

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 28 NO. 2 SPRING 2018

Gregory  
Guard





First-year cadets and their training cadre complete the spring Caldwell March and return to Upper Quad, past the empty lots that once housed Monteith Hall, in the foreground, and Thomas Hall, in the background.



Spring 2018, Vol. 28, No. 2

# CONTENTS

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- 4 Col. Eric Dorminey '90
- 14 2nd Lt. John Peacock '17
- 34 T.O. Williams III '59  
Remembered

## FEATURES

- 16 Cadets Win National Fitness Challenge
- 19 Focus on Philanthropy: Ray Carmines '51
- 24 Class Notes

## PHOTOS

- 8 Spring Events
- 44 Commencement and Commissioning
- 45 Hokie Heroes

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Alumni Announcements
- 10 Commandant's Column
- 12 VPI Battalion
- 17 Museum Curator
- 18 Chairman's Column
- 20 Recruiting Update
- 21 Quad Angle
- 26 Army ROTC News
- 28 Naval ROTC News
- 30 Air Force ROTC News
- 32 Giving
- 36 Honor Guard
- 42 In Memoriam: Col. Wesley L. Fox

# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

It has been a busy spring for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) Alumni Office! We welcomed back alumni who shared their perspective and life lessons with the regiment this spring during the Gunfighter and Black Corps Alumni panels. Junior and senior cadets interacted with Corps alumni during the annual Future Alumni Dinner and Social as we introduced the cadets to our program. Check out the upcoming alumni events calendar, and we will see you this fall!

*Ut Prosim,*

Col. Patience Larkin (retired) E-'87

patience@vt.edu

## FALL CORPS ALUMNI EVENTS

- Sept. 13: Gunfighter Panel, 3:30 p.m. in Burruss Hall
- Sept. 14-15: Corps Reunion  
A new Friday event is Last Call at Lane Hall, a low-key social from 9 to 11 p.m. on the Lane Hall porch for a limited number of attendees. Register for Corps Reunion at [alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/09/corps\\_of\\_cadets.html](http://alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/09/corps_of_cadets.html)
- Nov. 2-3: Highty-Tighty Reunion  
Register at [alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/11/highty-tighty-reunion.html](http://alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/11/highty-tighty-reunion.html). It's also the Class of '68's 50th reunion.
- Note: Limited home football tickets for the VTCC Alumni Row are on sale. Email Michele Messner at [vtccalumni@vt.edu](mailto:vtccalumni@vt.edu) to order.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT

In fall 2017, we welcomed Michele Messner as the new alumni director assistant for the VTCC.

She spent nearly 16 years as a stay-at-mom to her two daughters, Olivia, 16, and Lilly, 14. During this time, she volunteered in their schools, both in the classroom and on the executive board of the parent-teacher organization.



Michele Messner

Michele is a 1988 Radford University graduate and, after returning to the area in 2007, spent much time volunteering there. She is on the board of directors for the Radford University Alumni Association and enjoys supporting Highlander athletics.

Michele has been living the Virginia Tech motto, *Ut Prosim*, for years and is excited to continue doing so for the Corps alumni.



## MEMORIES OF SKIPPER

U.S. Army Col. Chip Daniels '93 reminisces about polishing the original Skipper, now housed in New Cadet Hall. Daniels was in town with his son, who participated in a Spend the Night recruiting event with the Corps. We hope to have another Daniels join our ranks!

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

David E. Lowe '63 and Air Force Gen. Thomas C. Richards '56 followed two different paths to successful careers and dedication to community service. Both were honored in April with our first-ever Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award formalizes the Corps' long tradition of honoring men and women who graduated from its ranks and are the inspiration and mentors to current cadets. Corps alumni can make nominations to honor living alumni who were enrolled in the Corps for a minimum of two years (four semesters or eight quarters).

Lowe built a career with the C&P Telephone Company of West Virginia — which became Bell Atlantic and eventually, Verizon. Richards is the first four-star general among the Corps' alumni and illuminates the idea of selfless service.

Lowe has a history of leading community, educational, and economic development activities that bring untold benefits to the places he calls home. He champions long-range and strategic planning efforts and is a guiding force on the Corps alumni board of directors.

He is an honorary lifetime board member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. The Class of 2013 honored him as its class ring namesake, and he was awarded Virginia Tech's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

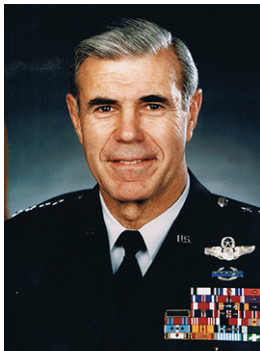
Richards amassed 4,700 flying hours, including 624 combat missions in Vietnam, and went on to command positions with the Air Force Academy, the Basic Military Training School, 8th Air Force, and Air University. He earned his fourth star as deputy commander in chief of the U.S. European Command in Germany and, after retirement from the military, went on to lead the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1990, Virginia Tech awarded him the University Distinguished Achievement Award, and the Class of 1992 dedicated its class ring collection to him.

"These two recipients epitomize both the Military-Leader Track and Citizen-Leader Track that our Corps provides today's generation of cadets as they become the kind of global, ethical leaders that are needed now, more than ever," said Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets.



David Lowe



Gen. Thomas C. Richards

The Corps Review is published two times a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA).

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Col. Patience Larkin '87, Alumni Director

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Front cover: Members of the Gregory Guard precision drill team stand at attention. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

Back cover: The Gregory Guard has grown its numbers from about 15 to 25 cadets in recent years. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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# ADVENTURES IN SPACE

By Col. Eric Dorminey '90, U.S. Air Force

I entered the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in the fall of 1986, somewhat by accident.

I applied to all the military academies but did not receive an appointment. I was, however, accepted to Virginia Tech and decided to follow my older brother, who was a junior there.

After my acceptance, I received an Air Force ROTC scholarship, which I honestly considered turning down. After a lengthy discussion with my father about tuition benefits and career opportunities, I decided to take advantage of at least one year of the scholarship and consider my options at that point. Accepting the scholarship and attending Virginia Tech meant that I had to be in the Corps. It turned out to be a pivotal decision from which I derived multiple life lessons and benefits that I enjoy to this day.

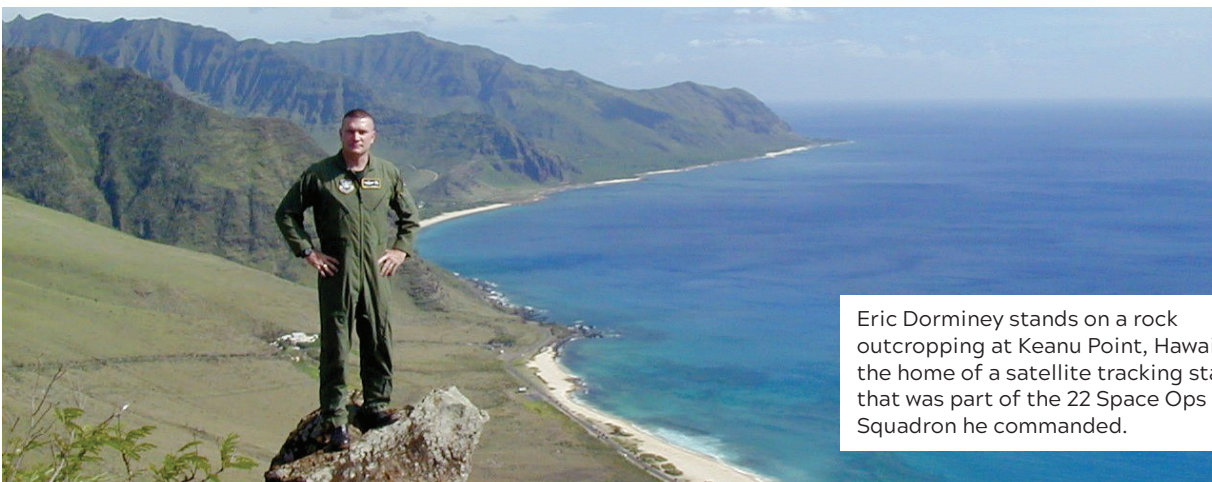
While not too excited about the prospect of being in the Corps, I decided to visit. When I did, Cadet Karl Schuetze '87, a good friend of my brother's, showed me

around. I don't remember too much of the visit except for Karl telling me that I should request his company, F-Troop, which I did.

I was assigned the room right across the hall from Karl, now a senior. Any time my door opened, Karl or his roommate was on me. This arrangement led to significant lessons for me.

Unbeknownst to me, Karl would periodically tell my brother how I was doing. In turn, my brother would relay my status to my folks, which led to encouragement when I'd call home to complain. This is where I learned an important lesson about taking care of each other. It isn't simply making it easier, sometimes it's about demanding more while being an unseen safety net.

The most significant lesson I learned is that there are worse things than failure; among them is quitting. The Corps instilled in me mental toughness to never quit. The upperclassmen certainly made it hard, but



Eric Dorminey stands on a rock outcropping at Keanu Point, Hawaii, the home of a satellite tracking station that was part of the 22 Space Ops Squadron he commanded.



Dorminey, at far left, poses with the band of brothers with whom he went through the Air Force Weapons School.

nothing could compare to the challenge my civilian classmates put on me.

I remember distinctly sitting in my 8 a.m. freshman English class on a particular Monday morning in the fall. A couple of civilians were talking about the party they went to on the previous Friday night. As I heard them discuss it, I reflected on my Friday evening of polishing brass, shining shoes, and getting braced up. Yep, I was having almost as much fun as they were! It forced me to commit to my goal and toughen up.

After graduation, I was commissioned into the Air Force with a pilot slot. Attending flight school didn't work out, and I faced my first big career decision. The Air Force offered me an opportunity to walk away owing nothing on the scholarship or cross-train into

another career field. It took much soul searching, but I decided to stick it out. I cross-trained into space operations, and the Air Force gave me a choice of two assignments: Falcon Air Force Base, Colorado, to fly satellites or Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and they couldn't tell me what I'd be doing.

Life's an adventure, so I took the latter.

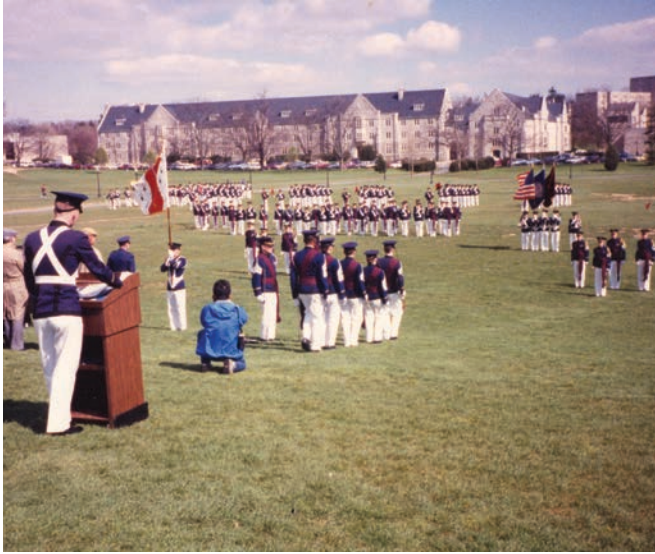
After initial space training at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, I made the trek to Holloman and the 4th Space Warning Squadron to execute mobile space-based missile warning. As it turned out, the 4th was a great finishing school for a young lieutenant.

