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Corps Review

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Cadets Brian Gendreau (left) and Kyle Hooper received the flags from Hokie quarterback Logan Thomas and the team just before the 2011 ACC championship game against Clemson University. The cadets traveled with the team and represented the Corps well on the field. For the past three years, selected cadets have accompanied the Virginia Tech football team for this duty. Photo courtesy of Brittany Tatum, Virginia Tech.

The Corps of Cadets heads out in full force for a Virginia Tech women's basketball game each year; and for the past two years, the athletic department has designated that game as Military Appreciation Night. At the Feb. 3 contest against Clemson University, cadets were given a commemorative T-shirt and showed great spirit, especially enjoying a photo op with the HokieBird. Photo courtesy of Brittany Tatum, Virginia Tech.



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Col. R. S. (Rock) Roszak '71, *Alumni Director and Editor*

David Stanley VT'95, *Art Director*

Robin Dowdy, *Graphic Designer*

Juliet Crichton, *Assistant Editor*

Michael Kiernan, R. S. Roszak, and Jim Stroup, *Photography*

Melissa Richards, *Director of Marketing and Publications*

Comments and all material for the magazine should be mailed to Editor, **Corps Review**, 143 Brodie Hall (0213), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Persons wishing to reprint any portion of the contents of **Corps Review** must contact the editor for permission. Persons wanting to be added to the mailing list should send an email message to vtcc71@vt.edu or call (540) 231-9369.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

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Ringling in 100 years of Virginia Tech tradition: The 2000s

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Spanning 19 years and more than 4,000 flight hours, the soaring career of Navy helicopter pilot Mark Leavitt '93—now a staff officer at the headquarters of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation—was never short on challenges.

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Developing tomorrow's leaders today

The Rice Center introduced eight new classes during the 2011-12 academic year and is guiding an initiative to develop a similar series of classes for Civilian-Leader Track cadets.

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Come spend the day with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

For the second consecutive year, alumni are invited to experience an up-close look at the day in the life of a Virginia Tech cadet.

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THE LYON DYNASTY

*by Walt '53, Scott '82, Nancy '84, and
Debbie '86 Lyon*

We all enjoy reading the Corps Review, generally because we can find an article or at least come upon a photo of someone we know, someone with whom we have shared the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) experience. There are frequently articles that cover the distinguished career of a military officer who credits the VTCC for early leadership training and skills that benefitted him or her throughout a long career. We are proud to know these military leaders and believe that they bring great credit to Virginia Tech and specifically to the Corps of Cadets.

From left: Debbie '86, Walt '53 and Betty, Nancy '84, and Scott '82.







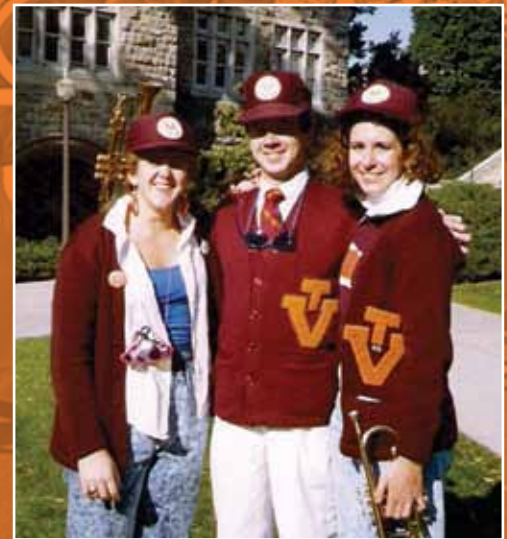
1986



1986



2006



1988

Certainly, the skills learned in the Corps are of obvious use to graduates who spend a career in the military. But it is important to note that these are not exclusively military skills. The Corps teaches life skills that are easily transferable into the civilian sector and are equally as valuable in that realm. Those of us who are not career military officers can attest to that truth.

The Lyon family has been connected to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets for more than six decades. Father Walt (G '53) and his offspring, Scott (HT '82), Nancy (HT '84), and Debbie (HT'86), all agree that the benefits we each received as members of the VTCC are much greater than words can adequately describe. Although none of us spent a career in the military, we recognize that as members of the VTCC, we were provided opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills that were not and still

are not available to other Virginia Tech students or at any other university.

In our reflecting back on early VTCC experiences with Walt, this Lyon family affair with the VTCC may never have transpired. Along with many other “rats,” Walt accumulated an unusually large number of demerits during his first few months as a cadet. As a result, he spent endless hours doing “tours,” marching around with a rifle in order to eradicate the number of demerits on his list. Does this sound familiar to anyone?

By the end of the first quarter, Walt was feeling frustrated, and he did not want to return to Blacksburg after Christmas. Fortunately for him and all of his subsequent offspring, his parents urged him to “stick it out, and give it another try.” Thankfully, he did. He continued his membership in the VTCC and earned a degree in civil engineering.

After a short stint as a platoon leader

in the 91st Engineer Combat Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va., Walt attended West Virginia University, where he earned a master's degree in civil engineering. At the end of a long and impressive career as a registered professional engineer and licensed land surveyor, he retired in Florida as the Miramar City traffic engineer.

Walt is a mentor to current Highy-Tighties, and he participates in college fairs and recruiting for the VTCC. He tells prospective students, “I don't know where I would be now if it hadn't been for Virginia Tech and the VTCC.” We could not have a better advocate for recruiting because we all know that Walt bleeds orange and maroon!

Scott, Walt's eldest, received an Air Force ROTC scholarship and chose Virginia Tech. He became a trumpet player in the Highy-Tighties and earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Also a registered professional



2007



2007



Walt Lyon (right) with his '53 G Company classmate Bob Hundley.

2011



2008

Debbie, Scott, and Nancy with their band director from the mid-1980s, Wally Easter (second from left).

engineer, Scott has worked for more than 25 years as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He recently completed a master's degree in systems engineering management from the Naval Post Graduate School. During Scott's tenure with the Army, he has been involved with the design and development of several fuze systems, including one for which a U.S. patent was awarded.

Scott credits the Corps with equipping him in various intangible ways. He mentions that his years in the Corps helped him gain perspective, particularly in challenging circumstances. When being admonished for something for which he was not responsible, he knows how to let it roll off his back. Although being "reamed out" in the adult workforce may not be as colorful as it was in those VTCC days, he knows not to take things personally. He has learned to deal with

"speed bumps," which is his diplomatic expression for "working with people who get in the way."

In addition, his early years in the Corps helped Scott refine his problem-solving skills. Those of us who know him well can verify that he has learned how to wing it, how to work with available resources, and how to get through the quagmire—in other words, how to get to the heart of the matter, quickly evaluate what needs to be done, and find an expedient and effective solution.

Nancy also received an Air Force ROTC scholarship and chose to attend Virginia Tech, where she, too, played trumpet in the Highty-Tighties. Nancy became the Corps' first female bugler, which was the beginning of her many trend-setting accomplishments. She was one of two U.S. Air Force cadets selected at the end of her junior year to attend airborne school.

Upon graduating with a degree in civil engineering, Nancy served in the U.S. Air Force for eight years. During this time, she was selected to attend the Ohio State University, where she received a master's degree in civil engineering. She was one of two Air Force officers assigned to the Navy for the Hurricane Hugo reconstruction in South Carolina.

Upon leaving the Air Force, Nancy transitioned to the private sector as a consulting engineer with a focus in traffic engineering. A registered professional engineer and a licensed professional traffic operations engineer, Nancy is currently Ohio's traffic and planning group manager for Michael Baker Jr. Inc.'s Cleveland office.

Thinking back on those late nights as a freshman spit-shining her shoes and polishing her brass to meet the high standards set for her by the upperclassmen, and later inspecting uniforms and



2011

On the job: Debbie (above) with her schoolkids in Belize; Nancy as the principal traffic engineer for Cleveland's Innerbelt project.



2011

marching as an upperclassman, Nancy learned to respect attention to detail. This skill, along with the leadership, teamwork, and public-speaking skills she developed in the VTCC, has contributed to her successful engineering career.

She remembers when the Highty-Tighties, as a company, after one particular misadventure, were “corrected” at length by then-Commandant of Cadets Lt. Gen. Howard M. Lane.

(Translation: Braced up at a two-pace interval for a classic three-star dressing-down). This “lesson” helped Nancy to develop mental toughness, as well as understand how to maintain perspective in adversity.

Nancy has a willingness to venture into unfamiliar territory, and she understands and values working as part of a team. She believes that because of her VTCC experiences, many doors have been opened to her. Additionally, as a female in a male-dominated career field, Nancy feels that the VTCC helped prepare her to make gender differences a non-issue in working with others, performing her job, and simply getting things done.

Debbie, seeing how much fun her brother and sister were having (!), also decided to attend Virginia Tech, and she, too, received an Air Force scholarship. Like her father, she felt frustrated in the early part of her freshman year and told her parents that she wanted to quit. It is hard for a free spirit to endure such structure! As had happened with her father, her parents encouraged her to stick with it. Debbie may have balked at this advice, but there was this family tradition going on, and she couldn't break that heritage.

So Debbie stayed in the Corps, played baritone in the Highty-Tighties, and earned a degree in civil engineering. And she loved it! After six years in the U.S. Air Force, Debbie ventured out into the private sector and, again following the family tradition, earned a professional engineer license.

Her career path, however, has not been quite as straightforward as those of the rest of the family. Somewhere along the line, Debbie decided that working in the confines of an office was not allowing her to be true to herself. She left the engineering field. After volunteering for

a year at an orphanage in Guatemala, she opted to get an associate degree in natural resources conservation. Then, after a short period of time as an environmental educator, Debbie stumbled across an opportunity to teach at an elementary school in Belize, which is where she lives now. Currently in her second year there, she is serving as the school principal and the music teacher, in addition to teaching an elementary-level class.

Believe it or not, Debbie used to be very timid about trying new things, and she did not have much of a sense of adventure. But four years in the Corps and six years in the Air Force gave her the opportunity to try new things. More bluntly, she had to step out and try new things because it was expected of her.

Debbie believes that the Corps helped her to develop a sense of self and forced her to do things she may not have otherwise done. Now she finds that venturing out on a new path is no longer scary but rather exciting. She also learned that sometimes you simply have to keep going, whether or not you want to and whether or not you think you can.

Another characteristic that Debbie believes was honed in the Corps is her ability to work with almost anybody. In the Corps, you do not get to choose the people in your company, but you certainly need to learn how to work together. This is an invaluable life skill that's applicable in all career fields.

#

We have not touched on lifelong friendships that are an integral part of being in the Corps. Suffice it to say that our buds continue to be our close friends, and we treasure our past, present, and future together. Our VTCC friends are our family!

You will see most, if not all, of the Lyons every year at homecoming: with the Highty-Tighties for Eternal Band Practice at the Field House, in the Homecoming Parade, on the field as part of the pre-game show, and in the stands cheering the Hokies on to victory with our family and friends. Homecoming is an ongoing VTCC tradition, and we love being a part of Hokie Nation!

We are certain that outstanding leadership training will continue to be part of the VTCC experience, enjoyed by current and future members of the Corps and recognized by employers and coworkers. If prospective students are looking for a fantastic academic education, coupled with high-quality leadership training, we know they will find that at Virginia Tech as members of the VTCC!

Walter W. Lyon Jr. '53

lyonwalt@bellsouth.net

C. Scott Lyon '82

lyonengineer@verizon.net

Nancy B. Lyon-Stadler '84

nlyonstadler@mbakercorp.com

Deborah C. Lyon '86

lyoness86@yahoo.com

What the Lyons have learned from the VTCC is universally applicable, regardless of career path or military involvement. Here are some of our favorites:

- Strive for excellence in all endeavors
- Understand goals and stay focused on them
- Work together as a team; capitalize on each other's strengths and backfill weaknesses
- Communicate effectively—that means listening as well as talking
- Rise to challenges and encourage others to do the same
- Continue onward despite unexpected obstacles and pitfalls
- Deal positively with negative attitudes
- Recognize those who make outstanding contributions
- Seek guidance and assistance from qualified experts
- Have fun and celebrate accomplishments
- *Ut Prosim*: Service matters, and it is important to give back in meaningful ways.





