

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 31 NO. 1 SPRING 2021







Eleven Hokies are currently stationed at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, with Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven, operating the P-8A Poseidon. The P-8A is a multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft serving as an anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and maritime reconnaissance platform. The P-8A squadrons within Wing Eleven deploy around the world in support of global operations. The alumni pictured are all P-8A pilots and Naval flight officers in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft community. "It's great to have so many Hokies in one place. The sense of community is truly unrivaled, and there always seems to be a strong Hokie presence everywhere we go in the military," said Lt. Evan Forst '15. Pictured, from left, are:

- Lt. John Waters '12, instructor pilot with Patrol Squadron 30
- Ens. Travis Bauer VT'18, student Naval flight officer with Patrol Squadron 30
- Lt. Kevin Willett '13, instructor tactical coordinator and mission commander with Commander, Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Eleven
- Lt. j.g. Gareth Burns '15, student pilot with Patrol Squadron 30
- Cmdr. Michael Steffens '03, commanding officer with Patrol Squadron 26
- Lt. j.g. Josh Monteville '18, student pilot with Patrol Squadron 30
- Lt. Evan Forst '15, patrol plane pilot with Patrol Squadron 26
- Lt. James Paratore '15, patrol plane pilot with Patrol Squadron 16
- Lt. j.g. Madison Foreman '17, patrol plane pilot with Patrol Squadron 16
- Lt. j.g. Nikki Slaughter '16, patrol plane pilot with Patrol Squadron 10
- Lt. Shellie (Aylor) Williams '14, tactical coordinator and mission commander with Patrol Squadron 10





Spring 2021, Vol. 31, No. 1

# CONTENTS

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- 6 Christopher and Vickie Ireland '91
- 12 Class of 2021
- 17 Jason Oberoi '09

## FEATURES

- 3 Mike Company Returns
- 18 Class Notes
- 40 Cadets for a Cause
- 41 Corps Marksmanship Team

## PHOTOS

- 10 Spring Events

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Commandant's Column
- 4 Alumni Announcements
- 11 Recruiting Update
- 21 Quad Angle
- 24 Chairman's Column
- 25 Museum Curator
- 26 Giving
- 28 Army ROTC News
- 30 Naval ROTC News
- 32 Air Force ROTC News
- 34 Honor Guard



# WE'RE BUILDING MOMENTUM

There's a certain feeling of energy that normally appears in the spring. This year, it is deeper and wider than usual. Part of it is that the hope of emergence from the pandemic's trials is being felt throughout the community — and most assuredly amongst our staff and cadets.

After the loss of the 2020 spring semester and a return in the fall to a protocol-filled environment and the uncertainty of whether we could make it, we again have the sense that all is possible.

We finished the 2021 spring semester and graduated the senior class in-person. Our rising seniors are ready to take the lead this fall, and our rising juniors and sophomores are ready for more.

Then there's the changing landscape of the Upper Quad as we prepare to break ground on the Corps Leadership and Military Science building, followed by our third cadet residence hall.

Construction trailers! Construction fences! People with safety vests and hard hats everywhere! We've seen them before. When they are working, we see the future rising before our eyes. When they are gone, we have new places to live and new places to inspire our efforts.

We will have new faces joining our staff. And of course, we are saying farewell for now to cadets we have watched grow into confident young leaders, and we prepare for new ones to arrive to follow in their boot steps.

It is hard to express how proud I am of our team. "All in" takes on new meaning in a pandemic. They and their families, all have been touched. It's been personal. Yet they never disconnected from the cadets and our important mission.

In the military construct, we try to explain the ethos of family with phrases such as, "Take care of your troops." Well, the cadets who have been through this together now understand what that means in a much deeper way, and our staff has been there with them every step of the way.

That's also true for the families of the cadets and alumni of the Corps. You each have your own stories to tell from this pandemic. We are grateful that you have been in this with us, checking in, sharing a kind word, participating during Giving Day, and offering support large and small. It mattered ... thank you.

As we always do throughout the year, we have had special guests to share their stories with the cadets as part of the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series. Most recently, Col. Lee Ellis, a former Vietnam prisoner of war and author of some of the books that we use in our classroom work, delivered a message about honor to the regiment. His experience helped to put the challenges we are facing today in perspective and reminded us that no matter what we face as individuals, or as a country, we must "return with honor."

Our Global Scholars program continues to grow as cadets hunger for learning the leadership lessons of history. Because of ongoing travel restrictions, we shifted our focus from Europe to the Pacific and will be taking two groups of cadets to Pearl Harbor this month after a semester-long study of the events and decisions leading up to and beyond that fateful Dec. 7, 1941.

As we look ahead to the fall semester, we are encouraged by the large number of Virginia Tech applicants indicating their interest in joining our Corps.

I hope that you enjoy this wonderful edition of your magazine. You'll get a sense from the articles of this building momentum. Hope. Energy. Perseverance. Leaders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Randal D. Fullhart". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Randal" and last name "Fullhart" clearly legible.

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





Mike Company joined morning formation for the first time in five decades on May 3, the last day of spring classes.

# MIKE COMPANY RETURNS

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets reactivated Mike Company during the spring change of command parade.

Nine rising seniors and 17 rising juniors volunteered to form the cadet leadership team for Mike Company, which was inactivated in 1970 during a decline in enrollment that continued for more than a decade.

Rising sophomores and incoming first-year cadets will fill out the company through the normal company assignment process.

Cadet Fritz Silva '22 will be the Mike Company commander this fall.

"I'm excited to see what my team and I will do for the future of Mike Company as well as what we can bring back from the old Mike Company," he said.

Affectionately called "Big Mike" by its alumni, Mike Company was central to the cadet experience, said Lewis "Bud" Jeffries '64.

"M Company, for those of us that were in it 60 years ago, represented the very best traditions of the Virginia

Tech Corps of Cadets. The cadet company of that era was the center of cadet life. The company was the way you identified yourself as a member of the Corps, around which esprit was built and lifelong friendships were formed."

Those bonds were celebrated during the Class of 1964's 50th reunion, attended by nearly all of Mike Company's alumni, he said.

"After being inactivated in 1970, M Company still lived as long as any one of us lived," Jeffries said. "Now that Company M is being reactivated, may that same spirit and tradition be continued by a new generation."

The last company reactivated was Lima Company in 2012, also spurred by a steady growth in enrollment.

This fall, the corps stood at 1,182 cadets, the largest regiment since 1968. The goal is to reach 1,400 in the coming years, supported by construction of a third cadet residence hall and 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).

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

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Front cover: The spring regimental staff was (from left) Omar Djenbekov '21, Angela Clay '21, Liam Kluesener '21, Simon Eyob '21, Jillian Skahill '21, Alvin Sanders '21, Tyler Stevenson '21, and Jack Ryal '22. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

Back cover: Cadet Dara Qualter '22 and Growley II (call sign "Tank") walk onto Worsham Field in Lane Stadium. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PLANNING FOR REUNIONS AND VIRGINIA TECH'S 150TH YEAR

Virginia Tech will observe the 150th anniversary of its founding from July 2021 through December 2022 with ongoing celebrations to include the Corps of Cadets' celebration in September, coinciding with Corps Reunion.

Details about Corps Reunion and Highty-Tighty Reunion are expected to be available this summer.

Corps Reunion will be Sept. 10-11, including the Military Appreciation game against Middle Tennessee State. Make sure you include a visit to Upper Quad at least one evening for the Corps' sesquicentennial celebration.

Virginia Tech Homecoming and Highty-Tighty Reunion will be Oct. 15-16, including the Pittsburg game. Please note that the Homecoming parade through downtown Blacksburg is moving to Friday night.

University-wide, the sesquicentennial celebration will spread across the commonwealth and even internationally, focusing on themes befitting the roles of a top global research land-grant university and guided by the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

These celebrations will focus on honoring our past and celebrating our present. Most important, it is an opportunity to propel us into the future, charting a course toward greater engagement and impact.

The sesquicentennial will also encompass other significant university observances, including the university's most ambitious fundraising campaign, Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech.

For a video slideshow about the sesquicentennial and updates as the celebrations approach, go to [vt.edu/150](http://vt.edu/150).

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

This year's recipients of the Corps of Cadets' Distinguished Alumni Award are Reed Schweickert Jr. '63 and Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge '69.

Schweickert is a retired business owner of The Reed Schweickert Company, representing Herff Jones in Powhatan,



Reed Schweickert Jr.

an, Virginia. Under his leadership and entrepreneurial spirit, he grew the franchise through demonstrated customer service and the delivery of high-quality products. His most cherished work achievement is his induction into the Herff Jones Hall of Fame.

In his community, he recognized a need for affordable housing and donated the land that enabled Habitat for Humanity to build two homes. He was instrumental in establishing the YMCA in Powhatan County and the Powhatan Free Clinic.

Inge served nearly four decades in the U.S. Army, seeking to groom and mentor others for the benefit of his teams and the nation as a whole.



Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge

His assignments included deputy commander of the United States Northern Command, commanding general of First United States Army, and executive assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Since his military retirement in 2007, Inge has maintained a diverse portfolio as a private consultant, offering advice to small businesses on military and homeland defense matters.

He has received numerous awards for his service, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.



## GUNFIGHTER PANEL CONTINUES ONLINE

The virtual classroom became a special opportunity for cadets to learn from the service of Corps of Cadets alumni.

Since 2004, the Corps has hosted a Gunfighter Panel each semester, bringing to campus alumni recently returned from a combat deployment to speak about their experiences in the military, lessons learned and leadership challenges faced, and how the Corps prepared them for life after college.

The spring 2021 panel was the first to feature five alumni who are deployed with military units around the world. Through Zoom video conferencing with the cadet regiment, they offered advice and answered questions.

Alumni participants were:

- Army Lt. Col. Ian Jarvis '03 is the deputy G34 (Protection) with the 8th Army stationed in South Korea.
- Army Capt. Matt Balach '07 is the ground liaison to the 374th Airlift Wing in Japan.
- Army Maj. Brian Alberts '08 is the support operations officer for the 173rd Infantry Brigade Company Team (Airborne) in Italy.
- Navy Lt. Cmdr. Anthony LaVopa '08 is the commander of the USS Hurricane based in Bahrain.
- Iowa National Guard Maj. Nick Nelson '08 is the liaison officer to the Kosovo Force.

Their collective message to cadets

was to use their Corps experiences to be ready to lead on Day One of their military careers.

Alberts told cadets he deployed to Afghanistan six months after commissioning as a second lieutenant. He found himself trying to adapt to leadership while battling blistering heat and rocket attacks. "It really is a sobering experience," he said.

But he was able to draw on the lessons learned in the Corps, such as how to enforce standards and how to build relationships to help get his footing. "I wasn't as green as I thought," he said.

