Bill Roth and Mike Burnop, on the Corps of Cadets website, on the Corps of Cadets alumni website, and in the Corps Review magazine. Shown here are the Hokie Heroes featured during the first half of this year's football season.



1st Lt. Randy Coggin '09, USA  
Kunar Province, Afghanistan



Capt. Kim French '05, USAF  
Parwan Province, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Mark Angelo '10, USA  
Ghazni Province, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Justin May '10, USAF  
Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait



1st Lt. George Hogg '10, USA  
Afghanistan



Col. Frank Huber '85, USA  
Kabul, Afghanistan

## Virginia Tech Homecoming

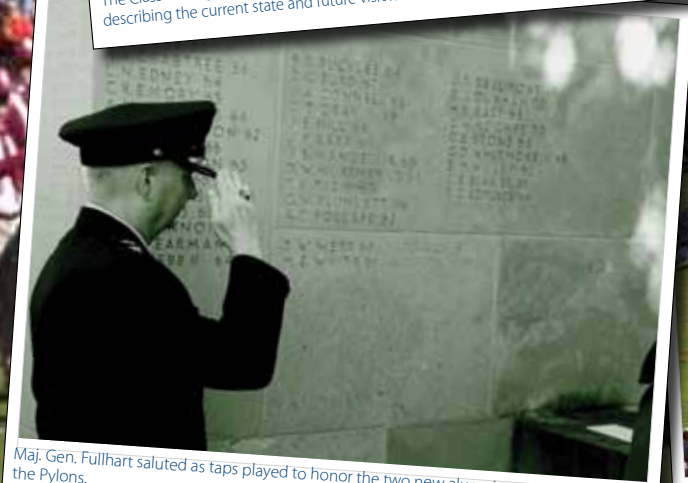
Two major reunions were held during Virginia Tech's homecoming weekend in October, when members of the Class of '62 and Highty-Tighty alumni from all years arrived back in Blacksburg to reunite with old friends. In celebration of its 50th reunion, the Class of '62 attended an informative luncheon with Maj. Gen. Fullhart, a ceremony at the War Memorial Pylons during which the newly engraved names of two fallen classmates were unveiled, and a fantastic pass in review by the Corps on the Drillfield. Highty-Tighty alumni participated in the Homecoming Parade down Main Street, marched alongside the current Highty-Tighties during the pregame show in Lane Stadium, and enjoyed a wonderful banquet in Owens Hall following the Hokies' defeat of Duke University.



The Class of '62 gathered with cadets for a luncheon and a presentation by the commandant describing the current state and future vision of the Corps.



A ceremony was held at the Pylons to honor two Class of '62 classmates, J.J. Sullivan and John B. Keck, whose names were engraved on the memorial. Both men lost their lives in the line of military duty.



Maj. Gen. Fullhart saluted as taps played to honor the two new alumni names added to the Pylons.



The 2012-13 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets regiment passed in review for the Class of '62.



Maj. Gen. Fullhart and his staff, along with the Corps' Class of '62 regimental staff, formed the reviewing party for the pass in review.



A long-standing H Company tradition, the Flaming VT was lit for hundreds of Tech students and alumni at the pep rally held the night before the football game against Duke.



The Corps passed under Torgersen Bridge during the Virginia Tech Homecoming Parade.



The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band proudly marched down Blacksburg's Main Street.



Current Drum Major Lauren Adolph and Class of '62 Drum Major Meredith before leading the Highty-Tighty cadet and alumni bands during the homecoming pregame show at Lane Stadium.



Highty-Tighty alumni (from left) Gene Huffman '64, Charles Cornelison '67, and Nick Valdrighi '57 enjoyed the afternoon.



The first Wally Easter Emerging Leader Scholarship was presented to Class of '16 Highty-Tighty Cadet Brett Romig, pictured here with former Highty-Tighty band director Wally Easter (left) and Eric Claunch '85.



Highty-Tighty alumni and current band cadets filled Owens Hall to capacity for their post-game dinner.



Virginia Tech and VMI cadets at the Miraflores Locks on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal.

# Military-Track Cadets Learn from Overseas Opportunity

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Capt. James Snyder, Second Battalion, 540-231-8595, [jasnyde1@vt.edu](mailto:jasnyde1@vt.edu)

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, headquartered in Falls Church, Va., has a long history of supporting educational programs for active-duty military officers, as well as cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. service academies, to help them gain a deeper understanding of foreign cultures.

Assigned to China in 1943 during World War II, Gen. George Olmsted interacted extensively with Chinese and Japanese officials, an experience that convinced him of American military leaders' lack of exposure and sensitivity

to foreign cultures. This belief, together with his lifelong dedication to the nation's security, led the general to establish the Olmsted Foundation to execute a foreign-resident study program for commissioned officers.

In 2004, the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States petitioned the Olmsted Foundation to extend these educational opportunities to U.S. Code Title X Senior Military Colleges (SMC), which includes Virginia Tech. By fall 2004, the foundation's board of directors had established

an international travel program to non-English-speaking nations for "academically and socially qualified commissioned ROTC Cadets" at each of the SMCs.

The Olmsted Cadet Travel and Cultural Immersion Program not only helps prepare future military officers for international assignments, but also strengthens our nation's ability to function efficiently and effectively in and with foreign countries. Program participants enhance their cultural sensitivities as they prepare for careers that will bring

increasing responsibilities and interactions with civilian and military leaders worldwide.

The Olmsted Foundation provided the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) with a \$10,000 grant in 2005, which allowed three rising-senior cadets to travel to Rio de Janeiro for two weeks during the summer. Since then, the foundation, recognizing the Corps' aggressive liaison with U.S. embassies for support in visited countries as a means to optimize cadet participation, increased Virginia Tech's annual travel grant to \$15,000 in 2006 and to \$20,000 in 2008.

Four cadets traveled to Santiago, Chile, in 2006; and five cadets, including a Citizen-Leader Track cadet sponsored by the commandant, traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2007. The trip in 2008 to Panama was large, with eight VTCC cadets joined by 12 cadets from Army ROTC units at 12 universities around the country. The experience was enlightening for our cadets who gained valuable insights into both the Panamanian culture and the military training in 12 distinct ROTC programs.



Virginia Tech and VMI cadets with U.S. Ambassador to Panama Jonathan D. Farrar and area U.S. military members at Memorial Day ceremonies at the U.S. National Cemetery in Panama.

The downturn in the U.S. economy impacted the Olmsted Foundation's endowment, resulting in a smaller grant of \$10,000 for the Corps' travel in 2009. To leverage Virginia Tech's previous planning efforts and its successful cultural-immersion travel, the U.S. Navy Service Training Command assigned one officer candidate and one midshipman to join the Corps' trip to Panama.

Due to financial constraints, the Olmsted Foundation made no awards to any SMC in 2010. With economic conditions improving, however, the foundation made \$12,000 grants to the Corps and to Virginia Military Institute for travel in 2011 and 2012. Because of the robust trips previously completed by the Corps, VMI requested to join our efforts for the 2011 and 2012 trips to

Panama, assigning four cadets to accompany VTCC cadets.

On May 14, VTCC senior cadets Austin Burns, Jack Manning, Tawny Pelletier, and Candace Powers represented your Corps, Virginia Tech, and the nation well as they completed activities in Panama, including tours of the capital city

and commerce port city of Colon, the Panama Canal, a tropical jungle area and native community, and the San Blas Island natural habitat area.

The cadets also completed three community service projects and attended a country brief with the U.S. embassy staff, a special meeting with the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., John Law, and the Memorial Day ceremonies at the U.S. National Cemetery in the former Panama Canal Zone, which included the opportunity to speak with Jonathan D. Farrar, the U.S. ambassador to Panama.

Experiences like these play a significant role in the Corps' commitment to producing culturally savvy military leaders, and the VTCC is grateful to the Olmsted Foundation for its support.



Virginia Tech and VMI cadets at the Panama Canal Museum.



Virginia Tech and VMI cadets on a lock at the Miraflores Locks complex on the Panama Canal's Pacific side.

# Training the Next Generation of Leaders

by Col. Dave Miller, Ph.D., director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development



Col. Rock Roszak '71 conducting class.

When asked, any cadet in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) will acknowledge that academics is his or her first priority. VTCC cadets understand that academic success plays a significant role in their development—and not only intellectually. A strong grade point average opens doors that would otherwise be closed.

Because of the importance that the Corps places on success in the classroom, the next level in the academic

component of our leader development program, which is designed to help cadets in their pursuit of academic excellence, has been introduced.

In the past, the Corps offered one-credit, pass/fail courses. Over many semesters, Citizen-Leader Track cadets worked hard to prepare themselves for a career but received no academic credit. This past spring, the program was revised; and its workhorse, Management (MGT) 2944, Cadet Leader Practicum,

was replaced with a new series of classes. MGT 2944 served the Corps well for 10 years, giving cadets theoretical knowledge and practical experience in leadership, but our academic program needed enhancement.

Beginning this fall, the Corps' academic program consists of eight separate courses, sequential in nature and designed to meet students at their level of leadership needs. These courses are either one-credit or two-credit and will be incorporated into the minor for leadership studies.