Grateful **for the** experience

by Dia Kinnaman '05

I was born and raised in Columbia, Md. During my senior year in high school, I received an Air Force ROTC scholarship and was interested in attending a military university in order to best prepare myself for my future. I knew that the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech would not only give me the daily military preparations such as customs and courtesies, wearing a uniform, formations, and physical training, but would also allow me to experience traditional college life and a university. Oh, and the football team is awesome!

My cadet experience was unforgettable. I don't think the training experience and the friendships I developed could be matched anywhere else. The idea that you could start as a freshman with such a wide variety of individuals and then become such a brotherhood as a class and a Corps really proves how effective the training is. From day one, not only did we learn the rules and policies, but we were taught to trust each other and never leave anyone behind. Knowing that your buds were always there to support you, from freshman through senior year, showed a military unity that only the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets can provide. I owe it all to my bud class for the love and support that still continue today.

Some of my most treasured memories as a cadet are spending Friday nights in the call room as a freshman with all 22 buds, being on the Color Guard bringing the colors on the field during football games, and playing in the Southern Colonels cadet jazz band.

I was lucky to serve in many leadership roles during my years in the Corps, which helped me grow as a leader and now as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Some of the leadership roles I held were Echo Company first sergeant, regimental sergeant major, Echo Company commander, and Second Battalion commander. Each year's leadership roles increased in scope and responsibility, teaching me how to manage time and resources and, above all, how to take care of people. Working with many different types of people—those who led me and those who followed—I was able to build a strong skill set that I put into practice every day as an officer and leading a crew as an aircraft commander in the C-130. (Editor's note: True to her modest nature, Capt. Kinnaman does not mention that, in her senior year, she was recognized by

Virginia Tech as the Outstanding Undergraduate Leader of the Year for the entire university.)

Since graduation in December 2005, I have completed a variety of training assignments that led to becoming a C-130 aircraft commander. I attended phase one and phase two of pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., flying the T-6A Texan II. What a blast! That plane could pretty much do anything, and the thrill of flying acrobatics and formation was an incredible experience.

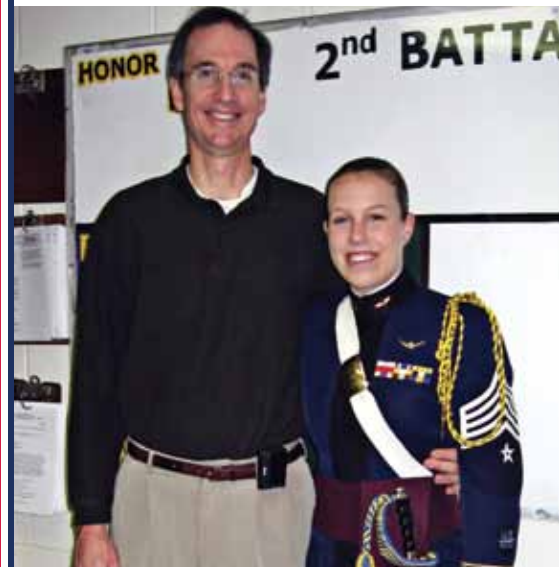
Halfway through pilot training, I was selected to continue with T-44's and transferred to Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Texas. There I flew the TC-12 and earned my pilot wings in January 2008. After pilot training, I attended continuation training at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., to learn the C-130 before my final assignment to the 39th Airlift Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Since arriving at Dyess, I have flown a wide variety of missions and have learned and tested many of the capabilities of the C-130. My first off-base trip was a training mission to Puerto Rico, where I dropped high-altitude, low-opening (HALO) jumpers. As a formation and airdrop-qualified crew commander, I've assisted with Army airborne training at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and at Lawson Army Airfield, Ga., airdropping hundreds of troopers and cargo supplies.

Other formation capabilities I've been qualified in are station keeping, which is in-the-weather formation flying, and the Joint Precision Airdrop System, a more specialized method to increase the accuracy of airdrops. I've also assisted with medical evacuation missions based out of Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and Andrews Air Force Base, Md., transporting military members requiring medical atten-



Cadet Kinnaman (third from left) with her buds after their Change of Command Pass in Review in the late spring of 2005.



With her father, John Kinnaman, just before the 2005 Change of Command Pass in Review.



After her "winging" ceremony in 2008, 2nd Lt. Kinnaman with her sister, Kelsey; her brother, Jesse; and their mother, Deena Kinnaman.



tion to and from various cities across the continental United States. During all of this, I've received training to fly all three C-130 H models and played a role in the transition at Dyess to the newest C-130 J model.

Deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn, I have logged more than 400 combat hours airlifting troops and supplies, as well as flying combat airdrops. My most memorable deployment experience was flying through the mountains of Afghanistan for the first time on night-vision goggles. Because I was accustomed to the flat Iraqi coun-

tryside, the terrain in Afghanistan was a unique flying opportunity.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my career as an Air Force aviator thus far and am grateful for the experiences. The opportunities the Air Force has provided far exceed any I could have initially imagined. I have had the privilege of flying in and out of more than 25 states and 15 countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, Djibouti, England, Germany, Iceland, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Yemen.

Off-duty, I've had the privilege to work with the Women's Airforce Service Pilot

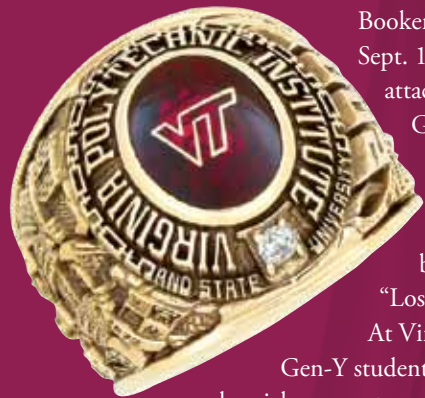
Museum in Sweetwater, Texas. This past year at our annual homecoming celebration, we were honored with the presence of 22 of the 25 still-living World War II Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Recently, I completed a master's degree with a 4.0 grade point average at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. I currently live in Abilene, Texas, with my 3-year-old chocolate lab, Brodie. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the training I received and the opportunities that were made available to me during my four years in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Ring in 100 years of Virginia Tech tradition: The 2000s

by Laura Wedin VT'84

Continuing our history of Virginia Tech's class ring tradition, we look at the ninth-decade rings.



Bookended by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the Great Recession, the 2000s have sometimes been called the “Lost Decade.”

At Virginia Tech, Gen-Y students—or Millennials—were team-oriented and civic-minded, enacting a shift from “me” to “we” against a backdrop of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. As great numbers were called to service and profound changes occurred across the country, the Hokie Nation and its ring tradition flourished.

Not surprisingly, the decade's ring designs became not only more serious in theme, but also less cluttered and more unified. The consistent look of the traditional ring's bold bezel and housing resulted from the university's long-standing partnership with ring manufacturer ArtCarved/Balfour.

Commanding respect on the rings of the 2000s are the U.S. and Commonwealth of Virginia flags, the Pylons, 1872, *Ut Prosim*, Burruss Hall, and the sabres. In addition, iconic emblems of campus life, such as the HokieBird and its tracks, Torgersen Bridge, Lane Stadium, “Beat U.Va.,” the Skipper cannon, and the Flaming VT—a tradition of the Corps' Hotel Company—appear on nearly every ring of the decade.

In a more unique depiction, the hourglass on the 2007 ring represents the playing of Metallica's “Enter Sandman” as the football team runs onto Worsham Field.

The Class of 2009 ring was the first to depict the April 16 tragedy: a VT memorial ribbon nestled in the Drillfield oval on the class side; the words “We Will Prevail” on the university side.

During the decade, the explosion of new technology in video and digital communications affected every aspect of the class ring design process, from design implementation, websites, email, animation technology, video-to-DVD format, and wireless Internet to marketing techniques through social networking sites like Facebook.

Amidst the information-overload decade, marketing became a crucial part of the ring design process. The class logo, which became a branding tool to uniquely identify each class, was usually incorporated into the ring design. The Ring Premiere presentations added digital animation of the ring and more video. In 2001, ring brochure websites, which could be easily shared with parents and others, were

introduced. The Class of 2008 was the first to include a DVD of Ring Premiere videos with the hard-copy brochure.

Dance weekends throughout the 2000s continued to be elegant, well-attended affairs held at Squires Student Center and utilizing newer technology, visuals, and lighting with each passing year. University President Charles W. Steger has presided over the ring figure and presentation since taking office in 2000.

Despite the challenges and conflicts of the 2000s, Virginia Tech's ring tradition thrived, drawing from and contributing to the traditions that continue to keep the Hokie Nation strong.

To learn more, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings.



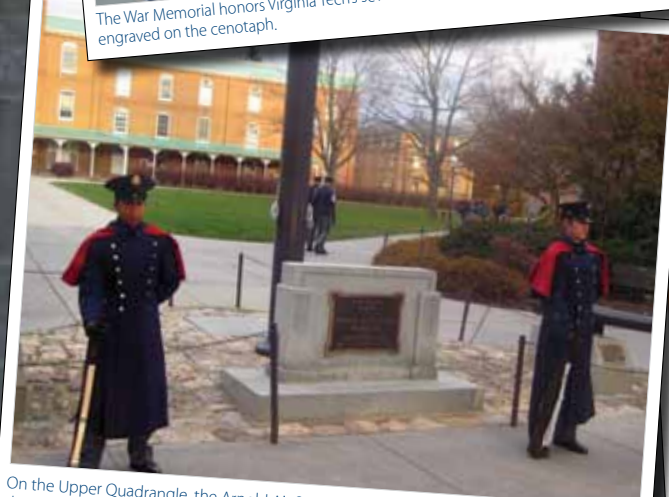
On Veterans Day, Virginia Tech conducts a series of events led by the Corps of Cadets. From vigils at the War Memorial and The Rock, to a remembrance ceremony open to the entire campus community, to the formal retreat on the Upper Quadrangle, these images of the next generation of leaders honoring past generations are vivid evidence that the university is uniquely aware of its military heritage.



The War Memorial honors Virginia Tech's seven Medal of Honor recipients, whose names are engraved on the cenotaph.



Each of the eight pylons is etched with a portion of the names of 427 alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.



On the Upper Quadrangle, the Arnold Air Society conducted a 24-hour vigil at The Rock, the memorial to our World War I alumni who died in Europe.



President Charles W. Steger and Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Fullhart were in attendance as the colors processed in during the ceremony in the War Memorial Chapel.



Those in attendance moved topside to the Memorial Court.



Gen. Fullhart and President Steger placed the wreath at the cenotaph at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.



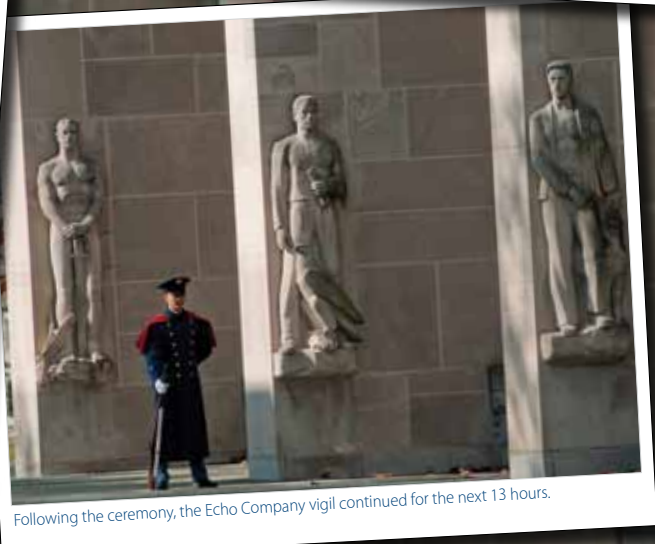
The Gregory Guard rendered a rifle salute.



While "Taps" was played, honors were rendered.



The sizable crowd also rendered honors.



Following the ceremony, the Echo Company vigil continued for the next 13 hours.



