

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 31 NO. 2 FALL 2021



 **VIRGINIA**
TECH. ¹⁵⁰



Players dive into the Corps' section in Lane Stadium at the start of the homecoming football game against Pittsburgh. Photo by Victoria Ann '22.



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BUILDING ON 150 YEARS

Those of you who attended the Corps Reunion in September were treated to an amazing video about the first 150 years of the Corps of Cadets. Two years in the making, the video used the stories and photos of alumni and staff to highlight the values inscribed on the War Memorial Pylons.

We have shared it on our various social media channels for those who were unable to be on campus to watch it in person.

The show used the entire facade of Lane Hall as the “screen.” Of course, Lane Hall is the original Barracks No. 1, built in 1888 and now on the National Register of Historic Sites to be preserved.

Around Lane Hall, the university is building the home of the Corps of Cadets for the next 150 years: A new, 301-bed residence hall is rising on the northwest corner of the Upper Quad, and beside that is the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Both are scheduled for occupancy in the fall of 2023.

We are building the number of cadets in our program, as well. This fall, we topped 1,230 cadets on our way to a target of 1,400 cadets, also by the fall of 2023. We’ve added a fourth deputy commandant and are in the search for a fourth senior enlisted advisor as we get ready to build a new 4th Battalion and two more companies.

By now you’ve picked up on the multiple times I’ve used the word “build.”

When our vision statement, “Global, ethical leaders . . . now, more than ever,” was created, the latter part had two meanings.

First, it makes the point that we need ethical leaders with a global perspective to handle the challenges we are collectively facing more than ever in our history.

Second, those four words underscore the fact that an increasing number of young people are looking to become those leaders — each year, more than the last. Thank goodness and thank you.

That’s why we’re wearing hard hats around here.

We are building the future. Building great young people. Building inspiring facilities to support the mission. And with the help of amazing alumni and friends, raising the resources needed to do all those things with scholarships, with program endowments, and through annual giving.

So find yourself a hard hat, and let’s keep building!

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

The site of the
Corps Leadership
and Military Science
Building on Nov. 1.



UPPER QUAD UPDATE

With demolition of Femoyer Hall and the neighboring Art and Design Learning Center complete, construction crews are now focused on the first stages of building for the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Here is the work planned for the coming months:

The new building will be supported by 201 micropiles. Each is a 7-inch-wide steel pipe drilled 42+ feet into the ground and filled with a concrete-like grout.

DECEMBER

The west half of the structural steel will begin to be set for all three floors and the roof. Because the building will span over the existing Water Treatment Plant (not sit on top of it or touch it), the structural floor beams for the first floor are quite large. The longest single piece of steel is over 62 feet long and weighs over 10 tons!

JANUARY 2022

Work on the west side moves forward with completion of the structural steel and the start of framing for exterior walls, poured concrete floors, and the roof. Meanwhile, structural steel will begin to be set for the east half of the building.

FEBRUARY 2022

Work on the east side continues, including exterior walls, concrete floors, and roof. The building's two rooftop air conditioning system will be set.

MARCH 2022

The roof should be complete, and crews should be able to set the architectural precast concrete on the finished exterior walls for the west half. The largest piece is almost 30 feet tall. Toward the end of the month, 15,000+ square feet of Hokie Stone will arrive for the exterior walls.

Go to vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview for a similar timeline for the new Corps residence hall and a link to live video from both construction sites.

The architect's rendering of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.



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

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The Corps Review can be accessed online at www.vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview

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Front cover: A film celebrating 150 years of Corps of Cadets history is projected onto Lane Hall. Photo by Ivan Morozov.

Back cover: Col. Eric Dorminey '90 commissions 2nd Lt. Nicole Becker '21. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

FULL SPEED AHEAD

I am very humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve at a place that we all care so much about. Both previous alumni directors, Col. Rock Roszak '71 and Col. Patience Larkin '87, left some large shoes to fill, and they have turned over the products and insights to ensure that many of our successes of the past will continue in a positive trajectory during my tenure.

World events have caused us to relook at ways in which we get together, stay in contact, and celebrate. In true Corps of Cadets fashion, we not only survived, but thrived despite these obstacles. In fact, attendance at this past Corps Reunion increased 60 percent for Friday events and increased 20 percent for Saturday events compared with our last in-person reunion in 2019.

We have identified aspects of alumni events that work really well and are well-received, and we have identified some things that we want to tighten up and execute differently in the future.

As we strive to make alumni programs and events continuously better each year, there are a few things that we need your help with:

1. It is imperative that we have accurate contact information for you so that we can notify you about upcoming events and news. Please keep the alumni office aware as your contact information changes.

2. I challenge each one of you to check in with a classmate within one



Cmdr. Nate Brown (at center), the new alumni director for the Corps, talks with High-Tighty alumni during New Cadet Move-In in August.

- week of reading this note. If you are out of contact with your buds, please contact the alumni office at vtccalumni@vt.edu. We can assist in connecting you (with that person's permission, of course).

3. Stay linked to a couple of online resources, such as the Corps of Cadets website at vtcc.vt.edu, the commandant's Facebook page at facebook.com/cvtcc, and our official alumni facebook page at facebook.com/vtcca. We will continue to aggressively push information to you, but if you are not receiving information, please pull!

My job is to be your eyes and ears on Upper Quad while also being the eyes and ears for the commandant and the Corps' advancement office. Expect monthly e-mail updates from me (through your Class Champions) that

summarize what is happening on campus. If you don't start seeing this information, please notify us at vtccalumni@vt.edu.

Over the coming months, some of our events and mechanisms to maintain and strengthen our alumni network will look slightly different as we look to enhance your experience. It is my belief that your Hokie experience did not end at graduation.

Your time as a cadet and a student was the cost of admission to a lifetime Hokie experience. Don't miss out on what you paid for. Engage with alumni, attend events, stay CONNECTED!

Ut Prosim,

Cmdr. Nate Brown '98
nhbrown@vt.edu

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Nominations for the 2022 Distinguished Alumni of the Corps are due by Jan. 14, 2022.

Those recommended for this award should serve as inspiring examples for our alumni and cadets and embody the values found on Virginia Tech's Pylons.

Nominees must have been enrolled in the Corps of Cadets for a minimum of two years (four semesters or eight quarters). Complete instructions and forms can be found online at vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.

Questions should be directed to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

The award recipient(s) and nominator will be notified in early February.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some events on the horizon for this winter and spring:

- Fall Corps graduation, Dec. 17
- Spring Gunfighter Panel, Feb. 10, 2022
- Military Ball and Senior Banquet, Feb. 18, 2022
- Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series: Gen. Darren McDew, March 31, 2022
- 2022 Distinguished Alumni Awards, March 31, 2022
- Spring alumni board meeting, April 29, 2022
- Change of Command Parade, April 30, 2022
- Spring Corps graduation, May 13, 2022
- Virginia Tech Reunion Weekend, June 9-12, 2022

GET READY FOR GIVING DAY

Mark your calendars for Virginia Tech Giving Day, Feb. 23-24, 2022. Your donation to the Corps of Cadets on Giving Day directly supports our cadets on their journeys to become the next generation of leaders.

Giving Day brings together Hokies from all around the world to support the colleges, departments, programs, organizations, and teams that mean the most to them. Every gift, no matter the size, helps support students, cadets, faculty, and staff doing amazing things.

This year, the Corps of Cadets will bring back its popular Battle of the Decades, won last year by the Classes of the 2000s. The decade with the highest number of participants will earn funds for its decade's Class Endowed Scholarship provided by Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board members.

More details will be coming out in January 2022.



Irving L. Peddrew III '57 is interviewed at the Virginia Tech Newport News Center for a video that played at Ring Premiere. Photo courtesy of Mike Gallagher.

CLASS OF 2023 RING NAMESAKE

Irving L. Peddrew III '57, the first Black student to attend Virginia Tech, was named the class ring namesake for the Class of 2023. Peddrew was honored at Ring Premiere on Oct. 6, and will be at Ring Dance in March 2022.

In 1953, as a "rat" in the Corps and the only Black student at Virginia Tech, Peddrew said he was treated no worse and no better than any of the other first-year cadets. Because of segregation policies of the time, he was required to live and take meals off-campus, which prevented him from being, as he said, a full student. Cadet drills and activities such as attending football games with the Corps were where Peddrew felt included and valued.

NEW CORPS STAFF

Throughout this fall, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets welcomed five new staff members.

They include four Corps alumni plus a former staff member who returns to a new role.

Their energy and ideas have had an immediate impact on the activities happening on Upper Quad.

CMDR. NATE BROWN '98

Though he's been around for alumni-related events since the start of the semester, Cmdr. Nate Brown '98, U.S.



Cmdr. Nate Brown

Navy (retired), officially joined the staff Dec. 1 as the alumni director.

Brown graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in political science and minors in leadership studies and history. He was a member of Golf Company his freshman and sophomore years, Foxtrot Company his junior year, and Echo Company his senior year.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and served on active duty for 23 years as a surface warfare officer.

Sea duty assignments included damage control assistant, USS Elrod (FFG 55); navigator, USS Gettysburg (CG 64); chief engineer, USS Porter (DDG 78); chief engineer, USS San Jacinto (CG 56); and executive officer, USS Ramage (DDG 61).

Ashore, Brown served as a Naval ROTC instructor at Virginia Military Institute, staff officer on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff at the Pentagon, operational planner at Naval Forces Central Command/Fifth Fleet, maritime planner at the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, and maritime planner/training officer at Second Fleet.

Brown earned master's degrees from Troy University and the U.S. Naval War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy's Maritime Advanced Warfare School.

COL. ROBERT SHELTON '96

Col. Robert Shelton '96, U.S. Air Force (retired), joined the Corps staff in October as the deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion.



Col. Bob Shelton

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Shelton earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Virginia Tech and was

commissioned through Air Force ROTC Detachment 875.

After commissioning, he attended Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

As a line officer, Shelton held various squadron-, group-, and wing-level positions and graduated from Air Mobility Command's highly selective Phoenix Horizon leader development program.

As an aviator, he progressed to the

level of evaluator pilot in the KC-135R/T and instructor pilot in the C-5A/B aircraft. He also earned designation as a joint qualified officer and served in myriad staff roles at the wing, major command, and combatant command levels.

Shelton commanded the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, embedded within the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham Alabama, Alabama Air National Guard. In his second command, he joined the legendary "Bloody Hundredth" as commander of the 100th Operations Group and 401st Air Expeditionary Group, 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

He was a command pilot with over 2,900 flight hours in the KC-135R/T, C-5A/B, RC-135V, T-1A, T-37, and T-3 aircraft. He deployed extensively in support of operations in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Horn of Africa to include Operations Joint Forge, Allied Force, Northern and Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, and Resolute Support.

He retired in 2021 with over 25 years of service.

He received a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2004 and a Master of Military Science in operational planning and strategy from the National Defense University, Joint Advanced Warfighting School.