The program begins by introducing freshmen to self-discovery and active followership, then teaches small-unit leadership to sophomores as they take charge of fire teams. Juniors learn organizational leadership, effecting change through subordinate leaders; and seniors learn executive leadership and techniques designed to help the transition from college to career.

A concurrent effort in the Corps' academic improvement initiative is a similar undertaking for the Citizen-Leader Track. While their military-track peers attend the respective ROTC classes, VPI Company cadets are prototyping eight courses this year that will prepare them for launching a successful career in business, industry, or government.

The courses are designed to help Citizen-Leader Track cadets build their "personal brand" by learning such skills as résumé writing, interviewing techniques, public speaking, dining etiquette, social networking, business analytics, and personal finance, as well as methods for handling gender issues and workforce conflict, among others.



The charts below highlight aspects of our leader development program and outline some of the skills and knowledge taught to VTCC cadets as they prepare to enter the workforce.

All cadets receive classroom instruction in the following:

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Academic success	Small-unit leaders	Organization leadership	Strategic leadership
Self-discovery	Personal finance	Role of commander	Life planning
Active followership	Servant leadership	Project management	Public speaking
Leadership theories	Role of NCO	Writing evaluations	Generational communications
Honor System	Counseling	Executive summaries	Personal finance
Time management	Disciplinary system	Leadership case studies	College to career

Citizen-Leader Track cadets receive the following classroom instruction:

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Academic success	Professional online sites	Business conduct	Negotiations
Self-discovery	Dining etiquette	Dining etiquette (meal)	Graduate schools
Basic résumé writing	Mock interviews	Interview techniques	Effective meetings
Health, nutrition, fitness	Job searching	Business mentorship	Business analytics
Professional social media	Preparation for career	Business case studies	Project management
Dress for success	Public speaking	Networking	First days at new job

The Corps of Cadets’ leader development program is growing on many fronts. Not only is the Corps, with more than 1,000 cadets, its largest since 1968, but its academic program is one of the best in the nation—and the program continues to improve.

As always, we are grateful for your support of our efforts to train the next generation of leaders.



Kelley Drowne '92 conducting class.

## Corps Homecoming

Corps Homecoming, held in conjunction with the Hokies' football game against Bowling Green State University, was a great success. Kicking off the weekend was a Gunfighter Panel featuring four Corps alumni who shared their military career experiences and lessons with the entire regiment. Friday began early with our Day with Cadets, during which cadets from each class, each ROTC unit, and VPI Company presented insights on life in the Corps of Cadets. The formal retreat formation—highlighted by a P-51 flyover arranged by Stan Cohen '49—and Cadet Leadership Dinner were wonderful events. A 200-strong alumni regiment marched on the field before the game on Saturday, which also featured flyovers of a B-25 Mitchell Bomber during pregame and a P-51 during halftime, both arranged by Cohen. The weekend concluded with a relaxed and informative post-game dinner during which Gen. Fullhart discussed the status of today's Corps.



Gunfighter Panel members with Maj. Gen. Fullhart, from left, Lt. Col. Mike Miller '93, Capt. Katie Haimann '08, Fullhart, Maj. Matt Gioia '95, and Lt. j.g. Anthony LaVopa '08.



During our Day with Cadets, Gary Obermeyer '86 was the lone Corps alumnus to take on the challenge and complete the obstacle course. Impressive!



Second Battalion Commander Hope Mills with the Corps alumni and their spouses from her table at the Friday Leadership Dinner.



Drum Major Cadet Lauren Adolph led the Highty-Tighties past Cassell Coliseum on the way to Lane Stadium.



The alumni regiment march-on continues to be a special feature of Corps Homecoming.



B Company alumni proudly marched onto the field.



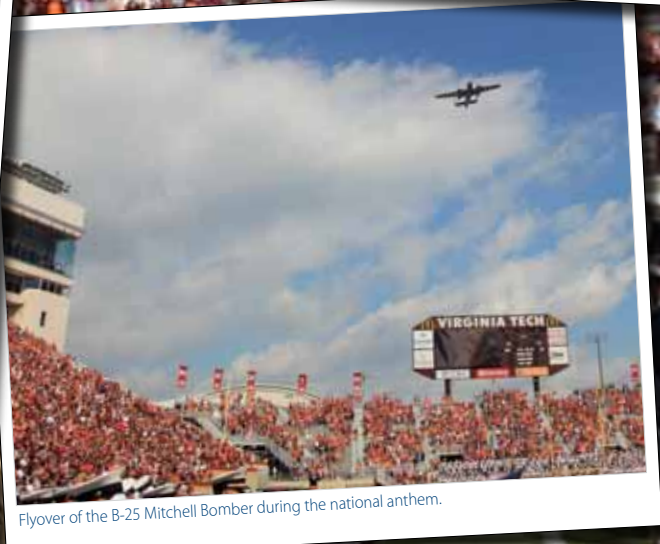
C Company alumni saluting the colors during the national anthem.



G Company alumni, led by Don Sage '59 and guidon bearer Floyd Massey '65, at the 50-yard line.



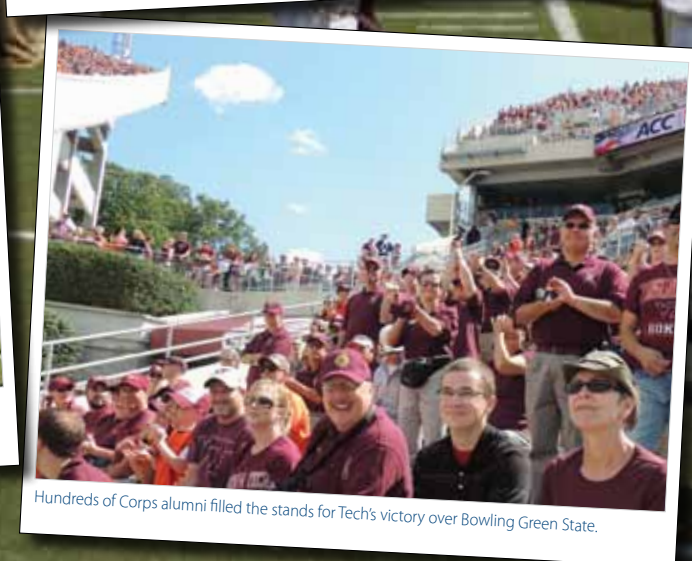
H Company alumni, led by Dick Lunsford '63 and guidon bearer Sandy Seay '66, at attention.



Flyover of the B-25 Mitchell Bomber during the national anthem.



Four flag cadets received the colors from Cadet Kyle Cawthon and select football players as Military Appreciation Day was celebrated during the game against Bowling Green State University.



Hundreds of Corps alumni filled the stands for Tech's victory over Bowling Green State.



Bob Andrews '66 hosted a Corps alumni get-together on July 12 at Ft. Benning, Ga., attended by cadets enrolled in the Army Air Assault Course (from left): cadets Grabaskas, Palmer, Gaines, Williams, and McAfee.

## Help from Corps Alumni Pays Big Dividends

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

By the time you read this, the fall college-fair season will be in full swing. Thanks to all Corps alumni who have supported, are supporting, and will support these events across the country and in various areas overseas.

The university's Office of Undergraduate Admissions determines which of more than 300 college fairs nationwide will be supported by permanent staff, as well as which allow additional representatives, including Corps alumni helpers. There are also fairs that, though not officially supported by Virginia Tech, rely on Virginia Tech Alumni Association chapters to help spread the word about the university and its world-class education and leadership opportunities.

As you have read or heard elsewhere, the Corps surpassed the 1,000-member mark this fall for the first time in more than 42 years, and the 421 new arrivals comprise the largest freshman class since

1966. Obviously, recruiting the brightest and best high school students explains 40 percent of the Corps' new strength, but the other 60 percent is the result of retaining upperclassmen who value the Corps experience and see the potential for their own careers in the near future.

Corps alumni play an important role in both parts of the equation. Helping with college fairs and making one-on-one contacts with your friends' and neighbors' sons and daughters are important volunteer efforts. Making contact or staying in touch to encourage a new or current cadet throughout the year is equally vital.

The Corps' focus in the past has generally been to create exemplary leaders for our nation's military forces. However, as the Department of Defense reduces service-end strengths in the foreseeable future, the need for strong and effective citizen leaders in other areas will not

diminish. When you meet with potential cadets at college fairs and elsewhere, don't limit your presentation to just military careers; identify those tremendous opportunities that the Corps offers to prepare for the highest levels of government and industry.

I want to offer a huge "thank you" to the more than 100 volunteers who assisted with nearly 200 Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) presentations in May and June, as well as those who made telephone contact with almost 200 non-ELS new cadets. Your efforts helped set the tone for our newest arrivals.

Finally, we are revising and updating the how-to "Guide for Volunteers" to ensure that we have the best available information to help with recruiting activities.

Please contact me anytime at [twoswans911@comcast.net](mailto:twoswans911@comcast.net).

