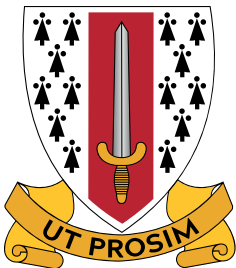


GUIDON

2025-2026

Virginia Tech



Corps of Cadets

The "Guidon"

"The guidon told the soldiers in color
what the bugle said in sound."

- Custer

There are approximately four hundred and fifty reasons for the publication of this handbook, the "Guidon." Each freshmen ... YOU, represent one of these reasons. While at VA Tech (sic) you will meet and conquer innumerable challenges, and the greatest of these will likely be in the first few weeks of your stay here.

The purpose of this manual is to give YOU part of the necessary information for a successful start in the Corps of Cadets. It's designed to assist incoming cadets in learning about the history of VA Tech (sic) and "the Corps." It contains facts, trivia, and tradition, as well as some of the practical "New Cadet Knowledge" that you will be accountable for as a cadet. This Guidon is yours and will help to guide you and your fellow "Buds" as you take your first steps here at VA Tech (sic).

-Adapted from the original 1927 YMCA Students' Handbook (later to be called the "Guidon")

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President, Virginia Tech

Timothy D. Sands

Welcome to your first year at Virginia Tech and congratulations on your decision to become a member of one of our greatest institutions, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), is embodied in the Corps. Because of the Corps' prominence, you and your fellow cadets demonstrate to students, faculty, and the world — every



Timothy D. Sands

day — what those words really mean. As one of only two senior military colleges in the country that are part of a large, public university, the Corps offers unmatched support for academic excellence while developing global, ethical leaders in a military-style environment to meet the challenges of our time. Whether you are pursuing a commission in our nation's armed forces or a member of the Corps' distinguished Citizen-Leader Track, please accept my sincere best wishes as you begin a great adventure filled with worthy challenges and exceptional rewards. We are proud to have you as a member of "The Corps."

Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Frances Keene

Student Affairs welcomes you to the Corps of Cadets! We hope you are as excited and as proud as we are to be joining a league of dedicated cadets, who devote themselves to living a life of courageous leadership and our motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). You are joining our history here, spanning all the way back to the founding of the university in 1872. By joining our renowned student military leadership development organization, you have chosen to take advantage of a program that will provide you with a strong, tight-knit support system built on camaraderie. You will be pushed to be the best version of yourself, fostering your leadership and problem-solving skills, teamwork, character, and discipline. In addition to joining this prestigious group, you are now also welcomed into the broader Virginia Tech community. Learning can take place anywhere. It is our goal to guide you in finding and pursuing your passions and interests. It is my sincerest hope that you take every opportunity Virginia Tech provides to grow academically and socially. Most importantly, know that we in Student Affairs are here to support you. I encourage you to take care of yourself and each other. Your mental health is important and I hope you will take full advantage of all the campus resources available to you. I am always in awe of the integrity, service, community, and leadership demonstrated by our cadets. By joining them, you have already taken the first step to making Virginia Tech a unique and rewarding experience for yourself.



Frances Keene

Commandant of Cadets

Major General William H. Seely III

Welcome to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets! Congratulations on committing to a lifetime of service. You have chosen a path that sets you apart because this path demands more—more discipline, more character, more courage, and more commitment to something greater than yourself. The Corps exists to develop leaders of consequence—those who live honorably, think critically, and serve selflessly. Here, you will be tested. Physically, academically, mentally, morally. You may face moments of doubt, frustration, even failure. But every challenge you face is designed to build you into the one thing this world needs more of: leaders of strength, integrity, and character. You are not alone because you are now part of the Virginia Tech legacy. Our Corps of Cadets is bound by purpose, forged in challenge, forever resilient, and committed to service. Our foundation is etched at the Virginia Tech War Memorial: “Ut Prosim—That I May Serve.” And by the time you graduate, you will be **prepared to lead and trusted to serve**. Now let’s get to work!



Maj. Gen. William H. Seely III

Commandant's Biography

Throughout his distinguished 36-year career in the United States Marine Corps, Maj. Gen. William Seely held a range of leadership and command positions, serving at every level from platoon commander to task force commander to war college commandant. His command roles included leading the communications platoon for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion (1990–1992), India Company, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion (2000–2002), and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division (2006–2008). He later commanded Marine Corps Intelligence Schools (2011–2013), led Task Force–Iraq under Operation Inherent Resolve (2019–2020), and served as commandant of both the Joint Forces Staff College (2020–2021) and the Eisenhower School at the National Defense University (2021–2023).

Maj. Gen. Seely's extensive staff experience includes serving as an intelligence officer with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Joint Task Force United Shield in Mogadishu, the 11th MEU(SOC), U.S. Central Command in Tampa, and Marine Forces Central Command in Bahrain. He served as director of the Marine Corps Intelligence Integration Division (2010–2011), Director of Intelligence (2016–2017), Communications Strategy Director (2017–2019), and Director of the Information Intelligence Division (2021–2023).

His operational deployments spanned the globe, including UNITED SHIELD (Somalia), SOUTHERN WATCH, INTRINSIC ACTION, and DESERT THUNDER (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), SAFE DEPARTURE (Eritrea), STABILISE (East Timor), and extensive involvement in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and INHERENT RESOLVE. He also completed multiple shipboard deployments aboard the USS Belleau Wood, USS Essex, USS Tarawa, and USS Peleliu.

Maj. Gen. Seely's personal military awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with two Gold Stars and "Combat V," Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is authorized to wear the Navy scuba, Navy-Marine Corps parachutist and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification insignia.

Maj. Gen. Seely holds a bachelor's degree from American University and earned master's degrees from Oklahoma State University, the National Intelligence University, and the Naval War College (with distinction). He also holds certificates from the Marine Corps University, Army War College, Air University, Singularity University, Johns Hopkins, UNC-Chapel Hill, MIT, and Harvard.

VTCC Alumni Board President Gary Boward

On behalf of the approximately ten thousand living Corps Alumni, and the thousands from generations that preceded them, I would like to welcome you to the Corps of Cadets and thank you for taking the path less traveled. Through your participation in the Corps, you are joining a very proud and elite group of Hokies. We thrive on our shared common experiences steeped in tradition and we all have a deep loyalty and passion for the Corps of Cadets.