As a space operator, I was trained to process strategic missile launches, but I spent a majority of time as a deployment

commander, leading a convoy of vehicles with 23 armed personnel into austere locations around the globe. The leadership lessons I learned in the Corps helped me advance into leadership roles as an instructor and evaluator in both missile warning and field commander duties. I was thrilled to lead airmen in multiple field exercises across the Southwest, on a deployment to the outback of Australia, and during a long-haul road trip to Georgia.

Most significant, however, I met my wife.

After three years, I was transferred to Falcon Air Force Base. Assigned to the 2nd Command and Control Squadron, I was responsible for executing a portion of the space surveillance network to track over 23,000 man-made objects in



Dorminey served as the 1990 regimental commander during his senior year in the Corps.



Dorminey was commissioned on Dec. 27, 1990, by Col. John Vanduyn, who would also preside at his promotion to colonel.

orbit. It is also where I had my first opportunity to work for a Virginia Military Institute graduate. Lt. Col. Jim Mackin took command about halfway through my tour. He, like Karl Schuetze, hassled me continuously, but it was all in good humor. We developed a tremendous mutual respect, no doubt founded on our similar cadet experiences, and in the end he made me a better officer.

Having completed my second operations tour, I transferred literally across the street to the Space Warfare Center, working space tactics and teaching the Space Theater Integration Course. The traveling course taught Air Force planners in the field how to integrate space effects into the fight.

It instilled a desire to further my involvement in space tactics development and integration into the broader fight, which led to my application to the upstart Space Division of the Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Weapons school was the hardest education and training experience I've ever had — Virginia Tech engineering included. Ten students are put

through a six-month crucible of tactical planning, execution, and integration of all aspects of the space domain.

After graduation, I wanted to deploy to the field to employ what I'd learned. The needs of the Air Force, however, trumped my desires, and I was retained as an instructor. It turned out to be one of my most rewarding assignments. The unit was all weapon school graduates, hand-picked and highly motivated. We challenged each other every day to be better, and there was no doubt that we had an impact on the fight.

At the beginning of my second class as an instructor, 9/11 occurred. Suddenly, we weren't training folks in case we got into a fight. We were training to go directly into the fight. I could not be more proud to have served with these officers and the contributions we made.

I had an opportunity to deploy in support of the Marines in the Pacific, but we didn't get to launch our operations in earnest. Before we could, operations in Iraq kicked off, and our resources were repurposed. Still wanting to get close to the fight, I volunteered for an assign-

ment with U.S. Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT).

As the chief of the Commander's Action Group, I was responsible for all travel planning, speech writing, and special projects for the combined force air component commander. In the two years assigned at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, I spent about 60 percent of my time bouncing around the Middle East. My travels exposed me to servicemen and women from all branches, and I found their dedication to be profound.

Finishing two years at AFCENT meant that I had spent over six years outside of Air Force Space Command. It was time to get back, so I accepted a job as the chief of exercises for the command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The job required me to exercise every wing within the command, which refreshed my knowledge of the vast number of weapon systems we operate. As it turned out however, the job was short-lived as I was selected as the operations officer for the 22 Space Operations Squadron (SOPS) at Schiever Air Force Base, Colorado, in 2007.





Dorminey, at left, and Lt. Col. Marty Easter '96 pose 700 miles inside the Arctic Circle at Thule Air Base, Greenland.



The Dorminey clan enjoys one of the many outdoor activities Colorado has to offer.

A good friend of mine was the 22 SOPS operations officer and was picked up for command earlier than expected, leaving his position vacant. He suggested I replace him. As the operations officer, I was responsible for executing a global network of ground antennas, providing command and control for all Department of Defense satellite systems, as well as a few National Reconnaissance Office systems. No two days were the same, and I enjoyed every minute. While not typically the case, two years later I was selected to fleet up and command the squadron, giving me a total of four years of involvement in every satellite program in the Defense Department.

As my command came to a close, the timing worked out for another education opportunity at Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. It was a year of gentlemanly hours after command, giving me an opportunity to refresh and reconnect with the family — which turned out to be a significant blessing. My next assignment would be my most demanding.

After War College, I was sent to the

Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, the operational-level command-and-control node for all Defense Department space. We were responsible for planning, execution, and assessment of global space operations, and I got to see it all.

In three short years, I had led four of the six divisions in the JSpOC and ended up doing some time as the deputy JSpOC director. Those were some long days, but the work was impactful and the team of space professionals was impressive.

I expected to finish a full four-year tour but was selected at the three-year point to be the 21 Space Wing vice commander, where I currently sit. This job has truly been the pinnacle of my career. We are the second-largest wing in the Air Force with over 4,000 highly motivated personnel serving in 16 locations around the globe. We execute space control, global space surveillance, and strategic missile warning and missile defense of North America. We are responsible for six Air Force installations to include Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station; Thule Air Base, Greenland; and Peter-

son Air Force Base, home to NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and Air Force Space Command. The size of the wing takes the wing commander on the road a great deal, leaving me to run the ship in his absence.

I've got one more assignment left in my career and, as life comes full circle, I'm headed back to where it all started. I'll be taking command of the Air Force ROTC at Virginia Tech this summer. I find it extremely poetic to end my career where it all began. I look forward to giving back to the two organizations that shaped my adult life — the Air Force and the Corps. I can't think of a better way to wrap up a career than shaping the next generation of officers.

The time back at Tech will take me to a full 30 years on active duty and required retirement. It will certainly be tough to hang up the boots. It's all I've known since graduation from high school, and it has been a great ride! The places I've seen, the people I've met and had the honor to serve with, the jobs I've been entrusted to do — I really can't believe I got paid to do this!

SKIPPER APPEARED IN A BALLET, GROWLEY TURNED 5, AND ALUMNI SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS GAVE CADETS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER.



Cadets threw Growley II (call sign "Tank") a luau-themed party to celebrate his fifth birthday on April 25.



The Highty-Tighties surprised their director, MUCS Jim Beam, with a 2019 Virginia Tech class ring at this year's Ring Dance on March 23. (Photo by Cadet Natalie Rosas '18)



At left, volunteers with the National D-Day Memorial tour the Corps Museum space in Newman Library on Feb. 26. Above: Cheryl J. Rawls '84, Ericke Cage '02, and Maj Tyson Griffith '06 shared stories during a Black Corps Alumni Panel on March 14. (Photo by Cadet Jaelen de la Fuente '18)



Skipper Crew participated in performances of “The Nutcracker,” put on by Little Leapers, a children’s dance studio in Blacksburg, in December 2017. (Photo by Kate Clark Photography)



Kristen Meister '07, Maj. Susan Frank '07, and Rachelle Oribio '04 spoke during the spring Gunfighter Panel on Feb. 22.



Josh Miller '17 and David Gardner '17 of the Roanoke (Virginia) Police Department were among the alumni to help with career panels with the VPI Battalion/Citizen-Leader Track cadets on April 17.



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III spoke April 5 as the final guest of this year’s Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series.



Easley Smith '45 talks with cadets at his table during the Future Alumni Dinner for the junior class on April 4.



# THE CASE FOR THE CORPS

By Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, U.S. Air Force (retired)

Our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has always been reliant upon, and benefited from, the generosity of others, whether it be their time, their advocacy, or their financial support.

Even with that, I was recently challenged to make “the case for the Corps.”

It’s a good point. We shouldn’t take for granted that people know why the Corps is vital to our country.

Maybe people think it is just a quaint tradition worth continuing. After all, the Corps made up the entire study body when the school opened in 1872.

We know from our history that the Corps’ existence was not always a given,

nor should we assume that it is secure for the future. Every day, to prospective families of future cadets, current families and cadets, and alumni — seasoned and new — we have to answer the question: “Why the Corps, and why should I support it?”

I recently came across some information that might be surprising to some, but certainly not to those who have served or are presently serving in the U.S. military. Since its inception in 1776, America has been at war 225 out of 241 years. That doesn’t even include the fact that our military forces also are fully engaged in humanitarian relief, training

with allies, and deterring conflict from breaking out.

Wars come in many sizes and shapes. What they all have in common is the expectation that our military in general, and its officers in particular, will be of the highest caliber, professional, capable, and dedicated to the preservation of a country that is centered on a constitution.

When I speak to families and prospective cadets, I talk about the fact that those who are attracted to our Corps are sons and daughters who aspire to lead other people’s sons and daughters where ever our country calls upon them to go.



Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart congratulates first-year cadets on completing their new cadet training at the end of the spring Caldwell March.

Let's add in other statistics.

A few years ago, Time magazine reported that about 71 percent of the 34 million 17-to-24-year-olds in the United States would not qualify for military service. Why? Reasons related to health, physical appearance, and educational background.

Of those remaining, only 1 percent are both eligible and inclined to even have a conversation with the military about possible service.

That makes our job a daunting challenge. We — Virginia Tech and the Corps — must be committed to this mission.

The Army and the Air Force have signaled that they are looking for our program to produce more officers. But if we don't have the resources to recruit them — including Emerging Leadership Scholarships that offset the full cost of attendance and admissions policies attuned to recognize that four-year ROTC scholarships are given to those who have a high probability of success in college — we will not accomplish our mission.

That's why we are committed to growing the endowments for our scholarships, imploring the Commonwealth of Virginia to appropriately resource our program, and working closely with university officials to admit students to fill our program with the same effort they give to other organizations, such as athletic teams.

Another part of the case for the Corps is the notion that we are creating "global" leaders. Our modern military is engaged around the world — in partnerships, in training, in humanitarian relief, and, when required, in conflict. Our businesses, industries, and communities are integrally tied to other countries through commerce, economics, and political agreements.



Kilo Battery prepares to pass in review at the spring Change of Command Ceremony.

We are committed to helping our cadets gain experience both at home and abroad so they have the intellectual curiosity and capacity to think beyond their current boundaries. That's why we created and seek through endowment and donations to expand our Global Scholars travel programs to places such as France that have helped our cadets gain incredible insights from history and how it applies to the future by traveling to the actual sites where history was made.

Finally, is our focus on creating "ethical" leaders. This goes well beyond our Honor Code. Again, I point out to audiences that if one looks at all the things going wrong in our world today and asks the "why?" questions, what we inevitably come to is a failure of ethical leadership. In the Corps, we get at this issue through the Rice Center for Leader Development. Our curriculum, guest speakers, and cadet travel to leadership conferences help us create the leaders that our nation and the world needs. All of those rely on donations and endowments.

Together, these amount to our simple but powerful statement of vision: Global, Ethical Leaders ... Now, More than Ever.

So, to the person who asked me to

make the "case for the Corps" and to the rest of you reading this, that's the answer.

I wish all this could be reliably and fully supported financially by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation, both of which collectively benefit from the leaders we produce, but that is presently not the case. Our programs and scholarships must come from donations.

With that, I also think there is a case to be made that all alumni of Virginia Tech, not just Corps alumni, have a stake in this.

We have proven through the generous donations of alumni and friends that we are ready to build our Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Now the commonwealth needs to do its part.

Current alumni have helped us establish a foundation for our scholarships, but more must be done, and we need all recent alumni to do what they can to help develop the next generation of leaders, too. It's the best investment, with the greatest return, I think we can make.

The cadets recently added a sign by the Ranger Pit adjacent to Lane Hall. It reads, "The only easy day was yesterday." We've got work still to do!



Stuart Meese, executive director for Student Advancement and Career Services in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business, was among the guest lecturers this past semester for Citizen-Leader Track cadets.

# TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

By Jason Oberoi '09, assistant director of the Citizen-Leader Track/VPI Battalion

While many cadets in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets spend Tuesday afternoons simulating battle drills, learning navigation, and marching, the Citizen-Leader Track cadets in VPI battalion receive training to help them succeed in the workplace.