# Senior Cadet Commanders, Fall 2012



*Regimental Commander*  
**Kareim S. Oliphant**

Cadet Col. Kareim S. Oliphant, of East Orange, N.J., is pursuing a degree in psychology. His desire to develop and hone excellent leadership skills

and to reap the rewards of immersion in a military environment led him to the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track. Oliphant served as a cadre sergeant during the fall semester of his junior year and as the Band Company first sergeant in the spring. Upon graduation, he intends to pursue graduate studies near his hometown in New Jersey. Cadet Oliphant is a recipient of the Emerging Leader Scholarship.



*First Battalion Commander*  
**Benjamin M. Burk**

Cadet Lt. Col. Benjamin M. Burk, of Lovettsville, Va., is pursuing a degree in history with an option in military/diplomatic/political history. He joined

the Corps to develop himself as a successful leader and to seek a commission as a U.S. Army officer. Cadet Burk served as the 1st Battalion sergeant major in the fall of his junior year. Having completed the Army's Leadership Development Assessment Course at Ft. Lewis, Wash., he will be commissioned in May 2013 with the hope of pursuing a career as an Army aviator.



*Second Battalion Commander*  
**Hope Mills**

Cadet Lt. Col. Hope Mills, of Yorktown, Va., is pursuing a master's degree in political science. After two years as a civilian at Virginia Tech, Mills

decided to join the Corps and Air Force ROTC for a more challenging college experience. As a junior, she served as a cadre sergeant for Echo Company in the fall and as the regimental sergeant major in the spring. Upon commissioning in the U.S. Air Force, Mills plans on pursuing a career in aircraft maintenance.



*Third Battalion Commander*  
**Cole Freeman**

Cadet Lt. Col. Cole Freeman, of Fresno, Calif., is pursuing a degree in political science. Seeking a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps, he decided

to join the Corps for the regimented lifestyle and leadership experiences. Cadet Freeman served as both cadre and first sergeant of India Company during his junior year. Having completed Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, he will be commissioned in May 2013 and will attend The Basic School at Quantico, Va., where he hopes to be designated as a tank officer.

# Command Staff, Fall 2012



Regimental Adjutant Officer  
Luke Hinsdale  
Apparel, Housing, and  
Resource Management  
Johns Creek, Ga.  
Marine Corps



Regimental Public Affairs  
Officer  
Kaila Taylor  
Communication  
Fredericksburg, Va.  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Operations  
Officer  
Alex Hughes  
Political Science  
Johns Creek, Ga.  
Marine Corps



Regimental Supply and  
Finance Officer  
Katherine Desmond  
Psychology, Philosophy  
Clemmons, N.C.  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Academics Officer  
David Kramer  
Aerospace and Ocean  
Engineering  
Troy, Mich.  
Navy



Regimental Sergeant Major  
Kathryn Rew  
International Studies  
Hampton, Va.  
Air Force



Regimental Inspector  
General  
Rebecca Scipioni  
Human Development  
Sterling, Va.  
Citizen-Leader Track



Executive Court Chairman  
Jimmy Callen  
Aerospace Engineering  
Leesburg, Va.  
Air Force



Regimental Chaplain  
Jon Watson  
History  
Richmond, Va.  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Recruiting  
Officer  
Josh Kim  
Aerospace Engineering  
Emporia, Va.  
Air Force



Honor Court Chief Justice  
Allen Ernst  
Mechanical Engineering  
Lucketts, Va.  
Air Force



Regimental Historian  
Christopher Sturgill  
Wildlife Science  
Forest Hill, Md.  
Navy



Regimental Information  
Systems Officer  
Stephanie Romero  
International Studies  
Alexandria, Va.  
Army



Regimental Athletics Officer  
Shawn Bottoms  
Materials Science and  
Engineering  
Huntersville, N.C.  
Army



Regimental Safety Officer  
Margaret Castelveccchi  
Chemical Engineering  
Montpelier, Va.  
Navy

# Command Staff, Fall 2012



Alpha Company Commander  
Peter Seggel  
History  
Lavallette, N.J.  
Army



Bravo Company Commander  
Joshua Dallas  
Mathematics  
Dry Fork, Va.  
Air Force



Charlie Company Commander  
Travis Worrell  
Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Gloucester, Va.  
Air Force



Delta Company Commander  
Mitch Galloway  
International Studies  
Lake Norman, N.C.  
Air Force



Echo Company Commander  
Alex Mickle  
Mechanical Engineering  
Woodbridge, Va.  
Navy



Foxtrot Company Commander  
Candace Powers  
Human Nutrition, Foods, and  
Exercise  
Vienna, Va.  
Air Force



Golf Company Commander  
Gregory Dreher  
Mechanical Engineering  
Colmar, Pa.  
Navy



Hotel Company Commander  
Christine Brenek  
Industrial and Systems  
Engineering  
Blakeslee, Pa.  
Navy



India Company Commander  
Jonathan Thomsen  
Management  
Apex, N.C.  
Marine Corps



Kilo Company Commander  
Brian Fedorchak  
Aerospace Engineering  
Lusby, Md.  
Navy



Lima Company Commander  
Dan Marotto  
Political Science  
Fairfax, Va.  
Army



Regimental Drum Major  
Lauren Adolph  
Mechanical Engineering  
Palm City, Fla.  
Navy



VPI Company Commander  
Kelsey Ginn  
Communication  
Salem, Va.  
Citizen-Leader Track



Band Company Commander  
Corey Combs  
Aerospace Engineering  
Wrightsville, Pa.  
Air Force



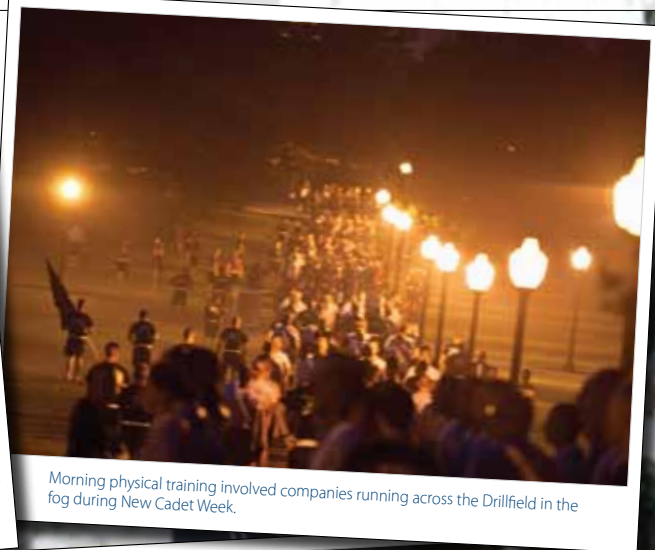
Regimental Medical Officer  
Catherine Wahlman  
Biology  
Gloucester, Va.  
Army

## New Cadet Events

A number of significant events involving the Corps' incoming Class of 2016 took place during the fall, including New Cadet Week training, a trip to the D-Day Memorial, and completion of the first half of the Caldwell March. In August, 421 new cadets reported for new cadet training, a number that pushed Corps membership to more than 1,000, the largest Corps since 1968. On Sept. 15, first-year cadets traveled to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., where they learned about Virginia Tech's special relationship with the memorial, as well as the history and the remarkable people the memorial represents. On Sept. 29, the Class of 2016 marked the end of its first phase of Corps training by completing the first half of the 26-mile Caldwell March, a journey made by Virginia Tech's first cadet and student, Addison Caldwell, in 1872.



Within hours of arrival, a freshman cadet has his curly locks removed on his first day in the Corps.



Morning physical training involved companies running across the Drillfield in the fog during New Cadet Week.



Waiting in line provided new cadets an opportunity to learn Corps information from the Guidon.



Cadets waited their turn at Turner Place, the Corps' beautiful, new chow hall.



A Highty-Tighty bugler played taps at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va.



At the memorial, a veteran passed to new cadets the history of the events that occurred on D-Day.





New cadets gathered around the memorial to learn more about Operation Overlord.



Cadets learned about the heroic actions undertaken by Americans that day in Normandy.



A long, green line of new cadets began the 13-mile trek comprising the first half of the Caldwell March.



The cadets rested by a quaint local church.



The view of the scenery and the long line of new cadets was breathtaking.



A veteran came out to pay his respects, and the Corps returned the favor.

# Navy ROTC News



Midshipmen 2nd Class Dwight (left) and Evans (right) in front of Phalanx Close-In Weapons System aboard the USS Wasp.

The Navy ROTC (NROTC) battalion at Virginia Tech began the fall 2012 semester with more than 270 midshipmen divided among four Navy-option companies—Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta—and one Marine-option company, Raider.

Consistently outperforming the other 69 NROTC units across the country in nuclear program officer production, Virginia Tech's NROTC unit receives roughly 10 percent of the two- and three-year scholarships awarded each year to midshipmen. By instilling the U.S. Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, the NROTC unit supplements the values taught to cadets of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC).

The following items highlight events in which the NROTC battalion participated during the 2011-12 academic year.