Gary Boward

You will likely see many of our alumni at events throughout the year because #1, we love coming back to Blacksburg as we live our “Lifelong Hokie Experience” and #2, we want to support you. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni care about you and do a tremendous amount of work to safeguard the Corps and ensure that this fantastic opportunity is available for incoming students for years to come.

“Enjoy” your New Cadet Year... take every challenge in stride, maintain your composure, and take on every obstacle as an opportunity to grow and learn. Many have faced the same challenges and have succeeded – and so will you!

Hang in there and GO HOKIES!

Regimental Commander Cadet Colonel Adilynn Walker

You are about to embark on one of the most transformative and rewarding experiences of your life. Through this journey, you will develop valuable skills, forge lifelong connections, and gain a deep sense of confidence and purpose. This path will not be without its challenges. I encourage you to keep the following guiding principles in mind: **Seek growth:** Approach each day with a genuine desire for self-improvement. Your success is determined by your initiative. **Seek**



Adilynn Walker

mentorship: You will be surrounded by individuals who excel in their respective fields—academically, professionally, and personally. Take full advantage of this environment. Your peers and leaders are invaluable resources. Find mentors, learn from them, and allow their insights to shape your development. **Seek challenges:** Anyone can live their life within their comfort zone. It is up to you to seek ways to get outside your comfort zone and embrace all of the learning opportunities around you, no matter how difficult they may seem.

Every cadet's experience in the Corps is unique. You will define your own path—but know this: it will be difficult, it will test you, and it will be exhausting. And yet, it will be worth every moment. You will soon become part of a proud legacy of distinguished alumni who have gone on to lead and serve around the world. Embrace that legacy, rise to the challenge, and strive for excellence.

Commandant's Staff



Vice Commandant
Brig. Gen. Craig Alia
VA Militia



Senior Enlisted Advisor
1st Battalion
Senior Chief Kim Ford,
USN (Ret)

Deputy Commandant
2nd Battalion
Commander Nate Brown,
USN (Ret)



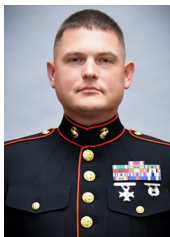
Senior Enlisted Advisor
2nd Battalion
Command Master Chief
Richard M. Curtis, USN (Ret)



Commandant's Staff



Deputy Commandant
3rd Battalion
Colonel Robert A. Shelton,
USAF (Ret)



Senior Enlisted Advisor
3rd Battalion
MSgt. Charles Lilly

Deputy Commandant
4th Battalion
Lieutenant Colonel
Travis Sheets, USAF (Ret)

Senior Enlisted Advisor
4th Battalion
Master Gunnery Sergeant
Lance Jones, USMC (Ret)



Commandant's Staff



Director
Citizen-Leader Track (VPI)
Ken Mallory



Assistant Director
Citizen-Leader Track (VPI)
Sarah Fleenor

Erika Freeman
Embedded Counselor



Athletic Trainer
Sterling Stewart



Commandant's Staff continues on page 120

Chain of Command

UNIVERSITY/STATE CHAIN OF COMMAND

President of the United States Pres. Donald Trump
Governor of Virginia..... Gov. Glenn Youngkin
President of Virginia Tech..... Dr. Timothy D. Sands
VP for Student Affairs Dr. Francis Keene

ROTC DEPARTMENT HEADS

AFROTC Col. J.P. O'Dell III, USAF
AROTC Col. Nathan Surrey, USA
NROTC Capt. Steven Antcliff, USN

COMMANDANT'S STAFF

Commandant of Cadets.....Maj. Gen. William Seely, USMC
Vice Commandant of Cadets.....Brig. Gen. Craig Alia, VAM
Deputy Commandant 1st BN.....Vacant
Deputy Commandant 2nd BN.....Cmdr. Nate Brown, USN
Deputy Commandant 3rd BNCol. Bob Shelton, USAF
Deputy Commandant 4th BNLt. Col. Travis Sheets, USAF
Senior Enlisted Advisor 1st BN.....Senior Chief Kim Ford, USN
Senior Enlisted Advisor 2nd BN.....CMC Richard Curtis, USN
Senior Enlisted Advisor 3rd BN.....MSGT. Charles Lilly, USMC
Senior Enlisted Advisor 4th BN.....MGySgt Lance Jones, USMC
Director, Citizen-Leader Track (VPI).....Mr. Ken Mallory
Assistant Director, VPIMs. Sarah Fleenor
Director, Rice CenterCapt. Jamie McGrath, USN
Chief Advancement Officer.....Ms. Kelley Corvin
Director, VTCC Alumni.....Mr. Brian Callsen
Asst Commandant for Recruiting.....Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger, VAM
Director, Regimental Band.....Vacant
Communications Director.....Ms. Katie Mallory
Budget Manager.....Ms. Leketa Miller
Deputy Director, Rice Center.....Col. Jamie Cogbill

Program Support Specialist.....Ms. Nicole Ward
 Assistant Alumni DirectorVacant
 Assistant Recruiter.....Taylor Cupp
 Recruiting Assistant.....Ms. Darien Stewart
 Rice Center Assistant.....Ms. Anna Kirk
 Coordinator, Case Management.....Mrs. Keely Arbenz-Smith
 Athletic Trainer.....Ms. Sterling Stewart
 Embedded Counselor.....Ms. Erika Freeman
REGIMENTAL STAFF AND COMMAND, FALL 2025

Regimental Commander

Regi CO Spring 2026

Regimental Executive Officer

Regi XO Spring 2026

S-1 (Adjutant)

S-1 Spring 2026

S-2 (Public Affairs)

S-2 Spring 2026

S-3 (Operations and Planning)

S-3 Spring 2026

S-33 (Current Operations)

S-3 Spring 2026

S-35 (Future Operations)

S-3 Spring 2026

S-4 (Supply and Finance)

S-4 Spring 2026

S-5 (Academics)

S-5 Spring 2026

S-6 (Information)

S-6 Spring 2026

S-7 (Training)

S-7 Spring 2026

Command Sergeant Major

CSM Spring 2026

Regimental Special Staff

Honor Court Chief JusticeC/ _____
Staff Judge AdvocateC/ _____
IGC/ _____
Historian.....C/ _____
RecruitingC/ _____
Regimental Alumni Liaison Officer.....C/ _____
Regimental ArmorerC/ _____
Regimental Bugler.....C/ _____
Safety Officer.....C/ _____
Athletics.....C/ _____
Religious LiaisonC/ _____