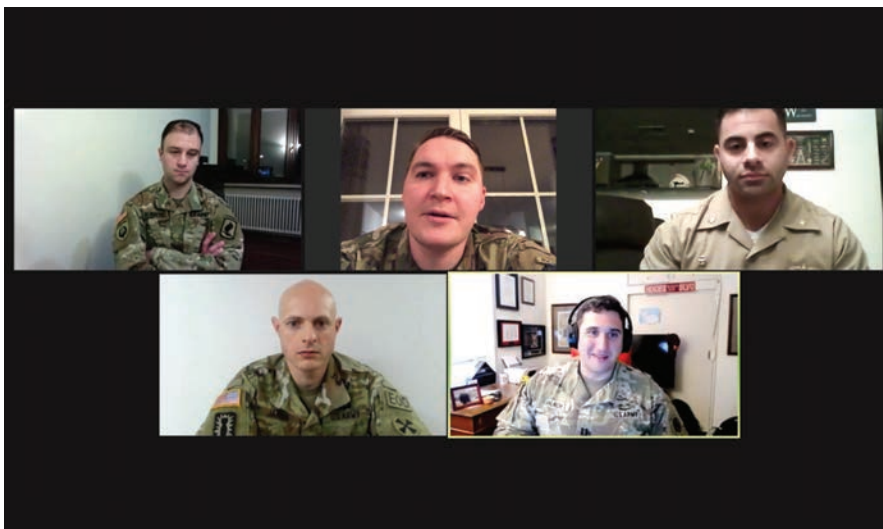
Now a support operations officer, Alberts provides logistics and sustainment to 3,000 Army soldiers on three conti-

nents. "You don't really fathom having that much responsibility coming out of the Corps," he said.

That isn't to say that leadership is easy, the officers said. It's filled with difficult decisions, problems to solve, and high-stress moments.

"Being stressed out is OK because those are character-building moments," Jarvis said. "They help build your sense of humor, and a sense of humor is a pretty important leadership skill."

Be ready to think outside the box, LaVopa said. "The military needs more people that can think outside the norm, get out of the normal 'this is how we've always done it' and be creative."



Clockwise from top left are Maj. Brian Alberts '08, Maj. Nick Nelson '08, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony LaVopa '08, Capt. Matt Balach '07, and Lt. Col. Ian Jarvis '03 talk with cadets via Zoom.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

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

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



# REFLECTIONS

## ON GIFTS RECEIVED FROM OUR CORPS

By Vickie A. (Karolchyk) Ireland HT'91, PhD, RN and Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Ireland E'91, U.S. Air Force

It is an amazing honor to be asked to contribute to our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) magazine, especially as we are both closing in on the 30th anniversary of graduating from Virginia Tech.

This year is also a major inflection point for the Ireland family, as Vickie is now a university professor after earning her doctorate in nursing education in March, and Chris is preparing to retire from the U.S. Air Force this summer.

Looking back, it has become increasingly clear that our VTCC experiences not only forged us into the adults we are

today, but the lessons (fun and painful) set us up for our own professional successes in and out of the military. The Corps is also where we met each other, so we might be just a little biased!

The last 30 years have, in many ways, been a blur. We've been blessed to live abroad in Germany, the United Kingdom (twice!), and Canada, and we have raised two young women with the same set of ideals we internalized in the Corps.

We remain in regular contact with our '91 buds, (and— off the record, of course — even a couple of even-year alumni). We also realize that most of the

friends we've gained since graduation are cut from a similar cloth as our VTCC friends; our four years in the Corps were just that foundational for us.

Rather than describing our arc through the last 30 years, we thought we'd offer some reflections on how our time in the Corps impacted our lives as adults.

We hope that the "older" (not old ... just older) generations see themselves in these points, and that the current cadets might better understand how lucky they are to be a part of something like the VTCC.

### LIFELONG BONDS

Steel is formed under intense heat, and diamonds come as a result of immense pressure.

Every new cadet leaves home with a certain sense of uncertainty, and the VTCC experience replaces that uncertainty with the unbreakable strength of lifelong friends.

When we went through "Turn Night" to earn recognition, we were only as good as the weakest link in our units.

In fact, when we low-crawled up the last hill from Alumni Mall to the old Brodie Hall, we couldn't complete the task until we all arrived at exactly the same moment.

(Let's just say we did it more than once as a result!)

The physical, emotional, and mental challenges of the

Corps experience required each of us to lean on a bud at some point to get through it, and we still lean on those buds 30 years later.

Yet it extends well beyond our immediate classmates; everyone who experienced the VTCC shares that common bond. It's a common grounding in the eight Pylons and the values our alma mater and the VTCC represent.

We've found Hokie Nation at every assignment along the way, and we are better for it.



Vickie Ireland (at left) and fellow HT'91 bud Lori (McGrady) Walden with our beloved commandant, the late Maj. Gen. Stan Musser, in 1991. Walden would be the Irelands' maid of honor.



Chris Ireland (at left) prepares to refuel from a KC-135 near England in 2014. You don't get gas if you're not plus or minus 30 seconds.

## CONFIDENCE UNDER STRESS

Most of us probably have vivid memories of wondering — maybe even out loud — why we needed to know the name of the stream running under the Drillfield.

Stroubles who? Really?

And why is this upperclassman “encouraging” me to properly recite the full names (including middle initials) of all my buds — and in alphabetical order no less?

Well, fast-forward to the emergency room of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Which meds are contra-indicated to what the trauma patient is currently taking? Are the patient’s vitals normal or deteriorating; do we need to change the treatment regimen?

Or morning stand-up at pilot training, recalling emergency procedures and system limitations from memory while standing at attention, alone at the head of the table, to earn a chance to fly that day.

The Corps gave us both the confidence and the muscle memory to know that preparation and study pay off when it most counts.

## GIVE BACK AND TEACH

Life in the Corps provided leadership opportunities and a lifestyle that allowed you to give back, year over year. Each of us were given multiple opportunities as cadets to pass on what little we had learned and mastered.

Vickie commanded the Highty-Tighty Eager Squad to victory, and Chris earned an opportunity to serve as a cadet training officer at ROTC summer field training. These are just two examples.

Watching people absorb your inputs and earn their own mastery of your craft has always been an exceptionally rewarding line of work for both of us.

Chris’s tour as an aircrew instructor was one of his career highlights.

Vickie, however, has set a new family standard for instructional excellence. The passion she applies to her students, whether in the simulation laboratory, the Zoom classroom, or the floor of the teaching hospital, is the same passion and eye for detail that she demonstrated on the Drillfield all those years ago.

The Corps provided both of us early chances to try, occasionally fail, and ultimately learn how to teach.



Vickie Ireland celebrates her recognition as Outstanding Post-Secondary Teacher in her rookie year, 2017, in Tampa, Florida.





Chris Ireland (at right) with Chief Master Sergeant Will Markham, one of America's first two airmen on the ground in Afghanistan after 9/11. Markham was Chris' senior enlisted leader and mentor for three years while they led together in the United Kingdom and while deployed in combat. Markham and his wife, Charity, remain the Irelands' dear friends to this day.

## LEADERSHIP IS A TEAM SPORT

Leadership education tends to focus a lot on individuals. But in the practical laboratories of life, we've found that leadership, more often than not, involves a small inner circle of folks aligning to bring a larger mass forward.

A cadet company commander does not stand alone — the executive officer, the first sergeant, the cadet battalion commander, the active duty advisor, and more are all chartered to achieve the same success: academic graduation and character development for the cadets in their trust.

In the real world, this is no different. Charge nurses must collaborate with doctors. Faculty must remain aligned with the classroom techniques of their colleagues. Formation leads must lean on the aircraft commanders off either wing to distribute duties in-flight.

This becomes even more critical at executive levels within any organization; leaders are only as good as the team around them, especially when the scope and scale of the organization exceeds the capacity of any one person. We've been blessed to work alongside some of America's finest over the years, whether fighting illness or our nation's enemies.

## PROFESSIONS, AND THUS PROFESSIONALS, HAVE STANDARDS

Probably the rudest awakening for any new cadet is the incessant push to conform to a standard. Uniforms, marching, new cadet knowledge, and even the daily regimen was issued to us.

In some ways, we think the subordination to a common standard is about group dynamics, but we also think it's about forming a habit and a commitment to doing the right things the right way.

In a hospital, the steps for dealing with a coding patient are critical — nay, life critical — tasks.

Flying is no exception. "On time, on target, plus or minus 30 seconds" was our acid test, and we debriefed ourselves mercilessly as a crew when we failed to meet the standard.

Having a standard to measure oneself against is key to improving, and it provides a ready reference when motivating



From left, "New Cadet Clark, M.E.; New Cadet Norman, 'K.N.'; and New Cadet Ireland, C.J., E-91, request permission to" pose in Rasche Hall after induction into the Gregory Guard. Chris' two roommates have been alongside the family since they all first met in 1987.

and inspiring excellence.

The best teams we've been a part of over the years were teams that held themselves to high standards. The

Highty-Tighties, Gregory Guard, and other daily aspects of the Corps helped us see and feel that pride in early adulthood.

## HONOR HISTORY AND PAY IT FORWARD

While writing this, a couple of our social media apps came alive with stories and reflections tied to Medal of Honor Day (March 25).

Friends and colleagues posted to honor their favorite Medal of Honor recipient, and we couldn't help but think about walking across the "VT" sidewalk in front of Lane Hall and paying respects to the names on the Rock, whether we were in uniform or out.

It was a tradition that forced you to get out of your own head, even if for a brief moment.

While pulling guard duty on top of the War Memorial Chapel on a "Bleaksburg" winter night, you could push yourself through the cold because you knew the names on the Pylons around you had given so much more.

This is the great intangible gift of the Corps. We were given an opportunity to learn about, and stand on the shoulders of, all those who came before us.

Remember the service projects we all did as cadets? Those same worthy causes are out there today.

Pay it forward when you can.



The Irelands found the marker for Medal of Honor recipient Lt Jimmie Monteith during a family visit to Normandy in 2013.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

If you can't tell, we are extremely grateful for all our Corps has done for us, and we're exceptionally proud of all the Corps has become. When we graduated, the VTCC was down to just under 500 total cadets. The post-Cold War peace dividend ravaged the ROTC programs, and thus the ranks of our Corps.

Now, thanks to committed alumni and passionate cadre, we see cadets proudly stepping out on the Caldwell March,

the Skipper continues to salute Hokie success, and our school's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), lives on with the VTCC as its embodiment.

The friendships we formed remain active to this day, and we look forward to growing old(er) with our lifelong friends as we plant roots in Maine. We wish you all a happy and healthy Appalachian Spring, and Rah Tech!



The Ireland family in 2009 at Hurlburt Field, Florida, in front of the mighty MC-130H Combat Talon II.



The Irelands today, anticipating their "first retirement" in Maine. Come from away and visit, ayuh!



THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR ENDED STRONG WITH TRADITIONAL CORPS EVENTS RANGING FROM THE PLATOON TACTICAL CHALLENGE TO THE CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE.



Cadets move a large log during the Platoon Tactical Challenge events. Photo by Simon Eyob '21.



Bravo Company cadets show off their gold cords during the spring Change of Command Parade. Bravo Company won the Beverly S. Parrish Award as the top company in the Corps. Photo by Eleanor Verburg '22.



Above: Gregory Guard commander Hana Schlesinger '21 (at front left) leans for a better look during the Jaffe Eager Squad drill competition. Photo by Caitlyn Godsey '21. At left: First-year cadets fist-bump upperclass cadets during a turning ceremony at the end of the spring Caldwell March.