## Marine Corps cake-cutting ceremony

Nov. 10, 1775, is a venerated date for all Marines, past and present, who have worn the eagle, globe, and anchor. Each year, a cake-cutting ceremony commemorates the Marine Corps' founding and honors its many accomplishments throughout its proud history. Raider Company again upheld this tradition by holding its annual cake-cutting ceremony at Champs Sports Bar and Café in Blacksburg. NROTC staff, the aspiring Marine Corps officers of Raider Company, and several active and former Marines attended the ceremony.

According to custom, the first piece of cake was passed from the oldest Marine present to the youngest, an act that represents the passing on of wisdom and responsibility from the older generation to the next generation of Marine warfighters and leaders. Maj. Kelly Grissom, USMC (retired), a Bronze Star with Valor awardee and Marine Corps Intelligence Agency analyst, capped off the ceremony with inspiring words.

## Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball

On Oct. 29, 2011, the NROTC battalion celebrated the 236th birthday of the U.S. Navy—founded Oct. 13, 1775—and the U.S. Marine Corps at the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball attended by more than 450 midshipmen, staff, and guests at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

The evening, which emphasized the shared camaraderie of the Navy and Marine Corps, began with a social hour, followed by the arrival of the official party, parading of the colors, and reading of official messages by the secretary of the Navy, chief of naval operations, and commandant of the Marine Corps. An official cake-cutting ceremony preceded dinner.

As the guest of honor, Capt. Roger Burnett, U.S. Navy (retired), current Department of Defense liaison on the staff of the Office of the Vice President for Research at Virginia Tech, addressed the midshipmen battalion.

After the formal ceremonies, guests enjoyed a night of dancing.

## Senior dining-in

On April 13, the graduating NROTC seniors held their annual dining-in at The River Company in Radford, Va. Fifty-eight midshipmen, staff, and special guests enjoyed an evening steeped in traditions passed down from the British Royal Navy,

where officers' meals aboard the ship were formal occasions. Adapted by the U.S. Navy, the dining-in custom honors the feats of individuals and units both afloat and ashore.

The guest of honor, who shares wisdom with the graduating seniors as they prepare for commissioning and joining the fleet, was Marine Corps Col. Hunter Hobson. A naval aviator with more carrier-arrested landings (757) than any other Marine pilot in history, Col. Hobson serves as the Marine Corps representative on the Tailhook Association Board of Directors.

Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour followed by the welcoming of the official party, which entered the dining room behind the ceremonial bagpiper. Other dining-in traditions included the parading of the beef, formal and informal toasts, and a speech by Col. Hobson. The Highty-Tighties provided the official music, and Midshipman 1st Class Andrew Blacker served as president of the mess.



NROTC battalion staff with guest of honor Capt. Adam Scott, USMC.

## Marine Mess Night

Raider Company held its annual Marine Mess Night on March 2. After the members had conducted their ceremonial march into the dining area, the president of the mess commenced the events and, as dinner was served, opened the floor for "fining," which proved to be entertaining and spirited.

Rising juniors were presented with their Raider cords, signifying their successful completion of two years in Raider Company. In addition, each senior was presented with an engraved paddle in recognition of his dedication to Raider Company.

Guest of honor Capt. Adam Scott, USMC, Marine Corps Recruiting Command NROTC liaison, spoke to the aspiring

Marine Corps officers about Officer Candidate School (OCS) and service in the Marine Corps. The night ended with toasts to war fighters past and present.

## Marine field exercise



In March, for the final two-day field exercise (FEX) of the school year, Raider Company traveled to Selu Conservancy in Radford to complete multiple OCS-type events as a way to build confidence through familiarization with OCS field concepts and procedures. All midshipmen were graded on their proficiency in negotiating a land-navigation course, and emphasis was placed on training and evaluating midshipman who would be attending OCS in the summer. Other exercises included fire watch, service-rifle nomenclature, service-rifle assembly/disassembly, and hip-pocket classes. The FEX also highlighted the underclassmen's transition from followers to leaders. Overall, the spring FEX provided excellent training, better preparation for OCS, and enhanced camaraderie within Raider Company. Oorah!

## Commissioning

Thirty-eight Navy and Marine Corps officers were commissioned from the NROTC unit during the past year.

The Marine Corps commissioned 11 second lieutenants to proceed from Virginia Tech to The Basic School in Quantico, Va., to begin training as Marine Corps officers: 2nd Lt. Jorge Secada-Lovio, 2nd Lt. Adrien Wilkins, 2nd Lt. Aaron Balderson, 2nd Lt. Andrew Blacker, 2nd Lt. David Christie, 2nd Lt. Joseph Jansen, 2nd Lt. Matthew Kennedy, 2nd Lt. Benjamin



Moore, 2nd Lt. David Shanks, 2nd Lt. Stephen Zellner, and 2nd Lt. Steven Murphy.

The following are Virginia Tech's most recent naval officers who are now in training as the U.S. Navy's newest naval aviators, naval flight officers (NFO), surface warfare officers (SWO), naval reactors officers (NR), submarine warfare officers (Sub), special operations officers, and special warfare officers (in order of receiving commission): Ensign Varun Tandon (SWO), Ensign Matthew Abeyounis (SWO), Ensign Joshua Dworkin (NFO), Ensign Christopher Fulton (aviator), Ensign Charles Goodman (Sub), Ensign Joshua Meeder (Sub), Ensign Colin O'Kane (Sub), Ensign Christopher Radford (NR), Ensign Felicia Casciano (SWO–nuclear), Ensign Michael Demos (NFO), Ensign Shawn Gateau (aviator), Ensign John Horst (SWO), Ensign Caton Jarrett (SWO), Ensign Spiros Karousos (Sub), Ensign Kevin Lewis (SWO), Ensign Matthew McIntee (special operations), Ensign Aaron Morrison (NR), Ensign Tyler Nichols (Sub), Ensign Robert Pfeiffer (SWO), Ensign Andrew Radford (SWO), Ensign Donald Recine (SWO), Ensign Thomas Regnaud (special warfare), Ensign John Sapliway (Sub), Ensign David Weise (Sub), Ensign Jarrod Wilson (NFO), Ensign Jonathan Davis (SWO), and Ensign Marc Lajeunesse (special warfare).



The spring batch of SWOs after their video teleconference mentor-session with Adm. John Harvey, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

### Honor graduates

Named for the Virginia Tech graduate who was killed in action during the 1983 bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut,

Lebanon, the 2nd Lt. Maurice Edward Hukill Award is presented each year to a Raider Company cadet who best upholds the high standards expected of a Marine officer. This year's recipient of the Hukill Award for outstanding Marine-option graduate is 2nd Lt. Andrew Blacker, a history major who served as the midshipmen battalion commanding officer.

The NROTC battalion also awarded its annual Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Graduate award to Ensign Aaron Morrison for having met the highest standards of leadership, academic excellence, and military performance. Morrison majored in chemical engineering and began training at Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

### Fair Winds and Following Seas

#### Farewell, Cmdr. Richard "Moby" Fraenkel

Cmdr. Richard Fraenkel retired in August, after serving in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. During his three years as executive officer at Virginia Tech, he mentored more than 100 of the nation's newest ensigns and second lieutenants.

#### Farewell, Lt. Jason Williams

Lt. Jason Williams departed Virginia Tech after serving as Alpha Company advisor for two years. He transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve and is currently attending Harvard Business School to earn an M.B.A.

#### Farewell, Master Sgt. Scott Keith

After a three-year tour as the assistant Marine officer instructor, Master Sgt. Scott Keith headed to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., with his family.

### Hails

#### Welcome back, Capt. Daniel Forney

In June, Capt. Daniel Forney, NROTC's commanding officer, returned to Virginia Tech after completing a yearlong individual augmentee assignment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

#### Welcome aboard, Cmdr. Chris "Tread" Saufley

Cmdr. Chris "Tread" Saufley reported to the NROTC unit as the prospective executive officer in December 2011. Prior to reporting, Saufley served in Iraq on a yearlong deployment as the U.S. Forces-Iraq J5 maritime and naval aviation planner, supporting Operation New Dawn.



Cmdr. Chris "Tread" Saufley

Saufley began his career by enlisting in the Navy as a machinist mate (nuclear), completing Nuclear Power School in 1993 and Prototype in 1994. The next year, he was accepted into Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., commissioned an ensign in August 1995, and designated a naval flight officer in November 1996.

From 1998 to 2007, Saufley deployed multiple times in support of combat operations and multinational exercises, flying in the EA-6B Prowler. His shore tours include being selected as a Navy Washington, D.C., intern, earning a master of arts from The George Washington University, and serving on the secretary of the Navy's staff as an assistant speechwriter and on the chief of naval operations staff as an assistant EA-6B requirements officer.

Saufley served as an admiral's aide for Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight/Commander Carrier Strike Group Twelve in Norfolk, Va., and is also a "plankowner" of the Navy's Fleet Electronic Warfare Center. During his VAQ department head tour in 2005–07, he served as the safety officer, tactics officer, and operations officer for the VAQ-131 Lancers, which won virtually every award available to a Navy EA-6B squadron: the Battle 'E,' Safety 'S,' Golden Wrench 'M,' and Radford Award. Saufley has more than 1,400 flying hours and more than 400 arrested landings.