Organizational Leads

Color Guard NCOIC.....C/ _____
Skipper Gun Captain.....C/ _____
Skipper Crew Chief of SmokeC/ _____
Gregory Guard OICC/ _____
Conrad Cavalry OIC.....C/ _____
Marksmanship NCOICC/ _____
Growley OIC.....C/ _____
Growley HandlerC/ _____
Cyber Team OIC.....C/ _____

1st Battalion - First Above All



Fall

Spring

CO: C/LTC _____ C/LTC _____

XO: C/MAJ _____ C/MAJ _____

SGM: C/SGM _____ C/SGM _____

Alpha Company - Still Kickin' Ass



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____

XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____

1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Bravo Company - Forged in Flame



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____

XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____

1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

1st Battalion - First Above All

Charlie Company - Semper Primus



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Delta Company - Spirit of Delta



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

2nd Battalion - No Slack



Fall

Spring

CO: C/LTC _____ C/LTC _____
XO: C/MAJ _____ C/MAJ _____
SGM: C/SGM _____ C/SGM _____

Echo Company - Unity and Pride



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Foxtrot Company - Praebate Exemplum



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

2nd Battalion - No Slack

Golf Company - Non Concedo



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Hotel Company - Hotel Forever



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

3rd Battalion - Strength from Unity, Pride Through Perseverance



Fall

Spring

CO: C/LTC _____ C/LTC _____
 XO: C/MAJ _____ C/MAJ _____
 SGM: C/SGM _____ C/SGM _____

India Company - Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
 XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
 1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Kilo Company - Ne Te Molesti Deprimant



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
 XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
 1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

**3rd Battalion - Strength from Unity, Pride Through
Perseverance**

Lima Company - Non Timebo Mala



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Mike Company - Primus Inter Pares



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____
XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____
1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

4th Battalion - Forge the Future



Fall

Spring

CO: C/LTC _____ C/LTC _____

XO: C/MAJ _____ C/MAJ _____

SGM: C/SGM _____ C/SGM _____

November Company - Competence & Character



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____

XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____

1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

4th Battalion - Forge the Future

Oscar Company - Audentes Fortuna Juvat



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____

XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____

1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

Highty-Tighties - Facta Non Verba



Fall

Spring

CO: C/CPT _____ C/CPT _____

XO: C/1LT _____ C/1LT _____

Drum Major _____

1SG: C/1SG _____ C/1SG _____

VPI Battalion

Fall	Spring
CO: C/LTC _____	C/LTC _____
XO: C/MAJ _____	C/MAJ _____
SGM: C/SGM _____	C/SGM _____

Army ROTC New River Battalion

Fall	Spring
CO: C/ _____	C/ _____
XO: C/ _____	C/ _____
SGM: C/ _____	C/ _____

Air Force ROTC Cadet Wing (Det. 875)

Fall	Spring
CO: C/ _____	C/ _____
CV: C/ _____	C/ _____

Naval ROTC Battalion

Fall	Spring
CO: MIDN 1/C _____	MIDN 1/C _____
XO: MIDN 1/C _____	MIDN 1/C _____
MCPO: MIDN 1/C _____	MIDN 1/C _____

Training Company

Names

Hometowns

[illegible]

Training Company

Names

Hometowns

[illegible]

Basic Cadet Knowledge

Honor Code

“A cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal,
nor tolerate those who do.”

Lying

Includes intent to deceive in all activities including written and oral statements.

Cheating

Includes the actual giving or receiving of unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of work which is to be presented as one's own.

Stealing

Includes the taking of personal or institutional property without the consent of the owner of the property either temporarily or permanently.

Tolerating

Cadets will not tolerate any incidents of lying, cheating, or stealing. Knowledge of and failure to report such an incident is evidence of dishonorable intent and is considered a violation of the Cadet Honor Code.

Oath, Mission Statement, Vision, and Cadet Creed

Oath: I do solemnly swear that I will uphold the values of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets; that I will strive to live by the principles of honor, integrity, duty, and selfless service; that I will not lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate those who do; that I will obey all university regulations and the lawful orders of those appointed over me; and that I will commit myself to becoming an exceptional leader of character, dedicated to the mission of service to my nation, my community, and all whom I may lead. This I pledge, in the spirit of Ut Prosim — That I May Serve.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is to graduate leaders of exemplary character who are instilled with the values and skills essential for leadership success in service to the nation.

Vision: Prepared to lead. Trusted to Serve.

Cadet Creed: I am a Virginia Tech Cadet committed to the ideals upon which the Institute was founded: Brotherhood and Honor, Leadership and Loyalty, Service and Sacrifice, Duty, and Ut Prosim. As a cadet I strive to embody the highest standards of discipline, dignity, and integrity in all that I endeavor. I know that I am at all times an ambassador of the Institute and will conduct myself accordingly. Above all, I recognize that my membership in the Corps of Cadets places upon me the responsibility to obey the cadet regulations, and to respect the lawful orders of those officers, non-commissioned officers, and cadets appointed over me in order "That I May Serve."

The Memorial Court and Foundations

On the top step of the court are carved the words, "That I May Serve," a free translation of the Latin motto for Virginia Tech, *Ut Prosim*. Memorial Court contains eight massive pylons with sculpted figures. On the Pylons are carved the names of Virginia Tech's war dead.

At the court's center is a marble cenotaph, a symbolic tomb. It displays the names of graduates who received the Medal of Honor.

The Pylons embody the values that members of the Hokie Nation hold in the highest regard and serve as a touchstone for the traditions, Honor Code, training programs, and regulations of the Corps of Cadets. It is important to understand the meaning behind each.

Ut Prosim (That I May Serve): Whether one chooses to serve our nation through military or civilian service, the Corps of Cadets provides a base on which the ideal *Ut Prosim* is founded. Service to the Corps and the university is the true meaning of *Ut Prosim*. It is best exemplified by those who have given their lives in the defense of our country, especially the eight Virginia Tech alumni who hold the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Brotherhood: Akin to the Golden Rule; let no wall be high enough to separate you from your fellow citizens

The Memorial Court and Foundations

inspite of dividing factors — be they geographical, political, religious, or social.

Duty: Be faithful in the performance of your day-to-day duties aware of the larger obligation to humanity. It is your obligation to know what you ought to do and to do it.