Old Glory was solemnly lowered to end the duty day at the formal retreat ceremony on the Upper Quad.



A cadet at the Pylons represents the military presence at Virginia Tech, past and present.



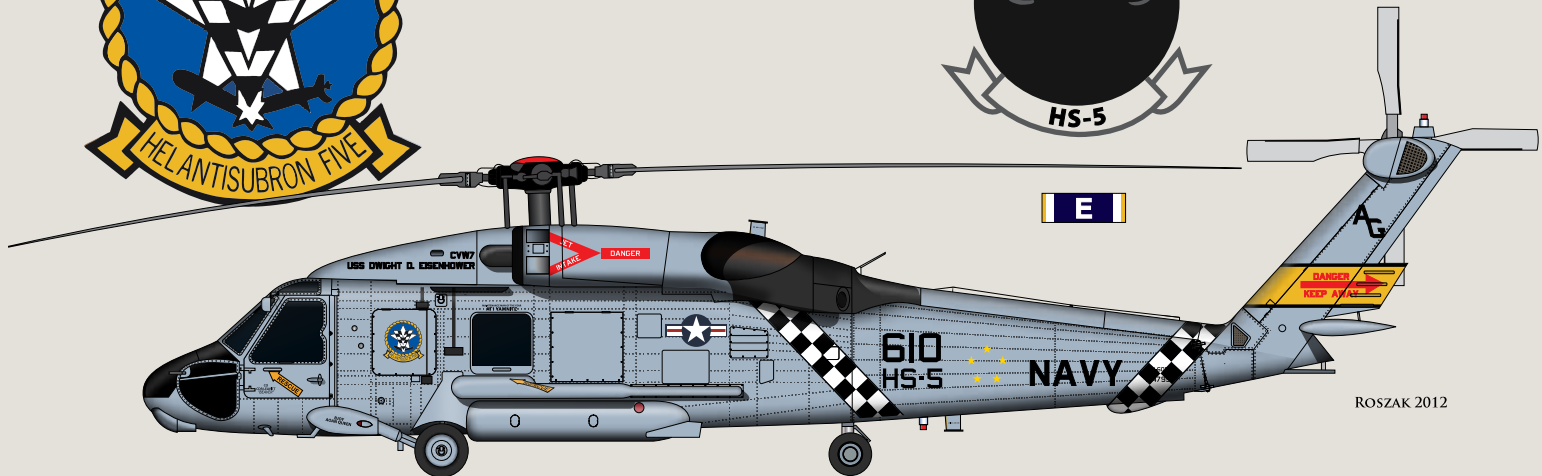
Friendships formed, lessons learned

by Mark Leavitt '93

On a beautiful day, May 12, 2011, onboard Naval Station Norfolk, Va., I stood up at the podium in my squadron's hangar in front of a crowd of family, friends, and the 200 sailors of the squadron. I reported to my immediate superior—the commander of Carrier Air Wing Seven—that I had been properly relieved of command of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Five, or simply HS-5.

This time-honored change-of-command ceremony marked the most significant milestone in my career. Only a short 18 years earlier on May 7, 1993, in another time-honored ceremony, I had stood at the altar in War Memorial Chapel and received my commission as an ensign in the Navy. Much has happened to this political science graduate in those 18 years.

As a new cadet, I was young and naïve. My brother, who had attended Virginia Tech in the early 1980s, but hadn't been in the Corps, said that all he could remember about the ROTC guys was that they had to wear uniforms



Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk flown by Commander Mark "Beav" Leavitt, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer, Helicopter Antisubmarine FIVE (HS-5) "Nightdippers" USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), CV-W, Naval Station Norfolk, 2010-2011 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1993

to class. I remember thinking to myself, "How different can this be than doing ROTC at Georgia Tech?" I started to figure out that something was going to be very different indeed when we were led in our freshly issued green fatigues over to the barbershop on South Main Street to get our heads shaved.

I suffered through my first semester in engineering. Math wasn't my strong point and led me to consider the importance of my goals. Did I, a cadet participating in ROTC without a scholarship and therefore with a limited chance of

receiving a commission, want to become an engineer or a naval officer? It became apparent to me that I couldn't do both.

Ultimately, I made the choice to pursue a degree in political science, which earned me a scholarship and a commission. Had I not made that decision, I am sure that I would not have had 18 successful years in the Navy. More importantly, I probably would never have met my beautiful bride.

Education alone does not complete us. My real growth as a person took place through the relationships formed and les-

sons learned as a member of great organizations available to me while at Virginia Tech: the Corps of Cadets; the Midshipmen Battalion; my fraternity, Beta Theta Pi; and the Navy Seal Prep Team.

I spent my first two years in Hotel Company, my third year as a platoon sergeant in Bravo Company, and my final year as executive officer of Hotel Company. At the start of my junior year, I was given the opportunity as a member of the Corps cadre to lead physical training for new cadets. It was a great experience for me. Spending time training new cadets





taught me about some of the basics of leadership that I would apply later in life.

Upon graduation, I knew that I was on my way to flight school, having selected to be a pilot. Because there was a significant backlog of students waiting to complete flight training, I was assigned to Naval Air Station Atlanta, where, to the horror of my parents, I got to move back home for a year. I was the public affairs officer for the base and an assistant reserve program manager.

About a year after graduation, the backlog in flight school cleared, and I reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. The next 18 months were spent in aviation training, and I proudly became a helicopter pilot. Around this same time, I made the best decision of my life. I married Erin, my college sweetheart, in a ceremony that brought back together our great friends from Virginia Tech, and we started our Navy life together.

I finished flight school and moved to

a training squadron in San Diego, where I learned how to fly my fleet aircraft, the SH-60F and HH-60H “Seahawk.” Within the year, Erin and I were on a plane to Japan to join my first squadron, HS-14, in Atsugi. My tour there lasted 36 months. I spent nine of those months at home.

Three full deployments, two on the USS Independence (CV-61) and one on the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-62), and a host of training detachments kept us incredibly busy. I left Japan as a “salty” lieutenant with more than 1,000 hours in the aircraft and as an “expert” in search and rescue, combat search and rescue, anti-submarine warfare, and anti-surface warfare. Erin and I also left Japan with our first daughter, Madeline.

I spent the next three years in San Diego at HS-10 and taught new pilots to fly the helicopter in which I considered myself an expert. There’s nothing like three years instructing to teach you how

little you really know. Another 1,000 hours flying as an instructor had me feeling that I might finally know something about the job. Our family continued to grow as we welcomed our second daughter, Kira.

In January 2003, I arrived at my new job (and fourth deployment) on the staff of Carrier Air Wing Two as the helicopter operations officer, flying to the Arabian Gulf to meet the air wing onboard USS Constellation (CV-63) just a few months before the opening of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Flying around the Arabian Gulf, up to the Al Faw Peninsula in Iraq, and into Kuwait allowed me to witness an immense gathering of power as coalition warships came into the Gulf to support combat operations and ensure that the sea lanes remained opened.

The following year, I transitioned from the air wing staff back to squadron life as a department head in HS-2, still in San Diego. Erin and I also welcomed our

third child, our son Thomas Graham. While at HS-2, I deployed twice, finally deploying on a ship that was younger than I, the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).

Both deployments remained in the Western Pacific. During the first, I was assigned to assist the senior shore patrol officer during our liberty in Hong Kong over Christmas 2004. I returned in the wee morning hours, and I watched with horror the news reports of a massive earthquake and tsunami that had struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The next day, Lincoln left port early and headed directly to Indonesia. My flights over the next month were the most harrowing and rewarding of my career. For twelve hours a day for nearly 30 days, we flew rescue-and-relief flights into the devastated coast of Sumatra.

After a very busy several years, my family and I finally got a break. I was assigned to be a college student at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. While in school, I learned that I had been selected to be an operational commanding officer. It was an honor to be selected from such an incredible group of naval officers.

We started my command tour in Jacksonville, Fla., and moved the

squadron, during deployment, to its new homeport of Norfolk, Va. Going into this tour, I thought that I knew how to be a leader. I quickly realized that I still had much to learn. Not only did I learn from my seniors, I learned even more from my subordinates.

During this time as executive officer and commanding officer, I deployed twice on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), both times to the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, building up my flight logbook to more than 4,000 hours. Much like my previous sea tours, I spent the majority of my 30 months in the squadron away from home.

I am now in my first non-flying desk job in 19 years of service. I have no one working for me, and I man a small blue cubicle on the fifth deck of an office building. I work as a staff officer at the headquarters of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

I do not know what adventures the Navy has for me and my family in the future. Looking back, however, I fondly remember my time in the leadership laboratory of the Corps of Cadets. It was a fantastic foundation for my career, one I would undoubtedly do again. The lifelong friends and lessons learned from those four years have made an indelible impact on my life.



Mark got doused upon his return from his visit to Virginia Tech, his last flight as skipper of HS-5.



Mark (center) delivered supplies to a Sumatra orphanage after the tsunami.



Mark and Erin with their children, Graham, Madeline, and Kira, at the Marine Corps Marathon.

Air Force ROTC news



Excellence in all we do

Welcome to our recap of another year in Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) Detachment 875 at Virginia Tech! It has been an awesome year for our cadets, and we're excited to share the highlights with you.

Although it's difficult to live up to the Air Force's core value of excellence, Virginia Tech's AFROTC cadets have successfully done so. For the past few years, the military as a whole has been decreasing in size, and these cutbacks have extended to AFROTC. Fewer cadets are now going to field training, the sole military prerequisite prior to commissioning. Last year, the national average of cadets selected for field training was just above 59 percent for all 144 detachments; however, Virginia Tech received slots for 62 percent of its cadets. Because Vir-

ginia Tech's detachments don't offer foreign language or nursing programs, which comprise two of the four categories for field-training selection, it's easy to see that we are truly excelling.

Field-training selection isn't the only area in which our detachment is doing better than other schools. Rated categorization—the means by which cadets contend for careers as pilots, remotely piloted aircraft pilots, navigators, and air battle managers—is where we really achieve excellence. Evaluating academics, fitness, field-training performance, and demonstrated leadership abilities, the process is one of the most competitive that our cadets go through when they vie for these slots on a national level. Last year, 55 percent of cadets across the country were selected. Detachment 875's selection rate, however, was



an astonishing 100 percent—11 of 11. In fact, for the past five years, our average selection rate has been just under 90 percent.

Even with all there is to do at Virginia Tech, in AFROTC, and in the Corps of Cadets, our cadets still find time to achieve academic excellence. This year, 14 sophomores cadets received an AFROTC in-college scholarship, a number that is by far the most we've seen in recent years. In addition, the Air Force has announced another round of freshman scholarships to be awarded in February.



Training hard

In order to fight hard, we must train hard. During last spring's Warrior Weekend, all participants were put to the test. Our cadets convoyed to Caldwell Fields, where they dismounted in "enemy territory" to establish and maintain an area, much like an operational forward operating base. For the freshmen and sophomores, the exercise was a great preview of the deployed aspect of field training, along with being a great leadership exercise for the juniors and seniors.

The most difficult challenge of Warrior Weekend was probably the weather. The exercise was held during the weekend of April 16-17, during which multiple tornados touched down along the East Coast. Our departure times were thrice delayed because of severe thunderstorm warnings, but as soon as we received the green light, we headed out.

Once the first wave of cadets had arrived, they had to follow a local "guide" who led the group directly into an ambush. As trained, our cadets immediately found cover and returned fire. A few well-placed paintball rounds later, the threat was

handled, and our cadets moved on to their first priority: to establish and maintain a perimeter for their base. The second priority was to establish structures. Thankfully, during one of the leadership laboratories earlier in the semester, we had learned to construct shelters from paracord and plastic sheathing. We had also learned basic fire craft, which was put to good use to combat the sub-freezing temperatures that night.

In addition to basic survival and security skills, considerable emphasis was placed on the Law of Armed Conflict and counterinsurgency. The cadre, dressed up as local nationals, presented several shoot/no-shoot scenarios to test our decision-making skills and to help us prepare for life in a deployed environment.