A native of Marion, Va., Saufley attended King College in Bristol, Tenn., on a tennis scholarship, graduating in 1992 with a degree in history and political science. He believes he is truly blessed—getting this assignment is like returning home.

#### Welcome aboard, Lt. Dennis Crump

Lt. Dennis Crump attended the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he received a B.S. in electrical and computer engineering. While at VMI, he was selected for the Nuclear Prospective Officer Candidate Program and, upon graduation, reported to Navy OCS, where he received his commission in September 2006. After commissioning, he completed training that included Nuclear Power School and Prototype Training in Charleston, S.C., and Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, Conn.



Lt. Dennis Crump

Crump then reported to Norfolk, Va., aboard USS Toledo (SSN-769), a Los Angeles-class attack submarine. While it underwent an extensive shipyard depot modernization period, he conducted a deployment onboard the USS Albany (SSN-753). Once back onboard the USS Toledo, Crump completed a change of homeport to Groton, Conn., and another deployment to the Middle East. While onboard, he held various jobs, including electrical officer, main propulsion assistant, damage control assistant, and assistant engineering officer. During the tour, he oversaw the safe operation of the nuclear reactor and stood officer of the deck during critical missions, in charge of overall operations of the ship.

Following sea duty, Crump served overseas as a fleet watch officer in Bahrain at U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters, where he managed the operations of all naval activities in the U.S. Central Command theater of operations.

Crump joined the NROTC battalion in May as Alpha Company advisor.

#### Welcome aboard, Lt. Thomas Franklin

Lt. Thomas Franklin reported aboard in July and is assigned as Charlie Company advisor. Previously an engineman and a product of the Seaman to Admiral (STA-21) program, he graduated from San Diego State University with a B.S. in environmental geography.

Following graduation, Franklin reported to Naval Aviation Schools Command, where he began training through the aviation pipeline. After completing introductory flight screening and aviation preflight indoctrination, he reported to the "Mighty War Bucks" of VT-4 to begin primary flight training. After completion, Franklin was selected for the P-3C Orion and reported to Patrol Squadron 30 for specific training in his



Lt. Thomas Franklin

platform. After completing the rigorous syllabus, he began his operational squadron tour with the “Tridents” of Patrol Squadron 26, where he qualified as a tactical coordinator and P-3C mission commander.

Franklin has deployed twice to the western Pacific on the USS Peleliu (LHA-5), once to Central America to conduct counter drug operations with Joint Interagency Task Force South and once to Fifth Fleet, where he provided maritime support for the Fifth Fleet Commander and CENTCOM. Prior commands completed while Franklin was enlisted include the USS Peleliu and Naval Special Warfare Center.

#### Welcome aboard, Master Sgt. Cody Pancake



Master Sgt. Cody Pancake

Master Sgt. Cody Pancake, USMC, reported aboard in May and is assigned as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer of the NROTC unit and as the assistant Marine officer instructor for Raider Company.

Pancake attended Marine Corps Boot Camp in 1992, followed by Marine Combat Training and basic Military Occupational Skills School

as an administrator. Upon graduation, he reported to Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was promoted to the ranks of lance corporal and corporal. In 1995, reassigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan, Pancake worked for the general’s staff as the message traffic and officer’s program clerk. A year later, he reenlisted and reported to I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), Camp Pendleton, and served as the awards clerk for the entire I MEF.

In 1998, Pancake was promoted to sergeant and deployed forward to Kuwait with I MEF. Upon his return, he served as the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the man-

power section of the G-1. In 1999, he extended to accept orders to 4th Marine Division, New Orleans, La., and served as the training and exercise employment planning NCOIC for 106 reserve units across the U.S. During this tour, he was promoted to staff sergeant and was placed as the staff NCOIC of the orders and reserve separations section.

Pancake reenlisted in 2002 and transferred to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Calif., where he served as the SNCOIC of the adjutant’s section. In 2003, he reported to Central Command, Tampa, Fla., to fill an individual augment billet, serving as the SNCOIC for the J-5 and working directly with the coalition forces in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Eight months later, Pancake reported back to Camp Pendleton and later extended and transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., where he was promoted to gunnery sergeant, completed six successful cycles as a drill instructor, and served two cycles as a chief drill instructor. In 2008, Pancake reenlisted and transferred to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where he served as the administrative chief for the squadron. In 2010, he transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 13 to serve as the administrative chief for the entire group and was promoted to master sergeant.

In February, Pancake was selected for a position as an assistant Marine officer instructor, Naval ROTC, reenlisting for an additional three years.

#### Officer Candidate School

During the summer between their junior and senior years, Marine-option midshipmen attend six weeks of training and evaluation at the Marine Corps’ Officer Candidate School located in Quantico, Va. While there, midshipmen are trained, screened, and evaluated by the OCS staff “to ensure they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company-grade officers in the Fleet Marine Force.”

Midshipmen are tested both mentally and physically throughout the six-week program as they participate in a number of training events, including an obstacle course, endurance course, platoon- and squad-sized drill, platoon- and squad-sized runs, conditioning hikes ranging from six to nine miles, combat course, confidence course, pugil sticks, and written examinations. To succeed, each midshipman must possess impeccable character, physical and mental courage, and the ability to work as part of a team.

## Summer cruise

Each summer, NROTC scholarship midshipmen spend approximately a month experiencing active duty life in the fleet, a unique opportunity that is often the highlight of their four years of midshipmen training.

At the end of their freshmen year, midshipmen attend Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID), spending a week in each of the following warfare communities: aviation, surface warfare, submarine warfare, and Marine Corps. The indoctrination training familiarizes midshipmen with the diverse careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

After their sophomore year, Marine-option midshipmen attend Mountain Warfare School or Marine Afloat Training onboard an amphibious ship. Navy-option midshipmen are paired with enlisted sailors during their second-class summer cruise to give the future naval officers an appreciation for the work of the sailors who will be under their charge one day. During summer cruise, midshipmen visit ports in the U.S. and around the world.

Rising seniors are immersed into their prospective communities to shadow junior officers and experience the role of division officers at sea. They observe the day-to-day operations of a ship from a junior officer's point of view, both in port or underway. Message-writing, personnel administration, and equipment inspections are some of the areas seniors learn about on their cruise.



(L.to r.) Midshipmen 2nd Class Burgos, Seamen, Miller, Williams, and Gurrister atop Mean Peak during Mountain Warfare Training.



Midshipman 2nd Class Bressette prepares to go aloft aboard the USS Columbia.



Midshipmen 2nd Class Cawthorn (left) with Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, during Officer Candidate School.



Midshipman 3rd Class Moreira (left) in her flight suit before a T-34 flight during aviation week at CORTRAMID West.

# Strong Future for VPI Citizen-Leader Track

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Don Russell, VPI Company, 540-231-0490, druss135@vt.edu



Cadet Patrick Sinko, a VPI Company senior majoring in materials science and engineering, spent the summer pursuing his calling in experimental materials, working as an undergraduate researcher at Princeton University. Sinko's research in the area of energy storage will give scientists and engineers a better understanding of how polymeric materials respond in current and future lithium-ion battery technologies.

I begin my first contribution to the Corps Review both honored and humbled to join the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets family as the newest deputy commandant. This summer, I completed my 22-year Air Force career as an aircraft maintenance officer. Throughout my duty stations and travels, I have had the privilege of serving alongside distinguished Corps and Virginia Tech alumni, and I am thrilled to be a part of this esteemed institution. As I write this on the first day of the fall semester, I am inspired by the caliber of cadets I meet, the energy around campus, and the opportunity to contribute to the future of the Corps and its VPI Citizen-Leader Track cadets.

Yes, Citizen-Leader Track. You'll note the subtle difference from the previously used name, Civilian-Leader Track. The purpose for this change is simple enough: to better align with the meaning behind the Service pylon, which is that "Life is demanding, and courageous leadership means service ..." and that we must "put aside the pursuit of one's own work and career to enter into military

or public service serving one's country and fellow citizens." I hope you'll agree that this modest yet powerful change will better resonate with the overall vision of the Corps of Cadets to produce leaders of character, regardless of whether they choose a military or a "citizen" career upon graduation.

Thanks to the dedication of the commandant, his staff, alumni, and our cadets, VPI Company continues its journey toward becoming a more structured, relevant, and vibrant leadership development program. In my new role, I intend to sustain this expansion and improvement of the Citizen-Leader Track programs by continuing to collaborate with the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development, strengthening our rapport with Virginia Tech's Career Services, advancing our existing associations, and cultivating new partnerships with potential hiring organizations locally, nationally, and globally.

My foremost objective, however, is to help ensure success for all of our cadets and to fervently support their efforts to become competent, confident citizen

leaders. As alumni, you are uniquely aware of the exceptional skills and experience a Corps graduate brings to any business, industry, or public-service position, from summer internships to post-graduation employment. I hope to count on your expertise, advice, and knowledge as we move forward, and I encourage you to share your comments, thoughts, and suggestions.