LT. COL. CARRIE COX VT'99

Lt. Col. Carrie A. Cox, U.S. Air Force Reserves, joined the staff in August as

the deputy commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track.

She is the commander of the 916th Maintenance Squadron in the 916th



Lt. Col. Carrie Cox

Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Prior to this assignment, she was the command-

er of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 607 in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she was responsible for recruiting and overseeing the preparation and training of officer candidates through a comprehensive college program at Fayetteville State University and four cross-town universities.

Cox earned her commission and was a Distinguished Graduate (with Academic and Military Distinction) from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1998, earning a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering.

She has served in a variety of positions in aircraft maintenance, training, instruction, and recruiting in an active-duty capacity and as a reservist.

She previously served as an assistant professor of aerospace studies, operations officer, and recruiting officer at the Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 at Virginia Tech and before that was the Corps' executive officer.

Prior to returning to active duty, Cox served as the liaison officer director for the state of Virginia, leading a geographically dispersed unit of 17 admission liaison officers responsible for over 640 schools.

She earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech in 1999.

KEN MALLORY '06

Ken Mallory '06 joined the staff in August as the assistant director of the



Ken Mallory

Citizen-Leader Track program. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science with minors in history and leadership

studies from Virginia Tech and went to on to receive his master's degree in teaching from Christopher Newport University in 2008.

Mallory taught history and government to middle and high school students for 14 years in Newport News, Virginia, and in Blacksburg, Virginia. As part of those roles, he served as department chair, data and interventions lead, and coached multiple sports and academic teams. He also partnered with the Office of Teacher Preparation at Christopher Newport University to mentor teaching interns and train professional teachers to host student interns.

He is active in the community, having served as an elections official, community running ambassador, and first aid/CPR instructor for the Red Cross.

CAPT. JAMIE MCGRATH '90

Though not new to the staff, Capt. Jamie McGrath '90, U.S. Navy (retired), has a new role as the director of the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development, the academic arm of the Corps.

He joined the commandant's staff in 2019 as the deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion, and formally moved into the Rice Center director position in October.

McGrath graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in his-



Capt. Jamie McGrath

tory and was commissioned through Naval ROTC. He holds a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College

and a master's degree in military history from Norwich University.

He is a nuclear-trained surface warfare officer who served in a variety of at-sea assignments aboard frigates, destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, participating in Operations Sharp Guard, Desert Fox, Southern Watch, Active Endeavour, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn.

He served on the staff of commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and commanded Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Seven in Guam.

Ashore he taught chemistry, materials and radiological fundamentals at Naval Nuclear Power School.

After promotion to captain, he served as the liaison for commander, Naval Forces Europe, to commander, U.S. European Command, and on the Joint Staff J7.

McGrath's final active-duty position was as a military professor at the Naval War College.

our Sesquicentennial

On Oct. 1, 2022, Virginia Tech will turn 150 years old.

This fall, the Corps of Cadets kicked off Virginia Tech's 18-month celebration of this sesquicentennial anniversary.

It's fitting because the Corps is the bridge between the university's past and its future.

Cadets have always been the keepers of tradition while they hone their skills to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Diverse in backgrounds, unified in service, they come here from all over the world and from all walks of life to band together to be part of something bigger than themselves.

The times and the uniforms may have changed over the decades, but the lifelong bonds of cadets are just as strong now as they were then.

Whether in times of celebration, or times of mourning, cadets are there to support each other and the Virginia Tech community at large.

In the pages that follow, we spotlight the rapid changes of the university and the Corps of Cadets through the decades that followed the end of World War II, as well as the contributions of some of our aviators during those decades.

Learn about alumni aviators from the start of the century at vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview.



The Corps of Cadets at the second inauguration of President McKinley in 1901.



The 1911 cadet band.



The rat parade through downtown Blacksburg in 1926.





ntennial



Cadet life on Upper Quad. Date unknown.



An early 1900s formation.



The World War I memorial "The Rock" in 1923.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR FRESHMAN SELF TODAY?

Cherish every moment with your buds. They're family that you can always count on.

– Quinton Cookis '18

Go and make an effort to meet as many people as you can. Learn the stories of everyone you meet because it can shape and broaden your understanding of the world. Everyone comes from different places, and everyone has a different story, so why not?

– Vanessa Rigoroso '06

I would tell myself to slow down, look around, and truly soak in my Virginia Tech experience. I was always running between class and club meetings and never was intentional about soaking in everything great about Blacksburg, the Virginia Tech campus, and my experience.

– Madeleine Mitcham '18



The 1934 American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

All photos courtesy of the Corps Museum.

the 1950s



Ring Dance, 1955. Photo courtesy of the Corps Museum.

With the end of World War II, a flood of veterans came to Virginia Polytechnic Institute to either start or continue their academic careers, and veterans were not required to be in the Corps of Cadets. This meant that the institute had more civilian students than cadets for the first time in its history.

World tensions brought about another major military conflict when North Korea invaded South

Korea in 1950, and Hokies again served on and above the front lines, this time in jet combat.

For the remainder of the 1950s, the Corps and the institute showed a steady increase in enrollment. VPI remained a senior military college, with all able-bodied entering male freshmen being required to be cadets for their first two years of enrollment. But that would soon change.

Walter Stephenson Newman

was university president from 1947-1962, and his term — sometimes called the era of good will — brought tremendous growth, including construction of the War Memorial Chapel and the Pylons, which took from spring 1951 to 1960.

Generally credited with laying the groundwork for Virginia Tech’s development into a major state university, Newman provided an expanded vision of college education.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and “History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech”

KEY DATES

1953

Irving L. Peddrew, the first Black student, is admitted.

1958

Charles L. Yates is the first Black student to graduate.

COMMANDANTS

1946-1951, Col. T.M. Mumford

1951-1952, Col. W.B. Merritt

1952-1961, Maj. Gen. John M. Devine

THE AVIATORS

Baird Martin '50, who would long organize reunions of his Highty-Tighty classmates, flew the F-80 Shooting Star over Korea.

Richard "Perky" Perkins '42, who flew 90 World War II combat missions in the P-51, flew another 100 combat missions over Korea in the venerable Mustang.

Ed Blair '46, who was posthumously inducted into Virginia Tech's Aviation Wall of Fame in 2005, flew combat missions over Korea in the F-94 Starfire. It was his second war, having left Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1943 to see combat over Germany in World War II as a B-17 navigator. His

lifetime of service continued with his third conflict when he was a forward air controller during the Vietnam War. He was shot down and declared missing in action in 1968.

Others continued to fly after the war.

Capt. Kenneth Cassada '49, future Air Force **Maj. Gen. Hank Smyth '49**, and future Pamplin College of Business instructor **Jeff Stewart '53** all flew the famed F-86 Sabre Jet.

Along with these jet pilots, Highty-Tighty alumnus **Mayer Levy '55** flew the propeller driven AD-6 Skyraider for the U.S. Navy from the USS Forrester in the latter years of the decade.



1st Lt. Baird Martin's F-80 Shooting Star
8th Fighter Bomber Group
Suwon Airbase, South Korea, 1952

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak '71

the 1960s

The early part of the 1960s saw America booming with unlimited horizons. But things were about to change on campus.

In 1961, the Highty-Tighties marched in the inauguration parade of the nation's vibrant, young president, John F. Kennedy. In less than three years, his assassination would shake the nation.



The Highty-Tighties march in the 1961 inauguration. Photo courtesy of the Corps Museum.

In 1962, T. Marshal Hahn Jr., at age 35, became the youngest Virginia Polytechnic Institute president in the school's history. VPI would expand and change more rapidly in more different areas than in the previous 90 years of its existence. Building on the foundation laid by his predecessor, Hahn guided VPI from college status to a major research university.

In 1964, all academic courses were opened to women, and the Corps of Cadets, which had been a requirement for male students since its founding, became fully optional. Later that year, participation in ROTC was restricted to those in the Corps.

The country was changing, too, and the campus became restive as the decade drew to a close. The size of the Corps steadily dwindled, even as VPI began unprecedented growth.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and "History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech"

KEY DATES

1960

The War Memorial Chapel and the Pylons are completed to honor fallen VPI soldiers of World War II and later, of all wars.

1962

T. Marshal Hahn Jr. becomes VPI's 11th president.

1964

The Corps of Cadets becomes a voluntary option for all students.

VPI is reorganized into colleges: Engineering, Agriculture, Business, Home Economics, Architecture, and Arts and Sciences.

1965

Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum are completed.

1966

Cadets and civilians unite to form one student government.

1967

University enrollment tops 10,000.

1968

Female civilian students outnumber cadets for the first time.

COMMANDANTS

1952-1961, Maj. Gen. John M. Devin

1961-1967, Brig. Gen. M.W. Schewe

1967-1972, Maj. Gen. Francis T. Pachler



THE AVIATORS

Virginia Tech’s alumni claimed a rich aviation heritage during the 1960s. Many alumni serving in the Air Force flew the full spectrum of Century Series fighters: **Jim Branscome ’63** flew the F-100 Super Sabre, **Jim Beard ’54** captained the F-101 Voodoo, while **Cliff Cole ’64** flew the sleek F-106 Delta Dart.

In the Army, **John Cahoon ’59** flew the L-19 Bird Dog in Germany, while **Bob Aumack ’50** flew lead for the Blue Angels, the Navy’s precision flight demonstration team.

High above all of these, **John “Jack” McKay ’47** piloted the X-15 experimental rocket plane, earning the astronaut wings he was posthumously awarded in 2005.

But war was brewing in southeast Asia, and by

the end of the decade, alumni were again fully embroiled in combat. **Maj. D.R. “Duke” Stanton ’59** flew his Marine A-4 Skyhawk into combat from Chu Lai Airbase in the Republic of Vietnam, the same base that fellow Marine **Capt. Floyd Massey ’65** launched from in his F-4 Phantom on the day he was shot down, April 28, 1969 — though he was thankfully rescued.

Tom Richards ’56, who would become our first alumnus to achieve four-star rank, flew the T-28 Trojan with the 56th Air Commando Wing from Udorn Airbase, Thailand.

Lt. Col. Robert Titus ’48, logged three MiG kills in his F-4 Phantom, making him one of the highest scoring Air Force pilots of the war.



Jack McKay’s X-15 Experimental Rocket Plane
NASA Research Center, 1960-1966

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak ’71

the 1970s



The women of L Squadron, 1974. Photo courtesy of the Corps Museum.

The 1970s brought continued change to the university and to the Corps of Cadets.

Campus unrest intensified after the shooting at Kent State, with several incidents of protest and destruction locally.

By the middle of the decade, after Watergate and two energy crises, many college campuses were permeated by apathy, cynicism, and waning school spirit.

The Corps of Cadets began accepting female cadets in 1973, three years before the service academies.

Still, Corps enrollment continued to steadily decline for most of the decade.

Things began to look slightly better for the Corps in the latter 1970s. Under the leadership of new commandant Brig. Gen. Earl Acuff and university president William E. Lavery, Corps enrollment rose slightly for the

first time since the program became fully optional in 1963.