An added bonus for our seniors was their placement in leadership positions that matched their selected career field; for instance, cadets who would be commissioning as security forces officers were put in charge of the security forces squadron. All in all, the exercises offered great practical experience for cadets preparing for specific career fields.

In the fall, our cadets were once again put to the test, this time in front of the ACC Road Trip film crew. In addition to going head-to-head against each other with pugil sticks, we practiced basic convoy operations and first-response medical care. The ACC Road Trip crew followed Squadron 6 throughout the half-day scenario, and all the highlights can be seen online at www.theacc.com/RoadTrip.

Air Force Special Operations Prep Team

Air Force Special Operations Prep Team (AFSOPT) is designed to prepare cadets for the special operations community upon commissioning. Because AFSOPT, like the special operations community in active duty, retains only the best, just one cadet of the 13 vying for a spot this fall was tapped.

Once tapped for membership, cadets continue to train in order to become better every day. Competitions such as the Bulldog Challenge held at the Citadel and other adventure races are a frequent part of the training. For instance, AFSOPT members Vaughn Franklin, Henry Murray, Mitch Galloway, and Aaron Morrison (Navy) ran the Brush Mountain Breakdown 16-mile race. Whenever and wherever the race, AFSOPT will put together a team to compete.

Most cadets aspire to join AFSOPT because they are hoping to become special operations officers. Not surprisingly, AFSOPT at Virginia Tech has been extremely successful at



producing these officers in the past. This year alone, two members were selected as special operations officers: Sean Grindlay, of Air Force ROTC, was selected to become a combat rescue officer; and Thomas Regnaud, of Navy ROTC, was selected to become a Navy SEAL. Congratulations to both!

Also worthy of congratulations is our work to receive permission from AFROTC headquarters to make both AFSOPT and Air Force Flyers official professional military training.

To learn more about AFSOPT, visit www.afsopt.com.

Arnold Air Society



Every September, Virginia Tech's Arnold Air Society (AAS) hosts a ceremony to honor a Virginia Tech alum who has made significant contributions in the field of aviation. This year, Col. James Beard, U.S. Air Force (retired), was selected, and

his name was added to the Aviation Wall of Fame plaque at the Virginia Tech airport.

This special ceremony is normally held close to the Air Force's birthday, so the detachment celebrates these two accomplishments at the same time. It is customary for the new inductee, along with the youngest cadet in the wing, to cut the Air Force birthday cake.

Besides honoring Virginia Tech alumni, AAS strives to develop cadets to become better officers. Moreover, since the military began downsizing, AAS has stepped up its professional-development efforts. During the tap process, for example, cadets attend extra physical-training sessions and other developmental training sessions in preparation for field training. This supplemental training ensures that our "Arnies" are more competitive when they vie for scholarships, enrollment allocations for field training, and rated categorization.



Air Force Flyers

Air Force Flyers (AFF) was originally founded for cadets who wanted to fly, and the group's sole mission was to help prepare cadets for rated categorization. The organization has come a long way since then, however. Last spring, cadets from both AFF and AFSOPT learned basic survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) skills from retired Air Force SERE instructors at Mountain Shepherd Wilderness Survival School. Those skills were then passed on to the cadet wing and later used during Warrior Weekend (see the "Training hard" section for details).

Until this year, AFF had been limited to Air Force participation, but the organization began its joint operation last fall and now incorporates two Navy midshipmen and one Army cadet



into its ranks. Since so much of what the military does these days falls under the joint umbrella, it's only appropriate that cadets learn how to conduct joint operations as early as possible in their careers.

Sending and receiving



It is common knowledge that military personnel transition in and out every few years, and Detachment 875 is not exempt from this practice. In 2011, we lost Col. Rusty “Waldo” Walden to retirement; Capt. Jake Leck to an assignment to Kunsan Air Base, Korea; and Staff Sgt. Kevin Fickes to an assignment to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Their guidance and willingness to serve will be sorely missed.

As the tides of the assignment system send out the personnel with experience, a new group of personnel with fresh ideas arrives. Last summer, we received Col. John “Bama” Montgomery from the 98th Range Wing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and Capt. Gef Moy from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. We look forward to learning from their perspectives and experiences.

Off to the wild blue yonder

In May, we commissioned 34 second lieutenants as part of a joint commissioning ceremony with the Army, Navy, and Marine ROTC units here at Virginia Tech. It was definitely an event to be remembered as nearly a hundred cadets from all four branches of service were commissioned into active duty by Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale.

Virginia Tech commissions numerous pilots, engineers, and intelligence officers every year, but 2011 ushered in some new traditions. Each year, the Air Force offers 25 scholarships

for cadets to enter the Medical Service Corps and pursue a doctoral degree in medicine. These extremely competitive programs require exceptional performance both academically and as a cadet. After all, these newly commissioned officers have to gain admission to an accredited medical school. Last year, Detachment 875 commissioned two from our ranks into this program: 2nd Lt. Ryan Anderson and 2nd Lt. David Fullbrook. Also moving on to graduate school right away was 2nd Lt. Micah Hafich, who was selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to begin studies for a master of science in applied mathematics.

As technology advances, so does the Air Force. The past 10 years have witnessed an upsurge in the use of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA); and until recently, these aircraft had been flown by Air Force officers who had already completed undergraduate pilot training. Due to the high demand for RPA pilots, Headquarters AFROTC began offering this career field to accessions last year.

The first Virginia Tech graduate to go directly to RPA training, 2nd Lt. Timothy Noffsinger '11 headed off in February to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, to begin his training before being assigned to his first operational unit.

Lastly, 2nd Lt. Andrew Olson '10 completed his undergraduate pilot training and earned all three top honors: Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy, Air Force Association Award, and Distinguished Graduate distinction. Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Olson.

In all, it was a fantastic year for Detachment 875. We learned and experienced a great deal and have better prepared ourselves for what the future holds. Bring on 2012!



Virginia Tech

Det. 875



AWARDS

Fall 2011



Virginia Tech

Det. 875



MORALE BOOSTER

Fall 2011



Senior Cadet Commanders, Spring 2012



Regimental Commander
Amanda McGrath

Cadet Col. Amanda McGrath, of Springfield, Vt., is pursuing a degree in history. Knowing she wanted a cadet lifestyle, she joined the

Corps and felt that Air Force ROTC was perfect for her needs. McGrath served both as a member of the Skipper crew and as the regimental sergeant major during her junior year. She was also the Second Battalion commander in the fall. Upon commissioning in the U.S. Air Force, McGrath will attend pilot training and hopes to fly C-17s. She is the recipient of the Duncan A. Macleod '48 Memorial Emerging Leader Scholarship.



First Battalion Commander
Evan Eyster

Cadet Lt. Col. Evan Eyster, of Centerburg, Ohio, is pursuing majors in both history and philosophy. A past member of Bravo Company and the

Army's Ranger Company, he joined the Corps because of its exceptional Army program and unique leader-development program. Upon graduation, Eyster will pursue a career in the field artillery branch of the U.S. Army. He is the recipient of the Michael J. Giguere '69 Memorial Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Second Battalion Commander
Brian Gendreau

Cadet Lt. Col. Brian Gendreau, of East Hampstead, N.H., is pursuing a degree in mathematics. Joining the Corps in

order to complete his studies at a senior military college with an excellent academic track record, he served as Foxtrot Company's first sergeant during his junior year and as its commander in the fall. Upon commissioning in the U.S. Air Force, Gendreau will attend cyberspace operations training. He is the recipient of the John Vivian Perry '46 Memorial Emerging Leader Scholarship and the G. Scott Francis '36 Scholarship.



Third Battalion Commander
John Witte

Cadet Lt. Col. John Witte, of Charlotte, N.C., is majoring in mechanical engineering. A proud member of the Highty-Tighties, he joined the Corps because of

the outstanding Army ROTC program and the opportunity to develop his leadership abilities. Upon graduation, Witte hopes to begin an Army aviator career. He is a recipient of the Robert G. Porter Jr. '29 Emerging Leader Scholarship.

Command Staff, Spring 2012



Regimental Executive Officer
Daniel Tolbert
International Studies
Urbana, Md.
Marine Corps PLC



Regimental Adjutant
Shawn Gateau
Sociology
California, Md.
Navy



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Steven Higgs
Psychology
Luray, Va.
Army



Regimental Operations
Officer
Zach Hildreth
History
Yorktown, Va.
Army



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Amanda Schultz
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Hanover, Md.
Air Force



Regimental Academics
Officer
Mark Turley
History
Winchester, Va.
Army



Regimental Sergeant Major
Hope Mills
Political Science
Yorktown, Va.
Air Force



Inspector General
James Callen
Aerospace Engineering
Leesburg, Va.
Air Force



Executive Court Chairman
Ryan Callaway
Chemistry
Crofton, Md.
Civilian-Leader Track



Regimental Chaplain
Bo Waldo
Sociology
Roanoke, Va.
Army



Regimental Recruiting
Officer
Jesse Coyner
History
Charlottesville, Va.
Civilian-Leader Track



Honor Court Chief Justice
Julie Deisher
English
Gainesville, Va.
Civilian-Leader Track



Regimental Historian
Robert Pfeiffer
History
Durham, N.C.
Navy



Regimental Medical Officer
Zack Kiernan
Chemistry
Virginia Beach, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Information
Systems Officer
Benjamin Watanabe
Accounting and Information
Systems
Williamsburg, Va.
Civilian-Leader Track

Command Staff, Spring 2012



Regimental Athletics Officer
Nicholas Tepfenhart
Geography
Long Valley, N.J.
Army



Regimental Safety Officer
David Dopico
Spanish
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Army



Alpha Company Commander
Brian Tignor
English
Senoia, Ga.
Air Force



Bravo Company Commander
Caton Jarrett
Political Science
Weaverville, N.C.
Navy



Charlie Company
Commander
William Pauley
Sociology
Richmond, Va.
Marine Corps



Delta Company Commander
Scott A. Enos Jr.
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Virginia Beach, Va.
Navy



Echo Company Commander
Jordan Johnson
Civil and Environmental
Engineering
Emmaus, Pa.
Air Force



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Jeffrey Miller
Psychology
Durham, N.C.
Army



Golf Company Commander
Brice Strang
Psychology
Easton, Md.
Army



Hotel Company Commander
Jarrod Wilson
Geography
Huntingtown, Md.
Navy



India Company Commander
Stephen J. Zellner
Interdisciplinary Studies
Centreville, Va.
Marine Corps



Kilo Company Commander
Marc J. Lajeunesse
International Studies
Lafayette, N.J.
Navy



Band Company Commander
Jonathan Corns
History
Critz, Va.
Army



Regimental Drum Major
Aaron Bonovitch
History
Goochland, Va.
Air Force



VPI Company Commander
Patrick Nichols
Sociology
Richmond, Va.
Civilian-Leader Track

The second weekend in November 2011 marked a special time for Virginia Tech: the inaugural University Open House and the celebration of the closing of the capital campaign. The kick-off event for the festivities was a regimental parade that featured a different look. For the first time in a decade, the Corps of Cadets formed up in front of the War Memorial. The battalion en masse formation was also notable. As the final parade of the semester, it was a fitting start to a beautiful fall day on campus.



Regimental Commander Cadet Col. Miles Sonntag led the regiment into place.



The regiment arrayed in battalion en masse formation for the final parade of the semester.



A cadet parade is one of the most colorful events on campus.



The focus of the cadets was apparent.



The regiment stood at parade rest on its final line.



Honors were rendered to the reviewing official, Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart.



The reviewing party included (left) Gene Fife, the Highty-Tighties commander in 1962; and President Charles W. Steger.



Drum Major Cadet Aaron Bonovitch led the Highty-Tighties in a sound off!



Honors were rendered during the national anthem.



Gen. Fullhart addressed the crowd.



The units then prepared to march in review.



The regiment passed before the reviewing party, framed by the Pylons.

Cadets and crew gathered in front of an MH-65D Dolphin at the Virginia Tech Airport prior to the Hokies' football game against the University of Miami in October 2011.



The Corps' new relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard

by Maj. Carrie Cox, Corps executive officer

Part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program, the Coast Guard detachment at Virginia Tech continues to gain steam, thanks to the efforts of several members of VPI Company in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC).