My wife, Carolyn; my daughter, Rachel, and I look forward to meeting many of you at events around campus. Perhaps we will see you at a football game or maybe at Roanoke's Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 10, where VPI Company will represent the Corps under the charge of its commander, Cadet Kelsey Ginn.

No matter the occasion, please feel free to introduce yourselves, for we welcome meeting as many of the alumni community as possible.

*Ut Prosim!*



Cadet Sarah Daszkiewicz served others as a wildland firefighter in Fort Howes, Mont. A senior in VPI Company majoring in natural resources conservation, Sarah attributes her Corps experience for her being able to adapt in rapidly changing and physically demanding environments.



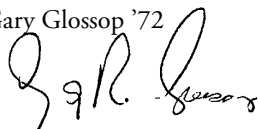
# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for the summer 2012 edition's article titled "The enduring tradition at Virginia Tech." I enjoyed learning about the decline and subsequent growth of the Corps since I graduated in 1972. There is, however, one slight error on page 21 that I noticed immediately. The reorganization of the Corps from 17 units to nine units is labeled 1971, though it occurred in September 1970. Additionally, the parent companies on that line are incorrect. A Company came from companies E and G, not E and F; and Company B came from companies F and H, not G and H. It seems E and F did not get along well, and G and H had a love-hate relationship that went back to 1968, so the scheduled arrangement was amended to make the companies more harmonious. As a member of the new B Company, [I believe] this small error stands out greatly.

Sincerely,

Gary Glossop '72



#### Editor's note:

Thanks, Gary, for sending this information. You are correct; the reorganization did occur in 1970 and not in 1971. As a returning senior in September 1970, I went to 2nd Group staff, and my old unit, S Squadron, combined with R Squadron into H Squadron for the 1970-71 academic year. I knew for a fact that the squadrons in 1st and 4th groups combined in the order shown in the graphic, but I always assumed that the companies in 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalion did the same. Thanks for pointing this out as it makes us better understand our Corps' history.

-- Col. Rock Roszak '71, former editor

## Dates to Note

**Feb. 22-23, 2013:** Women of the VTCC event

**April 13, 2013:** Spring Caldwell March (Please sponsor a cadet!)

**May 4, 2013:** VTCC Change of Command Parade

**May 22-24, 2013:** Old Guard Weekend

**June 21-23, 2013:** New event -- Corps of Cadet Summer Alumni Weekend (more information forthcoming)

## Did You Know ... ?

Col. Wesley Fox, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), was made an honorary member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in February and was recognized by Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger during our Corps Homecoming pregame program in September.

Fox, who enlisted during the Korean War, spent 53 years in a Marine Corps uniform, serving 45 years on active duty and another eight years as deputy commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. He is one of only 81 living recipients of the highest commendation for valor bestowed by the United States: the Medal of Honor.



## Alumni Note

Remember The Rake & Ramblin' 4, who performed at the 2010 Corps Homecoming dinner? The group's original members, Corps alumni Dave Thomas '63, Sandy Seay '66, and Rod Smith '66, jamming with Bill McAllister '65 and newest member, Capt. Dan Forney, the Navy ROTC professor of naval science at Virginia Tech, have just released a new CD, "Trilogy—Long Journey Home." A collection of Americana favorites, including folk, country, western, blues, bluegrass, and gospel tunes, the CD was recorded at Mountain Fever Records in Willis, Va.





## After 140 Years ...

by Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, USAF

How appropriate that on the 140th anniversary of the Corps of Cadets, we reach a milestone about which I know many of our alumni have long dreamed. For the start of this year's New Cadet Week, 421 members of the Class of 2016 joined us. Their class, plus our returning upperclassmen, brought the Corps' total membership to 1,066 cadets—the largest entering class and Corps since 1968!

The opportunity to help influence and develop young men and women of character is foremost in our minds. Combined, the Military-Leader and Citizen-Leader tracks enable us to prepare these cadets to defend the nation and change the world for the better.

I hope that many, if not all, of you have found your way to the commandant's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CVTCC](http://www.facebook.com/CVTCC). If you are a Facebook user, you can "like" the page and receive notices of updates. Even if you're not a Facebook user, you can still visit the page at any time. We post regular updates that include pictures, stories, and even a video occasionally.

With some additional assistance from the state legislature, a very modest increase in our budget allowed us to hire a deputy commandant for VPI Company. Lt. Col. Don Russell and his family joined us at the beginning of the year, and he will be focused on expanding the programs associated with our Citizen-Leader Track cadets.

You may have noticed that I used "Citizen-Leader Track" instead of "Civilian-Leader Track," our previous

designation. This past summer, during our complete rewrite of the Corps of Cadets' Regulations (available online at [www.vtcc.vt.edu/Documents/Cadet\\_Regulations\\_2012\\_Final.pdf](http://www.vtcc.vt.edu/Documents/Cadet_Regulations_2012_Final.pdf)), we included, in the first chapter, information from the original documents regarding the dedication of the Pylons. Specifically, the Brotherhood pylon was designed to represent the following charge: "Let no walls come between you and your fellow citizens." A close look at this pylon reveals that a wall extends outward from between the two figures. Although our earlier use of "civilian" was adequate, the term doesn't speak completely to our aim of helping to develop leaders who will

engage in society as productive and purposeful "citizens" in the fullest sense of the word. To better reflect our mission, then, we have relabeled one of the largest and growing tracks within our Corps.

In personnel matters, we are very excited to welcome a Corps alumna and our new director of alumni relations, Col. Patience Larkin '87, who brings great enthusiasm for the job and a love of the Corps. We are both looking forward to lots of visits from alumni, family, and friends this coming year to see what a Corps of more than 1,000 cadets looks like!

This year, our focus remains on ensuring that the Corps experience is one that



Gen. Fullhart with camera in hand on the field at Lane Stadium; the commandant daily takes pictures of cadets in action to update Corps parents, alumni, and friends via his Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CVTCC](http://www.facebook.com/CVTCC).

produces capable, ethical leaders. To that end, we are working to further enhance the curriculum and the programs that cadets can take advantage of as they fulfill their leader-development responsibilities.

Not surprisingly, with the reality of a larger Corps comes another reality: the need for strong financial support and proper facilities. We can thank our supporters in the Virginia state legislature last session for finally obtaining sorely needed, additional funding. Because of the growth in the Corps, however, we are actually receiving fewer dollars per cadet than we did the year before. That difference calls for a concerted effort to make the case for the proper level of staffing, training-equipment replacement, uniforms, and funds to support day-to-day

activities. Consequently, we'll be back in Richmond. With alumni willing to contact their representatives and the governor's office, we hope that we can be successful in securing the appropriate level of funding.

This gap in funding also means that our alumni's and friends' support is more important than ever. Charitable donations to the Corps underpin a substantial portion of what we are able to accomplish every single day. One of my most enjoyable duties is to personally sign letters to each and every donor. Thank you for all that you are doing to make this the best Corps ever!

Regarding our facilities, the university is moving forward with planning for the Upper Quad that includes replacing our

barracks and designing a new, separate Corps building behind Lane Hall. As Col. Rock Roszak indicated in his article in the previous edition, Lane Hall will remain just as it is.

We look forward to hosting many reunions this year, and welcoming, as always, all of our alumni and friends whenever you are in the area. My sincere thanks to all of you who continue to send notes and letters of encouragement for our efforts. We appreciate all that you do to support the wonderful young men and women who are following in your footsteps.

## In Memoriam: Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser, former commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets



Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser, U.S. Air Force (retired), commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets from 1989 to 1999, died Oct. 8 in Blacksburg, Va.

Musser, who earned a bachelor of science and was commissioned via Air

Force ROTC from Gettysburg College in 1958, served two tours in Vietnam, flying 263 combat missions. In late 1966, he was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and flew more than 300 official aerial demonstrations with the team.

The general twice served at the U.S. Air Force Academy, in 1975 as its vice commandant, and elsewhere in numerous command and staff positions, most notably as the vice commander of the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Va.; as chief of the Office of Military Cooperation, Cairo; and as commander of the Air Force Inspection and Safety Center, Norton Air Force Base, Calif.

A command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours in the F-4, F-15, and F-100, Musser received such military decorations and awards as the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star,

Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, and Purple Heart.

Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1989, Musser took over as commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Under his leadership, the Corps experienced major positive changes in program quality, also embarking on its first period of sustained growth in several decades.

Musser is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dawn Burg Musser; three children, and six grandsons.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Scholarship Fund (University Development, Blacksburg, VA 24061, Attn: Corps of Cadets) or to The Wounded Warrior Project at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) in memory of Maj. Gen. Stan Musser.



## The Challenges of Success

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

Let me begin by welcoming Col. Patience Larkin, as our new alumni director. Patience is a Corps alumna, Class of 1987, and has served on the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. Board of Directors since 2010. She recently retired from the Air Force and brings to this job a wealth of experience and enthusiasm and an intense love for the Corps. We look forward to working with her and wish her every success in her new position.

Now to discuss the challenges that success has brought us.