# BE PREPARED

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

Long before I was a cadet in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, I was a Boy Scout. The motto of the Boy Scouts of America is “Be Prepared.”

In the past, you have heard me refer to the fall college fair season as being akin to Christmas for Corps alumni recruiters. College fairs (spring fairs are primarily for juniors and fall fairs are for juniors and seniors) are the two times of the year when potential Virginia Tech-bound students beat a path to the tables where Virginia Tech admission personnel and Corps recruiters are ready to talk about Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets.

The fairs are sanctioned and organized at both the state and national levels: in Virginia by the Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and at the national level by the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, the in-person fairs last fall and this spring were canceled, and virtual fairs took their places. This fall remains an unanswered question; therefore, be prepared.

There are two obvious branches and sequels for the fall – we gain herd immunity this summer and life begins to return to normal and we are back to in-person recruiting, or the lockdowns on certain activities such as college fairs continues. If that happens, we will have to continue with recruiting by networking.

Networking — reaching out to the children of friends, co-workers, church friends who may be interested in Virginia Tech — is slow going. However, if virtual fairs continue, networking will be one of the few tools left in our kit.



Band Company commander Catherine Walls '21 stands in front of her company during morning formation.

Stay tuned to the Corps' website at [vtcc.vt.edu](http://vtcc.vt.edu) and the commandant's Facebook page at [facebook.com/cvtcc](https://facebook.com/cvtcc). We'll do our best to keep you informed.

In the meantime, I'll leave you with another Boy Scout thought: Do a good turn daily. This fits nicely with Corps of Cadets alumni who embrace *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

**JOHN ABBOTT**

Lima Company, Navy

**JEFFREY ACKISS**

Hotel Company, Navy

**JOSHUA ADELMANN**

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**BRYAN ALBERTSON**

Charlie Company, Army

**NICHOLAS ALFONSO**

Delta Company, Air Force

**MYKYTA ANDRYEYESHYN**

Alpha Company, Army

**PHIL ARANETA**

Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**ABIGAIL ARFT**

Hotel Company, Air Force

**ALEXANDER AUSTIN**

Delta Company, Army

**KEVIN BACK**

Alpha Company, Air Force

**LEO BAVARO**

India Company, Army

**NOAH BAYER**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**NICOLE BECKER**

Bravo Company, Air Force

**DARIAN BERSCH**

India Company, Army

**BRYAN BETHKE**

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**GRACE BETTENDORF**

Echo Company, Army

**ANDREW BONAVITA**

Kilo Battery, Air Force

**MATTHEW BRANDT**

Highly-Tighties, Navy

**FRANK BREDICE**

Foxtrot Company, Army

**ADEN BROWN**

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**DARRIEN BROWN**

India Company, Army

**STANLEY BROWN**

Bravo Company, Army

**TROY BRYANT**

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**MITCHELL BUNTYN**

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**PARKER CAIN**

India Company, Army

**CHASE CALDWELL**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**WILLIAM CALDWELL**

Charlie Company, Army

**CHRISTOPHER CARON**

Kilo Battery, Navy

**ERICA CHOI**

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**ENZO CICCHINELLI**

Charlie Company, Marines

**JOSEPH CIOFFARI**

Alpha Company, Navy

**SCOTT CLANCY**

Lima Company, Army

**ANGELA CLAY**

Hotel Company, Air Force

**KRISTEN CLAYE**

Charlie Company, Army

**JORDAN COFFMAN**

Bravo Company, Army

**CALEB COLEMAN**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**LIA COMPTON**

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**ERIC COOK**

Kilo Battery, Navy

**CATHERINE CORRADINO**

Kilo Battery, Air Force

**JAMES COX**

Delta Company, Army

**REBEKAH CRUMP**

Charlie Company, Air Force

**RICHARD CUMMINGS**

Charlie Company, Army

**KYLE CUPP**

Delta Company, Army

**KYRSTEN DALLANEGRA**

Lima Company, Navy

**FRANCIS DALY**

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JOSHUA DANIELS**

Kilo Battery, Citizen-Leader Track

**COLIN DE MARIA**

Echo Company, Army

**VIVIAN DEES**

Hotel Company, Navy



Senior cadets line up in front of the regiment during the Change of Command Parade. Photo by MacLayne Morrow '22.

**VICTORIA DEFILIPPO**

India Company, Army

**NIKOLAI DEGENHARDT**

Kilo Battery, Army

**THEODORE DELEON**

India Company, Air Force

**MARK DELLAVALLE**

Lima Company, Army

**JORDAN DICKEY**

India Company, Marines

**MADISON DILLOW**

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**OMAR DJIENBEKOV**

Charlie Company, Army

**STANLEY DOBIS**

Hotel Company, Navy

**FLETCHER DODGE**

Charlie Company, Air Force

**ROBERT DOMINGUE**

Alpha Company, Marines

**CONNOR DONNELLY**

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**DARRYLL DUCUSIN**

Delta Company, Air Force

**DANIEL DUGAN**

Alpha Company, Air Force

**DARBY DUMMER**

Foxtrot Company, Army

**VICTORIA EASLEY**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**KYLE EICHLIN**

Echo Company, Army

**RYAN ELMIGER**

Echo Company, Air Force

**CHARLES ENG**

India Company, Air Force

**KEILY ERNEY**

Kilo Battery, Army

**JACOB FEURER**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**MASON FITZSIMMONS**

Delta Company, Air Force

**HARRY FLECK**

Charlie Company, Army

**DEVIN FORD**

Bravo Company, Air Force

**ROBERT GAGNE**

Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**JOSHUA GARRETT**

Alpha Company, Army

**ANTHONY GASPAR**

Golf Company, Navy

**ADAM GIAMMATTEI**

Bravo Company, Army

**CAITLYN GODSEY**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**SEBASTIAN**

**GONZALEZ-VALENC**

Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**LINDA GOODSON**

Charlie Company, Air Force

**JOSEPH GRADEN**

Alpha Company, Air Force

**RYAN GRANNAN**

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**NATHAN GREGORY**

Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**CHRISTOPHER GRIFFIN**

Delta Company, Army

**KANA GRIFFIN**

Kilo Battery, Navy



**DANIEL GUERRISI**  
Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**TAYLOR GUILFORD**  
Golf Company, Air Force

**CHRISTOPHER GUTHRIE**  
Highly-Tighties, Navy

**BRENDAN GUTHRIE**  
Highly-Tighties, Army

**MATTHEW GUTTILLA**  
India Company, Navy

**ALYSSA HABER**  
Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**GRACE HALL**  
Foxtrot Company, Air Force

**RYAN HALLAERT**  
Foxtrot Company, Army

**JUSTIN HALSEY**  
Golf Company, Air Force

**ZACHARY HARDING**  
Echo Company, Navy

**ROBERT HARTER**  
Alpha Company, Army

**KAYLEIGH HEATHER**  
Echo Company, Navy

**LIAM HUDDY**  
Lima Company, Army

**RYAN HUMPHRY**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**JONATHAN HYUN**  
Delta Company, Army

**BENJAMIN ISOM**  
Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**EGAN JETT-PARMER**  
Highly-Tighties, Air Force

**TAJEEM JOHNSON**  
Highly-Tighties, Navy

**ANDREW JONES**  
Echo Company, Navy



Erica Choi '21 (at center) shows off her Corps of Cadets certificate during the Corps graduation ceremony.

**LIAM JONES**  
Foxtrot Company, Army

**EVAN JONES**  
India Company, Army

**AMOY JONES**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**AUTUMN KANE**  
Alpha Company, Navy

**ALICJA KARASZEWSKA**  
Lima Company, Army

**MILES KEANE**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**KEITH KELLEY**  
India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JAMES KEMP**  
India Company, Army

**CALEB KERR**  
Golf Company, Army

**MARC KILLIAN**  
Golf Company, Army

**RYAN KILROY**  
Foxtrot Company, Army

**LIAM KLUESENER**  
Lima Company, Navy

**ZENAS KORANTENG-MENSAH**  
Hotel Company, Army

**JOHN KOURY**  
Golf Company, Army

**RYAN KROS**  
Charlie Company, Army

**RYAN KUSTERER**  
Echo Company, Air Force

**ALEXANDER LAMAGNA**  
Lima Company, Navy

**HANNAH LAVIGNE**  
Delta Company, Navy

**MARISSA LAWRENCE**  
Golf Company, Navy

**ZACHARY LEE**  
Charlie Company, Navy

**DYLON LEONARD**  
Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**THOMAS LERETTE**  
India Company, Navy

**DEMING LI**  
Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JOSEPH LITZINGER**  
Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**JACK LONGO**  
Alpha Company, Navy

**NICOLA LONGO**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**AMIEL LOYOLA**  
Golf Company, Army

**BLAINE MAINZ**  
Hotel Company, Marines

**ROGER MAISOG**  
Highly-Tighties, Navy

**KATHERINE MAITLAND**  
Delta Company, Army

**ISABELLA MALETESTA**  
Golf Company, Army

**SHANE MALINO**  
Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**MELONIE MALLETTE**  
Delta Company, Air Force

**FRANCES MANANSALA**  
Delta Company, Air Force

**BRYCE MANLEY**  
Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**HUNTER MANZANO**  
Charlie Company, Army

**JONATHAN MARTELL**  
India Company, Air Force

**CONNOR MCAULAY**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**CONNOR MCCAMPBELL**  
Kilo Battery, Air Force

**JASON MCCARTHY**  
Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**THOMAS MCGRATH**  
Lima Company, Army

**DANIEL MCKILLOP**  
Golf Company, Army

**LIAM MELLON**  
Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**THOMAS MELTON**  
Lima Company, Army

**MATTHEW MERRIAM**  
Hotel Company, Army

**JUSTIN METTLING**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**MATTHEW MIKSZTAL**  
Golf Company, Army

**ANNA MILLER**  
Charlie Company, Navy

**SCOTT MILVAIN**  
Echo Company, Army

**CHAD MITCHEL**  
Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**DEVIN MONG**  
Highly-Tighties, Army

**ALEXANDER MUELLER**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**DILLAN MURPHY**  
Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**BRITTANY NEFF**  
Foxtrot Company, Army

**RILEY NEIMO**  
Hotel Company, Air Force

**GRANGE NEWTON**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**MAME NGOM**  
Lima Company, Air Force

**UDOMSAK NINGCHAROEN**  
Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**MARK NORTON**  
Bravo Company, Air Force

**MICHAEL O'DONOHUE**  
Golf Company, Navy

**RAYNA ODEGAARD**  
Bravo Company, Navy

**MICHAEL OTOONI**  
Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**DENYS OVCHYNNIKOV**  
India Company, Navy

**TYLER PAKISH**  
Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**DANIEL PARK**  
Highly-Tighties, Army

**JASON PARK**  
Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**STEPHEN PAUL**  
Alpha Company, Navy

**ELIZABETH PEASE**  
India Company, Marines

**NOAH PELTIER**  
India Company, Army

**NICOLE POND**  
Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JASON POWERS**  
Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JAMES PURCELL**  
Kilo Battery, Army

**SEAN QUITERIO**  
India Company, Air Force

**JON RICCIARDI**  
Hotel Company, Army

**JACKSON RIFKIN**  
Lima Company, Army

**RILEY RIPA**  
Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**SEAN RONDEAU**  
Kilo Battery, Marines

**JONATHAN ROYSTER**  
Golf Company, Navy

**ALVIN SANDERS**  
Golf Company, Air Force

**DEEPRO SARKAR**  
Echo Company, Army

**YEASNA SAY**  
Lima Company, Army





Seniors throw their covers into the air at the end of the Change of Command Parade.  
Photo by Eleanor Verburg '22.