A seaman in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Justin Hunts '12, who graduated in December 2011, is well versed in the history and current state of Virginia Tech's Coast Guard detachment. Having helped the Corps create this new path to uniform service, he hopes to complete the application process for Coast Guard Officer Candidate School (OCS).

The Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program began in 2008 at the College of William & Mary and has since grown to

include six schools nationwide, including the unit here at Virginia Tech. Robert Pol '10, a Coast Guard Reservist currently deployed to the Middle East who will complete his degree in mechanical engineering upon his return, transitioned a loosely organized group of cadets interested in the Coast Guard into an official unit in the Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program while he was a senior.

Pol handed the program to me a year and a half ago. In that time, we have established a detachment with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla and receive training in first aid, navigation, marlinspike, and seamanship. We also provide a service to our community by aiding with patrols on Claytor Lake [in nearby Pulaski County]

and helping with boater safety courses.

Our program has grown to include five "veteran" members and has just processed the paperwork on four new members. In the last few years, the Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program has grown and consolidated to include a common curriculum among schools. The program also provides the opportunity for students to take part in internships with the Coast Guard and to go on summer projects similar to the Navy's cruises.

The entire Coast Guard Auxiliary University Programs branch was awarded the Commandant's Award for Innovation at the Coast Guard Expo in Tampa, Fla., in October 2011. I was privileged to be selected to attend and represent our program

here at Virginia Tech. While there, I spoke to many flag officers about the growth, development, and future of the program and met many Virginia Tech—and Corps—alumni, including National Commodore James Vass '64.

The goals of our detachment include forming a unique group within VPI Company in order to become more like an ROTC unit—even though scholarships are not available—and to begin more-structured training and a unique physical training program that includes swimming. The function of the detachment at Tech, at least in my eyes, is to create a pre-commissioning program that will strengthen the résumés of anyone wanting to apply for OCS or the Direct Commissioning Program.

Last fall, a highlight for the Coast Guard detachment was the Corps' partnership with U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., to conduct a military flyover with a MH-65D Dolphin prior to the Virginia Tech football game against the University of Miami on Oct. 8, 2011.

The crew on the aircraft was comprised of aircraft commander Lt. Charles Clark '95, U.S. Coast Guard, who earned a degree in human nutrition, foods and exercise from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1999; Lt. Jay Kircher, U.S. Coast Guard, whose brother Jeff is a member of the VTCC Class of 1994 and earned a degree in psychology from the College of Science; Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Lewis, U.S. Coast Guard; and Petty Officer 2nd Class Calvin Huckins, U.S. Coast Guard.

Prior to the flyover, the unit also conducted an orientation session and flights for cadets interested in pursuing a career in the Coast Guard. Cadet Thomas Dunlap '12, who is serving as VPI Company executive officer for the spring semester, had a phenomenal experience.

Three cadets and I were given a fantastic opportunity to visit a Coast Guard helicopter and its crew earlier this semester. Over the course of the presentation, we received a thorough tour of the helicopter, both inside and out.

We were allowed to sit in the cockpit and were given a brief explanation of the controls; I found this fascinating. When the tour was concluded, we were each given a ride in the helicopter, two cadets at a time. This was the highlight of the trip.

From the moment the helicopter started moving, I remembered what I have been striving to achieve since I was a boy. It's always been my dream to fly in the armed services, and this visit magnified the dream, giving me a newfound yearning to attain it.

For the flight, the two of us were allowed to choose between the co-pilot seat and the seat in the back with the rescue diver. I thought at the time that I had drawn the short straw when I had to sit in the back. However, being able to move around and lean out the side of the helicopter to see Blacksburg below was a truly invigorating experience. I felt like I was 13

years old again at my first Blue Angels show although the helicopter flight was much better.

The attitudes and character of the Coast Guard crew were exemplary. From the very beginning, they were excited, courteous, and patient with the many questions we had.

This experience is one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I truly believe that if all cadets were given a similar experience within either their respective branch or the Coast Guard, it would instill in them a newfound fire and aspiration to accomplish their goals. Being so close as to tangibly feel the dream was truly a privilege and an amazing experience for me.

In both numbers and structure, Virginia Tech's Coast Guard detachment has grown considerably during the last few years. Cadet initiative, along with a strong partnership with both the National Coast Guard Auxiliary and the volunteers in the local flotilla, has allowed the program to develop into a viable training opportunity for those cadets who dream of futures serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.



Justin Hunts '12 (second from right) attended the Coast Guard Expo in Tampa, Fla., in October 2011.

Rice Center for Leader Development: Developing tomorrow's leaders today



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

The character development mission of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) is directly supported by the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development.

With a mission to educate and graduate leaders of exemplary character who are dedicated to the university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), the Rice Center focuses on developing leadership skills and knowledge and is responsible for the Corps' academic climate.

During the 2011-12 academic year, the leader development program took a significant step forward as eight new classes were made available to cadets.

For the past eight years, all cadets were required to register each semester for Management (MGT) 2944, the

academic foundation of their Corps leader development. This one-credit, pass/fail class served the Corps very well by providing a forum for guest speakers, practical exercises on leadership, and the theory, skills, and knowledge that cadets would need as they rose to higher levels of responsibility in the Corps.

In 2009, MGT 4944 was approved as a one-credit, A-F capstone course to help seniors make the transition from college to career, either military or civilian. The curriculum includes life-planning skills, cross-generational communication, and Col. Roszak's excellent advice on career management.

During fall 2010, the Corps began an initiative to replace MGT 2944 with a series of new courses designed

specifically to meet the leadership development needs of the cadets as they progressed toward graduation. These accredited A-F courses begin by teaching freshman cadets such subjects as self-discovery, active followership, leadership theory, the cadet honor system, and mentorship/protégé responsibilities and prepare freshmen for leadership positions as sophomores. Included in the two freshmen classes are academic success strategies designed to help cadets make a successful transition from high school to college.

Sophomores continue their development by learning small-unit leadership, morale building, counseling, conflict management, and the role of senior sergeants, as well as practical skills such

as personal financial planning. These skills and knowledge help prepare cadets to become senior sergeants in their junior year.

Juniors begin learning about operational leadership, effective mentoring, command group relationships, the theory of constraints and its practical application, project management, writing decision papers, and other practical skills such as public speaking. Cadets also receive training on command and staff responsibilities in an effort to prepare them for command during their senior year.

The two courses for seniors begin with training on thinking strategically and making the transition from being a college student to assuming roles of responsibility in their career field. Lifting much from MGT 4944, the course teaches cadets about strategic leadership, career and life planning, advanced personal finance and investments, working with different

generations, and securing practical advice on beginning their career.

With the exception of the two freshmen classes, all courses are one-credit, A-F. Freshmen classes are two-credits, A-F to recognize a two-hour Saturday laboratory that cadets are required to attend. The eight new classes received final approval in December 2011 and are being offered during the spring semester.

Each semester, the regiment will meet together during four class periods to hear guest speakers address topics on leadership and ethics. Three of these classes, called the Leaders-in-Action series, bring in successful leaders to discuss leadership and ethics from a practical standpoint. The fourth class is a special event hosted by Col. Roszak, who secures three or four recent alumni to return to campus and share with the regiment how the Corps prepared them for success in their careers.

Called the Gunfighter's Panel, the class is one of the highlights of the semester.

Concurrent with the development of these new courses is an initiative to develop a series of classes for our Civilian-Leader Track cadets. Intended to help prepare cadets who will be heading into the public and private sectors, these courses, once approved, should be offered during the next academic year.

We continually seek to improve the academic aspect of our leader development program. These recent enhancements contribute significantly to maintaining the VTCC as a premier leader-development program.

The importance that alumni support—generously given in many forms—plays in our improvement efforts cannot be overstated. We are grateful for this support; together, we are developing tomorrow's leaders today.

2012 Drillfield Series

Join us in Blacksburg for a series of weekend programs designed for Virginia Tech alumni, family, and friends.

Specially reduced lodging is available in The Inn at Virginia Tech.

Learn more at www.alumni.vt.edu



May 4 – 6, 2012

Focus on Photography II

For all photography skill levels



June 1 – 3, 2012

Hokie Fitness, Health and Wellness

Learn from experts and through fun activities on and near campus in the beautiful New River Valley



July 5 – 8, 2012

HokieCation: Family-fun vacation, Hokie-style

Make Virginia Tech your summer vacation venue



Attracting and developing the best

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

I'm writing this article after just returning from the trip to New Orleans and the 2012 Sugar Bowl. While the outcome of the game was not what we had hoped for, I can report that the enthusiasm and spirit of the Corps of Cadets (VTCC) was well represented by our cadets who received the flags from the team on the field and by those who were in the stands, as well as by the more than 300 guests who attended our annual Corps breakfast held the day of the game. We extend our thanks to President Charles W. Steger, who spoke at the breakfast that morning, for his strong support of our Corps.

Speaking of support, I'd like to acknowledge the continued generosity of our alumni and friends as we embark on a new year of exciting growth in the Corps. Your contributions of time, money, and engagement fuel our efforts to create the Corps for the 21st century. By way of scholarships and the Commandant's Funds, we are able to attract and develop young men and women who desire to make a significant difference in our world, be it through their military service or as members of their communities in the business, private, or social sector.

I've been very gratified by the engagement of the VTCC Alumni executive committee and the larger board and their initiatives regarding internship and post-graduation employment opportunities for our cadets. I've provided the board with detailed information about the desires of our current Civilian-Leader Track

cadets for summer internship opportunities. When these alumni contact you, I hope you'll consider ways to provide a great learning experience for a cadet—and an opportunity for your organization to benefit from a young leader who can bring energy and ideas to your endeavors!

The cadet leadership team for the spring semester has hit the ground running, under the command of Cadet Col. Amanda McGrath, the new regimental commander. I'm impressed by Cadet McGrath's maturity and leadership skills, and I'm enjoying working with her and the rest of the cadet leadership team as we increase our emphasis on leadership development across all ranks.

Planning is well underway for our spring leadership conference, which will culminate in the Cutchins Lecture. This year's speaker will be Tom Ridge, former governor of Pennsylvania and first secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. We will also open the forum this year to several high school students and will offer specific programs tailored for them. We think their participation will be a great way to introduce some promising young leaders to the Corps and what we and Virginia Tech have to offer.

We're looking forward to the Highty-Tighties' participation in New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as the group's continuing support of Hokie



Change of command: Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart presents the regimental colors to the incoming regimental commander, Cadet Amanda McGrath, while the regimental command sergeant major, Cadet Hope Mills, looks on. The change took place on the morning of the spring semester's first day of class.

athletics as pep-band for various sporting events. The Highty-Tighties continue to represent the Corps and its musical heritage across the university and the nation. More details will follow, but we are working on a special event—"Jazz on the Upper Quad"—that will feature our musicians in an outdoor concert as part of Parents' Weekend later this semester.

We are currently engaged with the state legislature on next year's budget. The good news is that we did not sustain any budget cuts, which some were anticipating. The less-than-good news is that the governor's budget did not include the specific increases the university had asked for to support the Corps' increased size. Thankfully, we are getting much support from alumni who have indicated their willingness to engage with the legislature on our behalf, as well as commitments from President Steger to work within the university's budget to augment our funding in ways that will enable us to begin staffing up, especially in those areas that

provide direct mentoring to the cadets and support of our recruiting efforts.

We are also working with the tailor shop's staff and anticipate a four-year process of phasing out the "woodland green" utility uniforms and replacing them with the Department of Defense's current standard, multi-cam uniforms. If more funds become available, we will accelerate the transition.

By the next issue of Corps Review, I should be able to report on the status of our design competition for new construction on the Upper Quad. The cadets are very excited about their participation in the requirements process for the new residence halls, and we are very gratified by our alumni's high interest in financially supporting our efforts to re-imagine Lane Hall as the centerpiece of the Corps and its presence on the Upper Quad.

With the looming replacement of our residence halls, we'll be working hard during the next year or two with the myriad details of temporarily relocating

a good number of our cadets to another residence hall, most likely Eggleston Hall. We'll also be working on new quarters for Skipper and the work areas for the regimental armorer and his team.