The cadets still learn about leadership, communication, and integrity, but they also receive training on ideas they can talk about during interviews with employers, such as Lean Six Sigma, Theory of Constraints, and project management. We want our cadets, many of whom end up going into business, to be exposed to these ideas prior to graduating so they are better job candidates and

then better employees.

Theory of Constraints solves problems by finding and reducing obstacles that stand in the way of mission accomplishment. In teaching the theory, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart uses the example of how he stood up an Air Force wing in Egypt just before the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He attributed the unit's success to the can-do attitude, to the professionalism of its men and women, and to the use of Theory of Constraints to inform work priorities each day.

Lean Six Sigma is a business efficiency methodology that reduces common inefficiencies through data analyt-

ics. This year, VPI seniors learned its fundamentals and the common sources of inefficiencies in business. Then they applied that knowledge to in-processing for New Cadet Week. Their recommendations to make it more efficient included asking new cadets to arrive with their hair already cut and having a survey that the cadets take be administered during the school year.

The project management classes also are new this year. Cadets are introduced to the fundamentals of project management, what project managers can do, and where cadets can go for more education. The cadets then choose a project to complete in groups, and each group

had to complete a charter, deliver an update, and prepare a final presentation complete with charter, Gantt Chart, and lessons learned about leading a small team.

Each of these topics helps our cadets be more employable and, once employed, be better employees. The assignments tied to each topic are either a written paper or a presentation meant to help cadets improve their ability to communicate through writing or talk to a large group of people. These are the qualities sought in job candidates, graduate school applicants, or Officer Candidates School hopefuls.

“Aside from learning the basic engineering problem-solving approach in my classes at Virginia Tech, the other most valuable skills and tools I have learned since graduation are project management and applying Lean Six Sigma concepts to a wide variety of challenges,” said Scott Pearl ’84, deputy chief of the Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies Division within the Air Force Research Lab’s Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. He’s also a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board.

“These tools have not just enhanced my job performance over the years, but I have also applied them to everyday life situations to better manage my time and my effectiveness to complete tasks well and on time,” Pearl said. “For the VPI Battalion cadets to learn these and to be able to experiment with them in an academic setting should be yet another factor that sets them apart from their peers. I trust they will find these tools to be as valuable to them as I have.”

*If you have an internship or job opportunity for cadets, please email Jason Oberoi at [jtoberoi@vt.edu](mailto:jtoberoi@vt.edu).*



Cadets pose for a picture with Virginia Tech police and Blacksburg Rescue volunteers after the simulation, below. (Photos by Mackenzie Morris '18)

## MUTUAL AID

By Cadet Mackenzie Morris '18

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets joined forces with the Virginia Tech Police Department’s SWAT Team and the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad to help train in riot control scenarios.

Approximately 80 cadets from 3rd Battalion participated in this operation to help prepare first-responders to react in such events. Cadets volunteered as both the “aggressors” and “operation control” in these scenarios.

“Training and learning from the Virginia Tech Police Department SWAT Team was an excellent opportunity for 3rd Battalion cadets,” said Cadet Jack Tully ’18, the spring semester’s 3rd Battalion executive officer. His job is to plan and execute training for the battalion, in addition to assisting the battalion commander in his duties.

“We had the chance to do hands-on riot control training to help prepare the officers for their missions. In addition, this allowed us to work with



the officers that serve our community and keep us safe,” Tully said. “We hope we have an opportunity to train with them in the future.”

Virginia Tech police always are willing to coordinate educational activities with cadets, such as offering tours of their facilities or speaking about their experiences in class settings. Most recently, an officer who also volunteers with Blacksburg Rescue briefed Kilo Battery on topics ranging from use of tourniquets to quick medical care.

Cadets plan to help with similar police trainings in the future.

# BATTLES WON

By 2nd Lt. John Peacock '17, U.S. Marine Corps



As a military, we can summarize our accomplishments, lessons learned, and, most importantly, our developments, both technically and tactically, throughout our history of conflicts.

Today though, we are faced with some of our most proficient, dynamic enemies that we've ever graced the battlefield with, and even that battlefield has been characterized by constant change, whether it be on the ground, sea, in the air, space, or now cyberspace.

Former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, once stated, "For the first time since the end of the Soviet Union, the United States is facing a near-peer threat, and that is unsettling to many in the services."

For the first time in our lives, we need to be prepared to fight an enemy who is better outfitted than us and is more capable than us.

So what does this mean for us, the future military leaders of the greatest military in the world? This means we have some work to do. We need to improve technically and tactically at our jobs, learn to operate effectively in a joint environment, and develop ourselves ethically as sound leaders of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

Bettering ourselves both technically and tactically is

the easy part of that equation. The difficulty is bettering ourselves as ethical military leaders and operating in a joint environment. This is where our shared experience in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) plays a vital role in our development as a leader.

As cadets in the VTCC, our day-to-day interactions with other cadets are an example of working effectively in a joint-service environment. The VTCC teaches us to understand the customs, courtesies, and traditions of the other branches; respect those values; and then realize we can use those relationships to build a better working environment in which each part of the whole is able to use its strengths to its advantage on the battlefield.

I was a cadre sergeant in Delta Company. We had two Army cadets, two Navy Cadets, one Marine cadet, and three Citizen-Leader Track cadets on our staff. We were able to train and indoctrinate freshman cadets into the VTCC with each cadre member having different experiences and training that made us valuable in different ways and stronger because of it.

During our time in the Corps, we are also immersed in experiences and opportunities that develop us as ethical leaders, as well. We participate in Corps Lab, where we use case studies to delve into the realm



of strategic, operational, and tactical level leadership. We host Gunfighter Panels, where alumni return to share their experiences and how the Corps prepared them to be the leaders that we need today. We also have the Cutchins Lecture Series, where we have the opportunity to learn lessons of leadership and methods for success from various prominent figures in our nation.

The most important experience the VTCC gives us and develops in us is the opportunity to lead our peers. Leading peers is one of the most difficult tasks we face in the VTCC, but it is also one where we can hone our leadership characteristics, make mistakes, and correct them, moving forward as a stronger, more ethical leader because we were given the opportunity to lead.

These experiences will help guide us especially as junior officers and young professionals.

Our future conflicts will test us as leaders, more than we've ever been tested before and in the most dynamic environment that our military has ever found itself in.

We, as the leaders, may not always know what the exact right answer is either. But through our training and time spent learning leadership in the Corps, we will know what right and wrong look like, and we will have the confidence to make the right decision. We will also be fighting a tougher enemy than ever before, and it will be on us to outsmart them and defeat them, wherever the threat may be.

America's sons and daughters need strong, ethical, educated, and proficient leaders to take them into the deepest valleys in the shadow of death and win. Will you be ready?

*2nd Lt. John Peacock is a graduate of the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia, and of the Marine Corps Basic Officers Course at The Basic School. He is currently stationed at Naval Air Station Pensacola, training to become an aviator for the Marine Corps.*



Above: John Peacock aboard the USS Arlington during an amphibious assault exercise while at The Basic School. At left: Peacock boards an MV-22 Osprey during a patrol exercise at The Basic School.



Peacock after finishing the spring Caldwell March in April 2014.

# CADETS WIN NATIONAL FITNESS CHALLENGE

A team of Virginia Tech cadets won this year's Association of Military Colleges & Schools of the United States National Fitness Challenge.

The challenge is designed to pursue ways to increase cadet resilience and wellness and to foster camaraderie through competition between member schools.

Colleges were asked to select up to 10 cadets to participate in the fitness challenge. Based on the U.S. Coast Guard's Cadet Candidate Physical Fitness Examination, the challenge consisted of two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a 1.5-mile run with no more than five minutes between each event. All cadet scores were averaged to make up the college's final score.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets selected five cadets and posted the highest final score.

Participants were Harrison Barone '19, Blaine Mainz '21, Joshua McGuire '18, Patrick Munro '19, and Grant Phillips '18.

Additionally, McGuire was the top individual finisher among all college cadets, and McGuire and Munro both achieved perfect scores of 300 on their tests.

The Association of Military Colleges & Schools of the United States represents 41 military colleges, junior colleges, and college preparatory schools. It serves as an advocate for those schools and as a liaison with the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Education.



Clockwise from top left are Blaine Mainz '21, Harrison Barone '19, Grant Phillips '18, Joshua McGuire '18, and Patrick Munro '19.

# VISIT TO VMI OFFERS NEW PERSPECTIVE

By Samantha Riggin VT'16,  
Corps museum curator



Cadet historians spent a day learning about Virginia Military Institute's history with help from Lt. Col. Dave Williams, at center.

Hokies worth their salt know the history of the football rivalry between Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Military Institute.

Stretching from 1894 through 1984, the yearly skirmishes on Thanksgiving Day provided more stories of bravado than there was room to print. Even though Virginia Tech cadets no longer spar on the field with VMI Keydets, an underlying current of competition remains between the two schools.

As museum curator and advisor to the Corps of Cadets' historians, I am privy to many renditions of these games. Whenever I exhibit old memorabilia from the games, anyone with a drop of Hokie blood can't help reminisce about the days of football past.

But today's cadets are not particularly familiar with the history of their VMI brothers and sisters, even though

the campuses are just a bit more than an hour apart. The Keydets have a very proud and storied past in Virginia history, and the historians planned a group field trip to explore it.

On April 7, we set out in two passenger vans to visit VMI's museum. Lt. Col. Dave Williams '79 works at VMI and offered to take us on a tour of campus.

The first floor of the museum tells VMI's story, complete with Stonewall Jackson's preserved horse. Historians, impressed with the displays, intently took in the Keydets' history.

VMI's exhibits are very well done, and I appreciated showing the historians how important professional museum standards are for both preservation and exhibition.

The lowest floor in the museum is home to VMI's world-renowned gun collection — everything from early Colts

to guns disguised as walking canes. For the historians, this was a mesmerizing exhibit that added to their knowledge of the history of firearms.

Lt. Col. Williams escorted our group around the grounds, where he described statues and artillery that adorn VMI's campus. We were treated to a tour of the exterior of the barracks by a young Keydet, a counterpart to our historians.

Then it was off to lunch at the mess hall. We did get some strange looks from the Keydets when we entered. It's not often that a group of Virginia Tech cadets visit.

The trip was enjoyable and valuable. The historians now have a better grasp on the history of VMI and the Keydets.

Thanks to Lt. Col. Williams for showing us around. I am sure we will be back!



## A TRIBUTE TO OUR ALUMNI

By J. Pearson '87, chairman, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

We had a great junior dinner and senior social event on April 4.

We serve our rising seniors in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets a nice dinner at Owens Dining Hall. We position alumni at tables around the room to engage in dialog concerning life experiences and what it is like to be alumni. After dinner with the junior class, our soon-to-be graduates enjoy a reception with snacks and drinks. They are encouraged to socialize with alumni and each other.

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Col. Patience Larkin '87, David Lowe '63, and I talked to both groups about giving back and staying engaged with the Corps.

This is our third year using this format. Each year, we ask both groups for feedback, and it is always positive.

I would like to thank all the alumni who attended. I encourage you to think about coming back to campus next April and attend this fine event. You will have a great time and enjoy connecting with our future alumni.

This is our first year to formally recognize a distinguished alumnus. We



David Lowe addresses members of the cadet class of 2019 at this year's Future Alumni Dinner.

received many applications of outstanding and deserving folks for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. In fact, so much so, we chose two. Their accomplishments in serving our country, in business, and this university are off the charts. President Tim and Laura Sands attended, along with various university officials and family members.