**MADISON SCHICKEL**

Lima Company, Marines

**SHANE SCHIPPER**

Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**HANA SCHLESINGER**

Charlie Company, Air Force

**NICHOLAS SELIG**

Lima Company, Navy

**HAOYANG SHAO**

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**CAMERON SHINER**

Bravo Company, Army

**COLE SHIPMAN**

Hotel Company, Army

**ALEC SIETZ**

Charlie Company, Army

**JILLIAN SKAHILL**

Bravo Company, Army

**MALCOLM SLUGG**

Kilo Battery, Army

**DANAE SMITH**

Alpha Company, Air Force

**JACKSON SMITH**

Alpha Company, Navy

**TRENTON SNEAD**

Bravo Company, Army

**SCOTT SOCCIO**

Bravo Company, Navy

**SEAN SORENSEN**

Alpha Company, Air Force

**JACKSON SPECHT**

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**LUKE SPECHT**

India Company, Army

**SURABHI SRIVASTAVA**

Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**LIAM STEPHENS**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**NATHAN STEVENS**

Bravo Company, Army

**VINCENT STEVENS**

Echo Company, Air Force

**TYLER STEVENSON**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**JOSHUA STEVIC**

Charlie Company, Air Force

**JOSEPH SULIK**

Foxtrot Company, Navy

**CASEY SUTARA**

Highty-Tighties, Air Force

**JUSTIN SWEAT**

Kilo Battery, Air Force

**ETHAN SWINFORD**

Highty-Tighties, Army

**AUSTIN SZOKE**

Hotel Company, Army

**WILLIAM THOMAS**

Hotel Company, Navy

**MICHAEL TINGLER**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**ERIKA TUTTOBENE**

Hotel Company, Air Force

**MATTHEW UNDERWOOD**

Bravo Company, Navy

**DYLAN VAN NOSTRAND**

Echo Company, Army

**RISHABH VENKETESH**

Kilo Battery, Citizen-Leader Track

**HAYDEN VOEGTLE**

Lima Company, Army

**JUSTIN VU**

Golf Company, Air Force

**CATHERINE WALLS**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

**DAVID WALLS**

Foxtrot Company, Navy

**JONATHAN WANGLER**

Hotel Company, Air Force

**DONALD WARTER**

Bravo Company, Navy

**MEGAN WATKINS**

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

**JOSEPH WENGER**

Kilo Battery, Marines

**LUKE WESTON**

Delta Company, Army

**JOHN WINKERT**

Golf Company, Marines

**ALEX YERINA**

Charlie Company, Army

**WESLEY YEUNG**

Alpha Company, Army

**ZACHERY YOUNG**

India Company, Army

**KALVIN YUAN**

Golf Company, Air Force

**JUSTIN ZIEGMONT**

Foxtrot Company, Army

# THE CADETS DID THE HARD WORK

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

*Jason Oberoi '09 joined the Corps of Cadets staff in 2016. This summer, he will leave the Corps to pursue a career in nursing.*

As I get closer to my last day, I find myself thinking about my time in the Citizen-Leader Track as a cadet would to see if I moved the needle for the program.

COVID-19 and staffing challenges did us no favors in the last year and a half. Job fairs going online and recruiters not coming to campus made it hard for the cadets to make career connections. Online classes and limits on how many people could be in a room took away their ability to be with their peers.

It has not been an easy time. But somehow, through all of it, our cadets continue to be as successful as ever and continued the trend of most accepting career-starting jobs or admission to graduate school before they graduated. Our under-class cadets also continue to earn internships and field studies that will advance their careers and professional development.

Through their performance at internships, along with help from alumni and families, we also have more relationships with employers, which means employers are more likely to reach out in the future when they need interns and employees.

I am excited to see where the program goes as the new director and assistant director come on board. I ask that alumni, families, and cadets continue to support the program with advice, time, and donations. It truly makes a difference in our cadets' success — imagine one day when cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track can just worry about professional development and their grades instead of having to work and worry about debt.

They are a great group of students to work with because they have to earn their keep every day. Many have gone into the federal intelligence agencies, higher education, medicine, and law.

They are filling the moral and intellectual needs of the nation. They are a vital resource worthy of support.

So to answer my question, I helped, but the cadets did the work. It would have been nice to not have a global pandemic to fight through, but there is no other group of cadets that I would have rather be alongside because of their can-do attitudes and because they are a great group.

To the cadets: If you all ever need anything, my phone is always on and my email will not change. Stay in touch, there is nothing better than hearing about your success.



In recognition of his role as a mentor to many, cadets asked Jason Oberoi '09 to be one of the speakers at the Corps graduation ceremony in May.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**Peter R. Kurzhals '60** was presented by Marquis Who's Who with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for his accomplishments in the field of human space flight and aviation.

The award celebrates his many years of experience in his professional network and the achievements, leadership qualities, credentials, and successes he accrued in his field. Boasting over five decades of expertise, he retired in 2011 as the director of systems and software for Boeing Space Systems.



For the third time in its history the Roanoke (Virginia) Bar Association awarded its Distinguished Service Award. **Roy V. Creasy '68** was the recipient based on his many years of service to the legal community.

He has served as president of the Roanoke Bar Association and Roanoke Federal Bar Association. He has been chairman of the Legal Aid Board for the last 20 years.

He continues to be very involved

in many additional community service organizations.

## 1970s

**Samuel Kevin Barger E'76** (U.S. Air Force retired) recently retired as a senior assistant district attorney and was subsequently appointed to the bench. He now serves as an associate magistrate judge in Dawson County, Georgia.



## 1980s

**Gary "Obie" Obermeyer '86** was awarded the Defense Intelligence Agency Directorate of Operations (DIA/DO) COL John Lansdale, Jr. Award recognizing him as the Outstanding DIA/DO Counterintelligence Professional for 2020. Photo courtesy of Patti Obermeyer.

## 1990s

**Jeff Kircher E'94** is the pharmacy manager at Vienna Drug Center in Vienna, Virginia, and a volunteer in the Loudoun County Medical Reserve Corps. He helped provide the first wave



of COVID-19 vaccines to members of the health care community beginning Jan. 4, with the reserve corps giving 500 to 600 vaccines a day.



Virginia Army National Guard **Lt. Col. Shawn G. Talmadge '98** was appointed as deputy secretary and governor's homeland security advisor in the Virginia Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

## 2000s

**Maj. Susan Frank '07** took command of the 919th Special Operations Logistic Readiness Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Field 3 (Duke Field) in Florida.



**Ashley Smith '08** and Philip Moth-ena were married on Oct. 10, 2020, in Blacksburg, Virginia.

## 2010s



U.S. Army **1st Lt. Jocelyn (Lamb) Zimmerman '17** was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for her service in Afghanistan.



**2nd Lt. Clark Shotwell '19** and **2nd Lt. Lauren (Zuchowski) Shotwell '20** were married Jan. 1 in Blacksburg, Virginia. Clark is a logistics officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Lauren is a cyber warfare officer in the U.S. Air Force. Photo courtesy of Sincerely Anna Marie Photography.



## HOKIE HEROES

*Note to readers: Our recognition of the Hokie Heroes for the 2020 Belk Bowl was omitted from the spring 2020 magazine.*

**Angelo McCartney '13** and **Tony McCartney '11**, brothers serving as captains in the U.S. Air Force, were selected as the Hokie Heroes for the 2020 Belk Bowl.

At the time, Angelo McCartney (at left) was deployed to the Middle East, where he flew the F-35A Lightning II stealth aircraft in its first-ever combat deployment.

Tony McCartney (at right) was then a contracting officer deployed for six months to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support in partnership with NATO and Afghan allies.

## GET READY FOR FALL HOKIE HERO NOMINATIONS

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program, started in 2006 by IMG College, honors Corps of Cadets alumni who are deployed during Hokie football games.

Jon Laaser and Mike Burnop highlight the recipients of this honor during each game's radio broadcast.

If you're going to be deployed this fall, be sure to bring a Virginia Tech flag and send us a photo of yourself.

Nominations for Hokie Heroes should be emailed to [vtccalumni@vt.edu](mailto:vtccalumni@vt.edu).

SUBMIT YOUR DEPLOYMENTS, JOB AND RANK CHANGES, AWARDS AND HONORS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, PHOTOS, AND OTHER NEWS AT [VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES](https://vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes).



# INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Tomorrow's leaders are getting ready today. Including the Corps of Cadets in your will or estate plans is a simple yet powerful way to make a difference

Ensign Jake McCormick '18 comes from a Navy family. His father served. Both his grandfathers served. So did two uncles, a brother in a law, and a cousin.

Today, McCormick is carrying on that tradition in a powerful way. After earning degrees in criminology and sociology from Virginia Tech, he commissioned in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer and is stationed on the USS Cole as the gunnery officer.

While enrolled, McCormick was one of many cadets to benefit from the generosity of Hokies who came before. In his case, it was Ed Norwood '44, who had the foresight and generosity to include support for cadet scholarships in his will.

"My whole family has served, and I wanted to take it one step further," McCormick says. "All of the help I could get, financially, was extremely valuable and definitely eased a burden. It made me thankful for what Tech gave me, and since I've graduated I've donated every month to the Commandant's Priorities Fund."

Naming the Corps of Cadets as a beneficiary of your will, IRA retirement plan, life insurance policy, or financial account is a simple and powerful way to help prepare the leaders of tomorrow and join the philanthropic tradition that sustains and propels the Corps of Cadets.

To learn more, please return the attached postage-paid form or reach out to Sandi Bliss at [vtcc@vt.edu](mailto:vtcc@vt.edu) or 540-231-2806.



Ensign Jake McCormick '18 on the USS Cole.

## SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, SPRING 2021

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **OMAR DJIENBEKOV**

Cadet Col. Omar Djienbekov graduated with degrees in national security and foreign affairs and Russian and a minor in leadership studies. He commissioned into the U.S. Army Reserves. He has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps of Cadets and Army ROTC. In the Corps, he served as a squad leader and platoon sergeant

for Charlie Company and commanded Bravo Company. In Army ROTC, he served as the first sergeant of Headquarters Company. He was part of the Gregory Guard and served as its drill sergeant. He was the recipient of an Army ROTC Scholarship and had enlisted into the Army Reserves as a financial management technician.

FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **MADISON DILLOW**

Cadet Lt. Col. Madison Dillow graduated with a degree in criminology. She is undergoing the federal hiring process and plans to work with a three-letter agency. She has held multiple

leadership positions in the Corps such as cadre squad leader, first sergeant for Delta Company, 1st Battalion executive officer, and 1st Battalion commander.

SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **BLAINE MAINZ**

Cadet Lt. Col. Blaine Mainz graduated with a degree in history and a minor in Naval leadership. He commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps. He held multiple positions in the Corps and Marine ROTC. Within the Corps, he served as a first sergeant and company commander. He

also served as squad leader and company physical training instructor for Raider Company in Marine ROTC. Proud to serve 2nd Battalion, Mainz was a member of the Obstacle Course Team, as well as a recipient of a Naval ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **NOAH BAYER**

Cadet Lt. Col. Noah Bayer is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in leadership and service. He will commission into the U.S. Air Force upon graduation. He has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps and Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, he served as a squad leader, cadre platoon sergeant,

first sergeant for Band Alpha Company, and the Highty-Tighties commander. In Air Force ROTC, he served as Bravo Flight commander and Squadron 3 deputy commander. He was a proud Highty-Tighty and the recipient of an Air Force ROTC four-year scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



## COMMAND STAFF, SPRING 2021



Regimental Executive Officer  
Angela Clay  
Meteorology  
Air Force



Regimental Adjutant  
Liam Kluesener  
Materials Science and  
Engineering  
Navy



Regimental Public Affairs  
Officer  
Simon Eyob  
Aerospace Engineering  
Navy



Regimental Operations  
Officer  
Jillian Skahill  
Political Science  
Army



Regimental Supply and  
Finance Officer  
Alvin Sanders  
Geography  
Air Force



Regimental Academics  
Officer  
Tyler Stevenson  
Meteorology  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Sergeant Major  
James Ryal  
Economics  
Army



Regimental Alumni Liaison  
Officer  
Rebekah Crump  
Human Development  
Air Force



Honor Court Chief Justice  
Hana Schlesinger  
Russian and International  
Relations  
Air Force



Staff Judge Adjutant  
Darby Dummer  
Criminology and Sociology  
Army



VPI Battalion Commander  
Nicole Pond  
Building Construction  
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander  
Ryan Elmiger  
Civil Engineering  
Army



Navy Battalion Commander  
Hannah LaVigne  
Computer Science  
Navy



Air Force Wing Commander  
Tori DeFilippo  
Criminology  
Air Force



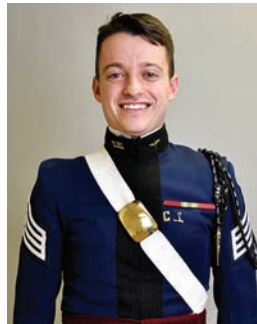
Growley Handler  
Dara Qualter  
Biomedical Science  
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company  
Commander  
Autumn Kane  
Biological Sciences  
Navy



Bravo Company Commander  
Cameron Shiner  
Finance  
Army



Charlie Company  
Commander  
Fletcher Dodge  
Construction Engineering  
and Management  
Air Force



Delta Company Commander  
Luke Weston  
Political Science  
Army



Echo Company Commander  
Kayleigh Heather  
Biological Systems  
Engineering  
Navy



Foxtrot Company  
Commander  
Grace Hall  
Aerospace Engineering  
Air Force



Golf Company Commander  
Calvin Yuan  
Business Management,  
Entrepreneurship,  
Innovation, and Technology  
Management  
Air Force



Hotel Company Commander  
Connor Donnelly  
Mechanical Engineering  
Citizen-Leader Track



India Company Commander  
Elizabeth Pease  
Political Science  
Marines



Kilo Company Commander  
Eric Cook  
Physics  
Navy



Lima Company Commander  
Madison Schickel  
National Security and  
Foreign Affairs  
Marines



Band Commander  
Catherine Walls  
Political Science  
Marines



Band Alpha Commander  
Casey Sutara  
Mathematics  
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander  
Liam Mellon  
Accounting and Information  
Systems  
Citizen-Leader Track



Drum Major  
Dillan Murphy  
Networking and  
Cybersecurity  
Citizen-Leader Track





# LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

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

I am a Florida resident, and I see business and outdoor activities open everywhere. I think this will spread to Blacksburg, Virginia, very soon.

Our Corps seniors had a limited in-person graduation and commissioning ceremony this spring, which was a great leap forward compared with last year. Our future alumni commission or enter the workforce in a growing economy. Compared with the pandemic-caused shut down of 2020, this year's future leaders enter in a great time to thrive.

I handed keychains called Gokies, designed by Kevin Jones, a Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame running back, to each of our soon-to-be alumni at our senior banquet on April 25. We had to limit the event to small groups at a time, but at least it happened. I encouraged the seniors to communicate with us. The goal is for all of them to keep us informed on their e-mail address, careers, and where they are going. Plus, we talked about participating in our Corps activities, both on campus and virtually.

Our fall Corps Reunions are a lot of fun, and it looks like we will have another one this fall (with prayers and fingers crossed)!



Gokies are ready for this year's senior cadets. Photo by Erica Choi '21.

We have Gunfighter Panels and Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series events, among many other activities to be a part of. We are getting good at doing things virtually.

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, the commandant of cadets, hosted this spring a lecture with Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war Col. Lee Ellis. We were even able to ask questions afterward!

So even though you cannot get back to campus, you still can participate.

Finally, I will mention giving back.

Regardless how much, donating to our Corps is something we all need to do to help offset the costs of a Corps growing enrollment and the programs offered to cadets and alumni.

I hope we will be jumping in Lane Stadium, enjoying walking around Upper Quad, and watching our Corps in action this fall. Please help me in welcoming our new alumni and encouraging them to be a part of our great organization!

I hope you and your family stay safe!  
Go Hokies!

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

# A STORY WAITED IN A PILE OF POSTCARDS

By Samantha Riggins VT'16, Corps museum curator

In the Corps Museum's archives are about 100 reply postcards from 1944, sent to members of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association, that queried their preferred tribute to alumni who died while in service during both world wars. The suggested tributes were: a chapel, a bell tower that pealed on the hour, an infirmary, and scholarships.

Replies from alumni as far back as the Class of 1899 reveal a spirited debate, culminating with the selection of the university's revered War Memorial Chapel and Pylons.

An errant postcard is mixed in with the reply cards, addressed to the VPI Alumni Fund of 1944. The date and location of the sender is given as, "Somewhere in France — 19 July 44." Beneath is a lengthy note, a portion that reads: "Puss, Don't have my check book [sic] with me but am enclosing a '5 Franc' note as a personal souvenir of the invasion to you. I landed on D-Day in the assault and after crawling the first two miles got things under control and pushing on to victory now. This a hard way to make a living..." It is signed by Maj. John G. Hughes '27.

Puss was Coach Henry Redd of the football team, of which Hughes was a member. Hughes, Class of 1927, graduated a Skipper — a fifth year private — as an electrical engineer.

His home was Arvon, Virginia, and he was a member of the Virginia National Guard. Called to serve at 38 years old, Hughes joined the 111th Field Artillery unit, arriving on Omaha Beach on one of the few DUKW amphibious vehicles, known as Ducks, that hadn't

*Somewhere in France — 19 July 44* ✓

V. P. I. ALUMNI FUND

1944

P.S. Am anxious to get home to see my 15 month old baby daughter — Virginia Maude. *Just*

\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25	\$10	\$5
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☐ UNRESTRICTED ☐ MY GIFT IS TO BE USED FOR \_\_\_\_\_

☐ FIND CHECK ATTACHED FOR AMOUNT INDICATED ABOVE.

☐ UNLESS I NOTIFY YOU TO THE CONTRARY, I WILL GIVE AMOUNT INDICATED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1944, IN \_\_\_\_\_ INSTALLMENTS AS FOLLOWS: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a change in address for me —*

MAJOR NAME *John G. Hughes* CLASS *27*

ADDRESS *Hqrs. 111th F.A. Bn. APO #29*

GIFTS DEDUCTIBLE WHEN COMPUTING FEDERAL INCOME TAX *10 PM New York, N.Y.* MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO V. P. I. ALUMNI FUND

*"OVER"*

*Dear Puss,*

*Don't have my check book with me but am inclosing a "5 Franc" note as a personal souvenir of the invasion to you. I landed on D-Day in the assault and after crawling the first two miles got things under control and pushing on to victory now. This is a hard way to make a living but quite an experience. Have been receiving "Tech-Gram" but have a change of rank & address on reverse side. Best of luck to you and all my old pals —*

*Every good wish — Johnny Hughes '27*

*19 July 1944*

sunk. His commanding officer dead, he and his executive officer escaped with Canadian forces.

Hughes survived, returning to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where his wife, and a daughter born after his deployment, anxiously waited. His daughter, Virginia Boyce, told me among her tears that her father was loyal and honorable. Hughes' granddaughter, Alicia Boyce, recalled when her grandfather returned from World War II, he said he would eat ice

cream every day, and he did. He had a freezer devoted to the creamy confection.

The amount Hughes' donated as he dodged shrapnel "somewhere in France" is unimportant; his actions are not. He epitomizes *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), with gracious service to his country, and his Corps of Cadets buds. A humble man, it took 78 years before his story was uncovered.

Well done, sir. Well done.





# THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

Wow, what a year! We are so humbled by the generosity donors have shown in the midst of so much uncertainty. Thank you!

If you haven't given yet and have been quietly contemplating the impact you would like to make on the lives of cadets, I have included a few ways giving is making a difference for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

## SPECIAL NAMING OPPORTUNITY

We still have naming opportunities available in the Corps Leadership and Military Science building starting at \$25,000. All naming opportunities can be accomplished through a five-year pledge. Call and find out what's left to name.

**Impact:** An anonymous donor put forth a \$4 million match to help us get this long dreamed of space built. And thanks to the generosity of all of you, we have almost acquired enough additional namings in the Corps Leadership and Military Science building to meet this match. Thank you! It's not too late if you want to have your own impact in this space.

## WAYS TO CREATE YOUR OWN IMPACT

Endowments are a powerful investment in the future of the Corps. Endowed gifts, which include cadet scholarships, are invested and each year a percentage of the return provides critical support to Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000

and established with a five-year pledge or through an estate gift.

**Impact:** Endowments provide a sustainable source of funding for Corps scholarships and programs. For donors to endowed funds, there's an ongoing opportunity to get a first-hand look at their investments in the lives of cadets they are touching. These are the funds that will ensure the Corps is strong and can grow to 1,400 cadets in the coming years and sustain that number!

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

**Impact:** Annual funds keep the Corps' lights on and so much more! They allow us to expand our scholarship reach and offer programs that allow cadets opportunities to be successful in the Corps and in their future careers. An added benefit of giving to an annual fund now through March 10, 2025, is you can earn a brick plaque that will be displayed in the 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 es-

tate 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 funds:** Create a donor-advised fund to maximize tax benefits now and recommend charitable gifts, possibly with family involvement, for many years to come within Virginia Tech and the outside charities of your choice.

**Impact:** Donors who were not ready to make a \$100,000 cash commitment to fund their own endowment now can make this dream a reality by including the Corps in their estate plans. And they can choose to fund an annual pledge to support their named future endowment now, during their lifetime. These donors get the benefit of a changing the lives of cadets now and the joy of following a cadet's journey in the Corps.

## IMPORTANT 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 and accelerating their tax savings. Most gifts made in 2021 can be deducted up to 100 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income (as compared with 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, [vtcc@vt.edu](mailto:vtcc@vt.edu), or [vtcc.vt.edu/give](http://vtcc.vt.edu/give).*

# LEAVE YOUR MARK WITH A BRICK PLAQUE

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 of Cadets' advancement team is ready to help you with any needs or questions. Contact us at 540-231-2892 or [vtcc@vt.edu](mailto:vtcc@vt.edu).*





Cadets, with instruction from the 104th Training Division, qualified with the M4 rifle at the Fort Pickett, Virginia, pop-up range. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Courtney.