The construction of the new dining facility that will service the Corps continues, and we anticipate that we'll be able to use the building in the fall. We're working with the design team that is enthusiastically supporting our initiatives to further personalize the area set aside for the Corps' evening meals during the week.

All in all, this is a very busy time for the Corps, and we are very excited to be making progress on several initiatives. We are pleased to welcome alumni visitors and hope to see many of you at events scheduled throughout the semester. As always, we keep our graduates in our thoughts and prayers as they serve the nation in and out of uniform around the world.



Hokie Day in Richmond, Va. (from left): Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni (VTCCA) Board Chairman Gary Lerch '72, cadets Hope Mills and Benjamin Burk, Maj. Gen. Fullhart, VTCCA Board Secretary Rick Monroe '66, and Col. Rock Roszak '71 joined Delegate Rich Anderson '78—a strong supporter of our Corps—in his office during the annual Hokie Day visit to the capital.



The next “Greatest Generation”

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

For those of us who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, hearing stories of the Great Depression and World War II was part of our upbringing. Our parents' generation was truly unique and uncommon in American history. Not only did they come of age during a time of unparalleled economic hardship, but they then faced the challenge of a horrible war. Unprecedented mobilization of resources—both human and material—was required.

Those who served confronted the possibility of violent death or wounding; those at home worked incredibly hard to support the war effort and had to sacrifice in a time of rationing and shortages. At the conclusion of the war, the returning veterans got on with their lives—many pursuing education under the G.I. Bill—and made the United States the economic powerhouse that it is today. That generation was truly the greatest, and we are indebted to them.

However, as the war in Iraq comes to a conclusion and the number of troops deployed to Afghanistan decreases, I am reminded of the recent wartime service of many of our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) alumni. The pages of past editions of *Corps Review* are filled with images of VTCC alumni in service to our nation. These young men and women answered the call to duty in the dark days after Sept. 11, 2001, and have continued to do so for 10 long years. They have done so without the threat of a draft and with the full knowledge that they would be fighting insurgents, an enemy who could fade into the local populace and whose weapons of choice

are suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices.

We also saw extensive use of National Guard and Reserve troops; many faced multiple deployments. This was war in which combat was not limited to the infantry and the Marines and in which combat could occur anywhere. Safe rear-echelon areas did not exist. Additionally, these young men and women had to learn the local culture and customs and interact with local tribal leaders, developing wisdom and maturity far beyond their years.

Perhaps these folks are the next “Greatest Generation.” We are humbled

by their devotion to duty and the quality of their performance. We are proud to call them fellow Hokie alumni, and this pride is extended to all Hokies who answered the call to service.

These observations bring me to why we support a strong and vibrant Corps of Cadets. We owe it to our nation and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Strong, highly qualified, ethical leaders will always be in demand.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, until next time,

Gary



Winter in Afghanistan: Lt. Col. Brian Davis '90, U.S. Army (Corps of Engineers), and Capt. Tommy Yambrick '87, U.S. Navy (naval aviation), show their Hokie Spirit at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan. Both work with the Afghan Ministry of Defense, Davis with their engineers and Yambrick with the Afghan Air Force. The Corps bonds for a lifetime.

Volunteers continue to support Corps recruiting

by Bill Swan '66, recruiting task force leader

The fall 2011 college fair season is history. Corps alumni volunteers supported Virginia Tech's Undergraduate Admissions team at more than 85 percent of all scheduled fairs. Volunteers worked 12 fairs in Virginia, 12 in other states, and four at American high schools in Germany, Japan, and Turkey. Even though that percentage isn't bad, we really need to strive for attendance at 100 percent of the fairs in order to continue our recent success in attracting the brightest and best to Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets.

The winter/spring college fair schedules were recently announced, and the search for volunteer representatives has begun. Almost every recent fair volunteer expressed his or her willingness to attend similar events in the future.

In addition to those fairs attended by an official Virginia Tech admissions repre-

sentative, we plan to expand our coverage to locations outside Virginia and surrounding states and to offer assistance to Virginia Tech Alumni Association chapter presidents.

Numbering more than 300 nationwide every year, college fairs provide an opportunity not only to meet tomorrow's leaders (and their parents), but also to help sway those who are undecided about attending Virginia Tech or joining the Corps of Cadets.

Regional Team Leaders and Area Team Leaders will be soliciting volunteers to attend specific fairs held during February through May. Many of those fairs are in the northeastern states and in areas with limited numbers of Corps alumni.

The how-to guide that I announced in my last column is now complete, and I thank everyone who provided construc-

tive criticism on the various versions of the draft. The final version—available online at www.vtcc.vt.edu/ELS_Alumni.php—includes training information for college fair volunteers and downloadable templates for Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) presentations.

We expect to receive the final lists of Virginia and out-of-state ELS awardees by the end of March. That information will be distributed through Area Team Leaders who will begin looking for volunteer presenters. If you would like to volunteer for a college fair or ELS presentation or just want to learn more about how you can help our Corps continue to grow and excel, call me anytime at 912-265-7530, or drop me a note at twoswans911@comcast.net.

Our newest staff member: Cmdr. Mike Weaver '88



At the start of the 2011 fall semester, the Corps of Cadets welcomed Cmdr. Michael Weaver, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration Corps (Retired), as the deputy commandant of cadets for First Battalion.

A 1988 graduate of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets, Weaver served 22 years in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Corps, a uniformed service that operates ships and aircraft in support of NOAA's scientific and survey missions. Weaver was an officer aboard the NOAA ship Mt. Mitchell, conducting oceanographic and survey operations in the Atlantic and in the Persian Gulf immediately after the first Gulf War.

Following flight training, Weaver flew several NOAA aircraft in support of nautical and coastal environmental surveying, and he led NOAA missions in support of the response to the September 2001 at-

tacks on the World Trade Center. A rated aviator with more than 1,500 flight hours, Weaver is certified as an airline transport pilot and multi-engine flight instructor.

Weaver's assignments ashore included leadership positions at the Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colo., and the remote sensing division of the National Geodetic Survey in Silver Spring, Md. He later served as operations director of the National Geodetic Survey, overseeing daily operations and leading strategic and program planning efforts of an organization that maintains the National Spatial Reference System and supports land surveyors across the nation.

Weaver brings to the Corps of Cadets a unique blend of leadership experience in both uniformed and civilian workplace environments.



Corps development news

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

Campaign for the Corps

No doubt you read the results of the campaign for the Corps of Cadets (VTCC) in the most recent edition of Virginia Tech Magazine. Some of you are wondering if the development office is going out of business after bringing in commitments of more than \$35 million during the campaign. Let me assure you: We are not. The needs of the Corps continue to grow, and your support is needed even more. The campaign helped us focus our fundraising efforts and articulate our needs, but it did not do away with the need for additional fundraising.

Support for the Corps

What are our needs, and how can you help? Today, we need your help primarily in support of operations and our scholarship program. We hope, in the not-too-distant future, to be asking for help with capital projects to improve our facilities, but state and university budgets will control the timing. Until then, please consider the following needs:

- Operations—These gifts come primarily from the efforts of the Annual Fund, including written appeals and calls from the student call center. The account is entitled “Commandant’s Priorities” to reflect the fact that these funds may be used to directly support the most important needs of our Corps at any given time. Gifts to this account have paid for our freshmen cadets to visit the D-Day Memorial each fall and other cadet trips when other funding is not sufficient. This account also funds
- Scholarships—These are primarily our Emerging Leader Scholarships (ELS). As of today, there are more than 230 scholarships on our books, providing nearly \$1 million in income each year to support the Corps’ ELS program. Currently, we are providing \$2,000 scholarships for just more than 300 in-state cadets and \$3,000 for a similar number of out-of-state cadets. We need to grow both the number of scholarships and their amount to offset at least

the operations of our alumni office and such efforts as publishing the Corps Review and Highty-Tighty Notes. We also pay a large portion of the freshman stipend for Highty-Tighties, as well as at least part of the salaries of our alumni and development staff members. When the balance of the account is more than we need, we transfer the excess to our scholarship program.

- Caldwell March—Donors of \$500 or more to Commandant’s Priorities are recognized as sponsors of a freshman on the spring or fall Caldwell March. The cadet wears a nametag honoring the sponsor (or whomever the donor chooses), and we mail the donor a letter from the cadet, including a picture of him or her wearing the nametag on the march. Last spring, 207 sponsored cadets made the march, but only 85 were sponsored for the fall march. All you have to do to sponsor a cadet is give \$500 or more, unrestricted, to the Corps.

some of the skyrocketing tuition rates. You may designate your gift to the Corps to any class or company scholarship when you make a gift through the Annual Fund. Sarah Woods or I would love to talk to you if you are ready to consider a scholarship in your own name, or the name of anyone you choose to honor, with an outright gift or with a trust, annuity, bequest, or a five-year pledge of at least \$50,000.

Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director of annual giving

At the time of this writing, 1,165 donors have stepped up with an annual gift in support of the Corps of Cadets this fiscal year (July-June). Their gifts support the Corps’ important mission to graduate leaders of character who are imbued with the concept of service. While some of these gifts have been hundreds or even thousands of dollars, more than 64 percent of them have been \$100 or less. No matter its size, every annual gift to the Corps counts as an investment in preparing the next generation of leaders for our country. Whether you choose to support scholarships for cadets or to support the distinctive educational and leadership development opportunities for which the Corps is famous, you play a tremendous role in the growth and continued success of the program.

This past fall, for the second year, volunteer cadets participated in our call center’s Corps campaign. Several of them have told me how much they appreciated each gift made during that campaign.



These current cadets also told me how inspiring it was to get to speak with so many former cadets and to hear their stories. We will continue our cadet calling campaigns this fall, so please be ready to share your stories and enthusiasm for the Corps when that call comes.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2012. This spring, you will receive a Pylon Society direct-mail appeal if you have not given during this fiscal year. You may designate your annual gift to the Corps of Cadets through this appeal.

Thank you for your support of Virginia Tech and your Corps.

Bowl breakfast

The VTCC bowl breakfast that we hosted in conjunction with this year's Sugar Bowl was attended by 300 Corps alumni and friends. The event has become a tradition that many of our alumni look forward to each year. Our thanks are extended not only to the football team for giving us the opportunity to attend the bowl games, but also

to the athletic department and alumni relations for their help in spreading the word. President Charles W. Steger made remarks and introduced Gen. Fullhart, who presented an update on the Corps and a look into the future at our plans for facility improvements to support our growing Corps.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Our donors have used a variety of ways to support the Corps.

Pres Andrews took advantage of the IRA transfer provisions that were in force last tax year. He made a very nice tax-free rollover from his IRA to benefit the VTCC Jane P. and Preston H. Andrews '50 Endowed Scholarship.

One of our alumni who wishes to remain anonymous has designated the Virginia Tech Foundation as the beneficiary of a retirement account and notified us of a provision in his will also benefiting the foundation. The Corps of Cadets will receive 50 percent of these very generous future gifts.

Another alumnus and his Hokie wife who choose to remain anonymous have made a gift that will help fund the ELS of a member of the Highty-Tighties.

Brian Casto '97 and his wife Carrie '98 have made estate provisions that will benefit the Corps in the future. Brian earned a degree in industrial systems engineering, followed by a juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore. Carrie earned a degree in civil engineering. Both alumni participated as members of the Washington, D.C.-Maryland regional committee for the recently completed campaign.



(Left and below): Additional scenes from the annual VTCC bowl breakfast.

James L. Chapman IV '79 and Susan B. Chapman '82 are funding the **VTCC Chapman Family Scholarship**. The couple's daughters are Elizabeth '10 and Lindsay, a junior at Virginia Tech. Jim, who was a member of H Squadron, served on the regimental special staff as a senior. He currently serves as a VTCC Alumni Area Team Leader in Virginia's Tidewater area and coordinates volunteers who recruit for the Corps, attend college fairs, and award Emerging Leader Scholarships at high school assemblies.