Lavery brought stability to the university following the years of explosive growth under T. Marshal Hahn.

Economic conditions were not good when Lavery took office. But Virginia Tech soon entered a period of “good times” created by renewed public goodwill toward higher education and financial support made possible by an economic upturn.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and “History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech”

KEY DATES

1970

The university adopts a new name: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

1973

Women are admitted to the Corps of Cadets and organized into L Squadron.

1975

William E. Lavery becomes the university's 12th president.

The Highty-Tighty Alumni Association forms.

Marilyn Helmeyer '77, becomes the first female cadet to join the Highty-Tighties.

1976

The service academies admit women.

1977

The Corps posts its smallest enrollment since 1902 with 325 cadets.

1978

University enrollment tops 20,000.

COMMANDANTS

1967-1972, Maj. Gen. Francis T. Pachler

1972-1973, Brig. Gen. David S. Henderson

1973-1980, Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff

THE AVIATORS

In the 1970s, Corps alumni were still engaged in combat operations in the Vietnam War, some of them notably so. **Lt. j.g. Leslie M. "Sandy" Sandford '68** flew combat missions against North Vietnam from the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga in 1972. On June 11, 1972, **Lt. W. Winston "Mad Dog" Copeland '67**, who would later rise to the rank of rear admiral, shot down a North Vietnamese MiG-17 while escorting a flight of A-7 Corsair II attack aircraft.

When the war ended and the nation returned to a peacetime footing, our alumni continued to fly in defense of the country.

Capt. Malcom Emerson '69 flew the F-106 Delta Dart with the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. **1st Lt. Randy Thurman '71** of the 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron flew the OV-10 Bronco in the Pacific Air Forces. **Lt. Col. W. Park "Whitey" Lemmond '54** flew the F-105 Thunderchief with the 192nd Fighter Wing of the Virginia Air National Guard. **Capt. R.S. "Rock" Roszak '71**, future Corps alumni director, flew operational and test missions in the B-52 Stratofortress in the 7th Bomb Wing at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas.

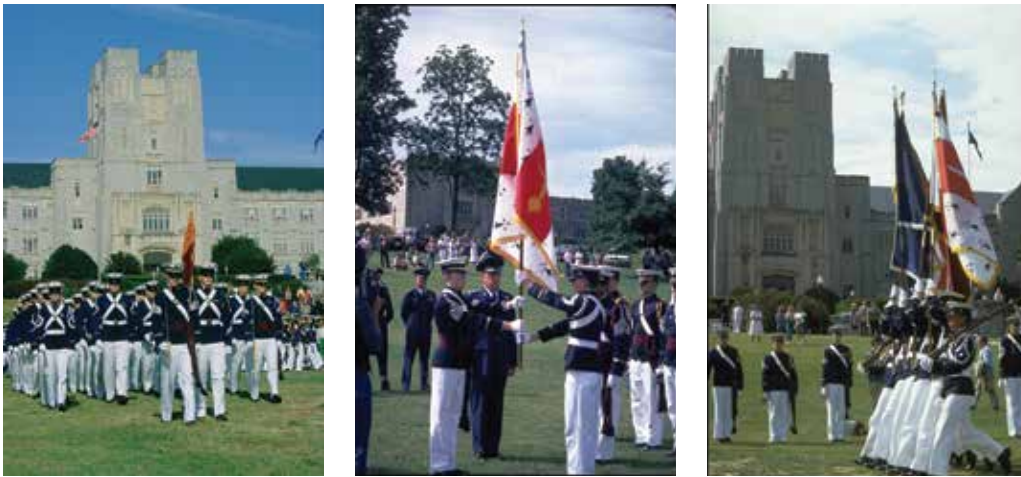
And **1st Lt. Lance Smith '70**, who would later fly the A-10 and F-16 in Korea, the F-15E in Iraq and Afghanistan, and go on to become Virginia Tech's second graduate to achieve four-star rank, flew 123 combat missions in the A-1 Skyraider in Vietnam in 1971-1972.



"Mad Dog" Copeland's F-4B Phantom II
USS Coral Sea, June, 11, 1972

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak '71

the 1980s



Parade scenes on the Drillfield in (from left) 1981, 1984, and 1985. Photos courtesy of the university archives.

Virginia Tech continued its sustained growth throughout the 1980s, as well as its transformation into a larger and more diversified university.

For the first half of the decade, the Corps of Cadets grew alongside the university, reaching its post-1963 peak in 1984 with 723 cadets.

In mid-decade, the size of the Corps again went into a decline that would not abate until the early 1990s. That turnaround started with the appointment of a new commandant in 1989, Maj. Gen. Stan Musser.

University President William E. Lavery placed a high priority on alleviating shortages of classroom,

COMMANDANTS

1973-1980 Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff

1980-1989 Lt. Gen. Howard M. Lane

1989-1999 Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser

laboratory, and office space, the total inventory of available space increased by half. He also emphasized research, and expenditures in support of research totaled more than \$70.2 million by fiscal year 1987, moving Tech into the nation's top 50 research universities.

James D. McComas assumed his duties in 1988 as Virginia Tech's 13th president and placed major emphasis on undergraduate education.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and "History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech"

KEY DATES

1983

Virginia Tech’s Naval ROTC detachment is established.
The Blacksburg bus system begins operation, reflecting the much larger number of students living off campus.

1985

Derek A. Jeffries ’86 becomes the first Black regimental commander

1987

Denise A. Shuster ’88 becomes the first female regimental commander.
“White Shirt” is introduced as a cadet uniform.

1988

James D. McComas becomes Virginia Tech’s 13th president.

THE AVIATORS

In the aviation community in the 1980s, the services were still re-defining themselves after the end of the Vietnam War with new aircraft coming into operational use.

Early in the decade tragedy struck. **Maj. Norm “Chip” Lowry ’66** had been selected to lead the Air Force’s precision flight demonstration team, The Thunderbirds. While practicing a line abreast loop maneuver on Jan. 18, 1982, an instrument error in his T-38 Talon aircraft led to

all four aircraft crashing in one of the worst demonstration aircraft accidents in history.

Perhaps one of the most interesting alumni aviation experiences happened to **Mike Roy ’74**. He spent his entire adult life in aviation, flying for the Air Force, Air National Guard, and finally as an airline pilot, piloting more than 15 types of aircraft. But his most unique mount was the Soviet MiG-21 “Fishbed C,” which he flew while assigned to the 4477th Test and Evaluation

Squadron over the Tonapah Test Range in 1985.

Dave Gato ’71 began the ‘80s flying with Navy fighter squadron VF-301 in the F-4 Phantom and ended the decade in the F-14 Tomcat.

Future Corps fundraiser **Lt. Col. Dave Spracher ’70** flew the C-130 Hercules through the decade, culminating in his taking command of the 21st Tactical Airlift Squadron at Yakota Airbase, Japan, in 1989.



Capt. Mike Roy’s MiG-21 “Fishbed C”
Tonapah Test Range, 1985

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak ’71

the 1990s



Homecoming parade, 1990. Photo courtesy of the Corps Museum.

The 1990s were a significant period, both for our nation in the global arena and for the Corps of Cadets program.

On the international scene, Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990 began an extended period of warfare and terrorism that is still being felt today.

In Blacksburg, alumni Henry Dekker ’42, Charles Cornelison ’67, and Harold Hoback ’53 joined together to form the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni

Association, without which our program would not exist today.

Militarily, the relative period of peace that followed the Vietnam War ended abruptly in 1990 and our alumni immediately went from peaceful service to the combat footing that remains the norm today, over 30 years later.

With Virginia Tech President James D. McComas forced to resign in 1993 for medical reasons, the board of visitors tapped Paul Ernest Torgersen to become the 14th president of the university, effective Jan. 1, 1994.

Throughout his term, Torgersen focused on guiding Virginia Tech to become the model land-grant university of the 21st century.

In the Corps of Cadets, through the efforts of commandants Maj. Gen. Stan Musser and Maj. Gen. Jerry Allen, who took over in 1999, as well as the Corps alumni, the future was assured and the cadet program began a growth trajectory that continues to this day.

– Col. Rock Roszak ’71 and “History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech”



COMMANDANTS

1989-1999 Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser
1999-2011 Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen

KEY DATES

1991

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Association is established.

1993

A camouflage-pattern battle dress uniform is adopted as the cadet field uniform, replacing OD green “Pickle Bag” fatigues.

1994

Paul E. Torgersen becomes Virginia Tech’s 14th president.

1995

Emerging Leader Scholarships begin, offsetting the cost of room and board for cadets.

1996

The Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development is created.

1998

3rd Battalion reactivates with the addition of India and Kilo. Band Company joins 3rd Battalion.

THE AVIATORS

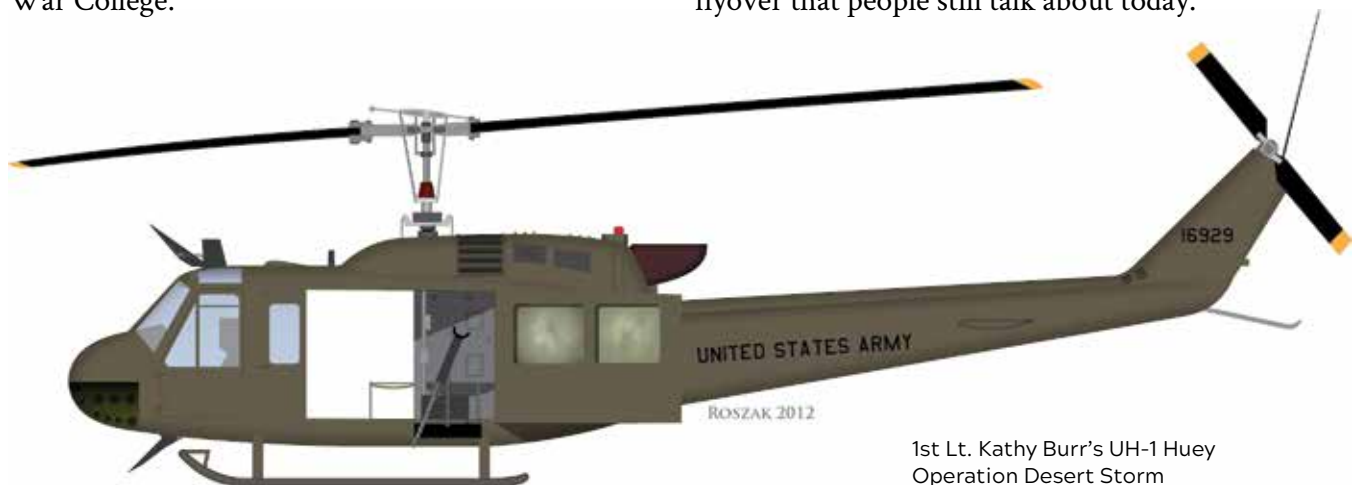
In the new period of conflict in the 1990s, female aviators became a force to be reckoned with, and the helicopter became more of a combat force than many ever expected.