Honor: Your personal integrity, your intuitive sense of what is right, and your shield against evil. The shield as a symbol of personal honor dates back to knighthood. Here the unblemished shield of honor gives protection against evil and temptation symbolized by the serpent.

Loyalty: Unswerving allegiance to family and friends, to me ... your school, and to your community, state, or nation. The low relief building in the background is Barracks No. 1, Lane Hall.

Leadership: Cultivate these four character traits and you will be eligible for leadership. Only then can you raise your hand and say, "Follow me."

Service: Be warned. Life is demanding and courageous leadership means service. The symbolism stresses the readiness to put aside the pursuit of one's own work to enter into service for one's country and fellow men and women.

Sacrifice: And finally, service means sacrifice, even unto life itself.

Dragging, Sounding Off, Knowledge, and Haircuts

Dragging

The purpose of dragging is two-fold: Its primary purpose is to instill in new cadets a level of military discipline, a sense of urgency, and to teach them to act with confidence while under pressure. Its secondary purpose is to assist new cadets to improve their marching skills early in the freshman year, particularly their facing and pivoting movements.

Sounding Off

The primary purpose of sounding off is to instill in each new cadet an appreciation for military courtesy and to gain self-confidence in addressing classmates, upperclass cadets, and officers. The secondary purpose is to enable new cadets to quickly learn the first names of their classmates within their company and to recognize the name and rank of members of their chain of command.

New Cadet Knowledge

The purpose of new cadet knowledge is to instill in each cadet a level of information essential to excel as a cadet and student at Virginia Tech and to gain an appreciation of the traditions, customs, and history of the Corps of Cadets and the University.

New Cadet Haircut Policy

The purpose of the New Cadet Haircut Policy is to build group identity among the members of the freshman class, promote personal hygiene, and to aid the new cadet in time management skills during a very busy New Cadet Week and early part of the freshman year.

Phonetic Alphabet

A-Alpha

J-Juliet

S-Sierra

B-Bravo

K-Kilo

T-Tango

C-Charlie

L-Lima

U-Uniform

D-Delta

M-Mike

V-Victor

E-Echo

N-November

W-Whiskey

F-Foxtrot

O-Oscar

X-X-ray

G-Golf

P-Papa

Y-Yankee

H-Hotel

Q-Quebec

Z-Zulu

I-India

R-Romeo

Code of Conduct for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

I: I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II: I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III: If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV: If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful order of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V: When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI: I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

Tech Triumph

Techmen, we're Techmen, with spirit true and faithful,
Backing up our teams with hopes undying;
Techmen, O Techmen, we're out to win today,
Showing pep and life with which we're trying.
VP, old VP, you know our hearts are with you
In our luck that never seems to die;
Win or lose, we'll greet you with a glad returning –
You're the pride of VPI.

CHORUS:

Just watch our men, so big and active,
Support the Orange and Maroon, Let's Go Tech!!
We know our ends and backs are stronger,
With winning hopes we fear defeat no longer
To see our team plow through the line, boys
Determined now to win or die; so give a
Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi — Ray Ri, old VPI!

(second verse, seldom used)

Fight, men, oh, fight, men, we're going to be the
champions-

Adding to our list another victory;
Football or baseball, the games in which we star,
They're the sports which made old VP famous.

Hold'em just hold'em, you know the Corps' behind
you
Watching every movement that you make.
Winning games was nothing for our teams before
you –
Keep the “rep” for VP's sake.

— W.P. Maddox

Old Hokie

Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!
Tech! Tech! VPI
Sol-A-Rex, Sol-A-Rah;
Poly Tech Virginia;
Ray! Rye! VPI
Team! Team! Team!

— O.M. Stull

Alma Mater

Sing praise to Alma mater, dear,
For V.P.I. we'll ever cheer;
Come lift your voices, swell with the song,
Our loyalties to her belong.

So stand and sing, all hail to thee,
V.P., all hail to thee.

The Orange and Maroon you see,
That's fighting on to victory;
Our strife will not be long this day,
For glory lies within this fray.

All loyal sons of V.P.I.
We raise our banner to the sky;
Our motto brings a spirit true.
That we may ever serve for you.

— Words by L.G. Chase '42, music by E.T. Sparks '40

VPI Victory March

You have seen the Hoyas tumble,
You have made the Indians cry;
And you know the Army mule
Once took a kick at V.P.I.
Worthy teams from Lexington
Have fought with all their might;
And now it's time to show the world
That victory is ours tonight!

(-break strain-)
GO, TECH!
GO, TECH!
H-O-K-I-E-S, HOKIES!

— C.D. Steinweddel '43

Rah Tech

Rah Tech, Rah Tech, Rah Tech Rah
Via, Via
The Whole Dam' Team!
The Whole Dam' Team!
The Whole Dam' Team!

Corps Terminology

AA Card: Authorized Absence card. This card is placed on the cadet's door to indicate his/her whereabouts at all times.

Ace: To max a test

Bud: A fellow member of a class who underwent Cadet Basic Training with you

Cenotaph: The large granite stone on the World War II Memorial located between the eight Pylons

Chicken Fleece: The mad dash of cadets to the dining halls following formation in the winter months

Cits: Civilian clothing

Cut: To have an excused absence from a Corps activity, such as formation

Detail: A period of service for a Corps activity

Dragging: The act in which a freshman bears to the right side of the hall while marching

Ducks: White dress pants worn with the uniform

ECQ: Evening Call to Quarters; 1800-2300 hours Sunday and 1900-2300 Monday through Thursday; used as study time. During this time, freshmen do not sound off and all cadets are expected to maintain quiet in the dorms

Flag: Excessive belt material not properly aligned

Fraternization: Socializing outside of your class; being too friendly with superiors, subordinates; performing undue personal servitude

Fullhart Plain (formerly) Shanks Plain: Area behind Lane Hall

Growley: Morning meal; Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) formation; Canine ambassador of the VTCC

Guidon: A unit's flag or standard; the new cadet knowledge publication

Head: Bathroom

Highty-Tighties: The Regimental Band of the Corps of Cadets

Hokie: Any Virginia Tech student or alumnus

Hose: To get a fellow classmate into trouble; person who commits the act

Kangaroo: VMI mascot, any VMI cadet or alumni

Make a Hole: A command given to new cadets meaning come to attention and clear a path

MCQ: More commonly used to refer to Marathon Call to Quarters, where ECQ standards are maintained through the entire day. Previously Morning Call to Quarters.