Gus Davis, of Richmond, Va., recently made another outright gift benefitting the VTCC Virginia C. and **August F. Davis '41 Scholarship**. His gift will be matched by General Electric.

We reported in the last edition that John Hanna '45 had funded two charitable gift annuities that will benefit the VTCC **John T. Hanna '45 Scholarship**. John recently contracted with the foundation for a third annuity that will benefit his scholarship.

Sonny and Lou Merryman created the **VTCC Frances T. and Floyd W. Merryman Jr. '46 Scholarship** to benefit a cadet. Sonny, who was a member of the Highy-Tighties as a cadet, and Lou frequently invite cadets to join them in

their box for football games. They are excited about the Corps' recent growth and its improved programs to develop leaders for the future.

We received distributions from the estate of Joseph H. Moore '40, who died in May 2011. They fund the **VTCC Joseph H. and Mildred R. Moore Endowed Scholarship**, which gives preference to cadets enrolled in the College of Engineering. Years ago, the Moores also funded gift annuities that will benefit this scholarship in the future.

We recently received a very nice unrestricted distribution to support Corps operations from the estate of Arthur L. Pond Jr. '32, who died in September 2010.

Jane W. Raisch made a gift to the VTCC **Margaret W. and Richard F. Wilkinson '42 Scholarship** in memory of her parents. Dick and Margaret were great friends of the VTCC.

We received an unrestricted gift from Hazel and P. C. Shields '39, who will turn 95 this year. P.C. and Hazel, who have been married for 71 years, are still active in Hokie events and served on the Richmond campaign committee during the recent campaign.

As always, we 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.



Win-win: A gift for the Corps and income for you

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning, (540) 231-2279, judithb@vt.edu

Not only is thinking win-win a habit of highly effective people, it is also a highly effective way to create a lifetime income stream for yourself, along with a future gift for the Corps. One such win-win gift is the Virginia Tech charitable gift annuity.

Here's how it works: A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., whereby you donate cash or securities in exchange for a fixed income stream for the rest of your life. After your lifetime, the remainder becomes your gift to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

If you wish, your gift annuity can pay lifetime income to you and then to your surviving spouse. Or you can designate someone else to receive income. The fixed rate of income you receive from your annuity is set upon the creation of the annuity and is based upon the number and the age(s) of income recipients.

You can begin receiving income immediately or defer your income until a future time, such as your planned retirement date. Whether you take payments now or later, you will still receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the amount transferred. Estate taxes will be eliminated on the amount you transfer, and the payments you receive are typically taxed more favorably than interest or dividend income.

Virginia Tech gift annuities are backed by the assets of the Virginia Tech Foundation and are professionally managed by Kaspick & Company, whose clients include the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins, and the American Red Cross.

A charitable gift annuity gives you more than an income. It gives you an opportunity to be generous to the Corps to an extent you might not otherwise consider affordable or practical.

Gift annuities can be established with a minimum gift of \$10,000. If you wish to make a gift of real estate or other illiquid assets, or if you are seeking greater protection from inflation, there are other life-income gift options available.

To learn more about gifts that pay you income or about any gift to the Corps, call David L. Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at (800) 533-1144, or email him at dlsprach@vt.edu.



Come spend the day with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

This year's Corps Homecoming weekend will be held Sept. 21-22, when Virginia Tech hosts Bowling Green State University at Lane Stadium. The Corps will host our usual reunion events: the Friday evening Cadet Leadership Dinner, the alumni regiment march-on to the field during the pre-game ceremony, and the post-game reunion dinner.

The event I want to call your attention to, however, is the Day with Cadets program that we will host for the second consecutive year. If you can arrive early for the weekend, you're invited to spend the day with us for an amazing, up-close

look at what today's Corps of Cadets is and who our cadets are.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 21, a series of presentations will feature the Rice Center for Leader Development, our recruiting and admissions programs, and a look at how our Emerging Leader Scholarship works. Even more meaningful will be talks by cadets from each class about what their daily cadet life is like.

We'll break for lunch and then reconvene for presentations from cadets who are enrolled in each of our ROTC programs and the Civilian-Leader Track program. Following their talks, we'll take

a tour that will include demonstrations at the rappel tower and obstacle course and a visit to the Corps Museum and a cadet room. The day will culminate with the regiment on the Upper Quadrangle for a formal retreat ceremony.

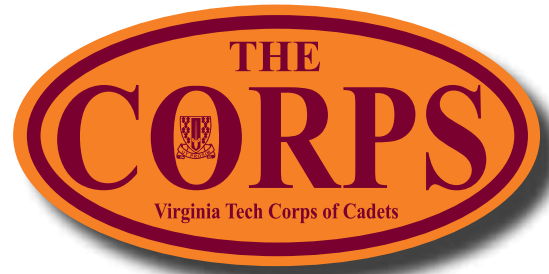
We feel certain that you'll enjoy this unprecedented view of today's Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. You can register to attend this event through the Corps Homecoming process, either online or by way of the registration form at the back of this issue.

Come spend the day with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets!

MORE WAYS TO SHOW YOUR CORPS PRIDE!



VTCC Decal—\$5

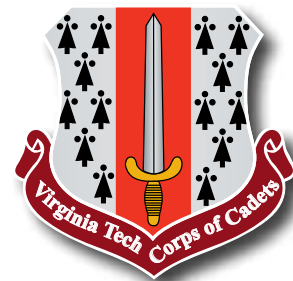


Corps Decal—\$5 • Magnet—\$8

Order your VTCC car decal, Corps decal or magnet, VT memorial magnet, or jacket patch. These items are a great way to show your pride in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



VT Memorial Magnet—\$10



Jacket Patch—\$5

___ VTCC Decals	x \$5.00 =	_____
___ CORPS Decals	x \$5.00 =	_____
___ CORPS Magnet	x \$10.00 =	_____
___ VT Memorial magnet	x \$5.00 =	_____
___ The jacket patch	x \$5.00 =	_____
	Shipping: \$1.00	_____
	TOTAL:	_____

Send your check, payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, to

VTCC Alumni Office (0213)
143 Brodie Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061



We're partnering with the Campus Emporium to bring you more Corps of Cadets merchandise. Go there to check it out.

www.campusemporium.com/vt-corps-of-cadets.html

Hokie Heroes

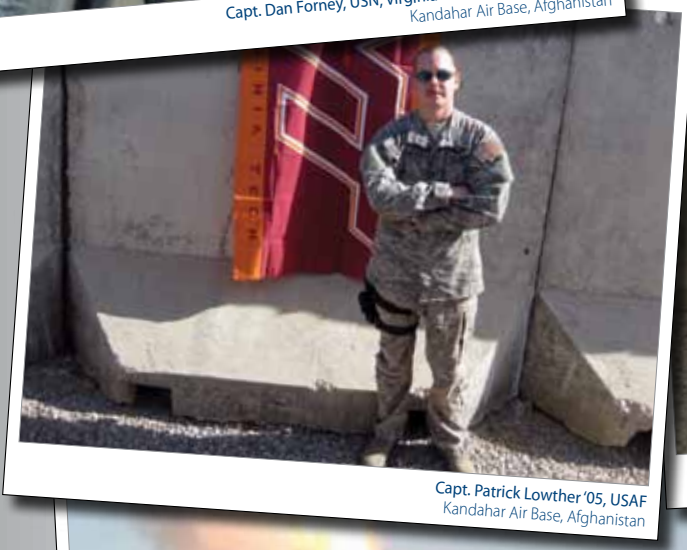
Started in 2006 by IMG College and sponsored by the University Bookstore, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted during the radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games by 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 second half of the 2011 football season.



Capt. Dan Forney, USN, Virginia Tech NROTC commander
Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan



2nd Lt. Ashleigh Toguchi '10, USA
Camp Ramadi, Iraq



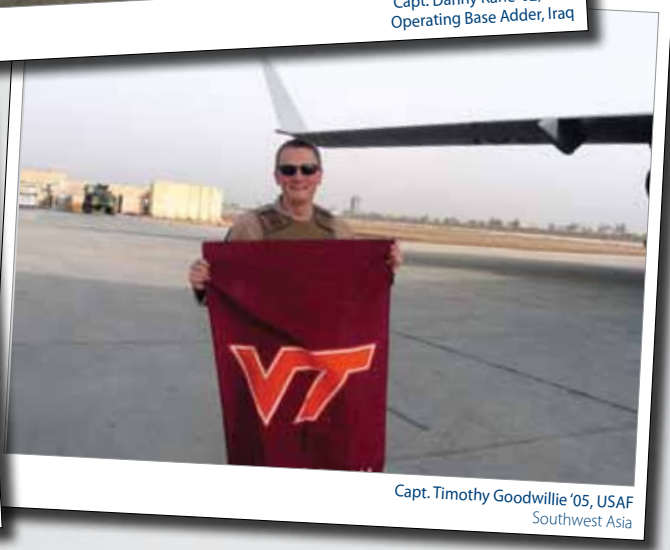
Capt. Patrick Lowther '05, USAF
Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan



Capt. Danny Kane '02, USA
Operating Base Adder, Iraq



Capt. Amir Abu-Akeel '06, USA
Middle East



Capt. Timothy Goodwillie '05, USAF
Southwest Asia



Capt. George Flynn '01, USMC
Helmand Province, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Trish Ryder '10, USA
Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



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Enter the code **vtcc** at checkout to
save 10% off your Cadet Hokie order.

Offer expires 6/30/12



You can help our Corps grow— A call for internships

by Col. Rock Roszak '71, (540) 231-9369, vtcc71@vt.edu

We're about to enter some pretty exciting times here in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC). You can see from Gen. Fullhart's column that we're busy getting ready to start using the new dining hall in the fall, we're entering the early design phase for new dormitories, and we've kicked off our drive to raise money for the Lane Hall project. Lots of changes are coming for our Corps.

Changes are occurring on the national and international scenes, as well. Our country's policy posture for the next decade is being set in Washington, and the results will include a smaller military. What does this mean for your Corps? More change.

We continue to be proud of the fact that we commission a significantly higher percentage of our graduates into the military than does any other senior military college. In fact, if you look at our chief rivals—Texas A&M, Virginia Military Institute, and The Citadel—they average a commissioning rate of 44 percent, while our commissioning rate nearly doubles that at 82 percent last year.

Over the past couple of years, both the Air Force and the Navy have been reducing their programs, and their scholarship opportunities continue to decline. In addition, recent policy announcements reveal that the Army—our largest ROTC program—is about to get smaller, too.

Although the opportunity for earning a commission is being reduced, no one can dispute the fact that our country needs good leadership more than ever. Our Corps has been growing for almost two decades, but we need to adapt to

continue to be strong in the face of these changing times. To that end, we are working hard to improve the leader development program for our non-ROTC cadets, those who are in the Civilian-Leader Track.

While ROTC cadets go to summer training to prepare for entering active duty as officers, we need something similar for our Civilian-Leader Track cadets. The way for them to get ready for their lives after graduation is to provide them with opportunities for internships.

Gen. Fullhart's goal is to secure two internships for these cadets: one after sophomore year and one after junior year. He shared this vision at last semester's Corps Homecoming, and he's been receiving supportive offers from alumni ever since. Our VTCC Alumni Board of Directors is organizing to help achieve this goal, and that's where you come in.

In today's world, the need for young

leaders of outstanding character is greater than ever. Every alumnus of the Corps of Cadets knows how this program develops young leaders of character. We need our alumni to step forward and help us provide internships for our Civilian-Leader Track cadets.

If you are in position to offer internships, please contact Col. Dave Miller at 540-231-9455 or dmiller3@vt.edu. If you have a LinkedIn account, request to join the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets group. As a member, you will join cadets who are interested in internships and full-time employment opportunities, and you can match your opportunities with their qualifications and interests. If you know of a company that has internship opportunities, please put a representative in touch with us. It's a win-win situation for you, your company, the nation, and our Corps of Cadets.

We need you! *Ut Prosim.*



Etched in stone: During the Class of 1961's 50th reunion weekend in October 2011, we unveiled the engraving of L.D. Harley '61 on the War Memorial. Maj. Duff Harley was not included when the names of those lost in the Vietnam War were added to the Pylons because he was still listed as missing in action. The omission was corrected in a meaningful ceremony attended by his classmates and his two sisters.