# ARMY ROTC NEWS

by Zenas Korantang-Mensah '21

## NAVIGATING THE WATERS

Being committed requires one to navigate the waters — sometimes murky waters. Alex Yerina '21 is no stranger to challenges, and he continues to overcome those, even at graduation.

He earned his bachelor's degrees in economics and political science in May. He branched into the infantry and is preparing to head to Fort Benning, Georgia, for the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC).

He served as the cadet commander of the New River Battalion during the fall 2020 semester, and shortly after passing the baton this spring to Tori DeFilippo '21, he departed for the Maritime Assessment Course (MAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After successfully completing MAC, he attended the Combat Diver Qualification Course in Key West, Florida. The course typically has a 40 percent attrition rate, as prospective divers find themselves unable to complete phases of the intensive course to standard. However, Yerina stood proud at the pinning ceremony when he received the coveted U.S. Army Diver Badge.

When asked about his experience at the course, Yerina stat-

ed, "Being developed in ROTC to pay attention to detail helped me in the course. Attention to detail is critical, and, although challenging, the training I have received definitely helped."

Yerina enjoyed learning the different water infiltration techniques, whether it be through diving, boats, or jumping out of a helicopter. He highly recommends the course to any cadet that wants a challenge.

## AT FORT PICKETT

As a new semester began, cadets found themselves honing their marksmanship skills on Feb. 27-26. Junior and senior cadets embarked on a long journey from Blacksburg to Fort Pickett, Virginia, to complete their Basic Rifle Marksmanship, using the Army's newest qualification standard.

This year, there was a slight twist from how it normally occurs. Cadets were expected to shoot at pop-up rather than stationary targets.

Seniors focused on meeting the Army standard for this event to fulfill their requirements for Operation Agile Leader and for commissioning. Juniors, on the other hand, used this event to familiarize themselves with the pop-up range in preparation for Advanced Camp this summer.

As usual, the weather was not on the side of the cadets during the weekend. It rained all day with temperatures in the 30s and 40s. This made the event a challenging one, considering that some cadets used a whole day just to zero their rifle before moving on to the qualification range.

At the qualification range, cadets stepped onto a platform with a barrier and executed commands given by the range tower.

William Caldwell '21 was the top firer for the New River Battalion, shooting 34 out of 40 targets. He credits the training he received in Ranger Company for his high score. "Sgt. 1st Class [Matthew] Fiedler trains us on the importance of concentration in all things. That advice was crucial for me to shoot well on range day," Caldwell said.

Firing on a pop-up range was a first for many of the cadets because COVID-19 forced the cancelation of the 2020 event.

## SPRING FTX '21

On the weekend of April 9-11, the New River Battalion conducted its semi-annual field training exercise (FTX) at the nearby Radford Army Ammunition Plant Dublin Annex.

In previous years, the spring FTX consisted of training events such as the Land Navigation Course, the Field Leaders Reaction Course, the 12-mile ruck for the junior cadets going to Advanced Camp, and tactical situational training exercise lanes. This semester, there were numerous changes.

For starters, all cadets were required to receive a COVID test prior to participating. In addition, all seniors were required to complete multiple tasks as part of Operation Agile Leader Part II. These tasks — the hand-grenade assault course and buddy-team live fire — normally are completed at Ad-

vanced Camp. With Advanced Camp 2020 canceled because of COVID, those tasks needed to be conducted by Army ROTC battalions.

On the first day of the event, freshman, sophomore, and junior cadets conducted a day and night land navigation course, while seniors conducted the hand-grenade assault course and buddy-team live fire.

The hand grenade course incorporated hand grenade simulators that operated like a live grenade — with sound but no fragmentation. The live fire incorporated M4 rifles and blank ammunition. These events provided realistic training conducted in a controlled and safe manner, and provided cadets a morale boost following a flash hailstorm that occurred just moments prior.

The second day consisted of tactical situational training exercise lanes, primarily focused on juniors attending Advanced Camp this summer. New for this year was a "Tactical Dining In" for the seniors in place of the annual Dining Out that occurs every year on campus. Participating in the Dining In with its traditional receiving line, ceremonial toasts, and grog ceremony ensured cadets were trained on the traditions, customs, and courtesies of military service. Even though the rain continued to fall, it didn't dampen the spirits of cadets.

The FTX culminated on Sunday morning with a 12-mile road march for all cadets. In past years, the ruck was only conducted by juniors. This year the other cadets participated to build esprit de corps.

While the New River Battalion maintained many old traditions, including the ever-present rain, new events helped build the foundation for new traditions that will likely be a part of the battalion's leadership training excellence for years to come.



At left, senior cadets enjoy the "points of order" at the Tactical Dining In held during the spring FTX. At right, cadets work on their buddy-team live fire training. Photos by Zenas Korantang-Mensah '21.



# NAVAL ROTC NEWS



By Midshipman Erin Cross-Kaplan '22

Though Virginia Tech has continued to observe changed operations because of the global pandemic, the Naval ROTC unit has continued training its midshipmen to become the best officers the nation can produce. Among other efforts to maintain a normal training schedule, physically distant PT resumed in March

and the unit has been conducting Pro-Lab each week.

For Pro-Lab speakers this semester, the unit brought in Rear Adm. Brendan McLane, the commander of Naval Surface Force Atlantic, through Zoom video conferencing to speak to the battalion about shipboard life, lessons learned

over the course of his service, and the importance of work-life balance. He also spoke about some of the larger international issues the Navy is facing and the training it employs to meet those challenges.

The unit also “Zoomed-in” three panelists from the fast-attack subma-

Above: Battalion Executive Officer Kana Griffin '21 (left) and Commanding Officer Hannah LaVigne '21 stand in front of the relocated and freshly painted Navy anchor outside the new Naval ROTC offices at Lane Hall. Photo by Nicole Pond '21.



From left, Logistics Specialist Submarine Master Chief Brett Adams, Lt. j.g. Joshua Taylor '17, and Cmdr. Dave Nichols '03 speak to midshipmen about submarine warfare over Zoom.

rine USS Helena, SSN-725, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Two Hokie alumni — Cmdr. Dave Nichols '03, the commanding officer, and Lt. j.g. Joshua Taylor '17 — along with the chief of the boat, Logistics Specialist Submarine Master Chief Brett Adams, educated the battalion about the submarine warfare community, the training pipeline, and what future submarine-selected midshipmen can expect to see in the fleet.

As the semester draws to an end, midshipmen have been excited to learn that they will conduct summer cruises this year. With most summer training events canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, these cruises will be the first exposure to the fleet for many of the unit's midshipmen.

## MARINE CORPS COMMISSIONING

In May, Raider Company commissioned two female Marines: Elizabeth Pease '21 and Madison Schickel '21. They were the first women to commission into the Marine Corps from Virginia

Tech in a decade. The last was Christina Forsythe '11, who has fond memories of the Raider Company she knew.

A separated Marine Corps captain, Forsythe said: "I hope today's Raider Company is similar to what I experienced 10 years ago. We worked hard to ensure a tough, realistic, and challenging environment focused on developing midshipmen to become future Marine officers. ... I was led by some of the most professional Marines and midshipmen. They constantly pushed themselves to be the best and demanded the same from us. Raider Company's tenets of leadership ensured service to our Marines and leading by example. Our motto, We Set the Pace, instilled that concept of leading from the front. I hope this is still the motto today! ... Raider Company helped shape who I am and greatly influenced how I look at the world and the people around me."

Pease and Schickel agree.

When asked about her experiences over the last four years, Schickel spoke about how well Raider Company prepared her for Officer Candidates School.

She said she is proud of making it through the rigorous program.

## ANCHORS AWEIGH

During the fall 2020 semester, teams of midshipmen painted the new midshipman lounge in Lane Hall. Thanks to their artistic talents, the lounge features murals on each wall representing the different warfare communities, making it much more distinctly "Navy and Marine Corps" than the previous space. The lounge was officially "underway" this spring, providing midshipmen a new study space and a professional library.

Additionally, the anchor that had been outside Femoyer Hall since 1985 was moved to the grass adjacent to Lane Hall, just a stone's throw from Bay 1, the new home of the Naval ROTC staff offices.

Madelyn Kruger '22 led the effort to paint the anchor, turning it from its original black to Navy blue with gold highlights.

Spring also brought the battalion one of the few female battalion commanding officer-executive officer teams in its history.

Battalion Commander Hannah LaVigne '21 commissioned in May as a surface warfare officer and will report to the USS Barry, DDG-52, in Yokosuka, Japan. The executive officer, Kana Griffin '21, commissioned as a pilot and hopes to fly helicopters.

Together, the team has innovatively led the battalion through a successful semester of mission achievement, developing leaders ready for the fleet, despite adversity brought on by the worldwide pandemic. The Virginia Tech unit remains one of the nation's top officer producing units and commissioned 36 U.S. Navy ensigns and seven U.S. Marine Corps second lieutenants in May.





Maj. Adam Cade '09 takes off from the Drillfield after sharing his career experiences and his HH-60 helicopter with cadets.

## AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Caleb Coleman '21

There were a lot of unknowns when coming back to Virginia Tech this fall.

How are we supposed to conduct Air Force ROTC operations in a COVID-19 environment? How do we continue to effectively prepare our cadets for field training and commissioning? Basically, how do we continue to better ourselves in the midst of a pandemic?

Ultimately, we had to adapt almost all of our training methods. The cadre and cadet leadership were able to develop a plan so we could train to become effective leaders in the Air and Space Forces.

The fall cadet wing commander, Josh Stevic '21, led the charge by optimizing the video conferencing platform Zoom



Col. Eric Dorminey '90 takes the oath of office as he commissions into the Space Force.

to hold Leadership Lab virtually, so that we could consistently train cadets for the next steps on their paths to becoming officers.

There were many other events throughout the semester, such as virtual base visits, career field briefs with alumni, and leadership seminars. While most of these events were virtual, we still held our annual fall training exercise, Warrior Day, in-person. Those cadets who have not attended field training were able to get crucial training that will help them succeed at field training this summer.

The cadet wing also continued to meet in-person for PT and now holds

the third highest average Physical Fitness Assessment score in the nation.

The fall semester saw the end of a few cadets' time at Virginia Tech. Noah Lay '20, Mark Wolter '20, and Benjamin Stadler '20 commissioned into the Air Force as second lieutenants. Good luck in your future Air Force careers!

The fall 2020 semester was very bizarre and unconventional in terms of what has traditionally been done, but it was one that brought with it a lot of growth for everyone at Detachment 875.

The spring semester brought about new challenges with rising national cases of COVID-19; however, the spring cadet wing commander, Ryan Elmiger '21, and his team were ready to face them. They continued to take advantage of great alumni, such as Capt. Micah Hafich '11, who were willing to share their active duty experiences with cadets over Zoom.