This fall, the Corps exceeded the goal of 1,000 cadets, a goal that we have dreamed of for some time. The Corps is now its largest since the fall of 1968, which was my "rat" year. This success can be attributed to several dedicated Corps alumni, commandants, and staff, all who believed that a strong and vibrant Corps of Cadets is an integral part of the university we love. The challenge now facing us is to work together to ensure our continued success. We need the support and engagement of informed alumni working closely with Gen. Fullhart and his staff, the alumni director, and development. Permit me to highlight a few areas in which we alumni can be engaged.

First, be informed about the Corps. The Corps Review provides a wealth of information, as do our Corps alumni website ([www.vtcca.vt.edu](http://www.vtcca.vt.edu)) and Gen. Fullhart's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CVTCC](http://www.facebook.com/CVTCC)). Please understand that today's Corps may not be the one that you remember; it has changed to provide the leadership experience and education required of both our citizen and our mili-

tary leaders in today's world. The Corps is also very mindful of the demands placed upon cadets' time. The requirements of a Virginia Tech education come first. We also ask that you review Col. Rock Roszak's article in the summer 2012 edition of the Corps Review, in which he discusses the need to completely renovate Rasche and Brodie halls. Their renovation is the only feasible solution to accommodate a Corps of 1,000-plus cadets.

Secondly, support for Emerging Leader Scholarships (ELS) is always critical. This funding has proven to be an effective recruiting tool and forms a strong bond between current cadets and alumni. When alumni support an ELS, they can see and understand where their contributions are going and can know clearly that their support is appreciated.

Thirdly, we need to reach out to the Virginia General Assembly. During the

next few months, we will formulate talking points and the story that we need to tell. Consequently, we need alumni who can represent us well and will be listened to by their legislators. Please contact me at [gdlerch@verizon.net](mailto:gdlersch@verizon.net) if you can assist with this endeavor.

Lastly is the area of communications. We find that we lack an effective database of Corps alumni. We would like to establish a system of class champions whereby each class year has a strong representative who knows where classmates may be located and how to contact them. In turn, this knowledge would allow us to pass on information quickly and to identify key resources. Again, let us know if you can help with this effort.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*,  
Until next time,  
Gary



Charles O. Cornelison '67, president emeritus of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Inc., marched in the commander's position of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band during the pregame show at the football game against Duke University.



## News from the Development Office

by Dave Spracher '70, director of development, (800) 533-1144, dlsprach@vt.edu

As you have read, we soared past the goal of 1,000 cadets that was first announced by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) back in the mid-1990s. Thank you to the visionaries who in 1976 formed the Highty-Tighty Alumni Inc. and in 1990 created the VTCCA. These people believed that the Corps plays an important role in the development of young men and women who will lead this country in the future. These people knew that the Corps experience develops honor and integrity and hones leadership skills for any walk of life. In fact, these people considered the experience so vital that they gave of their time and resources to fight for the preservation of the Corps of Cadets as the foundation of Virginia Tech.

Thank you to all who have served on the boards of directors of these organizations. Thank you to the commandants and staffs who led the creation of a leadership education program that's second to none. And finally, thank you to every alumni, parent, and friend of the Corps who has supported us in the past and will do so in the future.

With such success come new demands on our limited resources. While we have grown the Corps endowment to more than \$25 million, I'm afraid we need much more.

- We are able to provide some 640 cadets with an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS).
- Our goal is to provide every cadet with an ELS, currently \$2,000 per year for in-state students and



Col. Bill Swan '66, USAF (retired), and Cadet Daniel Gaines at the 2012 Emerging Leader Scholarship donor breakfast.

\$3,000 for out-of-state. These small scholarships are our best tool to attract interest in the Corps.

- Increasing numbers of cadets require increased staff and infrastructure. Current inadequate funding from the state forces us to look to private support to make up the shortfall.
- Our ancient facilities must be improved. We will have a campaign for a new Corps and ROTC facility as soon as we know what it will look like and how much private support will be required.

What does all of this mean? It means that we need your help now more than ever. Please help as much as you are able in any way you can. Give to the Corps through the Annual Fund mailings you receive or through the calls from the

Student Call Center. Participate in your class or Highty-Tighty campaigns. Or call me or Sarah Woods to discuss how you can help now or through your estate planning.

### Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director, Virginia Tech Annual Giving

I'm proud to announce that the Office of Annual Giving increased revenue by 31.1 percent over the previous fiscal year and that contributions to the Corps were instrumental in our banner year.

Thank you to the 3,299 donors who contributed to last year's Corps Annual Fund.

Congratulations! The Corps reported an increase in donor participation, as well as total revenue, over the previous year. Your gifts to the Corps provide unrestricted funds for use by Gen. Fullhart

to support the most important needs of the Corps. These gifts will allow him to groom our country's leaders of tomorrow.

I am glad to report that a company of cadets has volunteered to participate in the Corps phone-a-thon campaign in November. When these cadets call, they will want to hear about your experience as a cadet and to tell you a little about theirs today. We hope they will make a strong case for your financial support of the Corps. Please support them as much as you are able.

I have been impressed with the 421 freshmen who arrived this fall to begin their training to become members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Their transformation from high school students to Corps freshmen is amazing. Many of you can no doubt still remember your or a family member's first year in the Corps. Over the next four years, terms such as duty, challenge, respect, confidence, and leadership will take on a new sense of obligation and commitment for each of these cadets.

Increasing donor participation for the Corps of Cadets is a primary initiative for the Office of Annual Giving. We believe it is an opportunity for all Corps graduates to lead by example and display to our newest cadets an everlasting devo-

tion to the Corps and to Virginia Tech. To continue as one of the commonwealth's premier leadership development programs, the Corps needs the dedication, investment, and commitment of all of our alumni, family members, and friends. Thank you; the strength of the Corps depends on your generosity!

### Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Steve and Lynnette Conder are endowing the VTCC **W. Stephen Conder '85 and Lynnette H. Conder '83 Scholarship**. Steve earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Virginia Tech in 1985, and Lynette graduated from Tech with a degree in biological sciences in 1983. Their son, Jason, a junior in the Highty-Tighties, is studying engineering, and their daughter, Briley, just began her freshman year as a Tech student. The Conders are very supportive of the leader development program within the Corps, and they want to provide support for cadets continuing their secondary education at Virginia Tech.

Gretchen and Jim Flynn '64 have recently decided to establish the VTCC **Gretchen A. and James T. Flynn Jr. M Company '64 Scholarship**. As a cadet, Jim was a member of M Company and served as platoon sergeant and as

an assistant editor of the Bugle. While on active duty, he served as a company commander in Korea, retiring as a lieutenant commander in the Reserves after 28 years of service. Today, Jim volunteers his time on the VTCCA Board of Directors and as the curator of the Corps museum. He and Gretchen are creating this scholarship to help the Corps continue to build leaders for the future.

Dr. David P. Minichan Jr. '51 has notified us that he has made provisions in his estate plans to fund the VTCC **David P. Minichan Jr. Scholarship**. Dave graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in biological sciences and earned an M.D. from the University of Virginia in 1955. He was a cadet captain and executive officer of First Battalion during his senior year and was a member of Arnold Air Society, Scabbard and Blade, and the Cotillion Club. Dave enjoys meeting today's cadets and hopes his scholarship will help mold leaders for tomorrow.

As always, thank you for your support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If we can help you in any way, please let me or Sarah Woods know.

*Ut Prosim,*  
Dave



Freshman cadets at the Addison Caldwell statue before departing on the fall Caldwell March.

# Receive Lifetime Income from your Gift

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

Your gift of any kind to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will help accomplish Corps priorities and help future cadets accomplish their life goals—great reasons to make a gift. But there's more.

If you create a life income gift, it will also generate lifetime payments to you or to someone you name. Two such gifts are charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities. These gifts can help you do the following:

- increase the income you currently receive from low-yielding securities or real estate;
- avoid potential capital gains tax liability on appreciated assets;
- receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction;
- provide income for retirement, a surviving spouse, or other need;
- create a meaningful future gift for your Corps.

There are two types of **Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT)**: the Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT) and the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). A key difference concerns your goal for the payments you receive.

To protect your income stream from market fluctuations, the **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT)** provides annual fixed income payments.

To provide a hedge against inflation, the **Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)** provides annual payments based on a stated percentage of the trust's annual value.

A **Charitable Gift Annuity** is similar to a charitable remainder trust, but for many donors, it is a simpler gift. Your charitable gift annuity is a contract with the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc. The payments you receive are locked in when you create the annuity, providing a reliable, fixed dollar amount each year.

To learn more about gifts that pay you income, or about any gift supporting the Corps, contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 800-533-1144 or [dlsprach@vt.edu](mailto:dlsprach@vt.edu).



## Always Welcomed Back, Soon and Often

by Col. Patience Larkin '87, 540-231-9369, patience@vt.edu

My life seems surreal since my arrival back in Blacksburg. Every morning, I walk down Alumni Mall and see the Pylons in the mist, climb the steps to the Upper Quad as if I'm headed back to my old dorm room in Rasche, and listen to the familiar strains of the bugler as the flag is raised. But it is not 1987, I am no longer in my "beloved" Grey Bag uniform, and my E-Frat buds are spread out across the world, some leading in the public and private sectors and some privileged enough to continue to serve in uniform.