Please join me in congratulating our first four-star general alumnus, Gen. Thomas C. Richards '56, and former

Regimental Commander David Lowe for receiving our inaugural awards.

That was followed by a very busy spring, including our full board meeting, change of command, commissioning, and graduation just to name a few. I hope all of you can make it back to campus to see our wonderful Upper Quad and visit with our great team of professionals that is helping to guide our Corps into the future.

Go Hokies!

PLEASE REMEMBER, AS ALUMNI WE MUST **COMMUNICATE, PARTICIPATE, AND DONATE!**



Ray Carmines, at right, shares a moment with Laura Sands, at left, at the 2017 Ut Prosim Society New and Advancing Dinner.

## FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY: RAY CARMINES '51

As a student, Ray Carmines '51 never served in a leadership role with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC). But his cadet experience continues to inspire him to seek out other opportunities.

"My time in the Corps gave me the feeling that I could become the leader in church, in business, and in life," he said.

Carmines, a competitive figure skater, says philanthropy is an expression of leadership. He led the Class of 1951's effort for its 50th reunion and has endowed the Ray Carmines, Jr. Scholarship for Virginia Tech athletics and the VTCC Ray Carmines, Jr. '51 Endowed Scholarship for the Corps.

**Q: Why did you decide to fund an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS)?**

A: The two semesters I spent in the Corps were the most enjoyable time I

spent at Virginia Tech. It added to me as a person, a husband, and as a father. My father was a strong supporter of Virginia Tech, and my daughters love it. As a family, we came to Virginia Tech for football games and events as they grew up. Three of my four daughters graduated from Virginia Tech, and all four were valedictorians of their high schools. I am proud of the legacy our family scholarships have created for them. Most importantly I do it because I want to.

**Q: What rewards do you get from participating with the ELS program?**

A: I drive 600 miles round trip to attend the annual fall ELS breakfast [for donors and cadet scholarship recipients] and associate with the outstanding members of the Corps. It's a pleasure that I have that many people will never have. I

love the time I spend with my cadet recipients and look forward to it each year.

**Q: What leadership lessons from your time in the Corps of Cadets do you use the most today?**

A: Learning to lead has enabled me to seek out leadership opportunities in clubs, my community, my alumni chapter, politically, and in business. I have served as vice mayor of Poquoson (Virginia), led city planning, and chaired the local Red Cross efforts. I am very proud to have chaired my class of 1951 toward their 50th reunion gift to raise money for the alumni association. At almost 91 years young, I still compete in ice skating, golf, and bowling. At the age of 89, I learned I was 10 years older than any other skater on international teams. Who knew I was leading the pack?

# WHAT IS THE MISSION?

By Lt. Col. Dave Williams '79,  
U.S. Army (retired)

It has been more than a few years since I wrote operations orders for a living, but if memory serves me correctly, paragraph one is situation and paragraph two is mission.

A good mission statement, at least back then, was short and to the point. For Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) recruiters, that mission paragraph could read “make contact and promote to high school students, and anybody who influences high school students, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.”

Sounds pretty simple but very broad — it is on both accounts. It has to be broad because it takes thousands of contacts to produce a freshman class of roughly 350 cadets each fall. The good news is the mission remains constant year to year; the bad news is the Virginia Tech admissions situation is constantly in a state of change.

This good news/bad news conundrum is actually tied to success, and we're a victim of Virginia Tech success on at least two levels. More high school seniors are applying to Virginia Tech than ever before. The Corps — with its robust leadership development program, to include the minor in leadership studies, and its modern facilities — is becoming well known across Virginia again.

It sounds great because it is great. However, the unintended consequence is that applicants are flocking to Blacksburg, making admission to Virginia Tech more competitive than ever. Applications for fall 2018 totaled 32,126 for 6,200 freshman vacancies, and Tech's acceptance rate fell from roughly 73 percent last year to 55 percent this year.

Many of the prospective cadets we talked to just a few years ago and went on to become cadets would probably not be considered for admission today. The pressure on cadet recruiting



First-year cadets learn drill from their cadre during New Cadet Week 2017.

and alumni recruiters is not only do we have to find leaders in high schools and convince them to consider becoming cadets, we have to find the best of the best and convince them to become a part of the VTCC. Next year, admissions will adopt a new method of application review, so all should still be encouraged to apply. The emphasis should be do your best academically and be engaged in extracurricular activities. This new method of review could benefit the Corps significantly.

There have been occasions where cadet alumni have approached me and told me that they would like to help out in recruiting, but that they were too old or too far removed from the Corps today. Nonsense. Our mission as cadet alumni is to be ambassadors for the program. You do not have to be a VTCC policy expert to tell a high school student, their parents, their teachers, or their band directors what the Corps of Cadets did to enhance the start you got on the success experienced in your life. If the conversation gets to a level of detail about the Corps that exceeds your knowledge, you can always refer prospective cadets to [vtcc.vt.edu](http://vtcc.vt.edu) or to the assistant commandant for recruiting, Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger.

Until next time, when we take on the how-to of recruiting in paragraph three: Execution.

*Ut Prosim.*

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, SPRING 2018



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **BRIAN KEHS**

Cadet Col. Brian Kehs of Haddon Township, New Jersey, earned a degree in microbiology with a minor in leadership studies. He commissioned into the U.S. Army as an armor officer. He joined the Corps of Cadets because he was eager to challenge himself with a non-traditional college lifestyle and had an urge to serve his

country. He served as the Band-Bravo Company first sergeant, 3rd Battalion commander, and Echo first sergeant for his Army company. Kehs is a proud Highty-Tighty and the recipient of an Army ROTC four-year scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **IAN CAMPBELL**

Cadet Lt. Col. Ian J. Campbell of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, earned a degree in economics and a minor in leadership studies. He commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Campbell joined the Corps of Cadets to challenge himself both physically and mentally. He

served Delta Company as the commander and first sergeant in the 2017 and 2016 fall semesters, respectively. He is a recipient of a National Marine Corps ROTC Scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **JACOB MCCORMICK**

Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob McCormick of Lynchburg, Virginia, earned degrees in criminology and sociology with minors in leadership, peace studies, and violence prevention and was a member of the VPI Battalion/Citizen-Leader Track. He has been accepted into Navy Officer Candidates School, where he will commission as an

officer upon completion. McCormick served as 2nd Battalion commander and VPI Battalion sergeant major and battalion commander. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leaders Scholarship and the Ed Norwood Scholarship for Cadets of Leadership Potential.

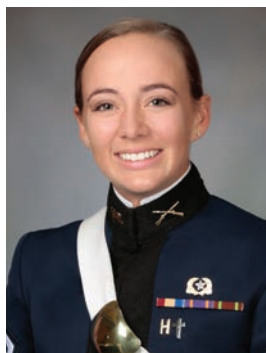


THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **MICHAEL D'AVELLA**

Cadet Lt. Col. Michael D'Avella of Glen Gardner, New Jersey, earned a degree in computer science with a minor in leadership studies. He commissioned into the U.S. Air Force and will attend pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. D'Avella joined the Corps of Cadets

to challenge himself as a leader and prepare for service in the military. D'Avella served as the Kilo Company first sergeant during the fall 2016 semester and the 3rd Battalion sergeant major in the spring. He is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

## COMMAND STAFF, SPRING 2018



Regimental Executive Officer  
Joelle Pond  
Economics  
Suffolk, Virginia  
Army



Regimental Adjutant  
Jordan Wirth  
Meteorology  
Front Royal, Virginia  
Air Force



Regimental Public Affairs  
Officer  
Natalie Rosas  
Meteorology  
Leesburg, Virginia  
Air Force



Regimental Operations Officer  
Fabio Brocco  
Building Construction  
Newland, North Carolina  
Army



Regimental Supply and Finance  
Officer  
Stephen O'Brien  
Civil Engineering  
Westford, Massachusetts  
Army



Regimental Academics Officer  
Brian Welch  
Computer Engineering  
Alexandria, Virginia  
Army



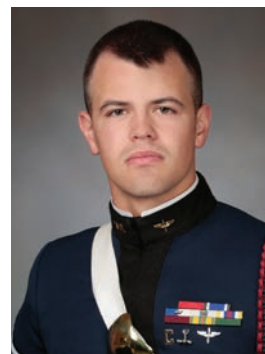
Regimental Sergeant Major  
John Holland  
Finance and Management  
McLean, Virginia  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Inspector General  
Spenser Sheldon  
Landscaping Horticulture and  
Design  
Seville, Ohio  
Citizen-Leader Track



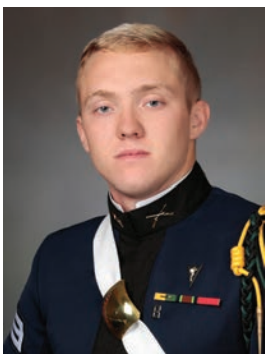
Regimental Alumni Liaison  
Officer  
Nicholas Huffman  
Geology  
Seattle, Washington  
Navy



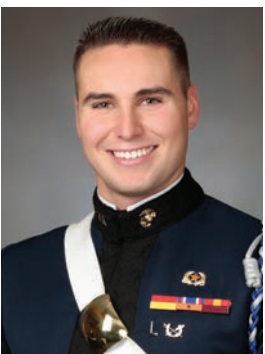
Exec Committee Chairman  
Austin Shumate  
Sustainable Biomaterials  
Fishersville, Virginia  
Air Force



VPI Battalion Commander  
Clare Levy  
Human Development  
Newport News, Virginia  
Citizen-Leader Track



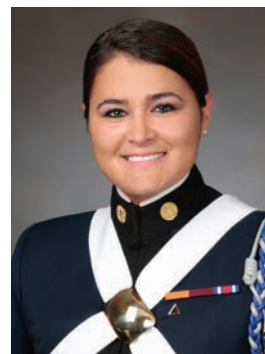
Army Battalion Commander  
Robert Delaney  
Finance  
Gainesville, Virginia  
Army



Navy Battalion Commander  
Quinton Cookis  
History  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Marines

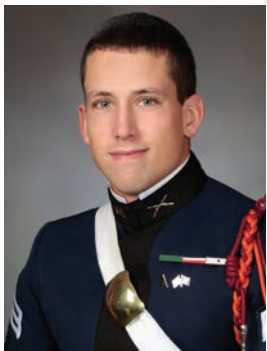


Air Force Wing Commander  
John Gogal  
Meteorology  
Haymarket, Virginia  
Air Force



Regimental Growley Handler  
Eleanor Franc  
Political Science  
Washington, D.C.  
Citizen-Leader Track





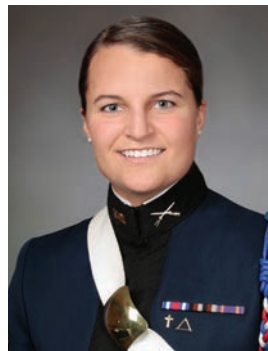
Alpha Company Commander  
Christopher Newell  
Political Science  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
Army



Bravo Company Commander  
Terry Evans  
Building Construction  
Spotsylvania, Virginia  
Navy



Charlie Company Commander  
Jordan Bliss  
Computer Engineering  
Smithsburg, Maryland  
Marines



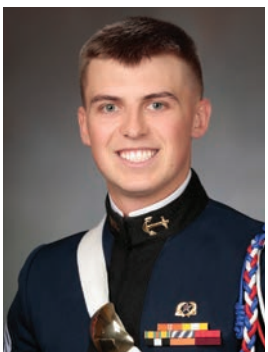
Delta Company  
Commander  
Casandra Soper  
Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Spotsylvania, Virginia  
Army



Echo Company Commander  
Dimosthenis Doulamis  
Human Development  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
Air Force



Foxtrot Company Commander  
Joshua Porter  
Political Science  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Navy



Golf Company Commander  
Benjamin Reilly  
Ocean Engineering  
Clayton, North Carolina  
Navy



Hotel Company Commander  
Grant Phillips  
Real Estate  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Navy



India Company Commander  
Nicholas Masella  
Political Science  
Port Charlotte, Florida  
Citizen-Leader Track



Kilo Company Commander  
Matthew Remson  
History  
Potomac, Maryland  
Air Force



Lima Company Commander  
Amanda Jacobson  
Industrial and Systems  
Engineering  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
Air Force



Band Commander  
Camillus Huggins  
International Studies  
Roanoke, Virginia  
Army



Band Alpha Commander  
Daniel McDonough  
Aerospace Engineering  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Navy



Band Bravo Commander  
Christopher Selig  
Mechanical Engineering  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Army



Drum Major  
Kendall Romaine  
History  
Laurinburg, North Carolina  
Army

# CLASS NOTES

## 1950s



**Don Sowder '59** and wife, Mary, at right, meet Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart and wife, Kathy, at a recent Ut Prosim Society event in Washington, D.C.