Maj. Adam Cade '09 even made a special appearance, landing his HH-60 helicopter on the Drillfield and talking with cadets about life as a helicopter pilot. Thank you to all the alumni who have taken the time to share their experiences with us over the past year!

As the semester progressed, the cadets took advantage of opportunities to meet more in-person and executed a successful Air Force Training Exercise (AFTX), the biggest training event of the semester.

The wing also received a new virtual reality flying simulator, which gives cadets another unique opportunity to log flight hours in their pursuit of obtaining a rated pilot slot.

Cadet Sarah Mombaur '23 also received a scholarship to earn her Private Pilot's License through the JROTC Flight Academy this summer.



Cadet Connor Sobolewski '23 (at right) leads his flight through a group leadership project during the spring field training exercise.

At the end of the spring semester, 49 cadets took the oath and commissioned into the Air and Space Forces. Thanks to all of their hard work and dedication over their time here as the fruits of their labor will finally come to pass. So good luck to the class of '21 and may everyone take a strong first step into their career as Air Force and Space Force officers.

This semester has also brought us three new faces as we have received another awesome team of non-commissioned officers: Technical Sgt. Christopher Spotswood, Staff Sgt. Isabella Stanford, and Staff Sgt. Melvin Henderson. They have already been accepted into the Detachment 875 family, and we thank you for your hard work so far.

With their arrival, Staff Sgt. Valerie Wingate and Staff Sgt. Melanie McKinnon's ended their time here. We thank both of you for your time here and all that you have done for us. At the end of

this semester, we also said goodbye to Maj. Ian Chesley as he retired and Capt. Jacob Drinkard as he moved to his next duty station. Thank you both for your leadership and guidance!

Lastly, we said goodbye to Col. Eric Dorminey '90, who has made a big impact on the lives of over 400 cadets during his three years as detachment commander. His leadership and guidance led to over 145 cadets staying on glide slope and commissioning as highly effective second lieutenants in the Air and Space Forces. We wish you the best of luck as you continue your career in the Space Force! *Semper Supra!*

This year has been one that has put us face to face with challenge after challenge. However, those challenges have caused us all to grow and adapt into better leaders of tomorrow. All the lessons from this year will stay with all of us as we continue down our respective paths.



## IN MEMORY

**EASLEY STONE SMITH '45**

1924 - 2021

Easley Smith died Feb. 2. He enrolled at Virginia Tech in 1941 and attended four quarters before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He completed a rigorous program to earn a commission as a second lieutenant and his wings as a B-24 Liberator pilot at age 19. He completed a tour of 25 missions. He completed his enlistment duty stateside and returned to Virginia Tech for the winter quarter 1946. He graduated in 1948 and began a career as a sales representative. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen. He is survived by three sons.

**RICHARD BORGEE BLAUVELT '53**

1930 - 2021

Lt. Col. Richard Blauvelt (retired) died Feb. 6. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1953. He commissioned into the U.S. Army, where he served for 21 years, including tours in Japan, Germany, and Vietnam. His awards include a Bronze Star, a Department of the Army Commendation, the Legion of Merit, and a Meritorious Service Medal. He retired in 1974 and started a second career in rural New Hampshire. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, and survived by a daughter, two sons, and two stepsons.

**EDWARD JAMES GOODMAN '55**

1928 - 2020

Edward J. Goodman died April 22, 2020. He attended Virginia Tech from 1947 to 1951. He left college to enlist in the Army. Upon his discharge, he returned to Virginia Tech to finish his degree. He graduated in 1955 as a civil engineer and was hired by Bethlehem Steel in Dundalk, Maryland, as a blast furnace master mechanic. He retired in 1984. He also served as a second lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Nina; a daughter; a son; a step-daughter; and two step-sons.

**FRANKLIN DELANO ROBERTSON '56**

1934 - 2021

Franklin "Red" Robertson died Jan. 17. He attended Virginia Tech, serving as a company commander and earning a degree in mining engineering. He worked in the mining industry until 1964, when he attended law school. He then practiced law, eventually forming a law firm. He helped found the Grundy (Virginia) Wrestling Club, coordinated SAT test prep, wrote recommendations for seniors, and founded the Buchanan County (Virginia) Apple Award for teachers. He a member of the Ut Prosim Society and the Academy of Engineering Excellence. Among his survivors are his wife, Bobbie Kern Robertson; their daughter; and three sons.



## **ROBERT EARL SCRUGGS '56**

1932 - 2020

Robert Earl Scruggs died Nov. 19, 2020. He was a graduate of Hopewell (Virginia) High School class of 1951, where he played on the football team that won three state championships. He then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1956. He was a scholarship athlete in both football and baseball, as well as a member of the Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC. He served in the U.S. Air Force for three years, then went on to work for Verizon (formerly C&P Telephone Co.), retiring after 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Cora; a daughter; and two sons.



## **ROBERT LAMONT BURKEY '57**

1935 - 2020

Robert "Bob" Burkey died Dec. 16, 2020. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in civil engineering. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he served for two years. He then worked for the Virginia Department of Highways, and later joined Sanford Construction Co., where he worked his way up to president. He served in many areas of the North Carolina Road Builders Association and the Virginia Road Builders Association. He is survived by his wife, Louise Danner Burkey, and three sons.



## **ERNEST WILLIAM ZIRKLE '58**

1936 - 2021

Ernest William Zirkle died Jan. 30. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1958 and the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine in 1965. He was the owner of the Wilwyn Animal Hospital from 1965 to 1979, when he joined the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, becoming the state veterinarian until his retirement in 2003. In 2000, he was elected president of the United States Animal Health Association. He was dedicated to serving his community. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; three daughters; a son; and two step-daughters.



## **HENRY ARLINGTON LONG '59**

1937 - 2020

Henry Arlington "Hank" Long died Dec. 8, 2020. He attended Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He went on to a career as a U.S. Air Force officer and pilot. After his military discharge, he worked in investment real estate and still flew in the Air Force Reserves. A co-founder of the Washington-area real estate company Long & Foster, he later launched his own development firm responsible for a number of major regional projects. Virginia Tech honored him with a University Distinguished Achievement Award in 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Mae. Survivors include three daughters and a son.





## **JAMES EDWIN SMITH '60**

1938 - 2021

James E. Smith died Feb. 10. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he was in the Highty-Tighties. In 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Diane Lester, and began three years of service in the U.S. Air Force. He then launched his 40-year mechanical engineering career with DuPont in Waynesboro, Virginia. In addition to work and travel, he sang in various classical choirs, played bridge, volunteered as Little League umpire, and square danced. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son.



## **LEON THOMAS VAUGHAN III '60**

1937 - 2020

Lt. Col. Leon T. "L.T." Vaughan (retired) died Dec. 17, 2020. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech and was a member of C Squadron. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years. He earned his silver pilot's wings in 1962. He was a troop carrier transport pilot and flew missions in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the United States and, during the Vietnam conflict, he spent 3 1/2 years in southeast Asia. After he retired from the Air Force, he worked as a substitute teacher. He was preceded in death by a son. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia Lail Vaughan, and a daughter.



## **CLAUDE SWANSON STOWERS JR. '62**

1940 - 2021

Claude Swanson "Buck" Stowers Jr. died Jan. 3. He was a 1963 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He retired after 27 years of service with the Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration. He enjoyed woodworking, loved animals, and also enjoyed mission work, serving in Africa, Haiti, and the Bahamas, as well as helping with Hurricane Katrina clean-up and serving weekly meals to the homeless in Richmond, Virginia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna. He is survived by his two daughters and three sons.



## **JOSEPH H. VIPPERMAN JR. '62**

1940 - 2021

Joseph H. Viperman Jr. died Jan. 23. He graduated from Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and served on the regimental staff his final year. He served three years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command. He then joined American Electric Power, where he would spend a 40-year career and retire as executive vice president of AEP Shared Services. He was inducted into Virginia Tech's College of Engineering's Academy of Engineering Excellence, and the Smith Mountain Lake (Virginia) Visitor Center is named in his honor. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Pat; a son; and a daughter.



## **HUGH CRABTREE '64**

1943 - 2021

Maj. Hugh L. Crabtree (retired) died Jan. 10. He graduated from Virginia Tech as a member of the Corps of Cadets. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force, where he served for 22 years. He flew B-52s, as well as various rotary-wing aircraft, and he completed several missions during the Vietnam War. After his retirement, he started a second career at ERA Aviation, where he flew helicopters for 20 years. He was preceded in death by a daughter. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jacqueline; a daughter; and two sons.



## **ALLIE LEE WALDRON '64**

1942 - 2021

Lt. Col. Allie Lee Waldron (retired) died Jan. 18. He graduated from Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, in 1964. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1976. He continued his service in the Maryland National Guard and retired as a lieutenant colonel after 25 years. He worked for AAI Corporation as director of international programs, retiring in 2006 after 27 years. He was a director on the Southern York County School Board and on the board of the Southern York County YMCA. In addition to his wife of 56 years, Barbara, he is survived by a son and a daughter.



## **JOSEPH REED GREEN '76**

1954 - 2021

Joseph Reed Green died Jan. 30. He was an Eagle Scout and Civil Air Patrol ground search-and-rescue team leader. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in aerospace and ocean engineering and was commander of D Company. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a B-52H electronic warfare officer. He and his crew were an integral part in the attempted rescue mission of the Iranian hostages in the early 1980s. As a civilian, he worked as a defense contractor. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Susan Shifler Green, and their daughter.



## **DANIEL EDWARD SOUTH '85**

1962 - 2020

Daniel Edward South died Nov. 27, 2020. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and joined the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the Air Force in 1991, he began a long career as an environmental scientist. He moved into a 1920s farmhouse with his wife, Brenda, and spent four years carefully renovating it and creating trails through the property's oak forest. He was also a writer and took an active leadership role within the Writers Alliance of Gainesville, Florida. He is survived by his wife, a son, and daughter.