OOD: Officer of the Day

OD Wrap: Senior wrap where both maroon pieces are worn

OG: Officer of the Guard

OG Wrap: Senior wrap where one crossbelt with chest brass is worn with bottom maroon sash

Old Corps: A condition harder than present

Pylons: Statues above the War Memorial Chapel

Rack: Bed in a cadet's room

Rack Monster: A fictional creature living in a cadet's room who induces the cadet to sleep through classes

Rakt: The act of sleeping in a rack

Rat Path: Path leading to the PT pit

Retreat: Evening formation where the flag is lowered

Rock: The WWI Memorial between Pearson East and Pearson West halls

Sails: A handkerchief or napkin with the unit's logo on it worn by freshmen until VT beats VMI in a major sport

Skipper: A fifth-year cadet still in the Corps; the VTCC cannon

Smiling: Used to describe a cadet wearing a wheel cover with an unsecured chinstrap.

Snakes: Laces hanging out of a cadet's boots or shoes.

Sound Off: To give the proper first year cadet call; to blow the bugle; to give a loud order

Stick or Treat: A tradition which occurs around Halloween

when the freshmen give candy to upperclassmen

Tap: The selection process to be accepted for membership into a Corps organization

Taps: Lights out at 2300 hours; to pay tribute on a bugle to someone who has died

Top Kick: A first sergeant

Tour: A period of time served as a punishment for excessive demerits

UOD: Uniform of the Day

VT: Area in front of Lane Hall

Zebra: A high-ranking cadet officer

Historic Discontinued Terms

Rat: An Old Corps term for a freshman cadet introduced in 1873 and discontinued in 1934

Rattamore: A cadet between his/her freshman and sophomore years; any cadet without a new cadet class below them

Customs & Courtesies

Cadets will address armed forces personnel by rank and last name. If the rank and last name are not known, commissioned and cadet officers will be addressed as "Sir" and/or "Ma'am." However, general and flag officers are addressed as "General" or "Admiral." In written communication always write out the full title.

Normal courtesy demands that when an officer of the armed services addresses a group of cadets, those cadets will come to attention regardless of the officer or cadet's attire. In the event there is more than one officer, they will be addressed as "gentlemen" or "ladies," as appropriate.

When at ease in a formation, come to attention when addressed by a senior.

When a cadet is under arms or on guard duty, he/she will always be covered and therefore execute a salute when passing by or reporting to an officer both indoors and outside.

While on professional business, cadets will address other cadets by rank and last name.

Cadets will follow the chain of command and will not go over a superior's head without notifying him or her. The act of jumping the chain of command is disrespectful and against military procedure.

Superiors always have the right of way, and subordinates will make room to allow for officers to pass by saying: "Make a hole."

Cadets will always walk to the left of any commissioned officer or superior ranking cadet officer when accompanying said officer. Additionally, the cadet will walk in step with the superior.

Cadets will not run past the Rock. The reasoning is the same as for rendering it a salute.

Cadets will not walk, lay, or play in the grass of the "VT." The "VT" is considered a special, ceremonial place. It is only to be used for official functions.

Walking on grass is only authorized when wearing PT gear, MCUs, civilian attire, or while conducting drill in formation. This applies to all classes. Upperclassmen have the privilege to walk on grass when returning from football games in uniforms other than OCPs.

General Conduct

1. Cadets must maintain a proper appearance in public. Cadets will not chew gum, smoke, or drink alcoholic beverages while in uniform.
2. Cadets will refrain from spitting, chewing, cursing, or any other acts which discredit the uniform.
3. Uniforms will not be defamed. Sleeves will not be rolled up, hats will be worn squarely on the head, all buttons will be buttoned, and hands will be kept out of pockets.
4. Every cadet and officer is held accountable. Respectful correction of missed standards is expected, and strengthens unity, trust, and Corps values.
5. Cadets will refrain from public displays of affection while in uniform.

6. Avoid going over an officer's head. The act is disrespectful and against military procedure.

7. Never volunteer excuses unless an explanation is required. Excuses for failure are always unacceptable.

8. Do not criticize or correct in public. Normally all corrections, criticisms, and admonishments are done privately. Embarrassment is not a proper way to improve performance.

Salute

The most important of all military courtesies is the salute. It is a greeting initiated by the subordinate and is always accompanied by an appropriate greeting such as "Good morning, Sir/Ma'am."

Salutes are required both on and off campus for all official greetings in the line of duty, for ceremonial occasions, when the national anthem is played, and when the colors pass by. When in uniform, a salute is rendered at the appropriate time regardless of place or who an individual is with.

People entitled to the salute:

- President of the United States
- Vice President of the United States
- State Governors
- Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense
- Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
- All commissioned officers of the military service
- All cadet officers
- Members of friendly governments

The salute is rendered at approximately 6 to 8 paces from the superior and at the position of attention while walking or at a halt. Cadets will look the officer or cadet officer in the eye and render an appropriate greeting with the salute.

Cadets in uniform will salute commissioned and warrant officers, even if the officers being saluted are in civilian clothes. Cadets in uniform will not salute cadet officers in civilian clothes.

A salute is rendered only once if the senior remains in the immediate vicinity and no conversation takes place. If a conversation takes place, the subordinate again salutes when either leaves.

When making reports at such occasions as formations, inspections, parades, etc., the person making the report salutes first, regardless of rank.

In formation, individuals do not salute or return salutes except at the command, "Present, arms." Commanders of units in formation will render proper salutes after calling the unit to attention.

When an officer approaches a group of individuals, the group is called to attention by the first person noticing the officer. The senior ranking cadet will render a greeting and will salute.

In general, one does not salute when:

- Out of uniform
- Engaged in routine work if the salute would interfere
- Indoors, except when reporting to a senior or on duty as a sentinel on guard, or under arms and covered
- Carrying articles with both hands, or so occupied as to make saluting impracticable
- Working as a member of a detail, or engaged in sports or social functions
- Driving and saluting is not practical
- In public places such as theaters or churches, or in public conveyances

While outside in uniform and when the flag is being raised or lowered, one should halt, face the flag, and render a salute if the flag can be seen. If the appropriate bugle calls or music can be heard but the flag cannot be seen, halt, face toward the music, come to attention, and, if in uniform, render a salute. If in civilian clothes, place the right hand over the left breast. If civilian headaddress is worn, grasp it in the right hand and place it over the left breast.