## 1980s



Maj. Gen. Tracy A. Thompson, at right, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Reserve Command headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, delivers the Oath of Commissioned Officers to newly promoted **Maj. Gen. Kenneth H. "Ritche" Moore '85**. Moore, special assistant to the commander at U.S. Africa Command based in Stuttgart, Germany, pinned on his second star in a small ceremony. (U.S. Army Photo)

## 2000s



**Kristen Meister '07**, at left, greeted cadets taking a tour of the White House. She has held a variety of assignments with the Department of Defense and is currently the senior duty officer in the White House Situation Room.



From left, U.S. Navy Lt. Nate Whitelaw VT'10, **Lt. Bryan Glock '09**, and **Lt. Chris Lester '10** graduated from the Submarine Officer Advanced Course at Groton, Connecticut. Whitelaw is going to the U.S.S. Maryland as a navigator, Glock to the U.S.S. Maine as the weapons officer, and Lester to the U.S.S. Louisiana as an engineer.

## 2010s



**Lt. Jessica Luehrs, '10**, at left, stands with Lt. Ashlee Goodwin VT'10 in Honduras during Operation Continuing Promise.



**Lt. Ethan Yelverton '13**, at left, and Ensign Leland Remias VT'17 aboard the USS Forrest Sherman. Yelverton is the antisubmarine warfare officer, and Remias is the electrical officer.



**Capt. Catherine Coyner '13**, at right, was named distinguished honor graduate of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School's Captains Career Course on April 6. Coyner also received a Chemical Corps



Regimental Association plaque and a certificate of achievement for excellence. Family and friends attending the graduation included her husband, **Jesse Coyner '12**, and their daughter, Anna.



**Tristan Davey '14** graduated Air Force Officer Training School in spring 2017 and is stationed at the 28th Operational Weather Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, as a weather officer.



Former Highty-Tighty Drum Major **Alex Granata '15**, at right, was promoted to first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Granata is the executive officer for the Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Lt. Col. Charles Payne, deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion, presided.



**Lt. Luke Forand '15** ran into **Maj. Erikson McCleary '06** at Camp Dahlike, Afghanistan. McCleary was one of Forand's Army ROTC instructors at



Virginia Tech. Lesson learned from this: Always carry a Virginia Tech flag with you on deployment, just in case.



This picture was taken at Camp Casey, South Korea, shortly after **Lt. Cmdr. David Diaz '98**, at left, promoted **Brett Romig '16** to first lieutenant. Both Highty-Tighties, Diaz is Romig's battalion commander and says he is "the prime example of the moral and ethical leader that the VTCC produces."



U.S. Army **1st Lt. Wes Russell '16**, at left, and U.S. Air Force **2nd Lt. Evan Patoray '16** are deployed to an undisclosed location in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.



**Lt. Leah Roberts '17**, at left, and **Lt. Nick McLernon '17**, both in training at Tyndall Air Force Base, show their Hokie pride during McLernon's call sign night.



From left, **Gregory Milhiser '17**, **Nicholas Gude '17**, **Benjamin Paddock '17**, and **Zachery Scott '17** complete the 5-month-long Army Armor Officer Basic Training Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

*Submit your deployments, job and rank changes, awards and honors, family announcements, photos, and other news at [vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes](http://vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes).*



Still going strong, Army ROTC proudly commissioned 76 new lieutenants this year, 68 of whom commissioned on May 11, three this past December, and five more will join the ranks this summer.

## ARMY ROTC NEWS

Army ROTC cadets had plenty of opportunities to learn through experiences this semester.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHICS IN AMERICA

*By Cadet Michael Marino '19*

My experience attending the National Conference on Ethics in America at West Point was both surprising and enlightening.

There were a variety of speakers there who provided an even wider variety of ideas on questions ranging from what ethics actually are to their role in society. These speakers included renowned military leaders such as Gen.

Raymond Odierno and Gen. Robert Caslen, as well as civilian leaders such as Christian Picciolini and Trisha Prabhu.

Although I learned a great deal of life and leadership lessons, the one I would like to offer is the idea that ethics cannot be clearly defined or quantified.

Throughout the conference, we discussed definitions and approaches to ethics. Although many of them were strong definitions and held a great deal of truth, not one definition could deliver you the entire message in one sentence.

I have come to believe, vague as it may seem, ethics are a commitment that must come from the heart and are rooted in the specific beliefs that each

individual deems to be the most important. Ethics are the commitment to choose the harder right over the easier wrong in every situation, no matter the consequences.

### GEORGE C. MARSHALL CONFERENCE

*By Cadet Brian Kehs '18*

The George C. Marshall Conference took place over four days at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, at the Command and General Staff College.

Countless amazing Army leaders, including Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, Lt. Gen. Mark Twitty, and Gen. David Perkins, spoke

to a group of 300 cadets from across the nation about the many lessons they have learned over their careers in the Army. They shared advice they wish they had known when they first commissioned and gave tips on how to be successful second lieutenants.

We learned from first-hand accounts about the battles of Thunder Run and Najaf and the takeaways each leader had from both of those successful operations.

The focus of the conference was on emotional intelligence, which is the ability to recognize emotions in oneself and in others and to use them to guide behavior and influence others. The Army has realized the importance of this topic for leadership success, so as future Army leaders, we were taught ways to employ the concept of emotional intelligence during our careers.

The experience of attending the George C. Marshall Conference assisted me immensely in my professional development and made me eager for the opportunity to commission into the Army and lead soldiers in the very near future.

## THE BIG EVENT AT VIRGINIA TECH

The Big Event is a student-run volunteer event that happens once a year, and this year's took place April 8. This event allows the student body of Virginia Tech to connect with area residents and give back to the community by doing various service projects.

Fifty-five of our Army cadets jumped at the chance to help local residents, demonstrating what Army ROTC is all about, namely service before self. Cadets worked on four projects, one of which had cadets working on a farm where they did things such as tearing down old fencing, stacking firewood, and other small tasks that would have taken weeks.

The farm owner was impressed by the cadets' dedication and positive attitude. Thanks to the cadets' help, he would be able to start laying his corn seed a whole month earlier. Through The Big Event, our cadets were able to serve the community and build trust with the American people.

*Ut Prosim!*



Fifty-five Army cadets volunteered with The Big Event at Virginia Tech this spring. The goal of the student-run community service effort is to say thank you to the community, and it is the second-largest of its kind in the nation.





Major events for the Naval ROTC this past semester included Senior Dining-In, at left, and Raider Mess Night, at right.

# NAVAL ROTC NEWS

## NOTRE DAME LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*By Midshipman Madison Howell '19*

Five Virginia Tech midshipmen, along with Lt. Michael May '10 traveled to Notre Dame University on Feb. 8 for the 23rd annual Naval Leadership Weekend.

The theme for the weekend was “One Team, One Fight,” and it emphasized the combined efforts of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps to defend our country. The midshipmen were able to listen and ask questions to several excellent and inspiring leaders, including Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven Giordano, Sgt. Maj. Donna Dunbar, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and the co-founder of Keurig. At the end of the weekend, the Notre Dame midshipmen led discussions on ethics and featured a junior officer panel.

After the weekend, the midshipmen were able to take the advice and suggestions from the speakers and bring them back to share with their fellow shipmates.

## RAIDER MESS NIGHT

*By Midshipman Ian Campbell '18*

On March 16, members of Raider Company gathered at the German Club Manor to hold their annual Mess Night. It is considered a formal gathering with the purpose of recog-

nizing and practicing some of the Marine Corps’ traditions to pay respect to the Marines that have come before the current Raiders.

The event gave the Raiders the opportunity to gather and socialize with their brothers and sisters in the company. Members of the mess arrived early for a social hour and then were marched into the mess hall. Upon taking their seats, they were served dinner and dessert.

After the meal, they conducted a fining period. It was an opportunity for Raiders to poke fun at and punish one another for prior actions by means of a small monetary fine or a drink from the grog, a mystery substance assembled by the vice president of the mess.

After the fining period was over, the Raiders took the opportunity to pay respects to past and present Marines by means of toasts. The toasts honor Marines as far back as the Revolutionary War and as recent as the Marines currently deployed.

After the toasts were completed, the Raiders were privileged to hear some brief comments from the guest of honor, dismissed, and gathered outside for additional socializing.

One of the truly unique traditions of the Raider Company Mess Night is that each year, the senior midshipmen who are graduating are permitted to invite their fathers to attend the event so that they may see and partake in many of the tra-

ditions discussed previously. Overall, the event was a huge success and truly embodied the spirit of brotherhood that the Marine Corps is known for.

## SENIOR DINING-IN

*By Midshipman Hanna Kobayashi '19*

On April 13, the seniors and fifth-years in battalion held their annual Senior Dining-In at the German Club Manor. Senior Dining-In is designed to boost camaraderie within the senior and fifth-year classes, and it congratulates the midshipmen who are commissioning on all their hard work in a formal setting. Cocktail hour began at 5 p.m., and, during that time, many of the midshipmen had the opportunity to talk to the guest speaker, Vice Adm. David Architzel (retired).

The meal began at the end of cocktail hour, when everybody marched to their seats. Midshipman Quinton Cookis '18 served as Mr. President and opened the floor for fining, once the food was served. Fining is an opportunity for midshipmen to roast each other and make each other pay their dues for prior actions with a dollar fine and a drink from the grog.

After the fining period was over, the midshipmen gave various toasts throughout the dinner, and the guest speaker delivered his remarks to the midshipmen. At the end of the

night, the seniors and fifth-years had one last hurrah together and then dismissed. Everyone who attended agreed that the event was a huge success.

## FAREWELL, LIEUTENANTS

Lt. Michael May '10 transferred to the unit in July 2016. He served as the Alpha Company advisor, nuclear programs officer, NUCSOC advisor, academics officer, summer cruise coordinator, funeral honors coordinator, and the information systems officer. He additionally earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering during his tour of duty. His next assignment will be attending the Submarine Officer Advanced Course in Groton, Connecticut, in preparation for assignment as a department head in September. He will be greatly missed. Fair winds and following seas!

Lt. Chet Fearon transferred to the unit in May 2015. He served as the Charlie Company advisor, recruiting officer, and command fitness leader, among other responsibilities. He additionally earned a master's degree in human systems integration from the Naval Postgraduate School during his tour of duty. His next assignment will be as a "shooter" on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower out of Norfolk, Virginia. Fearon and his mustache will be greatly missed. Fair winds and following seas!