1st Lt. Kathleen Burr ’86 was a UH-1 Huey pilot who deployed to Saudi Arabia almost immediately at the beginning of Operation Desert Shield and stayed through Operation Desert Storm. She continued to serve in a variety of roles on active duty and in the Army Reserve, including flying the Huey and later the CH-47 Chinook, until finally being promoted to the rank of colonel after graduating from the Army War College.

Her classmate **Kerry Koritko ’86** also flew helicopters, including the CH-47. As an Army captain, he was the pilot in charge of the first paradrop over Iraq in 1991.

Later in the decade, even though air combat continued through a variety of presence and denial operations, normal training activities continued in the United States.

Lt. Col. Bruce “Pop” Adams ’82 began his eight-year association with the B-2 Spirit in the 509th Bomb Wing. He would eventually fly the stealth bomber over Lane Stadium in October 2002, a flyover that people still talk about today.



1st Lt. Kathy Burr’s UH-1 Huey
Operation Desert Storm
Saudi Arabia, December 1990-May 1991

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak ’71

the 2000s

With the dawning of the new century came challenges our country had not seen in several generations and one our campus had never seen.

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 brought a sense of national unity that had not existed for half a century, and it fueled cadets and alumni to serve and the Corps of Cadets continued to grow and evolve.

Virginia Tech started the decade with a new president. Charles W. Steger assumed the presidency on Jan. 7, 2000. His administration would go on to place emphasis on accessibility,

diversity, international studies, the arts, and research. He laid the groundwork for a soon-to-be-realized arts center and took steps to move into the nation's top-30 research universities.

His administration experienced tragedy, too, when 32 students and faculty members were murdered on campus on April 16, 2007. Among them was Matthew Joseph La Porte, a member of the cadet Class of 2009, Air Force ROTC, and the Highty-Tighties.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and “History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech”



The Color Guard stands at the candlelight vigil on April 17, 2007, in remembrance of the 32 killed on campus a day earlier. Photo by John McCormick.

KEY DATES

2000

Charles W. Steger becomes is Virginia Tech's 15th president.

2005

Christina Royal '06 becomes the first Black female regimental commander.

2007

Thirty-two students and faculty members are murdered on campus on April 16, 2007.

2008

Adnan Barqawi '09 of Kuwait becomes the first foreign national regimental commander.

COMMANDANT

1999-2011 Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen

THE AVIATORS

Capt. Carrie Bell Reinhardt '97, who recently retired after multiple flight test assignments that culminated as a developmental flight test squadron commander, flew combat air patrol missions over Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the 2002 Winter Olympics in the days and years after the 9/11 attacks.

Many of her fellow alumni aviators have spent the past 20-plus years on active duty with our military services conducting combat operations on an almost daily basis.

Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq saw our aviators serving in unparalleled ways.

Lt. j.g. Jennifer Daniel '99 flew intense combat missions over Northern Iraq in her F-14 Tomcat with Fighter Squadron 32 “Swordsmen” in the opening days of the 2003 conflict. **Capt. Chris Foulk '97** did the same in the F-15E Strike Eagle with the 4th Fighter Wing. **Maj. Phil Buck '82** flew attack missions into Iraq in the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter.

Army **Capt. Janel McNair '00** flew her UH-60A Blackhawk on harrowing MEDEVAC missions in Afghanistan, including one that recovered the body of former NFL player and Army Ranger Pat Tillman. **Capt. Brande Goracke '01** flew combat

missions in her AH-64 Apache gunship with the 1st Armored Division in Iraq.

Marine **Capt. Joe McAlarnen '01** flew his AH-1 Super Cobra gunship on several tours of duty.

Cmdr. Valerie Overstreet '91 commanded the Navy’s Airborne Early Warning Squadron VAW-117 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz late in the decade.

Everyday flight operations continued, too. Early in the decade, F-16 Viper pilot **Lt. Col. Russell “Waldo” Walden '82** turned command of the 80th Fighter Squadron over to **Lt. Col. John “Barney” Fyfe '84** at Kunsan Airbase, South Korea. **Lt. Col. Phil “Dirt” Fluhr '85** completed his Air Force career as the operations officer of the 358th Fighter Squadron flying the A-10 Warthog in 2006. **Cmdr. Tommy “Yams” Yambrick '87** served a tour as the commander of the F/A-18F Super Hornet-equipped Strike Fighter Squadron 102 “Diamondbacks” while assigned to USS Kitty Hawk, forward-based at Atsugi Airbase, Japan in 2006-2007.

Navy **Lt. Nick Brantley '01** made the ultimate sacrifice when he lost his life during night training operations off the Carolina coast on Sept. 25, 2005, in his SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. He was the third member of the Class of 2001 to have his name added to the Ut Prosim Pylon on the War Memorial.



1st Lt. Brande Goracke’s AH-64A Apache
Bravo Company, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division
Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003- 2004

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak '71

the 2010s

The 2010s were all about growth, growth, and more growth for both Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets. Alongside that, social media took a firm hold of our culture and changed the way we all communicate, even to this day.

Commandant Maj. Gen. Jerry Allen retired and the new commandant, Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, came on the scene in 2011.

This decade brought the Corps two much-needed new residence halls, Pearson Halls East and West, and they were fostered into the perfect domiciles for our cadets, resplendent in architectural functionality, tradition, and heritage.

The university welcomed a new president in 2014, Timothy D. Sands. He has engaged the campus in a visionary plan to advance Virginia Tech's role as a global land grant institution. He also set a goal for the Corps to grow from 1,100 to 1,400 cadets in the first half of the 2020s.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71 and "History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech"



First-year cadets figure out the team wall at the Corps' obstacle course in 2017.

KEY DATES

2012

Shultz Dining Hall closes and the Corps dining facility moves to Turner Place.

Band Company splits into two sections, and Lima Company re-activates in 3rd Battalion.

Multicam is introduced to replace the battle dress uniform.

2013

Rasche Hall, built in 1897 as Barracks No. 2, is demolished to make way for Pearson Hall East.

2014

Timothy D. Sands becomes Virginia Tech's 16th president.

2015

Brodie Hall closes its doors and Pearson Hall East opens.

2016

Corps Ambassador, Growley II (call sign "Tank"), arrives on campus.

2017

Pearson Hall West opens; Monteith and Thomas halls are demolished.

2018

Ensign Sarah J. Mitchell '17 becomes the first female added to the Pylons.

COMMANDANTS

1999-2011, Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen

2011-present, Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart

THE AVIATORS

In the air in the 2010s, our alumni continued serving the nation during a period of near constant combat operations, many of them in new platforms that proved key to fighting a very different kind of war.

Capt. Tyler Martin '08 flew intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions with the 34th Special Operations Squadron as a combat systems officer in the Pilatus U-28 recce aircraft.

Marine **Maj. Matthew Gioia '95** had several combat deployments and began the decade flying the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan.

After beginning his career flying the B-52 Stratofortress with the 5th and 2nd Bomb Wings, **Col. Jeremiah Baldwin '95** became the 8th Air Force director of operations and then the National Airborne Operations Center commander before retiring from the Air Force in 2020.

Col. Bob Shelton '96, who recently joined the Corps' staff, capped his career of piloting the KC-135 Stratotanker and the C-5 Galaxy as the commander of the storied "Bloody Hundredth," 100th Operations Group stationed at Royal Air

Force Base Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

The Navy ROTC program did not begin at Virginia Tech until the mid-1980s, but in the new century the number of Navy grads who rose to command operational squadrons is amazing.

Capt. John "Tater" Springett '87 spent his career in the electronic warfare business, commanding two squadrons, and in 2012, he was the commanding officer, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Also in the electronic warfare community was Marine **Capt. Dan "Hodor" Langford '10**, who crewed the EA-6B Prowler from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in 2018.

Cmdr. Mark "Beav" Leavitt '93 served as both executive officer and commanding officer of Antisubmarine Helicopter Squadron HS-5 "Nightdippers" with two deployments into the Northern Arabian Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And **Cmdr. Stacy Michaels-Uttecht '00** commanded the Fighting Swordsmen of VFA-32, an F/A-18F Super Hornet Squadron, from 2018-2019.



Capt. Dan Langford's EA-6B Prowler
Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ-2) "Death Jesters"
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, 2018

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak '71

the 2020s

The current decade sees the Corps of Cadets continuing to grow in both the number of cadets and on the facilities side of things.

The Upper Quad is once again a construction zone as the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and a third new residence hall are in works, bringing the program to a total footprint of four modern buildings with

the tailor shop and Lane Hall also still productively engaged.

As the university continues to expand its enrollment and its global impact, the Corps is doing the same.

Together, we ensure we graduate young people ready to make a difference in the world that waits for them beyond campus.

– Col. Rock Roszak '71



First-year cadets make the fall Caldwell March in October.

THE AVIATORS

With the reduction of the American presence in the Middle East, the U.S. military is pivoting to embrace a more global perspective, though combat operations continue. Our alumni aviators remain engaged in various operations across the board.

Brig. Gen. Will Marshall '97, our latest graduate to achieve flag rank, is serving as a deputy director of operations at U.S. Air Forces in Europe Headquarters in Germany. A highlight of his career was commanding the 48th Fighter Wing at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, in 2019, when he led F-15E Strike Eagles in heritage markings over the Normandy beaches on the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord.

Cmdr. David Dartez '01 has spent most of his career flying both the F/A-18C Legacy Hornet and the F/A-18E Super Hornet. He recently finished a tour as executive officer and then commander of Navy Fighter/Attack Squadron VFA-25 "Fist of the Fleet" in 2020. He is now assigned to the director, operational test and evaluation, under the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C.

Similarly, **Cmdr. Matt Enos '02** is currently the executive officer of the "Red Rippers" of Strike

Fighter Squadron 11 and will take command of that Navy squadron in December.

Air Force **Capt. Savannah Bailey '15** is currently assigned to Pensacola Naval Air Station as an instructor and flight commander in the 451st Flying Training Squadron. As a combat systems officer on the MC-130J Commando II, she deployed to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where she was awarded two air medals for flying 44 combat missions.

Capt. Matt Pucci '15 completed a highlight of his life by piloting his C-17 Globemaster III into and out of the Kabul airport several times during the recent evacuation of Afghanistan. **Maj. Adam Cade '10** of the 41st Rescue Squadron flew his HH-60W Jolly Green II Air Force rescue helicopter over this fall's Virginia Tech-Syracuse football game and then conducted a static display on the Drillfield for cadets and the local community. He will return to campus in May as an assistant professor of aerospace studies with Air Force ROTC Detachment 875.

The decade is still young, and our alumni aviators will continue to fly, and fight, to keep our nation free.



Commander Matt Enos' F/A-18F Super Hornet
Strike Fighter Squadron 11 "Red Rippers"
USS Harry S. Truman, CVN-75

– Text and image, Col. Rock Roszak '71

ENJOY RETIREMENT, GROWLEY II

After five years of greeting people across campus, sharing the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' story, and providing tail wags and morale boosts to cadets, Growley II (call sign "Tank") will retire at the end of this year.