Cadets will salute while in VTCC PT gear and will follow service protocols when wearing ROTC PT gear. (Air Force and Army salute, Navy and Marine Corps do not.) When in uniform, cadets will salute all uncased colors.

When not in uniform, cadets will come to attention as the colors pass by.

During indoor ceremonies and when inside and uncovered, during the national anthem, stand at attention. If in civilian clothes, place the right hand over the left breast. If civilian headaddress is worn, grasp it in the right hand and place it over the left breast.

Cadets reciting the Pledge of Allegiance will render the appropriate respect as follows:

U.S. Flag present:

If in uniform and uncovered or in civilian attire, cadets will render honors to the flag by standing at attention. The hand will not be placed over the heart. If in uniform and covered, cadets will salute the flag.

U.S. Flag absent:

In or out of uniform, the right hand will be placed over the heart while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

When outside and Taps is played, come to attention, face in the direction of the music, and, if in uniform, render a salute. In civilian attire, the cadet will come to attention and place the right hand over the heart. If inside and Taps can be heard, all cadets will observe a moment of silence until Taps is finished. All cadets while in uniform will salute the Rock, at the base of the VT. They will salute as they pass, facing the Rock (similar to the head movement performed in an eyes-right) three paces before and three paces after it. All cadets in civilian attire will put their hand over their heart and look at the Rock as they pass (similar to the head movement performed in eyes-right), three paces before and three paces after.

The Rock is a memorial to all VTCC graduates killed in World War I and while not dedicated so, it is also a symbol to all former VTCC graduates who have died in conflict.

Cadets in uniform will remain covered and will salute superiors while walking in the Burruss tunnel.

Cadets will not use earbuds/earphones while walking in uniform. Out of uniform (be mindful that VTCC and ROTC PT gear are uniforms), cadets may use earbuds/earphones, but must be mindful of their surroundings, especially while running or crossing streets.

Cadets may use cellphones while in uniform. They should stop walking and move to the side of walkways or areas until the call is completed. Cadets will not normally render salutes or greetings during such calls but should remain cognizant of their surroundings.

In keeping with normal procedures of the military services, cadets will wear their covers at all times when outside. This includes when seated on benches or other outside areas on the campus. If a cadet officer or commissioned officer passes in the vicinity, a junior cadet should stand and render a salute and appropriate greeting.

An exception to the wearing of covers will be while in the stands at sporting events. The confines of Lane Stadium and other sporting venues, outdoors, will be considered “no-salute” areas.

Cadets wearing VTCC PT gear will salute. Cadets wearing ROTC PT gear will follow service protocols with regards to saluting. (Air Force and Army, salute. Navy and Marine Corps, do not salute.) The only exception would be a group of cadets who are engaged in a group activity such as running in formation.

In any case not covered by specific instructions or in case of doubt, the following guide will be used: “WHEN IN DOUBT — SALUTE.”

Reporting Procedures and the Knock System

When reporting to a commissioned officer or cadet officer, all cadets should knock three times, wait for authority to enter, and then to proceed to a position two paces from and directly in front of the officer or upperclassman's desk or person, salute and report in the following manner:

“Sir / Ma’am
New / Cadet (LAST NAME) (INITIALS)
(COMPANY) (CLASS) reports.”

Note: If entering another cadet's room, the door should remain open.

When the officer or upperclassman has indicated that all business is completed, the cadet will come to attention, salute and say, “Sir / Ma’am New / Cadet (LAST NAME) (INITIALS)(COMPANY)(CLASS) requests permission to be dismissed.” When the salute is returned, the First-Year Cadet will execute an about face (unless on carpet) and leave the room by the most direct route.

Notes:

- If exiting an upperclassman's room, the door should be closed.
- Navy cadets do not salute Navy or Marine Corps Officers

indoors, even if formally reporting.

If reporting to a Non-Commissioned Officer or an upper-class cadet who is not an officer, follow the procedures from the preceding paragraph except a salute is not required.

Knocks are identified as follows:

2 Knocks

By officers or Regimental Staff entering on official business. All occupants of room assume the position of attention

3 Knocks:

By a New Cadet desiring to enter a senior's room

4 Knocks

By an upperclassman desiring to enter a New Cadet's room

5 Knocks

By a New Cadet desiring to enter a bud's room

Federal Flag Code

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(a) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(b) The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.

No other flag or pennant should be placed above, on the same level, or to the right of the U.S. flag, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea when the church pennant may be flown above the flag.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way.

The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony

of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of U.S. Government, as a mark of respect to their memory.

That no disrespect should be shown to the U.S. flag; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(e) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or any drawing of any nature.

(f) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons, except those in uniform, should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute.

During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute from the first note of the anthem until the last note.

Uniforms, Ranks, & Awards - Rank Structure

O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	Rank Order
						Left to right, bottom to top (lowest to highest). Ranks not separated by a verticle bar (O-3, C/SPG and C/SSG) have the same authority and precedence.
C/2LT	C/1LT	C/CPT	C/CPT (DM)	C/MAJ	C/LTC	C/COL

E-7	E-8	E-9
C/SFC	C/SGS	C/ASG
C/1SG	C/CSG	C/SGM
C/CSS	C/CCS	C/CSM

E-4	E-5	E-6
C/CPL	C/OCF	C/SCP
C/ACP	C/CCP	C/SGT
C/SSG	C/SPG	C/OSG

E-1	E-2	E-3
No Blue Blouse Insignia	No Blue Blouse Insignia	No Blue Blouse Insignia
No Epaulet Insignia	No Epaulet Insignia	
NC/	C/	C/PVT
		C/PFC

E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9
Junior Enlisted	Junior NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer	Company Senior NCO	Battalion Senior NCO	Regimental Senior NCO			

Cadet Organizations			
	Color Guard (Enlisted Only)		Crossed Sabers denotes a rank earned from a VPI position (BN Top Three and FSG)
	Skipper Crew		
	Signal Corps		
	Ordnance Staff		