Now, 25 years later, I have just retired from a great career in the Air Force and am following in Col. Rock Roszak's footsteps as the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) alumni director. It's quite a daunting task. I am honored to have been chosen for this position and will do my best to represent you, the VTCC alumni. Thanks to all who have welcomed me with calls and notes.

The departure of Col. Roszak '71 marked 11 years of his dedicated service as the Corps' alumni director. Not only was he instrumental in rebuilding the Corps to more than 1,000 cadets, he ensured that the Corps Review remained a great way to update alumni, and he was the Corps' No. 1 promoter. Those are just a few of his accomplishments, however. Without belaboring all that Col. Roszak contributed to the Corps, I would like to say what I am certain all VTCC alumni would tell him: Thank you, Rock! Thank you for representing us brilliantly during your tenure and for serving as an exceptional liaison for the

Corps and the university. You did a truly excellent job and will be sorely missed—but never forgotten.

By the time you receive this edition of the Corps Review, we will have had a fantastic time at both the Corps and the Highty-Tighty homecoming weekends. Remember that all VTCC alumni are always welcomed back, soon and often!

Finally, as Gen. Fullhart notes in his column on page 40, with the celebration of the 140th anniversary of our school's founding, we also celebrate the largest Corps in more than 44 years. And as is reality, with more cadets comes the need for additional financial support for staff, uniforms, and day-to-day operations. More importantly, generous alumni

donations support the scholarship and stipend programs that helped bring these aspiring leaders to the Upper Quad. Your support in that area is especially crucial.

We thank Corps alumni everywhere for all you have done and all we hope you will continue to do in the coming years. Our Corps is producing some of the finest leaders in both our armed services and the private sector at one of the most critical times in our nation's history. Contributions from our alumni continue to support the leadership development of this vital group of young men and women who are our Corps. Thank you again for your support.

*Ut Prosim.*

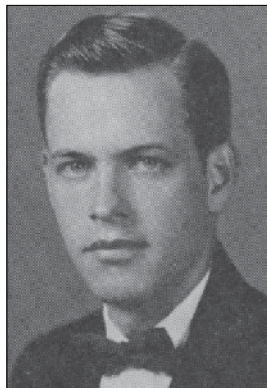


The Gregory Guard was squared away on the march down Blacksburg's Main Street during the 2012 Virginia Tech Homecoming parade.



## In Memory

**Delbert L. Boggs Jr. '51**  
1929 – 2012



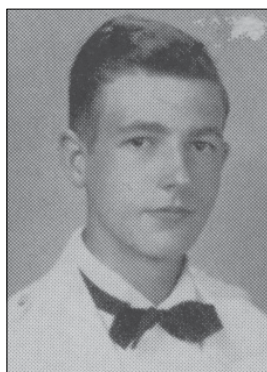
Delbert L. Boggs Jr. died July 24.

Boggs, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1951

with a degree in mining engineering. After working throughout the U.S., he was named vice president of Appalachian Construction Co. in 1969, where he remained for ten years. He then worked as a civil engineering consultant with several firms in Wise County, Va.

Boggs is survived by his wife, Patsy, and three children.

**Horatio Hoggard III '46**  
1923 – 2012



Horatio Hoggard III died June 4.

A 1946 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in industrial engineering, Hoggard served as a colonel in the

U.S. Army Reserve Corps of Engineers and helped in the building of a space facility at Cape Canaveral, Fla. A civil engineer and city official in Norfolk, Va., he later was a real estate broker and owner of H.C. Hoggard Company Inc.

Hoggard is survived by his wife, Jill; a son, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**John B. Lee '48**  
1924 – 2012



John B. Lee died September 19.

Entering Virginia Tech with the Class of 1945, Lee left to serve in the U.S.

Army Air Corps during World War II. Assigned to the 8th Air Force at King's Cliffe Air Force Base, England, he flew 52 combat missions as a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, six Air Medals, and three Battle Stars.

After returning to Virginia Tech and earning a degree in mechanical engineering, Lee worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Langley Field, Va., until 1958, when he signed on with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). One of the first 35 people assigned to the Mercury Space Task Group, he served as chief of the mechanical systems sections and as head of the directorates program offices for Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. Involved in the design concepts for various docking modules and space stations, Lee received many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to the Apollo XIII operations team by President Nixon in 1970. Lee, who retired from NASA in 1980, was inducted into the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets aviation and aerospace Wall of Fame in September 2007.

Lee is survived by two daughters.

**John J. Lilley '43**  
1921 – 2012

John J. Lilley died July 15.

A 1943 graduate of Virginia Tech, Lilley, who served in World War II with



the 101st Airborne Division, was assigned to Gen. Patton's 3rd Army, took part in its march through

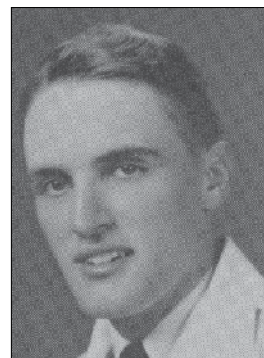
Europe, and was present at the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Following the war, he was promoted to captain and served as provost marshal in Brussels, Belgium. He remained in the Army Reserve until his discharge in April 1953.

A lifelong farmer who operated a land clearing/drainage business for 40 years, Lilley taught agriculture and farm shop to returning World War II veterans in Stony Creek, Va., and in 1958 built the first fully automated hog-feeding facility in the U.S.

Lilley is survived by four daughters, 15 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Joseph T. Domazet Jr. '50**  
1929 – 2012

Joseph T. Domazet Jr. died July 19.



A 1950 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in civil engineering, Domazet served in the U.S. Air Force. Following his service, he

worked as a contractor on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge project and continued his career with the Fairfax County, Va., Park Authority for 35 years, rising to the position of deputy director.

Domazet is survived by his wife, Marjorie.

**Robert B. Cabell '44**  
1923 – 2012



Robert B. Cabell died July 21.

Entering Virginia Tech with the Class of 1944, Cabell interrupted his education to serve in the U.S Army during World

War II, later transferring to the Army Air Corps and awarded bombardier and navigator wings. After the war, he received a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1948 and opened a law practice. In 1963, Cabell retired as a major in the Air Force Reserve and in 1973 became a full-time juvenile and domestic

relations district court judge, retiring after a decade on the bench.

Cabell is survived by his wife, Goldzie, four children, and 12 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Oscar W. Ward Jr. '38**  
1917 – 2012

Oscar W. Ward Jr. died July 25.

A 1938 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering, Ward continued his studies at the Medical College of Virginia, receiving an M.D. in 1942. After serving in the military during World War II, he practiced medicine for 42 years in Phoebus, Va.

Ward is survived by his wife, Catherine, and three children.

**Thomas G. Saptig '47**  
1926 – 2012

Thomas G. Saptig died June 10.

A 1947 graduate of Virginia Tech

with a degree in mechanical engineering, Saptig interrupted his studies in 1944 and joined the U.S Navy. Following service in World War II, he returned to graduate and then worked 38 years for the C&O Railroad.

Saptig is survived by his wife, Ruth, and two sons.

**Thomas R. Ross Jr. '71**  
1947 – 2012

Thomas R. Ross Jr. died June 4.

A 1971 graduate of Virginia Tech, Ross received an M.A. from Northern Michigan University and served 20 years in the U.S Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. After retirement, he taught high school English in Jacksonville, Fla.

Ross is survived by his wife, Linda, three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.





The flyover of two Boeing T-45 C Goshawk aircraft during the Oct. 13 game against Duke University was coordinated by Lt. Michael Renard '04, U.S. Navy, of Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) from Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss. Currently serving as an instructor pilot with VT-7, he also flew one of the aircraft during the pregame flyover. Here, Renard (far left) and his fellow pilots and crew stand with the HokieBird as they wait to be introduced to the crowd during halftime.

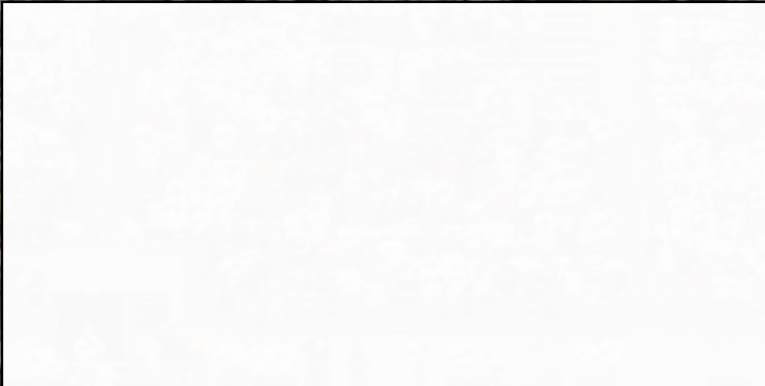
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Color Guard proudly stands tall, awaiting the cue to present the colors for the national anthem before a home football game. The 22-strong members of today's color guard are considered the Corps' "guardians of flag etiquette."



**VTCC Alumni Inc.**

143 Brodie Hall (0213)  
Virginia Tech  
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