## LEST WE FORGET

Henry H. Ferneyhough '37, Gainesville, Florida,  
10/15/2020

Richard D. Kern '42, Winchester, Virginia, 10/1/2020

Edwin B. Carter '44, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2/23/2021

Robert A. Summers '45, Brick, New Jersey, 9/26/2020

Howard V. Yarus '45, King George, Virginia, 9/7/2020

Frank P. Nelson '46, Columbia, South Carolina,  
10/14/2020

Louis Collier '47, Glen Allen, Virginia, 11/4/2020

Gilbert L. Faison '47, Mechanicsville, Virginia,  
2/8/2021

George L. Fischer '47, Midlothian, Virginia, 9/26/2020

Irving Weinstein '47, Newport News, Virginia,  
10/5/2020

William B. Martin '48, Roanoke, Virginia, 1/25/2021

Harry L. Brown '49, Harrisonburg, Virginia,  
11/25/2020

Trever A. Carter '49, Salem, Virginia, 12/27/2020

Hugh F. Dailey '49, Winchester, Virginia, 2/4/2021

Charles E. Dressler '49, Covington, Virginia, 1/5/2021

John F. Flanagan '49, Lakeland, Florida, 12/18/2020

Robert F. Lane '49, Rockville, Virginia, 12/30/2020

George B. Vockroth '49, Terry, Mississippi, 9/2/2020

John K. Butler '50, Winchester, Virginia, 10/19/2020

Warren E. Johnson '50, Des Moines, Iowa, 1/20/2021

Julian H. Skinker '50, Allentown, Pennsylvania,  
1/21/2021

William B. Conner '51, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania,  
10/8/2020

Robert L. Gravatt '51, Doswell, Virginia, 1/11/2021

James W. McElroy '51, Chesapeake, Virginia, 10/1/2020

Russell H. Moore '51, Gladstone, Virginia, 11/8/2020

Donald L. Runyon '51, Easley, South Carolina,  
12/30/2020

Earl L. Shaw '51, Winter Park, Florida, 11/4/2020

Robert M. Sumpter '51, Durham, North Carolina,  
11/5/2020

Lawrence Thompson '51, Naples, Florida, 1/10/2021

Thomas W. Waldrop '51, New Holland, Pennsylvania,  
2/20/2021

Charles E. Fry '52, Saint Albans, West Virginia,  
12/7/2020

Archie C. Holliday '52, North Chesterfield, Virginia,  
10/20/2020

Gerald W. Ledger '52, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin,  
11/29/2020

David L. Lipps '52, Gloucester, Virginia, 2/21/2021

George A. Miller '52, Columbus, Ohio, 2/13/2021

Leslie T. Richardson '52, Charlottesville, Virginia,  
9/9/2020

John S. Wayland '52, Warrenton, Virginia, 9/30/2020

George H. Ross '53, Waverly, Tennessee, 12/31/2020

William D. Stark '53, Huntington, West Virginia,  
2/18/2021

J. Eugene Justice '54, Norfolk, Virginia, 11/4/2020

Raymond F. Obenshain '54, Christiansburg, Virginia,  
11/25/2020

John T. Pruner '54, Lebanon, Virginia, 11/3/2020

Lawrence W. Boitnott '55, Roanoke, Virginia,  
9/4/2020

James H. Haren '55, Sarasota, Florida, 11/20/2020

Atwood J. Huff '55, Roanoke, Virginia, 12/29/2020

Forrest H. King '55, Nashville, Tennessee, 10/20/2020

John M. Lineweaver '55, Sarasota, Florida, 11/8/2020

Adolphus L. Lotts '55, Knoxville, Tennessee,  
11/19/2020

James D. Oliver '55, Blacksburg, Virginia, 2/24/2021

James J. Duke '56, Wilmington, North Carolina,  
1/16/2021

Douglass H. Frazier '56, Palmyra, Virginia, 1/14/2021

Charles W. Matt '56, Richmond, Virginia, 10/28/2020

James H. White '56, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1/21/2021

Kenneth R. Wolfe '56, Westport, Connecticut,  
12/8/2020

Kenneth E. Calvert '57, Danville, Virginia, 9/27/2020

Carl M. Hylton '57, Kingsport, Tennessee, 10/12/2020

Oscar W. Kennedy '57, Ashland, Virginia, 11/10/2020

Joseph R. Morris '57, Richmond, Virginia, 2/22/2021

Randall C. White '57, Bridgewater, Virginia,  
10/27/2020

James P. Boone '58, Charlotte, North Carolina,  
11/17/2020

Richard E. Harris '58, Charleston, West Virginia,  
12/3/2020

Arthur T. Hart '58, Stafford, Virginia, 11/2/2020  
 Robert C. Jones '58, Souderton, Pennsylvania, 11/8/2020  
 Thomas H. Korte '58, San Antonio, Texas, 9/19/2020  
 Donald G. McCants '58, Glen Allen, Virginia, 11/22/2020  
 Dominick D. Ruggiero '58, Mamaroneck, New York, 12/1/2020  
 Edward J. Skrobiszewski '58, Perry, Utah, 1/19/2021  
 Robert R. Cosby '59, Powhatan, Virginia, 12/5/2020  
 Leroy T. Gravatte '59, Springfield, Virginia, 2/15/2021  
 William N. Martin '59, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 12/9/2020  
 David A. Paddock '59, Asheville, North Carolina, 12/7/2020  
 David L. Caudill '60, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/25/2021  
 Robert G. Dow '60, Winchester, Virginia, 1/18/2021  
 Brownell N. Ferry '60, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, 12/22/2020  
 Carter Fleming '60, New Castle, Virginia, 1/5/2021  
 Raymond P. Howell '60, Boone, North Carolina, 12/1/2020  
 William R. May '60, Staunton, Virginia, 9/14/2020  
 Thomas W. Arthur '61, Danville, Virginia, 11/22/2020  
 David L. Cooksey '61, Thomasville, Pennsylvania, 10/26/2020  
 Edward P. Drudge '61, North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, 10/29/2020  
 Kenneth V. Herndon '61, Big Stone Gap, Virginia, 10/28/2020  
 C. J. Hudson '61, Richmond, Virginia, 2/17/2021  
 William I. White '61, Glen Allen, Virginia, 2/6/2021  
 Wallace H. Goode '62, Shipman, Virginia, 1/27/2021  
 David W. Jackson '62, West Hartford, Connecticut, 9/26/2020  
 Samuel S. Koedel '62, The Villages, Florida, 2/3/2021  
 Carl A. Mann '62, Covington, Virginia, 9/4/2020  
 John R. Nesselrodt '62, Hanover, Virginia, 12/16/2020  
 Randolph L. Turner '62, Blacksburg, Virginia, 11/2/2020  
 Gordon T. Chamblin '63, Belmont, West Virginia, 1/6/2021  
 Lindsay W. Coffman '63, Glen Allen, Virginia, 1/30/2021  
 James D. Gilbert '63, Irvine, California, 12/29/2020  
 William H. May '64, Villa Park, California, 10/10/2020  
 John C. Allison '65, Wytheville, Virginia, 2/8/2021  
 Alfred R. Butler '65, North Garden, Virginia, 11/21/2020  
 David G. Drawbaugh '65, Williamsport, Maryland, 1/1/2021  
 Michael R. Johnson '67, Omaha, Nebraska, 10/2/2020  
 Robert S. Miller '67, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 12/3/2020  
 Robert G. Wingfield '67, Vinton, Virginia, 12/25/2020  
 Sterling L. Morrison '68, Chapin, South Carolina, 11/30/2020  
 Walter S. Reggel '68, Pinson, Alabama, 11/1/2020  
 Dan E. Weatherly '68, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, 2/25/2021  
 Nicholas J. Proferes '70, Hawthorndene, Australia, 1/28/2021  
 Douglas L. Horton '71, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 1/17/2021  
 William A. Bath '72, Overland Park, Kansas, 1/5/2021  
 Michael A. Moses '75, North Port, Florida, 1/28/2021  
 William J. Boylan '85, Alexandria, Virginia, 2/1/2021  
 Gil R. Flores '93, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1/9/2021



# ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE NEW CADET OPPORTUNITIES

## CADETS FOR A CAUSE

*By Cadet Jenner Johnson '23*

In spring 2020, Cadets Jenner Johnson '23 and Harrison Ochoco '23 saw a need for a cadet organization dedicated to service. As a result, they founded Cadets for a Cause.

Cadets for a Cause is a community service-based organization that conducts service projects ranging from one-time to annual events. The group's leadership team works to instill the organizational values of humility, integrity, honor, and dedication while supporting fellow cadets in the development of their leadership, managerial, and interpersonal social skills.

Many cadets have causes they support but have no outlet to organize such events. Cadets for a Cause has resources to complete such goals.

Cadets for a Cause serves those in the local community, as well as the broader U.S. military family.

Our purpose is to demonstrate the university motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), through action and to unify the Corps under a common cause: to serve others.

This spring, the team, advised by 1st Battalion Deputy Commandant Col. Craig Alia, conducted several service projects.

In February, Cadets for a Cause completed its first event in partnership with the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund. Within two weeks, the regiment completed 600,465 push-ups. The event was more than just a push-up competition — each



Cadets for a Cause Finance Officer Cadet Bobby Munn '23 works with Gwen Herzog to prepare wood for the bed headboards.

donation or sponsorship provided scholarship funds to the children and family members of our nation's fallen or disabled.

Cadets for a Cause also co-sponsored an event with the New River Valley chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit that makes beds for children that do not have a place to sleep. Cadets built 40 beds for those in need.

New members also came on board. They will work to develop their character and leadership capabilities, as well as gain valuable skills with logistics.

Members also have opportunities for meetings with Corps alumni and sup-

porters, nonprofit organizations, and professors.

Mentorship will give cadets a unique outlook on managerial and organizational skills. By planning and running service events, cadets obtain invaluable experience and are introduced to the world of charitable work.

As a young cadet-led organization, Cadets for a Cause is incredibly grateful for the generous friends, family, and alumni who have helped us reach our goal of demonstrating *Ut Prosim* through action. We are excited to establish and grow a new Corps organization.

## CORPS MARKSMANSHIP UNIT

*By Cadet Edward Zhou '23*

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Marksmanship Unit is one of the newest Corps organizations, and it has been busy making a name for itself.

Founded in 2019, the Marksmanship Unit is a highly selective organization within the Corps of Cadets.

The unit competes nationally in the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP), multi-gun, steel challenge, and others.

The unit was founded to allow cadets who had competed in shooting sports in high school to continue at the collegiate level, combining competitive shooting with tactical training for their future military careers. Prior to the unit's inception, only trap and skeet shooting were offered as club sports at Virginia Tech.

To become a member, cadets undergo a rigorous selection process in the spring semester of their freshman year. This year, 104 cadets — over a quarter of the freshman class — started the process with only four being ultimately selected.

Candidates are tested for their attention to detail, performance under stress, and skill, and they additionally must be recommended by their fellow freshmen.

Once on the team, cadets train to perfect their skills with a variety of firearms and calibers in both precision and speed disciplines, with a focus on competition and future combat applications as officers in their various military branches.

In spring 2019, cadets attended SASP Collegiate Nationals just a few weeks after the team was approved by the Corps. With only two live-fire practices



Cadet Adam Jardines '23 shoots a Walther PPQ in the centerfire optic division during the 2021 Scholastic Action Shooting Collegiate Program Nationals, taking first place with his team.

completed and a small contingent of four shooters, the team managed to take third place in optic pistol, a division dominated by shooting teams that have been around for decades.

Over the course of the academic year, the team continued to practice and compete despite the difficulties imposed by COVID-19. The team was able to compete in multiple virtual matches, improving its scores with each outing and winning several matches outright.

That hard work and dedication culminated in the 2021 SASP Collegiate Nationals. In contrast to the previous year, the unit brought 11 cadets to compete across numerous disciplines. They secured numerous victories in their respective divisions, including:

- Team 1: Adam Jardines '23, Edward Zhou '23, Cooper Rapp '22, and Mitch McClure '24, first place in centerfire pistol optic and rimfire pistol iron sights
- Team 2: Stanley Brown '21, Briscoe Nance '23, Samuel Boin '24, and Jacob Bush '24, second place in rimfire pistol iron sights and rimfire pistol optics.
- Team 3: Cooper Rapp '22, Jacob Withers '22, Hunter Lambert '23, and Cole Shackelford '23, third place in rimfire rifle iron sights and rimfire rifle optic

*Follow the VT CMU's progress and support the cadets on Facebook and Instagram @vtmarksmanshipunit.*



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