C/COL	Cadet Colonel
C/LTC	Cadet Lieutenant Colonel
C/MAJ	Cadet Major
DM	Drum Major
C/CPT	Cadet Captain
C/1LT	Cadet First Lieutenant
C/2LT	Cadet Second Lieutenant
C/CSM	Cadet Command Sergeant Major
C/CCS	Cadet Command Color Sergeant
C/CSS	Cadet Command Signal Sergeant
C/SGM	Cadet Sergeant Major
C/CSG	Cadet Color Sergeant
C/1SG	Cadet First Sergeant
C/ASG	Cadet Artillery Sergeant
C/SGS	Cadet Signal Sergeant
C/SFC	Cadet Sergeant First Class
C/OSG	Cadet Ordinance Sergeant
C/SPG	Cadet Supply Sergeant
C/SSG	Cadet Staff Sergeant
C/SGT	Cadet Sergeant
C/CCP	Cadet Color Corporal
C/ACP	Cadet Artillery Corporal
C/SCP	Cadet Signal Corporal
C/OCP	Cadet Ordinance Corporal
C/CPL	Cadet Corporal
C/PFC	Cadet Private First Class
C/PVT	Cadet Private
C/	Cadet
NC/	New Cadet

Officer Armed Services Ranks

Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force									
second lieutenant	first lieutenant	captain	major	lieutenant colonel	colonel	brigadier general	major general	lieutenant general	general
ensign	lieutenant junior grade	lieutenant	lieutenant commander	commander	captain	rear admiral lower half	rear admiral upper half	vice admiral	admiral
Navy / Coast Guard									

Enlisted Armed Services Ranks

E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9	Army Air Force
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ARMY

no insignia									
Private E-1 (PV1)	Private E-2 (PV2)	Private First Class (PFC)	Corporal (CPL)	Sergeant (SGT)	Staff Sergeant (SSG)	Sergeant First Class (SFC)	Master Sergeant (MSG)	First Sergeant (1SG)	Command Sergeant Major (CSM)
									Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA)

MARINES

no insignia									
Private (PV1)	Private First Class (PFC)	Lance Corporal (LCpl)	Corporal (Cpl)	Sergeant (Sgt)	Staff Sergeant (SSgt)	Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt)	Master Sergeant (MajSgt)	First Sergeant (1stSgt)	Command Sergeant Major (CSMaj)
									Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SgtMajMC)

NAVY

no insignia									
Seaman Recruit (SR)	Seaman Apprentice (SA)	Seaman (SN)	Petty Officer Third Class (PO3)	Petty Officer Second Class (PO2)	Petty Officer First Class (PO1)	Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO)	Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)	Force or Fleet Command Master Chief Petty Officer (FOMC/FLTMC)
									Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)

AIR FORCE

no insignia									
Airman Basic (AB1)	Airman (Amm)	Airman First Class (A1C)	Senior Airman (SrA)	Staff Sergeant (SSgt)	Technical Sergeant (TSgt)	Master Sergeant (MSGt)	First Sergeant (FSgt)	Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt)	First Sergeant (FSgt)
									Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSgtAF)

COAST GUARD

Seaman Recruit (SR)	Seaman Apprentice (SA)	Seaman (SN)	Petty Officer Third Class (PO3)	Petty Officer Second Class (PO2)	Petty Officer First Class (PO1)	Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO)	Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)	Command Master Chief Petty Officer (CMC)
									Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPG-CG)

Space Force

SPECIALIST 1	SPECIALIST 2	SPECIALIST 3	SPECIALIST 4	SERGEANT	TECHNICAL SERGEANT	MASTER SERGEANT	SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT	CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT	CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE SPACE FORCE

Corps of Cadets Uniforms: OCPs

OCPs will be worn with a reflective belt around the waist when prescribed.

VTCC nametape resides left. The cadet's nametape resides right.

Patches will be straight and centered.

Velcro tabs on the shoulder pocket will be folded so that the black square is covered.

The cover will be worn centered on a cadet's head with the visor two finger widths from the nose with the following insignia:

First-year cadets: None

NCO: Corps Crest

Officer: Gold VPI



Corps of Cadets Uniforms: White Shirt and Gray Bag

Nametags will be worn on the right pocket flap with its top edge along the upper seam and centered on the flap button.

Upperclass cadets will wear their black belts and wind straps leather-lustered. First-year cadets will wear the white belt with brass buckle.



The wind strap will be buckled in the first hole and cut so that, when worn, the buckle and strap-keeper are centered on the rear hat seam.

First-year cadets will wear the wind strap down only if directed by the unit commander or during extremely windy conditions.

Corps of Cadets Uniforms: White Shirt and Gray Bag

Females will keep the shirt edge in line with the seam of the zipper flap. Upperclassmen will have the straight edge of the "P" in line with the shirt edge.

The wheel cover will be worn centered on a cadet's head with the visor two finger widths from the nose.

Cadets will have a straight "gig line."

The male gig line is made straight by keeping the shirt edge (along the button line) in line with the edge of the zipper flap.



Corps of Cadets Uniforms: Dress B

A white collar will be worn with the blouse and will extend 1/8 inch above the collar.

The “ROTC” insignia (headlight) is worn on the right with the Branch of Service insignia (headlight) on the left. Citizen-Leader Track cadets will wear the VPI crossed cannons on both sides of the collar.

Seniors will wear the brass “VPI” insignia on the right side of the collar and their branch insignia on the left. Citizen-Leader Track seniors will wear the brass VPI insignia on the right side and the crossed sabers on the left.

Cords are worn with the braided end under the arm and loops outside the arm. All pins are worn on the left chest, 1 inch from the midline, and centered on the chest. Cadets will wear gray pants and blue cover with Winter Dress B.



(Pictured is Summer Dress B)

Corps of Cadets Uniforms: Dress A

When prescribed, cross belts will be worn with the blouse uniform. When Dress A is directed, all cadets will wear white gloves. **The belt from the right shoulder to the left hip is put on first**, followed by the left shoulder to the right hip belt.

The brass breastplate will be put on aligned with the belt put on first (ROTC to ROTC), halfway between the bottom of the collar and the top of the belt buckle. There will be a two-finger separation between the edge of the belt closest to the collar and the collar of the blouse along the line of the shoulder.



a

Belts will meet at the hips forming "V."

Cadets will wear gray pants and blue cover with Winter Dress A.



Corps of Cadets Uniforms: Paletot

Paletot is the designated formal dress uniform for all cadets.

Cords and pins are authorized and worn with the same specifications.

Seniors will wear "VPI" on Right Collar and Service Designation on Left Collar

Underclassmen (Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors) will not wear Collar Devices.