The 8-year-old yellow Labrador has served honorably as the Corps' faithful canine ambassador.

His reward? He soon will become the happily spoiled pet of one of his former handlers.

Current Growley Team cadets have been working with Ciao Bella Retrievers of Troutville, Virginia, to prepare Growley III.

Trained as a companion dog, Growley II has enjoyed the attention of being an ambassador.

Growley II arrived on campus during summer 2016 as a 3-year-old Lab, the unexpected result of a miserable winter morning for then cadet Zack Sever '17.

"It's hard to believe it's been five years," said Sever, now a U.S. Navy lieutenant and F-18 pilot with Strike Fighter Squadron 103 at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

That morning of Sever's junior year, everyone was in a mood. Grousing turned to possible solutions. Someone mentioned the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M had a dog, Reveille. Someone else



Growley II (call sign "Tank") in front of Lane Hall.

mentioned the story of Virginia Tech's Corps having a dog decades ago.

Later that day, Sever was still thinking about a dog. His roommate pushed him to try to make it a reality.

The way Col. Patience Larkin '87, the Corps' former alumni director, remembers it, Sever showed up in her office with a document detailing why the Corps needed a dog. She was a member of Echo Company, like Sever.

Larkin listened and offered to bring the idea to Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart. But, she warned, Sever's plan needed more details. A lot more details.

"When people come to me with good ideas and then they see how much work it is, they usually go away and never come back," Larkin said. "But he went away and did all the work."

Sever researched Texas A&M's long-

established mascot program.

He proposed that a Corps dog be licensed by the USDA as an exhibition animal, a now voluntary program that requires specific requirements for an animal's care, daily documentation of those requirements, and unannounced inspections.

When they approached Fullhart with the plan, he was impressed with its thoroughness. He also saw

a unique opportunity to support the mental well-being of cadets and better connect the Corps with the whole of Hokie Nation.

He said yes. Sever became the first handler and under Larkin's guidance the program took shape.

"We weren't focused on the idea of creating a new Corps tradition when we started," Larkin said. "We just wanted to make the Growley program viable. With a dog, you can't say, 'Nah, this isn't working. We're going to stop and do something else.' We needed to create a program that was as correct as it could be and then make small adjustments so it worked for us."

They did just that.

Today, Growley II is beloved across campus and has even been featured on several Virginia Tech class rings.

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, FALL 2021



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **JUSTIN RATCLIFFE**

Cadet Col. Justin Ratcliffe is pursuing a degree in civil engineering and plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force upon graduation. Within the Corps, he has served as a platoon sergeant and first sergeant of Bravo Company. In Air Force ROTC, he has served as one of the operational planning squadron flight command-

ers, leading and directing the physical fitness of the cadet wing. Proud to serve the cadet regiment, Ratcliffe is a recipient of a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship and looks forward to utilizing the skills gained and lessons learned within his time in Corps as an officer in the U.S. Air Force.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **MICHAEL LUCIANI**

Cadet Lt. Col. Michael Luciani is pursuing a degree in physics and plans to commission into the U.S. Space Force upon graduation as a space operations officer. He has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps and Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, he has served as a cadre platoon sergeant in Bravo Company and the 1st

Battalion sergeant major this past spring. In Air Force ROTC, he has served as the wing physical fitness officer and president of the Air Power Association. He is the recipient of a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **AUSTIN ASKEW**

Cadet Lt. Col. Austin Askew is pursuing a degree in operations and supply chain management and a minor in leadership and service. He plans to commission into the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer. He has held multiple positions in the Corps and Army ROTC. Within the Corps, he served as the Hotel Company first sergeant

during fall 2020. He also served as the Bravo Company first sergeant in Army ROTC this past spring. Proud to serve 2nd Battalion, Askew is the cadet member-at-large for the Class of 2022. He is a recipient of an Army ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **EMMA VOGLER**

Cadet Lt. Col. Emma Vogler is pursuing a degree in political science. She will seek her master's degree in educational leadership upon graduating from the Corps of Cadets and plans to serve in a teaching capacity. She has held mul-

iple leadership positions in the Corps of Cadets and within the Citizen-Leader Track, such as cadre platoon sergeant, platoon sergeant for the VPI Battalion, first sergeant for Lima Company, and the 3rd Battalion commander.

COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2021



Regimental Executive Officer
Madelyn Poteet
Meteorology
Air Force



Regimental Adjutant
Nick Sisson
Political Science
Air Force



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Victoria Ann
Human Nutrition, Foods, and
Exercise
Army



Regimental Operations
Officer
Kyle Huffman
Criminology
Air Force



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Nathan Steiman
Civil Engineering
Air Force



Regimental Academics
Officer
Connor Macdonnell
Biochemistry
Navy



Regimental Sergeant Major
Ryan Wagner
Political Science
Marines



Regimental Alumni Liaison
Officer
Benjamin Janosy
Political Science
Army



VPI Battalion Commander
Erin Geary
Microbiology
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Liam Murphy
Mining Engineering
Navy



Bravo Company Commander
Alden Pierce
Geography
Marines



Charlie Company
Commander
Clara Cobb
Clinical Neuroscience
Citizen-Leader Track



Delta Company Commander
Stephen Jones
Nanomedicine
Air Force



Echo Company Commander
Matt Kanney
Aerospace Engineering
Air Force



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Margaret McConville
English
Air Force



Golf Company Commander
Jack Ryal
Economics
Army



Hotel Company Commander
LaForest Gardiner
Management
Navy



India Company Commander
Paul Lobree
Civil Engineering
Citizen-Leader Track



Kilo Company Commander
William Rakes
Building Construction
Army



Lima Company Commander
Austin Tirona
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Navy



Mike Company Commander
Fritz Gerald Silva
Computer Science
Air Force



Band Commander
Skyler Powell
Philosophy, Politics, and
Economics
Air Force



Band Alpha Commander
Olivia Asuncion
Biochemistry
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander
Stephen Herrick
Aerospace Engineering
Air Force

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Col. Robert “Bob” Archer ’69 was among the 2021 inductees into Army ROTC Hall of Fame, which honors



graduates who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits and made

lasting, significant contributions to the nation, the Army, and the history and traditions of the Army ROTC program.

Archer was commissioned into the Adjutant General Corps of the U.S. Army. His initial assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division. He deployed to Vietnam in October 1971 and served as platoon leader and executive officer for the 544th Replacement Company, 22nd Replacement Battalion, Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam until 1972.

In 1973, Archer left active duty and entered service with the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1983, he transferred to the Selective Service System.

In 1999, he retired from the U.S. Army Reserves and the Selective Service System after 30 years of military service.

1980s

John Tilton ’89 was hired in April as the information technology service and support manager for the Department of Engineering Education at Virginia Tech.

1990s

Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Douglas K. Clark ’90 is serving as the deputy



commander and chief of staff at the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway.

He joined the Joint Warfare Centre on Aug. 30, 2020. It is a multi-national and multi-service NATO organization with nearly 270 military and civilian personnel from 17 nations providing NATO’s training focal point for full-spectrum joint operational-level warfare.



Simon Emanuels ’90 attended the Archbishop Spalding High School college fair, representing the Corps and the Annapolis (Maryland) Virginia Tech Alumni Chapter.

Daniel T. Curry HT’96 graduated from George Mason University with a doctorate in U.S. history. His dissertation explored the fate of Spanish and Mexican land grants in California and

New Mexico between 1848 and 1925.



From left, Cmdr. Nate Brown ’98, Rear Adm. Michael Steffen ’92, and Cmdr. Greg Grubbs ’03 take a photo in June on Steffen’s last day as the deputy commander of U.S. Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia. Steffen is now commandant of Naval District Washington.

2000s

Ericke S. Cage ’01 in September was named the interim president of



West Virginia State University, serving until a new permanent president for the university

is selected. Cage joined the university in July as vice president and chief of staff and had been serving as the university’s chief operating officer charged with managing day-to-day operations.

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Joe McAlarnen ’01 (right) and U.S. Space Force Maj. Chris Rose ’07 participated in an



air planning conference at the NATO Allied Air Command Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. McAlarnen serves at Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO in Oeiras, Portugal, while Rose serves at Joint Force Command Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia. Both are NATO commands. “Hokies are everywhere and you never know when and where you’ll meet,” McAlarnen says.



Maj. Matthew Johnson '05 (left), commander of the 58 Operations Group, Detachment 2, and operations officer **Maj. Joseph Ferrante '06** stand in front of Kirtland Air Force Base’s first HH-60W combat rescue aircraft. The unit is charged with standing up Air Education and Training Command’s formal training of the Air Force’s first new rotary wing aircraft in over 40 years.

2010s

Lt. Patrick Bates HT'11 and **Lt. j.g. Brendan Craig '16** serve as P-8A Poseidon pilots for the U.S. Navy. They



are assigned to the Fighting Tigers of Patrol Squadron Eight and deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.



Capt. Ben Isaacs I'12 (left) relinquishes company command to **Capt. Danny Deardorff E'15**. Both alumni commanded Charlie Company, 204th Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Reconnaissance) at Fort Bliss, Texas, which has the Army’s only deployable RC-12X Guardrail Common Sensor aircraft. Both were in Ranger Company while they were at Virginia Tech.



Maj. Nick Roland C'07 (left) promoted **1st Lt. Scott T. Fisher E'17** to

captain in a ceremony on May 26 in Lynchburg, Virginia. Roland is the battalion executive officer, and Fisher is the S-1 for the Red Dragons, 1-116th Infantry Regiment, Virginia Army National Guard.



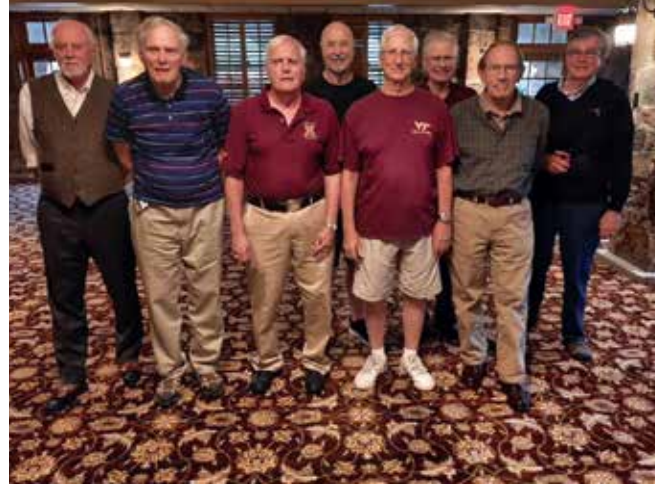
Jordan Bliss '18 and **Ashley (Burriss) Bliss '20** were married Oct. 11, 2020, in Lexington, Virginia. Photo courtesy of Melissa Diane Photography.

Parker Stowe Manning C'18 started his legal career at Midtown Law in Raleigh, North Carolina, in September. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in May and moved back to his hometown of Cary, North Carolina, to start post-Army life. His areas of practice includes residential and commercial real estate.