# NAVY SEAL CANDIDATES FIND SUCCESS

Of the 18 ROTC students chosen to train as U.S. Navy SEALs this year, four are from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Naval ROTC.

Another six Hokies are among the 53 men and women nationwide to begin the rigorous SEAL selection process.

In fact, in the last two years no ROTC program in the country has had more students selected for SEAL training than Virginia Tech.

A seventh cadet was accepted as a candidate for the Navy's specialized Explosive Ordnance Disposal program. Successful technicians are trained to disarm improvised explosive devices, neutralize chemical threats, and render safe nuclear weapons.



Midshipmen train in the War Memorial Gym pool.

The students' success is a testament to their character and dedication to training and to a program that is growing stronger every year, said Capt. Michael Fisher, Commanding Officer of Naval ROTC.

SEALs (Sea, Air, and Land teams) are the Navy's most elite special operations force. Candidates come from the Navy's Officer Candidate School, the U.S. Naval Academy, the Navy's ROTC programs at 166 colleges and universities across the country, and from applicants already serving with naval units.

Between 40 and 50 ROTC applicants are selected for SEAL Officer Assessment Selection each summer. From those candidates, only half will continue to the next year's Basic Underwater Demolition School.

The 11 cadets selected for training are members of the Naval Special Preparatory Team, a small specialty group within the corps and the Naval ROTC.



Cadets Kavlin Yuan '21, Justin Clipson '20, and Antonio Marrero '19 carry Cadet Logan Zook '17 during the self aid buddy care exercise at the spring Air Force Training Exercise.

## AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Sydney Tinker '20

This past year has been an extremely rigorous but rewarding time for Air Force ROTC Detachment 875.

This semester our wing commander, Cadet John Gogal '18, challenged the wing to achieve an average of a 97 on the physical fitness assessment taken in February. The wing proved itself by scoring a 96.1 which ranked us fifth out of 145 detachments across the nation, even though we are the sixth largest detachment in the country!

In addition, Detachment 875 was honored to have Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright speak to the cadets about the future of the Air Force. We have had an amazing opportunity this year to hear from many other outstanding speakers including, Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II '83, Brig. Gen. Billy D. Thompson, and Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Davis.

Also, the cadets organized two major training events, War-

rior Day and Air Force Training Exercise, the second being a two-day event at the nearby Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Both events were very successful, and the dedicated efforts of the upperclassmen have made sure the current sophomore class is ready to head to field training this summer and show the rest of the country that Detachment 875 is the best alive!

To wrap up the year, the detachment held a Combat Dining In underneath Lane Stadium, making a hanger-like atmosphere for this fun morale event. We were honored to have Air Force Lt. Col. Don Russell (retired), the Corps of Cadets' Citizen-Leader Track deputy commandant, as our guest speaker.

Thanks to the support of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Detachment 875 was able to send cadets to an array of leadership conferences at the Citadel, the Air



Force Academy, the Virginia Military Institute, and the U.S. Naval Academy. These conferences allow our cadets the opportunity to hear from influential speakers, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Vice President Dick Cheney, and many more.

In addition, 10 cadets were able to attend the Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida, where they were able to hear the latest updates from the chief of staff of the Air Force, the secretary of the Air Force, as well as the commanders from multiple major commands. Finally, six cadets were able to represent our local Thomas C. Richards Squadron at the Arnold Air Society National Convention in New Orleans.

This year Detachment 875 commissioned 41 cadets. This exceptional group of individuals have worked diligently for this day. Cadet Michael Magill '18 was selected for Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Cadet Michael Sherburne '17 and Cadet Kavi Muraleetharan '17 were selected for graduate school at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Cadet Mary Claire Ragan '18 was accepted into the Judge Advocate General's Corps Education Delay program. This is an incredibly rare opportunity that only five cadets in the country earned. She will be attending law school after graduation.

As this year came to a close, we said a hard goodbye to many cadre members at Detachment 875, including Col. Cameron Torrens, Lt. Col. Rob Ward, and Capt. Saira McGan.

Torrens is retiring from the Air Force after 30 years of service and is currently enjoying his transition to retirement by hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Ward will be retiring as well after 25 years of service in the operations field. He's not exactly sure what he's going to do when he retires, but says, "I'm ready to figure out what I want to do when I grow up," which he says could be anything from writing a mystery novel to helping with JROTC.

After serving with Detachment 875 for three years, McGan will be leaving to continue her logistics career in South Dakota at Ellsworth Air Force Base. She is primarily excited to "be around airmen again and to have a direct impact on the mission overseas." Detachment 875 has taught her about teaching and the new generation of airman coming into the Air Force.

McGan leaves the cadets at Detachment 875 with one piece of advice before departing, "Take care of your airmen, and they will take care of you."



Cadets Rebecca Leonard '18, Jonathan Martell '20, and Brandon Tull '18 present Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright with an appreciation gift from Detachment 875.



Cadet Matthew Mumbach '18 attempts to ride the mechanical shark during the annual Air Force Dining-In.

# FOSTERING PHILANTHROPY



Cadet Annie Ha '19 talks with guests at the Ut Prosim Society Celebration on April 28.

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

DOES THE DIFFERENCE  
THE VIRGINIA TECH  
CORPS OF CADETS  
MADE IN YOUR LIFE AND  
ITS ONGOING IMPACT  
ON TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS MAKE YOU  
WANT TO GIVE BACK?

Partner with us to create more global, ethical leaders.

Whether you wish to make an annual contribution, establish an endowment, donate Corps memorabilia, or foster connections for a cadet seeking an internship or job, you can take on a powerful role.

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Endowments** are an enduring investment in the future of the Corps. They provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding. Endowed gifts are invested and each year a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000.

**Annual gifts** of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made one time or arranged to be made on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March.

You can also support the Corps in many other ways by donating:

- Securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- Real estate, including both present and future interests
- Gifts-in-kind of tangible property, such as works of art or historic memorabilia

## IN MEMORY / IN HONOR

Scholarships, endowed positions, Corps facilities, or programs may be named after special individuals. Gifts may be made to honor a loved one or someone who inspires you.

## EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Donors who wish to support the Corps often can provide more substantial support with the assistance of a matching company gift. Before making your gift, please check to see if your company provides a matching contribution. Our web page at [givingto.vt.edu/match](http://givingto.vt.edu/match) can help you find out.

## GIFT PLANNING OPTIONS

If you are 70 1/2 or older, consider using a charitable IRA rollover to make a gift that can count toward your required minimum distribution without it being taxed as income. There are many additional options for leaving a powerful, wisely arranged legacy through planned gifts to the Corps.

Are you looking for a way to pass on some of your assets to your family while reducing or eliminating gift or estate taxes? Are you interested in a fixed income and avoidance of capital gains taxes? We encourage you to reach out to find out your options.

Some of these are:

- Designating the Corps of Cadets as the beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy

- Utilizing a gift model such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, charitable lead trust, or IRA rollover

## OTHER WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED

- Become a Class Champion
- Help create a cadet internship opportunity
- Host an alumni event at your home or business
- Keep your contact information current

*For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact us at 800-533-1144, 540-231-2892, or [vtcc@vt.edu](mailto:vtcc@vt.edu). More information is available at [vtcc.vt.edu/give](http://vtcc.vt.edu/give).*



The Corps of Cadets Advancement Team includes, from left, Col. Patience Larkin '87, Kerry Meier, Shay Barnhart, Michele Messner, Samantha Riggan, Col. Robert "Scott" Lyman '84, and Sandi Bliss.

## Keep In Touch

As you move or change duty stations throughout your career, make sure you continue to get the Corps Review and other university and Corps information.

Update your contact information at [alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html](http://alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html) or by email to [alumnidata@vt.edu](mailto:alumnidata@vt.edu).





# T.O. WILLIAMS III '59 1937-2018

By Lt. Col. Gary Lerch '72, U.S. Army Reserve (retired)

Col. Thomas Owen “T.O.” Williams III '59 died March 10. He was 80.

Williams led the Highty-Tighties as drum major in 1959, his senior year, and remained dedicated to Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets throughout his life.

After graduation, he commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a pilot. He served for 27 years, and his command positions included flying tours during the Vietnam War, as well as deputy commander for operations of the 1st Special Operations Wing in Hurlburt Field, Florida; the senior U.S. defense representative in Khartoum, Sudan; and commander at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2007, I was a member of the Virginia Corps of Cadets Alumni Association Inc. (VTCAA), but my participation was limited to attendance to the two meetings per year. One day, my phone rang at work at the Defense Logistics Agency and the conversation went something like this:

“Hello?”

“Gary Lerch, this is T.O. Williams!”

“Hi, T.O.”

“Gary, I am calling to inform that you are the unanimous choice of the VTCCA Executive Committee to be vice chairman!” Then he quickly added — almost under his breath — “Of course, you realize that this means that you soon become our

next chairman.”

“T.O. – this is quite an honor, but I don’t think that most of those folks even know me.”

Pause.

“Well, that question did come up, but they said that if it is OK with me, then it is OK with them!”

And so began my close involvement with the VTCCA Inc., for which I am sincerely indebted to T.O. I had the great fortune to work closely with a host of great Corps alumni from many different classes and experiences. For this, I am forever grateful.

More importantly, the conversation is an example of his personality and his absolute enthusiasm for all things Virginia Tech and Corps of Cadets.

T.O. Williams first arrived in Blacksburg in the fall of 1955.

A scrappy kid from Portsmouth, Virginia, he took offense to being called a rat by an upperclassman and unwisely responded with a much stronger epithet. Despite the rocky start, he excelled as a cadet, and especially as a member of the Highty-Tighties.

Upon retirement from the Air Force in 1986, like many of his peers, he considered becoming an airline pilot, but his wife, the late Frances Shealor Williams, being a native of Blacksburg, informed him that, after following him all over the world, it was her turn to pick their home. So, to the great fortune of Virginia Tech, they returned to Blacksburg.

Williams, having proven himself to be a highly skilled com-

bat pilot and leader, was about to demonstrate skills in fund raising and service to others.

Williams became involved with the Corps staff and fellow alumni to save the Corps. A key element of that effort was raising funds for Emerging Leader Scholarships, which reversed the declining enrollment and ensured that the Corps would survive and grow.

He became a university employee and continued to fund-raise for the Corps. He was also engaged in promotional efforts for both the Highty-Tighties and the German Club. His crowning achievement was to raise funds for a new alumni center. The Holtzman Alumni Center and Skelton Conference Center is a testimony to his fundraising talent and the generosity of numerous alumni. The facility is a living and lasting legacy to Williams.

Williams’ success can be attributed to his outgoing personality, his strength of character, his infectious love of Virginia Tech and the Corps, and his innate ability to make everyone feel special when talking to him.

His years of experience and network of friends and contacts made him an outstanding mentor to those who followed him. He was always very supportive and could provide gentle, but firm, guidance as to how to proceed.

His passing leaves us with sadness and a sense of loss; but we are also comforted by a richness of memories, jokes, stories, and sage advice. We will miss him but are extremely fortunate to have served with him.



A Highty-Tighty alumnus bagpiper, Heather Pastva '04, led Williams' funeral procession at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg, Virginia.

IN MEMORY



**JAMES F. BOONE '37**

**1915 - 2018**

James F. Boone died in Blacksburg, Virginia, on Feb. 6 at the age of 102. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1937 with a degree in business administration. Afterward, he moved back to his hometown of Ivor, Virginia, and took a bank job. In the early 1940s, he was elected mayor. He returned to Blacksburg and was the Virginia Tech treasurer from 1952 to 1982. He liked to tell tales of his days in the Corps of Cadets. His wife, Martha, preceded him in death. Survivors include a daughter and son.