In memory

Leonard B. Aaron '45
1923 – 2012



Leonard B. Aaron died Jan. 13.

Aaron attended Virginia Tech from 1941 to 1943, leaving in spring 1943 to support efforts during

World War II. After the war, he continued his studies at the College of William & Mary, where he earned a degree in accounting. He lived and ran a successful CPA firm in Newport News, Va.

Aaron is survived by his wife, two children, one grandchild, and two brothers who are graduates of Virginia Tech.

Paul E. Irwin Sr. '43
1921 – 2011



Paul E. Irwin Sr. died Oct. 26, 2011.

Irwin earned a B.S. and an M.S. in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech. In 1978, he

retired as state chemist after 30 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Irwin is survived by his wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

Howell H. Michael III '44
1918 – 2011



Howell H. Michael III died Dec. 7, 2011.

A 1944 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering, Michael served as a

lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. After the war, he worked for Trimball Electrical and then General Electric Corp., retiring after 32 years in Charlotte, N.C.

Michael is survived by his wife, two children, and five grandchildren.

Charlie C. Rawlings Jr. '47
1922 – 2012

Charlie C. Rawlings Jr. died Jan. 24.

Rawlings, who interrupted his college education to serve two tours in the U.S. Army during World War II, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemistry. He worked for Merck & Company and later for Merck, A.H. Robins, and Physician Product Co. as a chemist and foreign chemical engineer. He retired in 1983.

Rawlings is survived by his wife, three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert M. Rubush Jr. '43
1921 – 2011

Robert M. Rubush died Dec. 30, 2011.

Rubush, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in metallurgical en-

gineering, served as an officer in a U.S. Army anti-aircraft artillery unit in the



European theater during World War II. After the war, he pursued interests in his field in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin and then worked

for Lynchburg Foundry in Radford, Va.

Rubush is survived by his wife, two children, and six grandchildren.

Jeffrey R. Stewart Jr. '53
1932 – 2011



Jeffrey R. Stewart Jr. died June 10, 2011.

Stewart, who earned both an undergraduate and a graduate degree in business education from Virginia

Tech, later received a doctoral degree in business education from New York University. He served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force; a rendition of his North American F-86 Saber Jet hangs in the alumni aviation display in Brodie Hall.

After his Air Force service, Stewart was a faculty member in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business for 35 years, retiring as a professor emeritus in 1992. He wrote more than 50 business texts that were used throughout the U.S. and in many other countries.

Stewart is survived by his long-term

companion, four children, and 11 grandchildren.

Wayne H. Wells '64
1942 – 2011



Wayne H. Wells died Dec. 23, 2011.

At Virginia Tech, Wells participated in the Army ROTC program and earned a

degree in business. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, served in the Quartermaster Corps, and received an honorable discharge as a captain. He then worked as a contract specialist for NASA, where he received many honors and awards until retiring after 31 years of service.

Wells is survived by his wife, six children, and 10 grandchildren.

Robert J. Whitmire '53
1931 – 2011

Robert J. Whitmire died Nov. 6, 2011.

Whitmire graduated from Virginia



Tech with a degree in business and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. A sales manager with the Sperry & Hutchinson Company, he

retired to St. Petersburg, Fla., where he owned a convenience store.

Whitmire is survived by his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.





Corps Homecoming • September 21 - 23, 2012

Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green



Please complete and submit a separate registration form for each homecoming-class member except for spouses.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Your Name _____ Cadet Unit _____
First Middle/Maiden Last
 Name Tag Preference _____ Class Year _____
First Last
 Major at VT _____ Email _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____
 Address: Home or Business _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Do you or any of your guests have special needs while you are visiting us (i.e., special diet, mobility accommodations, etc.)?
 No Yes Please describe: _____

Spouse: (if attending homecoming) _____
First Last
 Name for Name Tag _____ VT Class Year _____ Cadet Unit _____
First Last

Guest(s): Please list ages of any children 17 or under. You can add or remove guests after you have registered by calling the Virginia Tech Alumni Association at 540-231-6285.

1. Name _____ Age _____
First Last
 Name for Name Tag _____ VT Class Year _____ Cadet Unit _____
First Last
 2. Name _____ Age _____
First Last
 Name for Name Tag _____ VT Class Year _____ Cadet Unit _____
First Last

HOMECOMING REGISTRATION COSTS

I have read and understand the enclosed Homecoming Information.
Note: # registrants = class member + spouse + guests. Registration must be accompanied by full payment.

Friday, September 21
Day with Cadets - Skelton Conference Center # _____ @ \$25 per person = \$ _____
Cadet Leadership Dinner (Adults only, Coat and Tie) - Skelton Conference Center # _____ @ \$40 per person = \$ _____
Saturday, September 22
Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # _____ @ \$35 per person = \$ _____
Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # _____ @ \$15 per child 6 - 11 = \$ _____
Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # _____ @ no cost per child 5 and under

A full-priced game ticket is required for EVERYONE attending the game, including children & infants.

Game Tickets - (maximum of 4) Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green # _____ @ \$50 per registrant = \$ _____
*** One ticket per registered guest, Friday or Saturday meal required (4 ticket maximum per registration form).**

Yes, I plan on participating in the alumni march-on at Lane Stadium before the game
 Yes, I want a hat for # _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____
 Yes, I want a polo shirt for # _____ @ \$30 = \$ _____
 (Sizes required # ___ SM # ___ M # ___ L # ___ XL # ___ XXL) _____ **Total** = \$ _____

Please use a credit card that will be valid between the time you submit your registration and the date of your homecoming.
 Please charge the total for homecoming and game tickets to my American Express Visa Discover Card MasterCard
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____
 Please find enclosed my check made payable to "Virginia Tech Alumni Association."

LODGING REQUEST

If you plan to request lodging, please do so before August 15, 2012.

I would like the Alumni Association to arrange for my homecoming lodging, and I have read and understand the enclosed Lodging Information.
 Please charge the total for lodging to my American Express Visa Discover Card MasterCard

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

Note: All hotels require a 2-night minimum stay. Friday and Saturday nights are required for Saturday games.

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ # Adults in room _____ # Children 17 or under _____
 Roommate's Name _____
Room Preferences (will be honored when possible):
 1 Bed Roll-in Shower required
 2 Beds Handicapped Accessible

Office Use Only Rcvd D _____ Entered Ck _____
 T _____ CC _____



Corps Homecoming • September 21 - 23, 2012

Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green



The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center • 901 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA

The Inn at Virginia Tech is a non-smoking facility.

Rate: \$259.00 plus 5% tax per night. Two night minimum stay required. (Friday and Saturday nights required for Saturday games.) Total for 2 nights = \$542.90. Each additional night \$145.95 (inclusive) based on availability.

Check-in: Begins at 4:00 p.m., check-out 11:00 a.m.

Payment: Pre-payment by credit card required with the reservation. Charges will be processed upon receipt of event registration fees and lodging reservation.

Cancellations: Cancellations for refund must be made no later than 30 days prior to arrival date. No refunds will be issued after that time.

Confirmation: A confirmation letter will be mailed by The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center prior to the event.

Directions: From I-81: Exit 118B Blacksburg/460 West. Exit Prices Fork Road/Downtown, Route 412 East. Right at first traffic light into hotel entrance.

Hilton Garden Inn Blacksburg • 900 Plantation Rd. Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-5005

Rates: \$239.00 plus 12% tax per night per room. Two night minimum stay (Friday and Saturday nights) required for Saturday games. Total for 2 nights = \$535.36. Each additional night \$144.48 (inclusive) based upon availability.

Check-in: Begins at 3:00 p.m., check-out 11:00 a.m.

Payment: Pre-payment by credit card required with the reservation. Charges will be processed 30 days prior to arrival.

Cancellations: Cancellations may be processed no later than 30 days prior to arrival date. No refunds will be issued after that time.

Confirmation: A confirmation email can be sent upon request.

Directions: From I-81: Exit 118B Blacksburg /460 West. Take second Prices Fork Road Exit/Route 412 West. Turn left at first traffic light onto Plantation Road. Take first left into hotel entrance.

HOMECOMING INFORMATION

Cancellations:

- The last day to receive a refund for cancellation is thirty (30) days prior to the event date.
- If you cancel your event registration, your accompanying request for game tickets will be cancelled. Ticket refunds will only be processed if the cancelled ticket can be resold.
- The Alumni Association will process hotel cancellations.
- Individual hotel cancellation policies apply. Please see lodging information.

Email:

Please provide an email address that we may use to confirm your registration and to communicate with you, if necessary. Confirmation of event registrations will be sent via email if we have an email address for the registrant. Confirmations will be sent via US Mail if no email address is provided.

Game Tickets:

- Game tickets purchased as part of event registration are for registered event participants only.
- Game tickets are \$50 each and are limited in quantity.
- Limit of one ticket per paid registrant and a maximum of four game tickets per registration.
- Game tickets will not be mailed. They will be available for pickup at registration with photo ID.
- Everyone who enters Lane Stadium must have a game ticket, including infants.

Confirmation:

- Confirmations detailing event registration, lodging location, and game tickets will be sent via email when an email address is provided.
- For 2012 Events: If the Alumni Association receives your event registration by July 1, 2012, confirmation will be sent by July 15, 2012. Registrations received after July 1, 2012 will be confirmed as soon as possible, prior to the event date.

Lodging Information:

- Lodging requested through the event registration process is for event participants only.
- Lodging availability is limited. Room preferences are not guaranteed.
- When rooms at The Inn at Virginia Tech are no longer available, registrants will be assigned to other hotels as long as rooms are available. Initial confirmation of your lodging and location will be included in your Event Confirmation.
- Final confirmation will be provided by the hotel. Please review this confirmation letter for accuracy of arrival and departure dates.
- Hotels require use of the Lodging Request form for event lodging. Telephone reservations are not accepted.
- The Alumni Association will process hotel cancellations associated with event registrations. Individual hotels' cancellation policies apply.
- Please retain this page for your records.

2012 Corps Homecoming Optional Event

Day with Cadets: Learn about today's VTCC from recruiting to life as a cadet. Includes lunch and campus tour.

Come to Corps Homecoming 2012 and hear from the Commandant of Cadets!



Virginia Tech pride: Two Highty-Tighty alumni recently reunited at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Marine Capt. Tyson Griffith '06 (left) and Marine Sgt. Douglas Smith '09 proudly show their Tech colors in front of their unit's EA-6B Prowler.

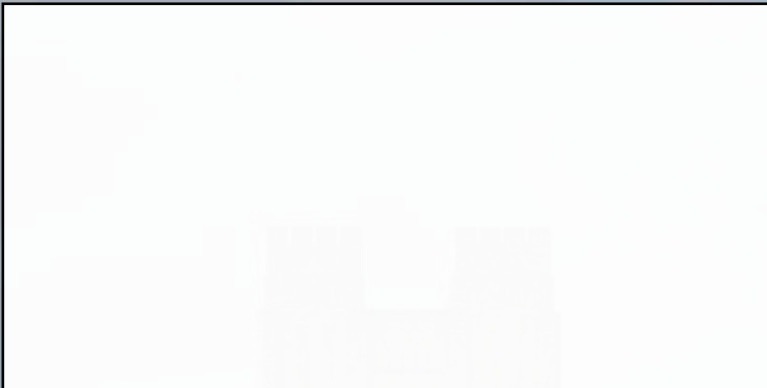
Small world: Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Whitlock '95 (left) recently ran into Air Force Lt. Col. Doug Hall '92 on a flight from Kuwait back to Afghanistan. As Tom tells it: "On my flight back to Kabul from my R&R leave in Virginia and Florida, I ran into a Hokie that you might recognize. He's commanding a squadron of C-17s in Kuwait. When I stepped onto the plane, we immediately recognized each other despite not having seen each other in almost 19 years." Doug was the C-17 flyover pilot at Corps Homecoming last fall. The Corps bonds for a lifetime.



VTCC Alumni Inc.

143 Brodie Hall (0213)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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