SUBMIT YOUR DEPLOYMENTS, JOB AND RANK CHANGES, AWARDS AND HONORS, FAMILY NEWS, PHOTOS, AND OTHER NEWS AT VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES.

N AND O SQUADRONS, 1971

As enrollment in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets fell in the late 1960s, the number of military units was reduced by merging pairs of companies, squadrons, battalions, and groups. One such merger combined N and O Squadrons to form a new G Squadron. Coincident with this year's Virginia Tech Reunion Weekend (including the special recognition of the Class of '71 alumni), members of the "rat classes" from N and O Squadrons organized a two-day, in-person reunion of their own at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke, Virginia. Eleven alumni and their spouses from the two squadrons attended the event. Special certificates were presented to the N and O Squadron Class of '71 alumni in recognition of the 50th anniversary of their class, as well as a number of other special recognitions, such as longest married couple, couple with the greatest number of grandchildren, etc. In addition, we were fortunate to have Homer Hickam '64 join in virtually, and



share his experiences with the creation of Skipper, the Corps canon, and his path to enrollment at Virginia Tech.

— Ross Haines '70

HIGHTY-TIGHTIES, 1967

In early October 1963, 60 freshmen stood in the lounge of Lane Hall. They had two things in common: They had all been accepted at Virginia Tech and they all played a musical instrument. They were going to be in the Corps of Cadets Class of 1967 (remember, the Corps was mandatory back then) and were trying out for the Virginia Tech regimental band. They all made the Highty-Tighties and marched in one of the greatest marching bands in the country.

Fifty-four years after they graduated, 16 of those

Highty-Tighties got together in Melbourne, Florida, for their annual reunion hosted by Bob "Butch" Boswell, Nov. 5-7. The Highty-Tighty Class of 1967 has held a reunion (real, not Zoom) every year since our 45th reunion in 2012. Every year we designate someone to host the next year.

The fact that 15 guys who met 58 years ago still get together every year speaks volumes about the camaraderie developed in the Corps of Cadets and the Highty-Tighties.

— Lonnie Brooks '67



GOLF COMPANY, 1967-1973

Members of Golf Company held a mini reunion in June in Midlothian, Virginia. The event was primarily for the Class of 1970, but the group invited any and all Golf alumni from the years 1967 to 1973. So many couldn't be there but were able to connect through email and a letter. Some of these guys had not seen each other in 50 years.

— Jim Archer '72

ARMY ROTC NEWS

TEAM-BUILDING: ON AND OFF THE PITCH

By Cadet Grace Kim '22

When people hear the word “rugby,” many envision rough tackling and bloody, bruised personnel. However, rugby is more than mere physical aggression.

Many of us in the New River Battalion Army ROTC who are part of the Virginia Tech Women’s Rugby Club Team joined for the challenge, camaraderie, and community.

There are numerous challenges in being part of the rugby team.

Physically, you are constantly running and tackling others, pushing your body to its limits on top of personal workouts, Army PT, and daily practices.

Cadets must balance academic, Corps, and ROTC obligations, and rugby obligations (practices, service events, games). Many, including myself, joined the team to take ownership of our own time and obligations, allowing us to be motivated to maintain balance despite our busy schedules.

Camaraderie is a huge aspect of the rugby team. Just like the Army profession, trust plays a role in rugby, on and off the field. On the pitch, trust is valuable when making plays because you need to be able to trust that your teammates will pull their weight during games. Off the field, trust builds true bonds and friendships that help the team perform well in games.

Having fellow Army ROTC cadets on the team has been helpful, as we have kept each other accountable and bonded over common struggles.

The Women’s Rugby Club embodies *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) by volun-



Cadet Grace Kim '22 makes the tackle during the Women’s Rugby Club’s match against Virginia.

teering for numerous events in the New River Valley. The emphasis on service to the community allows us to practice the Army value of selfless service even when we are not in uniform.

I am truly blessed to have been on this team since last year. I am very excited that more female cadets are joining to experience the valuable and fun lessons I’ve learned from being part of this team.

Although COVID-19 stopped us from playing games for a year, we are back to playing on our pitch on Airport Road. Come and support us!

BUILDING SUCCESS THROUGH MEANINGFUL REPETITIONS

Mission success can be obtained through knowledge, repetition, experience, and hard work. Army ROTC cadets achieved such success, demonstrating all three of these skills during the

third weekend of September, when they deployed with the New River Battalion for their Fall Field Training Exercise.

Nearly 500 cadets attended the three-day field training exercise to learn new skills. Seniors led the way in training the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in preparation for Cadet Summer Training — a requirement for all cadets to pass prior to commissioning. Cadets typically attend summer training between their junior and senior years.

The New River Battalion is on its way to another successful year thanks to the efforts of the cadre and cadet leadership. Starting the school year with a successful weekend in the field, executing meaningful repetitions, has set the tone for what is required from the most senior to most junior cadet.

“River Forge; United in Service”



The battalion staff, led by Commanding Officer Justin Jones '22, arranged for an NFL-style team service selection presenting Virginia Tech jerseys with warfare community names and the number “22” (for the class of 2022) as the senior’s name was called.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

Despite the challenges and changes of the past pandemic year, the Virginia Tech Naval ROTC unit remained resilient and ready, commissioning the largest single Naval ROTC class in the nation in 2021 — 42 Navy ensigns and nine Marine Corps second lieutenants!

On campus, the unit bid farewell to several key staff — Cmdr. Ryan Stoddard, Lt. Allen MacDonald, Lt. Michael Sullivan, and Lt. Kurt Smith — and welcomed a new unit executive officer, Cmdr. Griffin Hetrick, and several advisors, Lt. Will Herman '16, Lt. Zach Rodriguez, and Lt. James Whittlesey.

At the end of October, the unit bid farewell to the last two ensigns from the class of 2021, Sam Jubon and Jeff Ackiss, as they headed off to the fleet. They, along with 30 other ensigns at the unit through the summer, made significant contributions to unit readiness and to the Corps of Cadets, conducting summer prospective student tours and preparing inbound freshman midshipmen.

SUMMER CRUISE

After canceling all summer training in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Navy and Marine Corps resumed fleet training cruises this year.

The unit coordinated 135 scholarship midshipmen traveling across the country to ships, submarines, aircraft squadrons, and Marine Corps sites for training from May to August.

Additionally, three midshipmen completed the rigorous SEAL officer assessment summer training program, enabling them to compete for future selection into the Naval Special Warfare community. Marine-option midshipmen participated in a dedicated “Marine Month” training program, and five

rising seniors completed the challenging Officer Candidates School capstone training course, enabling them to commission after earning their academic degree.

“My summer cruise experience was a great opportunity to be fully immersed in the Navy life,” said Midshipman Shelby Pierson '22. “I was able to shadow in an aviation squadron and understand the daily operations from aircraft maintenance to flight operations.”

FALL TRAINING

In August, the unit welcomed 100 freshman midshipmen, 30 of them with four-year scholarships, and resumed in-person training in Blacksburg for the battalion of 300 midshipmen.

To improve skills in critical core competencies, Navy professional labs transitioned to company-level, practical and “hands-on” training focused on damage control, warrior toughness, breath work and mindfulness training, close-order drill, swim qualifications, financial management, and Navy customs and courtesies.

SERVICE SELECTION

On Oct. 15, Navy service assignments were announced to the senior class. Midshipmen screened well in the Navy’s most competitive selections with 10 submarine warfare, three Naval special warfare, one surface warfare nuclear propulsion, and the unit’s first-ever cyber warfare engineer select, Bernie Cieplak '22, one of only three selected nationally!

Additionally, the unit assigned 18 surface warfare, seven Naval aviation, two Naval flight officers, and five selected for Marine ground option.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Benjamin Wooley '23

Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 is back to a sense of normalcy after returning to mostly in-person instruction this fall.

The detachment welcomed a new commander, Col. Greg Lowe '97, and two new cadre instructors, Maj. Kristen Baker and Capt. Da'rrell Cousin.

Detachment 875 also welcomed 130 new cadets, 18 of whom earned a scholarship through Air Force ROTC's high school scholarship program. This class of new cadets is the largest in program history and brings the detachment to a total of 302 cadets.

Cadet Giavanna Angelo '22, the cadet wing commander, led through the transition of a new detachment commander and the transition back from life during the pandemic. Her goal was "to make the most of in-person opportunities this semester with activities such as leadership exercises simulating field training scenarios, valuable interactions with active duty airmen across a variety of career fields, and peer leadership and team building development through wing-wide events in physical training and professional growth."

SUMMER TRAINING

Cadet Sarah Mombaur '23 attended the Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy this past summer. Over the eight-week training period, she earned her private pilot license. She shared, "This opportunity was a lifelong dream come true. ... It was an intense eight weeks of studying and flying; however, it was worth every second when I passed my checkride and had my wings pinned on



Maj. Adam Cade '09 speaks with cadets about his career field after landing his HH-60 combat rescue helicopter on the Drillfield.

by Brig. Gen. Michael T. Rawls."

Cadet Sarah Mar '22 participated in the Korean Project GO program this summer at the University of Montana. This program was intended to be a 10-week hybrid program (two weeks in Montana and eight weeks in Korea), but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was modified to one week on the video conferencing platform Zoom and seven weeks in Montana.

Mar intensively studied the Korean language and went on field trips exploring the popular sights and beautiful national parks of Montana. This program helped develop her language and cross-cultural capabilities for her future as a commissioned officer.

SEMESTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This semester has brought with it the return of in-person events that were missed over this last year.

The Air Force Marathon took place Sept. 26 with approximately 20 cadets participating in what was described as a "simple course with amazing scenery" and serving as a personal accomplishment for those involved.

To observe the 20th anniversary of 9/11, cadets, cadre, and local first responders took part in a stair workout on the steps of Lane Stadium in memory of the brave souls who lost their lives.

This semester's Warrior Day gave sophomore cadets valuable skills needed for field training next summer. Three cadets, William Edinger '22, Jackson Browning '22, and Christopher Widger '22, picked up rated slots this semester, receiving pilot, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, and Remotely Piloted Aircraft, respectively.

Additionally, Cadet Hana Schelsinger '21 commissioned into the Air Force on Oct. 1.



HUNDREDS OF ALUMNI CAME TO CAMPUS AS THIS YEAR'S CORPS REUNION BLENDED NEW EVENTS AND BELOVED TRADITIONS ON SEPT. 11-12.



Alumni talked with current cadets and shared their stories during the Friday night Corps Organizations Open House.



Friday featured the premiere of "If These Walls Could Talk," a film projected onto the facade of Lane Hall that brought to life 150 years of Corps history and kicked off the university's sesquicentennial celebration. Photo by Noah Kim '23.



Above: Alumni formed up on Worsham Field during the pregame show of the Military Appreciation Game in Lane Stadium. At right: Grover Starbuck '65 showed off his rat belt.





The reunion included a brunch and business meeting in Dietrick Dining Hall before the football game.