**WILLARD GILLEY '43**

**1923 - 2018**

Willard Gilley died Feb. 10. He was born near Williamsburg, Virginia. Upon graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he entered Officer Candidates School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served in the 26th Army Infantry Division and was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star. After being wounded on the battlefield, he spent time at Valley Forge Army Hospital, where he met his first wife. They settled in Pennsylvania until returning to Williamsburg to enter the family dairy business. Survivors include his second wife, Elizabeth; five children; and two step-children.



**JOHN MARSHALL TRIMBLE '44**

**1922 - 2017**

U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. John Trimble (retired) died Dec. 25, 2017. He studied dairy science at Virginia Tech in 1940 but went on active duty for 3 1/2 years during wartime in 1943. He continued his service in the Army Reserves, retiring in 1972. He received his degree in 1947 then spent 25 years as manager of the Homestead Farms & Dairy and 14 years as the Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Bath County, Virginia. Survivors include his wife, Sue, and three children.



**ROBERT L. MOORE '52**

**1930 - 2018**

Lt. Gen. Robert "Bob" L. Moore (retired) died April 28. Moore was born July 6, 1930, in Bluefield, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in architecture in 1952 and commissioned into the U.S. Army. He commanded the 87th Engineer Battalion, Vietnam; the Division Support Command, 2nd Infantry Division Korea; the Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; and was deputy commanding general for RD&A at Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Virginia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Lee Montgomery. Survivors include their son and daughter.

## IN MEMORY



### J. WILLIAM BRICKER '53

1931 - 2017

U.S. Army Lt. Col. J. William "Bill" Bricker (retired) died Dec. 19, 2017. Born and raised in Radford, Virginia, he was a distinguished military graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Following a proud Army career of 25 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam, he entered civilian life and made Augusta, Georgia, his home. An avid gardener and organic pioneer, he embarked on a second career by founding Brinko Farms in 1977. He and his wife, Lou, enjoyed traveling together, and he was passionate about golf. He is survived by three sons.



### ROBERT STANLEY PARROTT JR. '56

1934 - 2017

Robert Parrott died Dec. 11, 2017. He graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy and received his bachelor of science degree from Virginia Tech in 1956. He was also an alumnus of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Virginia. He always considered one of his greatest achievements his service on Gov. Mills Godwin's task force "Bonds for Education" that helped establish Virginia's Community College System. He retired from Roy Wheeler Realty Company in 1991. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, LaVerne; a daughter; and son.



### DONALD LEE SAGE '56

1935 - 2018

Don Sage died April 4. He was born in Palm Beach, Florida, but was raised in Richmond, Virginia. A dedicated Hokie, he graduated with a degree in industrial engineering. After a 38-year career with AT&T that earned him numerous professional accolades, including the Society of Manufacturing Engineers' LEAD Award for Integrated Manufacturing, he retired in 1994. He gave generously of his time and talents to multiple organizations and causes, including the Telephone Pioneers and Virginia Tech. He is survived by his wife, Mary Etta Sage, and three children.



### RICHARD C. CHIN '59

1935 - 2017

Richard Chin died Nov. 7, 2017. He was born in New York City but spent half the year on the family farm in New Jersey raising vegetables. While at Virginia Tech, he was in the Army ROTC program and the Pershing Rifles' Drill Team. After graduating with a degree in construction management, he was commissioned and assigned to the 82nd Airborne. He qualified in helicopters, when he joined the 1st Armored Division. He attained the rank of captain, was certified as a paratrooper, and earned aviator wings. Following his military service, he joined the Honeywell Corporation from which he retired. He is survived by two brothers and a sister.



## **RICHARD EARL SMITH '63**

**1940 - 2018**

Richard Smith died on Feb. 12. He earned his degree in electrical engineering from VPI. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of captain. The next 34 years of his career were spent working in various engineering and scientific roles with both the Air Force and Army. He was a loving and devoted family man who enjoyed telling tales of his time at Virginia Tech, including such antics as rescuing the Hokie turkey from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He is survived by his wife, Jayne Myers Smith; four children; and two step-sons.



## **RICHARD E. BASS '65**

**1938 - 2018**

Richard E. Bass of Blacksburg, died on Feb. 10. He received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and was a proud member of the German Club and Eighty-Tighties. Much of his life was devoted to public education, where he served in teaching and administrative positions. During his later years, he shared his deep knowledge of Virginia Tech history as a campus tour bus driver and chauffeur. Survivors include his two daughters.



## **BALLARD RAYMOND PARKER '65**

**1943 - 2018**

Ballard Parker died Feb. 13. Raised in Lynchburg, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in business administration and was a member of C Squadron in the Corps of Cadets. He enjoyed a 43-year career as a senior vice president in charge of institutional trading for major financial institutions in Richmond, Virginia. He was active in his church, community, and civic organizations. Survivors include his childhood sweetheart and wife of 52 years, Betty Williams Parker, and two daughters.



## **LAWRENCE E. LAUGHON '60**

**1938 - 2017**

Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Laughon died April 8, 2017. He was four days short of his 79th birthday. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1960 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1971 as a pilot, flight instructor, and test pilot for North American Rockwell. He served three tours in Vietnam. He later owned and managed restaurants for 20 years and completed his career in the insurance industry. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, a daughter, and a son.

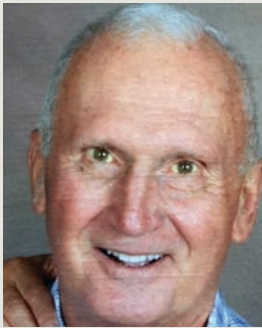




## **MICHAEL JOSEPH HVOZDOVIC '65**

**1943 - 2017**

U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Joseph Hvozdovic (retired) died Nov. 21, 2017. Born in 1943 he was raised in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. He entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute as a cadet and offensive/defensive guard for the Hokies. He graduated with a degree in industrial arts. Commissioned in 1966, he served as detachment commander, squadron commander, and communications electronic inspector for the Air Force Inspector General. He served in the White House Communications Agency under President Ronald Reagan and as executive officer for the secretary of the Air Force. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Joan Hvozdovic, and three daughters.



## **WILLIAM A. STEIGER III '69**

**1947 - 2018**

U.S. Army Col. William "Bill" Steiger III (retired) died March 2. He attended Virginia Tech on a ROTC scholarship, where he was a member of the Gregory Guard, Cotillion Club, and, as a senior, the Regimental S-3 of the Corps of Cadets. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an infantry officer. He saw action in both Cambodia and Vietnam. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Wendy Ostertag Steiger, and a son and a daughter.



## **PEGGY CONWAY REED**

**1940 - 2018**

Peggy Conway Reed, of Waynesboro, Virginia, died Jan. 14. She was a devoted friend and supporter of the Corps of Cadets and the widow of Highty-Tighty alumnus, Ray Reed '57. She had worked at E.I. DuPont Co. for more than 38 years. She served her community, church, and civic organizations in many leadership roles. She will be sorely missed by the Corps and the many cadets who received the Reeds' Emerging Leader Scholarship. The Reeds also supported the annual trip of all first-year cadets to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. She is survived by their daughter.

## LEST WE FORGET

William E. Harvey '35, Lynchburg, Virginia, 12/28/2017  
Horace T. Ayres '37, Las Vegas, Nevada, 11/17/2017  
Charles S. Brown '41, Williamsburg, Virginia, 12/9/2017  
Howard J. Graninger '41, Columbus, Indiana, 1/8/2018  
James R. Craddock '42, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2/22/2018  
Chapman M. Hale Jr. '42, Kingsport, Tennessee, 2/20/2018  
Henry W. Hoffman '42, Grottoes, Virginia, 12/21/2017  
Robert R. Kidd '43, Orange, Connecticut, 4/26/2016  
Emmett G. Taylor Jr. '43, Temperance, Virginia,  
11/17/2017  
Philip R. Compton '44, Warrenton, Virginia, 11/21/2017  
William C. Lucas Jr. '44, Du Bois, Pennsylvania, 3/9/2018  
Fitzhugh Mayo '44, Winchester, Virginia, 11/11/2017  
Frank H. McFadden '44, Salem, Virginia, 10/13/2017  
Robert B. Delano Sr. '45, Warsaw, Virginia, 12/5/2017  
William H. Deierhoi Jr. '45, Westlake, Ohio, 7/13/2017  
Raymond H. French Jr. '45, Orlando, Florida, 2/15/2017  
James W. Sink '45, Rocky Mount, Virginia, 2/16/2018  
Charles E. Trumbo '45, Durham, North Carolina,  
11/18/2017  
Charles D. Easter '46, Blacksburg, Virginia, 10/3/2017  
Sanford J. Holzweig '46, Plano, Texas, 2/9/2018  
John W. Kimman Jr. '46, Fredericksburg, Virginia,  
10/28/2017  
Norman G. Lankford '46, Carrsville, Virginia, 1/14/2018  
Alan M. McKeithen '46, Saint Petersburg, Florida, 2/1/2018  
Horace M. Smythers '46, Roanoke, Virginia, 10/15/2017  
George R. Hayes '47, Gloucester, Virginia, 1/4/2018  
Bennett Nathanson '47, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania,  
1/18/2018  
Russell R. McDaniel '48, Roanoke, Virginia, 1/18/2018  
John W. Thomas Jr. '48, Rocky Point, North Carolina,  
10/26/2017  
Elmer F. Brogdon '49, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania,  
11/23/2017  
Moir E. Eanes '49, Lynchburg, Virginia, 10/12/2017  
David W. Jones '49, Charlottesville, Virginia, 3/20/2018  
Walker Anderson '50, Louisville, Colorado, 9/28/2017  
James L. Bullock '50, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 11/25/2017  
Walter V. Goyno '50, Mc Lean, Virginia, 12/9/2017  
Eric K. Newby Jr. '50, New York, New York, 12/18/2017  
James N. Sheppard '50, Buffalo Junction, Virginia,  
9/25/2017  
Joseph T. Walbert '50, Gainesville, Florida, 10/24/2017  
Walter J. Bronikowski '51, Brielle, New Jersey, 1/28/2018  
A. Bruce Crenshaw '51, Birmingham, Alabama, 12/2/2017  
William R. Eason '51, Buffalo Junction, Virginia, 12/9/2017  
Newton Elmore Jr. '51, Portsmouth, Virginia, 5/20/2017  
Donn R. Hobbs '51, Hudson, Ohio, 11/20/2017  
Randolph B. James '51, Salemburg, North Carolina,  
2/20/2018  
James E. Smith III '51, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 11/4/2017  
John H. Sturges Jr. '51, Williamstown, New Jersey,  
2/25/2017  
Kenneth L. Motley '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 12/20/2017  
Raymond H. Anderson Jr. '53, San Juan Capo, California,  
1/6/2018  
Joseph R. Barlow Jr. '53, Smithfield, Virginia, 12/24/2017  
Mike C. Chesson '53, Newport News, Virginia, 11/1/2017  
Horace B. Fitchett '53, New Bern, North Carolina,  
10/10/2017  
Robert O. Ferrell '54, Poquoson, Virginia, 10/5/2017  
Fred P. Kirkhart '54, Santa Rosa, Florida, 12/30/2017  
Perry A. Newcomb '54, Hilton Head, South Carolina,  
10/11/2017  
Hayden J. Silver Jr. '54, Williamsburg, Virginia, 9/28/2017  
Malcolm G. Stewart '54, Florence, South Carolina,  
1/8/2018  
Charles W. Strang Jr. '54, Prescott, Arizona, 1/19/2018  
Joseph L. Thompson '54, White Rock, New Mexico,  
6/8/2017  
Raymond D. Tyus '54, Henrico, Virginia, 1/17/2018  
Carl R. Yeary '54, Little Rock, Arkansas, 10/9/2017  
Harry E. Corr '55, Gloucester, Virginia, 2/11/2018  
John B. Hall Jr. '55, Yorktown, Virginia, 3/17/2018  
William P. Hundley Jr. '55, Richmond, Virginia,  
10/18/2017  
Allen H. Carroll '56, Lindale, Texas, 1/24/2018  
Lyman R. Comey '56, Chesapeake, Virginia, 10/17/2017  
John S. Dawson Jr. '56, Rochelle, Virginia, 1/12/2018  
James E. Turner Jr. '56, Suffolk, Virginia, 12/27/2017  
Albert E. Bailey III '57, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/14/2018