This year's homecoming parade moved to Friday night.



Highty-Tighties from the Class of 1971 were recognized for joining the Corps' Old Guard, marking 50 years since their graduation.

HIGHTY-TIGHTIES
GATHERED FOR THEIR
REUNION OCT. 15-16 AND
PUT ON QUITE A SHOW,
MARCHING IN TWO
EVENTS AND ENJOYING
THE TIME TO CATCH UP
WITH LIFELONG FRIENDS.



Highty-Tighty alumni and current Highty-Tighties marched in the pre-game show of the homecoming football game.

WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

When asked this question recently, I realized my “why” is tied to my daily motivation. This question further caused me to reflect back on the donors and alumni who have shared their “why” and motivation for investing in the Corps of Cadets with me. Have you thought of your “why”? And, most importantly, what your legacy in the Corps will be?

As you ponder this question, below are just a few ways to leave a legacy in the Corps. You will also find some examples of the “why” for other Corps donors.

SPECIAL NAMING OPPORTUNITY

Corps Leadership and Military Science Building: If you are interested in investing in this fantastic new space, there are a few naming opportunities available starting at \$25,000. All naming opportunities can be accomplished through a five-year pledge. Be sure to secure your naming as we make plans to open this transformational space in fall 2023!

Why? The sister of a late Corps alumnus wanted to honor her brother’s life by naming an Army office in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building in his memory. She did not attend Virginia Tech but found her “why” in the Corps, and we are very proud that she chose us as the place to honor her brother.

WAYS TO CREATE YOUR OWN IMPACT IN THE CORPS

Endowments are a powerful investment in the future of the Corps.



The Huckleberry Trail is quiet moments before hundreds of cadets arrive during the fall Caldwell March.

Endowed gifts, which include cadet scholarships, are invested each year, and a percentage of the return provides critical support to Corps initiatives. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000 and established with a five-year pledge or through an estate gift.

Why? A Corps alumnus emailed to ask for the names of alumni who died in conflict. He wanted to find a story to honor through the creation of an endowed scholarship. I shared the name of a Virginia Tech alumnus, although not a Corps alumnus, who died a few months before in a training accident. I had met his pregnant widow and their young son at a ceremony a few weeks before, when her late husband’s name was added to the Pylons.

When I called to ask the widow for permission to create an endowed scholarship in her late husband’s name, she was moved to tears. She told me that she knew Corps alumni were special, but

this was beyond anything she imagined. This alumnus also wanted to add the widow to stewardship for this endowed scholarship. Such an incredibly selfless act of generosity and it all started with this alumnus’ “why.”

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made one time or arranged on a convenient, recurring basis.

Gifts to the Commandant’s Priority Fund of \$500 or greater, made before the sponsorship deadlines, automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March.

Why? A recent graduate wanted to create his legacy in the Corps and began with his senior class gift. By giving to the Corps Global Scholars Fund to earn a brick plaque, he is now on track to reach the \$2,500 threshold by the March 10, 2025, deadline. His “why” will be realized when his brick plaque is displayed in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS

There are so many wonderful options for leaving a powerful legacy through planned gifts to the Corps, and we are here to help.

Future intent: If you have included the Corps in your estate planning, please let us know. If you have chosen to give through your estate, there are ways to experience the impact of your future gift during your lifetime.

Donor-advised fund: Create a donor-advised fund to maximize tax benefits now through recommended charitable gifts, possibly with family involvement, for many years to come. Choose distributions within Virginia Tech or the outside charities of your choice.

Why? A Corps alumna who was in the process of defining her estate gift

to the Corps sadly died suddenly. She was passionate about the endowment she wanted to create; knowing this, her family stepped in and continued her gift conversation. The future endowment is now being funded through an annual gift and has become a family legacy in the Corps. This lasting tribute to the life of this incredible woman has become her family's "why."

IMPORTANT CHARITABLE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021

This year, there's a \$300 charitable deduction per person (\$600 per couple), even if you don't itemize your deductions.

Donors making larger gifts and pledge payments this year can benefit from the ability to use more of their

deduction to accelerate their tax savings. Most gifts made in 2021 can be deducted up to 100 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income (as compared to the normal 60 percent). To qualify, they must be cash gifts to public charities. These benefits don't apply to gifts of stock or real estate, or gifts to a donor-advised fund.

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make "qualified charitable distributions" to the Corps from your IRA without it being taxed as income. Moreover, qualified charitable distributions can count toward any required minimum distribution you must take.

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets advancement team today at 540-231-2892 or vtcc@vt.edu. We're online at vtcc.vt.edu/give.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN THE CORPS

Throughout history, Corps of Cadets graduates have left their names and class years in pencil on the bricks of Lane Hall. Now, you can leave your mark on a brick plaque in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. We've actually used images of the Lane Hall bricks to make these one-of-a-kind plaques.

Here's how it works: Donate at least \$2,500 to any Corps of Cadets non-endowed fund, such as the Commandant's Priorities Annual Fund, between March 10, 2020, and March 10, 2025. That's just \$500 a year.

Once you reach the \$2,500 total giving threshold, we will send you a sample inscription to approve. The inscription will include your full name, class year, and Corps' company on three separate lines. You can choose our typeface or your own handwriting. (Because of space limitations on the plaque, we will be unable to add titles, honorifics, military rank, or nicknames.)



Each brick plaque must be tied to a single giving record, and we must limit one plaque to each record. The \$2,500 threshold can only be counted once to an individual giving record. If you are giving to honor a friend or loved one in addition to your own brick plaque, please be sure that \$2,500 donation is tied to that person or another family member's giving record. We are unable to count company matches toward any \$2,500 giving threshold.

The brick plaques will be featured in a special place in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, expected to open in 2023. Give now to ensure your name is in place for the dedication ceremony.

The Corps' advancement team is ready to help you with any needs or questions. Contact us at 540-231-2892 or vtcc@vt.edu.

IN MEMORY



WILLIAM SHELTON SR. '44

1922-2021

Dr. William Alexander Shelton Sr., passed away Aug. 28, 2021. Born on Dec. 19, 1922, he was a World War II veteran who saw action in the European and Pacific theaters. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, as well as other decorations. After active duty, he completed his studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and its Corps of Cadets and then went to the Medical College of Virginia to become a doctor. He practiced medicine in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, for more than four decades before retiring in June 2002. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Roberta "Bird" Brookes Shelton, and two sons.



GLENN SAUNDERS JR. '48

1927-2021

Glenn William Saunders Jr. passed away April 1. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948 with a degree in civil engineering. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and assigned to post-World War II Germany. He was called back into the Army during the Korean War. He later worked as an engineer in Alexandria, Virginia, and in Fairfax, Virginia, where he also served as town manager. In 1961, he was hired to develop the planned community of Reston, Virginia. He went on to advise on real estate matters around the world. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty Jane Saunders, and three sons.



CALVIN STOWE '50

1923-2021

Calvin McKinley Stowe passed away on his 98th birthday, Sept. 26. His final days were spent surrounded by family. He started at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in fall 1942 before serving on a destroyer in the Pacific during World War II and then returning to complete his degree. He was the first of three generations of Virginia Tech graduates, including his son, Edward McKinley Stowe; his daughters, Gwen Adams and Rosalind Manning; and his grandson, Parker Stowe Manning. He was a lifelong resident of Danville and Dry Fork, Virginia, later residing in Holly Springs, North Carolina. He is survived by his beloved wife, Esteen, and his daughters.



WILLIAM BLAYLOCK '55

1933-2021

William E. "Bill" Blaylock, a lifelong farmer and dairyman, passed away May 1. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in general agriculture. He wrestled on the college team and was in the Corps of Cadets. After graduation, he went home to the family farm, where he spent the rest of his life as a dairy and tobacco farmer. In 1956, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served two years. He served on the Mecklenburg County (Virginia) Board of Supervisors for 47 years. In 1963 and in 1967, he received Virginia's Outstanding Young Farmer Award. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doma Ferguson Blaylock, and a daughter.



ARTHUR OLD '58

1936-2021

Arthur “Art” Doniphon Old passed away March 9. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the Corps of Cadets, serving as Eager Squad and Eager Platoon leader his senior year. He graduated with a degree in geology and was commissioned in the U.S. Army as an air defense artillery officer. He was stationed in Texas and Virginia. Transferring to the Reserve, he taught science before returning to VPI to earn a degree in industrial engineering in 1964. Honorably discharged, he accepted a position with Armstrong World Industries, where he worked for 29 years. He is survived by his wife, Martha Layman Old; a son; a step-son; and a step-daughter.



ROBERT CHANDLER '61

1939-2021

Robert Preston Chandler passed away June 15. He was born in Plain View, Virginia, and attended Pleasant Hill High School, where he lettered in basketball and baseball. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the Corps of Cadets, graduated with an engineering degree, and later earned a master’s degree in engineering. He was an avid driver, auto racing enthusiast, gardener, and loved hiking and camping outdoors. He worked at the Virginia Department of Transportation for 42 years, never accepting responsibility for any of the potholes. At 65, he bought a Cadillac and drove from the dealer’s lot to California and back. He is survived by two sons.



ROBERT MARSHALL '61

1938-2021

Robert “Bob” Clark Marshall passed away Sept. 22, 2021. He was born on Oct. 26, 1938, and his passion since boyhood was aviation. After graduating from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets in 1961, he was selected to be a pilot for the Marine Corps where he enjoyed a 20-year career. He continued work with avionics engineering firms supporting the Marine Corps and Naval aviation missions throughout the world. He was the husband first to the late Barbara Anderson Marshall, second to the late Peggy Durham Marshall, and third to Joan Lewis Marshall, who survives. He is also survived by a son and a daughter.



K. WAYNE RICE '67

1944-2021

Kenneth “Wayne” Rice died June 25. He was a husband, a father, a grandpa, and a friend to all who met him. Born in Richmond, Virginia, on Feb. 28, 1944, he met his wife, Sharon, in high school. They married in 1966 while he was still a cadet at Virginia Tech. After graduation, they drove cross country to White Sands, New Mexico, where he was stationed in preparation to serve in the Army in the Vietnam War. After his tour was up, they relocated to California, where he discovered a passion for investment real estate. He set up shop and embarked on a career that spanned more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife and two children.



PAUL LAW '78

1956-2021

Col. Paul Alexander Law passed away Aug. 4. He was born Aug. 20, 1956, in Henry County, Virginia. A strong linebacker for G.W. Carver High School, he went on to join the Corps of Cadets, where he was the bass drummer for the Highty-Tighties. He received his commission through Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 and served from 1979 to 2007, traveling around the world. He is survived by his wife of over 20 years, Norma F. Law, and a daughter.



THOMAS WALLIS '84

1962-2021

Thomas “Tom” Joseph Wallis passed away May 1 in Miami, Florida. He was born in Landstuhl, Germany, on July 10, 1962. He attended Virginia Tech and later the National Defense Intelligence College, where he received a degree in strategic intelligence. He worked as a foreign service officer for the U.S. State Department for 20 years, serving in Africa, Germany, Belize, Jamaica, and Peru. He was a U.S. Army veteran, obtaining the rank of staff sergeant and serving in Kuwait, Kosovo, and Iraq. He received numerous medals, including a Bronze Star. He is survived by his parents and his wife, Monica.



JERRY SNEAD '85

1963-2021

Jerry Michael Snead died Sept. 12. He was born July 10, 1963, and graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. He was employed with the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s hydraulics unit for 30 years. His interests included his family, music, the Hokies, Bible study, mission outreach, and monkeys. He is survived by his father; his wife of 34 years, Dena Dunnam Snead; and three sons.



DAVID ENGLE '13

1991-2021

David Engle passed away on Feb. 20 in Chandler, Arizona. He was a 2013 graduate of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets’ Citizen-Leader Track program, earning a degree in geography. He was active in the Best Buddies Program on campus and significant funds were donated in his memory to support a “buddy” to attend the National Best Buddies Leadership Conference for several years to come. He was an active supporter of the Hokie Club and loved Virginia Tech sports. He was employed by State Farm in Tempe, Arizona, where he had been a claims adjuster since 2013. He is remembered for his warm smile and laugh, generosity, love of sports and travel, and of course, his dog, Jonesy. He was very proud to be a Corps graduate.

LEST WE FORGET

Samuel Lapkin '45, Walnut Creek, California, 4/11/2021
James H. Black '46, Quinton, Virginia, 4/14/2021
H. Bradley Kilgour '46, Leesburg, Virginia, 4/20/2021
Ezra H. Williams '46, Kingsport, Tennessee, 8/9/2021
John C. Crews '47, Schwenksville, Pennsylvania, 8/13/2021
Mark E. Scherer '47, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 3/27/2021
Willis S. White '47, Columbus, Ohio, 7/4/2021
James M. Etheredge '48, Chesapeake, Virginia, 7/19/2021
Frank B. Magill '48, Peterborough, New Hampshire, 5/7/2021
Claiborne M. Ball '49, Silver Spring, Maryland, 7/5/2021
Alfred W. Hauser '49, West Point, Virginia, 5/3/2021
Victor L. Vaughan '49, Newport News, Virginia, 7/15/2021
B. Stuart Vincent '49, Bridgewater, Virginia, 5/27/2021
Billy H. Wingfield '49, Petersburg, Virginia, 5/19/21
William F. Ames '50, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 4/16/2021
Charles W. Browning '50, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 8/6/2021
William T. Jarrett '50, Willow Street, Pennsylvania, 8/7/2021
Johnson C. Moss '50, Richmond, Virginia, 4/3/2021
Goodridge E. White '50, Webster Springs, West Virginia, 6/2/2021
Clifton W. Davis '51, New Kent, Virginia, 8/26/2021
Egbert H. Irwin '51, Manasquan, New Jersey, 4/14/2021
Carlton G. Middlebrook '51, Dahlgren, Virginia, 7/27/2021
Robert E. Richard '51, Frisco, Texas, 4/17/2021
Clenton W. Shanks '51, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 4/17/2021
Martin W. Bankhead '52, Plano, Texas, 6/9/2021
E. Ritchie Fishburne '52, Greensboro, North Carolina, 5/10/2021
Earl J. Haden '52, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 4/30/2021
John B. Holland '52, Winchester, Virginia, 7/22/2021
Gerald M. Knott '52, Roswell, Georgia, 5/9/2021
Benton R. Leach '52, High Point, North Carolina, 5/26/2021
J.C. Morris '52, North Chesterfield, Virginia, 7/14/2021
Kenneth Beachum '54, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2/20/2021
Robert O. Cavender '54, Largo, Florida, 5/6/2021
Robert E. Isaac '54, Norton, Virginia, 8/14/2021
Curtis L. Bishop '55, Bramwell, West Virginia, 8/30/2021
Robert E. Dudley '55, Huntsville, Alabama, 6/11/2021
Robert W. Scates '55, Stuarts Draft, Virginia, 5/15/2021
Lee C. Zastovnik '55, Longview, Texas, 6/17/2021
Robert J. Bell '56, San Antonio, Texas, 5/10/2021
Richard T. Heath '56, Charlottesville, Virginia, 8/9/2021
Daniel D. Parrish '56, Staunton, Virginia, 5/13/2021
Meade H. Rudasill '56, Annapolis, Maryland, 6/26/2021
William R. Powell '57, Blacksburg, Virginia, 7/26/2021
Clyde O. Bodie '58, Powhatan, Virginia, 4/23/2021
Lindsay D. Brown '58, Wmette, Illinois, 5/26/2021
Franklin R. Cheng '58, Rock Island, Illinois, 5/4/2021
Dallas W. Culbertson '58, Charlottesville, Virginia, 8/8/2021
Harry E. Hamilton '58, Charleston, South Carolina, 5/21/2021
David L. Reedy '58, Kilmarnock, Virginia, 5/2/2021
William T. Tilling '58, Winchester, Virginia, 5/22/2021
Norman V. Clinevell '59, Roanoke, Virginia, 7/3/2021
James N. Eller '59, Savannah, Georgia, 4/24/2021
John R. Jones '59, Goochland, Virginia, 7/14/2021
David T. Myles '59, Friendswood, Texas, 8/25/2021
Lawrence H. Woodward '59, Zuni, Virginia, 6/30/2021
William W. Bird '60, Sterling, Massachusetts, 8/13/2021
Ronald E. English '60, Kernersville, North Carolina, 5/7/2021
Douglas M. Franklin '60, Burlington, North Carolina, 8/4/2021
Thomas M. Gordon '60, Loveland, Colorado, 5/23/2021
James P. Jenkins '60, White Stone, Virginia, 7/1/2021
Norbert A. O'Hare '60, Beavercreek, Ohio, 8/6/2021
Richard W. Ogershok '60, San Antonio, Texas, 5/24/2021
James H. White '60, Atlanta, Georgia, 4/22/2021
Emory M. Anderson '61, Warsaw, Virginia, 7/29/2021
James C. Cheely '61, Camden, South Carolina, 4/25/2021
Frank W. Davis '61, Knoxville, Tennessee, 5/31/2021
Joseph C. Faison '61, Tipp City, Ohio, 4/17/2021
Allan P. Johnson '61, Crp Christi, Texas, 6/30/2021
James C. May '61, Madison Heights, Virginia, 8/1/2021
Clarence C. Poe '61, Yorktown, Virginia, 7/24/2021
William A. Thomas '61, Milton, West Virginia, 7/24/2021
Lewis R. White '61, Staunton, Virginia, 8/8/2021
Carl D. Meekins '62, Annapolis, Maryland, 4/30/2021
William E. Browning '63, Hume, Virginia, 7/30/2021
Tonu Bruns '63, Huntington Beach, California, 6/2/2021
James H. James '63, Dublin, Virginia, 6/17/2021
Henry E. Richeson '63, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 8/15/2021
Dale B. Chisamore '64, Plano, Texas, 5/16/2021
Joseph P. Gaino '64, Gaffney, South Carolina, 6/17/2021
Marvin L. Johnson '64, Huntington Beach, California, 4/30/2021
David C. Miller '64, Mc Lean, Virginia, 4/10/2021
Wilson D. Ross '64, Corolla, North Carolina, 5/8/2021
Hunter B. Teates '64, Blacksburg, Virginia, 6/23/2021
George T. Williamson '64, Palm Beach, Florida, 7/14/2021
Edward A. Copeland '65, South Bend, Indiana, 4/14/2021
Jerry W. Jackson '65, Wilmington, North Carolina, 8/13/2021
Thomas A. Dillard '66, Greer, South Carolina, 6/30/2021
William D. Parris '66, Valdosta, Georgia, 6/30/2021
Kenneth W. Rice '66, Hopkins, Minnesota, 6/25/2021
Douglas B. Robbins '66, N. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 6/11/2021
Robert E. Kahl '68, Midlothian, Virginia, 5/16/2021
Andrew W. Moncol '72, Rockville, Virginia, 7/11/2021
Randolph L. Robins '74, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, 7/23/2021
George Kwascha '75, Mebane, North Carolina, 8/16/2021
Charles L. Reid '75, East Orange, New Jersey, 4/19/21
Robert L. Gravatt '81, Milford, Virginia, 7/2/2021
Ernest F. Norman '88, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 4/25/2021

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Middle Tennessee game: U.S. Army Capt. Daniel Gaines '14 is deployed to Eastern Europe.



Pittsburgh game: U.S. Army Maj. Tom Bortner '06 is deployed to Egypt.



Syracuse game: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Catie Fields '19 is deployed to Syria.



West Virginia game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Patrick Fields '19 is deployed to Kuwait.

Richmond game: Virginia National Guard Maj. Justin Leddon '08 is deployed to Kuwait.



Duke game: U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Kyle Luchau '18 is deployed to the Arctic Ocean.



Boston College game: 1st Lt. Thomas Meyer '18 is deployed to Kosovo.



North Carolina game: U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ebony Wilson Rankin '01 is deployed to Kuwait.



Virginia game: U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Doug Clark '90 is deployed to Norway.



Notre Dame game: U.S. Army Maj. Ryan Strait '08 is deployed to the Middle East.



Georgia Tech: U.S. Air Force Maj. Sean Heatherman '11 is deployed with the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron.

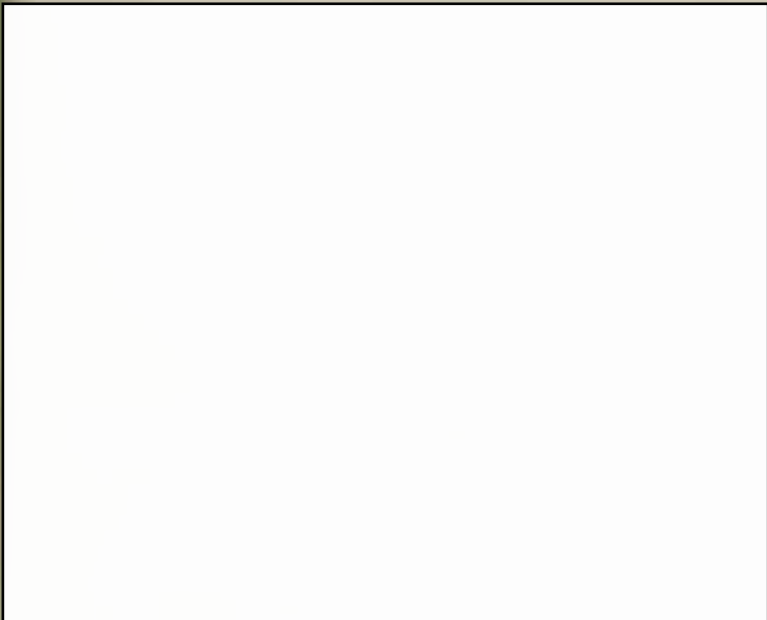


Miami game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. John Sweeney '19 is deployed to South Korea.

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