Samuel J. Harris III '57, Fountain Valley, California, 5/3/2017

Stanley A. Jacobson '57, Miami, Florida, 8/7/2017

Gradon O. Pendergraft Jr. '57, Stuarts Draft, Virginia, 2/14/2018

Clarence B. Robertson III '57, Crozier, Virginia, 1/27/2018

Ronald W. Simon '57, Urbanna, Virginia, 11/20/2017

Richard T. Biggs '58, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 2/21/2018

Charles E. Fultz '58, Leesville, South Carolina, 1/31/2018

Frederic W. Ganley Jr. '58, Arlington, Virginia, 1/11/2018

John E. Hinckle '58, Richmond, Virginia, 2/16/2018

Wiley B. Lewis '58, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1/25/2018

William S. Pugh '58, Lynchburg, Virginia, 2/15/2018

Herbert H. Snyder Jr. '58, Vinton, Virginia, 1/2/2018

William G. Wilson Sr. '58, New Bern, North Carolina, 3/10/2018

Robert L. Wood '58, Lynchburg, Virginia, 11/27/2017

Richard F. Ashton '59, Richmond, Virginia, 10/26/2017

George N. Clark '59, Silver Spring, Maryland, 12/31/2017

Robert S. Fulghum '59, Greenville, North Carolina, 11/25/2017

David C. Musick '59, Castlewood, Virginia, 10/14/2017

Arthur R. Soderberg '59, Basking Ridge, New Jersey, 10/11/2017

Thomas O. Williams III '59, Blacksburg, Virginia, 3/10/2018

Thomas C. Baker '60, Winchester, Virginia, 1/12/2018

Thomas E. Basham '60, Roanoke, Virginia, 5/22/2008

Samuel H. Camper '60, Sanford, North Carolina, 1/6/2018

Richard B. Crim '60, Summit Point, West Virginia, 12/30/2017

Robert A. Norman Jr. '60, Winchester, Virginia, 10/20/2017

Frank D. Porter III '60, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/19/2018

Donald W. Renfroe '60, Hudson, Florida, 5/13/2017

William J. Story III '60, Waverly, Virginia, 7/14/2017

Rotherme M. Duke Jr. '61, Midlothian, Virginia, 10/31/2017

Kenneth L. Garner '61, Norco, California, 9/19/2017

William E. Martin Jr. '61, Waleska, Georgia, 12/28/2017

Donald E. Simkins Jr. '61, Smithfield, Virginia, 11/17/2017

William D. Yancey '61, Stafford, Virginia, 10/20/2017

James H. Bradley Sr. '62, Danville, Virginia, 6/3/2017

Asghar Hasan '62, Burlington, New Jersey, 9/22/2017

Swanson D. Jennings '62, Stony Creek, Virginia, 10/9/2017

Donald G. McClintock '62, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2/4/2018

Robert L. Murray Jr. '62, Yorktown, Virginia, 11/21/2017

Wayne D. Purcell '62, Riner, Virginia, 2/17/2018

Noel D. Self '62, Norfolk, Virginia, 1/18/2018

David W. Wright '62, Montrose, Colorado, 2/19/2018

Carl A. Cox '63, Independence, Virginia, 12/1/2017

Paul N. Flynn '63, Alexandria, Virginia, 12/23/2017

William M. Gares Jr. '63, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 10/15/2008

Dennis M. Kamber '63, Poolesville, Maryland, 1/5/2018

Robert F. Mills II '63, Altamonte, Florida, 2/4/2017

Richard L. Puster '63, New Bern, North Carolina, 7/6/2017

Charles A. Trainum Jr. '63, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 10/7/2017

Welford L. Coutts Jr. '64, Clemmons, North Carolina, 1/31/2018

Philip A. Loving '64, Strasburg, Virginia, 12/22/2017

David D. Abbott '65, Chandler, Arizona, 12/19/2017

George S. Gillis '65, Atlanta, Georgia, 9/21/2017

Franklin E. Mayo '65, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, 1/2/2018

Ronald Stanley '65, Staunton, Virginia, 9/24/2017

Terrell A. Wright '65, Alexandria, Virginia, 7/31/2017

Juette O. Renalds III '66, Forest, Virginia, 2/25/2018

James E. Carlton '67, West Point, Virginia, 10/3/2017

Randolph R. Rankin '67, Ennis, Texas, 5/22/2016

Larry R. Coke '68, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, 9/27/2017

Stephen C. Winters '68, Yorktown, Virginia, 1/24/2018

Emory J. Dunning Jr. '69, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 12/18/2017

Julian H. Martin Jr. '72, Locust Grove, Virginia, 10/27/2017

Robert C. Gardner '83, Roanoke, Virginia, 1/17/2018

# COL. WESLEY L. FOX

## 1931-2017



By Col. R.S. “Rock” Roszak ’71,  
U.S. Air Force (retired)

Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine, and former deputy commandant for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Col. Wesley L. Fox died Nov. 24, 2017, in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was 86.

Fox enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1950 at the start of the Korean War. Months later he deployed to Korea as a rifleman, the first of many deployments in his 43-year career in the military. He spent the first 16 years as a noncommissioned officer, and, in addition to his combat assignments, he worked as a drill instructor, a recruiter, and as a military police officer.

In 1966, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

On Feb. 22, 1969, while serving as the commanding officer of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in the A Shau Valley, Vietnam, Fox’s unit was attacked. Despite injury, Fox led his men as they advanced through heavy fire. They eventually forced the North Vietnamese troops to retreat. Wounded again in a final assault, Fox continued to refuse medical attention and instead ensured that other wounded Marines were tended to and evacuated.

“His indomitable courage, inspiring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger inspired his Marines to such aggressive actions that they overcame all enemy



From 2001 to 2016, Col. Wesley L. Fox spoke to every first-year cadet class and took the time to shake the hand of each cadet.

resistance and destroyed a large bunker complex,” according to the Medal of Honor citation read by President Richard Nixon.

I will always remember that whenever he spoke of the honor, Wes always said there were those under his command who were more deserving and he was humbled to represent the sacrifices they made on that day.

He retired from the military in 1993 as a colonel and came to Virginia Tech, where he served as the deputy commandant of the corps’ 1st Battalion from 1993 to 2001. I had the privilege of working with him from 1994 until his retirement and being his friend from the day we met until his death.

Fond memories I have of Wes Fox, the man, are how he could still leave me in the dust on a staff run when he was 70 and him “cutting a rug” with his beloved Dottie Lu at countless Military Balls over the years to the joy and amusement

of everyone there.

After his retirement from the university, he remained a fixture within the Corps through leadership advice and mentorship to hundreds of cadets. A highlight of every cadet’s time at Virginia Tech between 2001 and 2016 was hearing Fox speak during their first year.

The life and leadership lessons Fox spoke of in those sessions exemplified what the aspiring young leader should strive for. He described Marines he worked under during his early years, comparing the authoritarian “leader,” who wielded power in a way that only produced fear and intimidation in his followers, with the true leader, who put the needs of his followers first and inspires his Marines to live up to his expectations.

“Colonel Fox will long be remembered for his love of country, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets,” said Maj. Gen. Ran-

dal Fullhart, commandant of cadets.

“Through his books and presence, he continued to touch every class that came through the corps. His friendship and mentorship will be greatly missed.”

Fox also traveled tirelessly as the living embodiment of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, acting as its regional director from 1999 to 2003 and again from 2007 to 2011.

Fox was the author of three books: “Marine Rifleman: Forty-Three Years in the Corps (Memories of War)” in 2002, “Courage and Fear” in 2007, and “Six Essential Elements of Leadership: Marine Corps Wisdom from a Medal of Honor Recipient” in 2011. His leadership book remains required reading for all first-year cadets.

Fox’s impact on a generation of Corps graduates is immeasurable, and I have never known a more exemplary symbol of the *Semper Fi* concept of honor and service.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES!



The graduation speaker and commissioning officer was Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson.



From left, Ian Campbell '18, Quinton Cookis '18, and Kyle Rushford '18 commission into the U.S. Marine Corps.



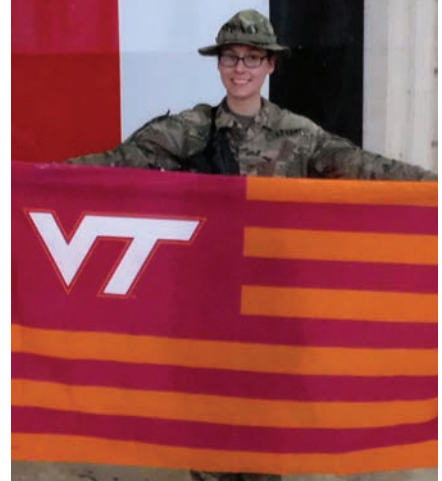
The Corps graduates and the newly commissioned officers fill the stage at the end of the ceremony.



Above: Cadet John Holland '19, at left, assumes command of the regiment from Cadet Brian Kehs '18 during the spring Change of Command Ceremony. At right, seniors throw their covers into the air at the conclusion of the ceremony.



STARTED IN 2006  
BY IMG SPORTS,  
THE HOKIE HEROES  
PROGRAM HONORS  
CORPS OF CADETS  
ALUMNI WHO ARE  
DEPLOYED DURING  
THE HOKIE FOOTBALL  
SEASON.



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Kevin Spaulding '15, who was deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division to Iraq, and 2nd Lt. Kacey Adams '16, who was deployed with the 10th Mountain Division to Iraq, were the Hokie Heroes for the Hokies' Dec. 28, 2017, Camping World Bowl game.

## Corps Reunion • Sept. 14-15, 2018

Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina



Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni return to campus to celebrate our annual Corps Reunion! This is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends who shared the cadet experience.

This year, registration opens at 3 p.m. Friday. After the Friday night Cadet Leadership Dinner we will hold a new, informal gathering, Last Call at Lane Hall.

Saturday will feature a reunion meal at The Inn at Virginia Tech (time TBD). This casual-dress event will include the opportunity to hear from Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart, as well as guest speaker David Lowe '63.

Plus, participate in a special annual tradition, the alumni regiment march-on into Lane Stadium before kickoff.

Please register online for Corps Reunion. You can choose the specific events you want to join and hats and polo shirts to be worn during the march-on. Prices for all events and merchandise can be found on the registration site.

If you have any questions, please contact the VTCC Alumni office at 540-231-7431.

**Corps Reunion Registration Website**

[www.alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/09/corps\\_of\\_cadets.html](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/events/2018/09/corps_of_cadets.html)

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