Females can wear the male paletot blouse. The female paletot can be worn with pants or skirt and includes:

- Tie tab
- Cummerbund
- Pantyhose (w / skirt only)
- Issued pumps

Corps of Cadets Uniforms: Paletot

Service Designation Collar
Devices

Army - Crossed rifles

Air Force - Prop and wings

Navy - Anchor

Marine – Eagle, globe, and
anchor

VPI - Crossed cannons or sabers
(seniors)



Senior with Collar Brass



Awards and Ribbons



Regimental Presidential Service



Beverly S. Parish Award



Eager Individual



Eager Squad



Presidential Inaugural Award



Cadet Achievement



Recruiting Award



VPI Service Ribbon



VPI PFT Excellence



Community Service



Ranger Company



Submarine Society



Naval Aviation Society



Surface Warfare Society



Robert F. Fernoyer Service Squadron



AFSOFT



Scabbard and Blade



Sash and Saber



Color Guard



Signal Corps



Skipper Crew



Gregory Guard



Conrad Civility



IG Staff



Recruiting Staff



Historians



Hall Council



Regimental Cadre



CTA



Summer Orientation Staff



Eagle Scout Association



Society of American Military Engineers



Academic - Gold
3.75 - 4.00 GPA



Academic - Orange
3.40 - 3.74 GPA



Academic - Maroon
3.00 - 3.39 GPA

For the full list of ribbons, please see the cadet regulations.

Academic Wreaths



3.75-4.00
Cumm. GPA



3.40-3.74
Cumm. GPA



3.00-3.39
Cumm. GPA

Citation Cords



Regimental Staff



Regimental Special Staff



Battalion Staff



Presidential Unit
Citation



Beverly S. Parrish, Jr.
Award
(Gold Cord)



Gregory Guard



Skipper Crew



EMT Staff



Color Guard



Eagle Scout Association



Scabbard and Blade Society



Sash and Sabre Society



Cadet Alumni Team



Athletics



Regimental Historians



Recruiting Staff



Conrad Cavalry



Signal Corps

For a complete list of cords, please see the cadet regulations.



Air Force Flyers



Armed Forces Special
Operations Team



Association of the
Army



Ranger Company



Society of American
Military Engineers



Naval Aviation Society



Submarine Society



Raiders Company



NROTC Color Guard



Coast Guard

Instructions on
how to wear a cord
in Blue Blouse can
be found on the
Corps YouTube
channel using this
QR code:



Gold Cord

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. award was first presented to the VTCC by Beverly S. Parrish Sr. on 24 May 1956.



The award consists of a plaque that will be displayed in the winning unit's area and a cup that has been retired. All members of the winning unit will wear the Gold Citation Cord on the cadet blouse and the Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Ribbon when in the gray uniform. The unit also will carry the Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Streamer (gold) on its guidon staff.

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award is presented annually to the unit that accumulates the greatest number of points in Corps competition during the school year. This award is the most sought after in all Corps competitions.

It is named in honor of a graduate of the Class of 1953.

Cadet Parrish was a star athlete, outstanding student, and served as Regimental Commander. He was the Acting Cadet Wing Commander of the newly established Air

Gold Cord

Academy when he was killed in a plane crash at Charlotte, North Carolina, on 11 February 1956. The Air Force Academy has named its honor committee award for him.

The points to be awarded in competition for the Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award will be contained in a supplement to the cadet regulations and are divided into six categories referred to as "Cups." The Cups are as follows: Academics, Commander's, Recruiting and Campus Engagement, Drill and Ceremony, Room and Uniform, and Physical.

Corps History

On Oct. 1, 1872, Virginia Tech opened as the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. All students were cadets organized into a battalion of two companies with an enrollment of 132.

The Commandant of Cadets was General James H. Lane, formerly the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia. He worked to provide both the best education and the best military training in the state for his cadets based on his experience in the Civil War, as a student at VMI and UVA, and as a teacher at Florida State Seminary and North Carolina Military Institute.

General Lane is considered the father of the Corps. He wrote the first cadet regulations and began a tradition of academic and military excellence. In 1878, President Charles Minor wanted to do away with the strict military requirements. Lane opposed him, and their disagreement became so heated that a faculty meeting ended with a fist fight between the two. Both later left campus, but the Corps remained.

In 1880, political mismanagement from Richmond caused enrollment to drop to 78 cadets. In the ensuing years, however, enrollment and educational opportunities expanded.

In 1896, VAMC changed its name to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Agriculture and Mechanical College and became known as VPI. That year also began a tradition that lasted nearly three-quarters of a century,

the annual VPI-VMI football game in Roanoke, Virginia, known as the Military Classic of the South.

The Regimental Band was organized in 1892. Before that, music was provided by the Glade Cornet Band, an organization of townspeople.

In 1898, with the outbreak of the Spanish American War, the Corps of Cadets formally volunteered to the governor for combat service. This request was declined, but most of the band and its director enlisted as the Band of the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment.

The summer of 1902 saw the band serving as part of the 70th Virginia Infantry during large-scale national military maneuvers in Manassas, Virginia.

With the approach of World War I, ROTC was established at Virginia Tech. In January 1917, Infantry ROTC was established, followed shortly by Engineer and Coast Artillery.

During the war, Virginia Tech became an Army post. Cadets were inducted and became enlisted men of the Student Army Training Battalion and its Navy detachment. They wore Army and Navy uniforms. Two army-training detachments of between 226 and 308 men each trained on campus.

CPT J.W.G. Stephens '15, of the 26th Infantry, led the first American forces "over on top" in combat near Montdidier, France. Many alumni served with distinction with the 1st, 2nd, 29th and 80th divisions, all of which saw heavy combat. A hero of note was MAJ Lloyd Williams '07, U.S. Marine Corps. One of the famous quotes of the war, used for years as a Marine standard, was

attributed to him. "Retreat, hell no!" was his reply to the French orders to retreat his company. His company held its ground, but he was killed in the action and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Virginia Tech's contribution to the war effort included 2,297 in uniform. One alumni was awarded the Medal of Honor, seven the Distinguished Service Cross, and one the Navy Cross. Twenty-six died in service, and another 26 were wounded. Based on this, Virginia Tech was designated as one of 12 Distinguished Colleges by the War Department.

In 1921, women were admitted as civilian students and attended classes as day students. The next year, the Corps was reorganized into a regiment of two battalions. Two years later, military service as a cadet was reduced from four years to two; however after two years of the camaraderie of Corps' life, very few cadets chose to convert to civilian student status. During the national rail strike of 1923, the Corps again volunteered to the Virginia governor for active military service. They were not called upon.

A Third Battalion was added to the regiment by 1927. Rapid growth followed as Virginia Tech's reputation grew. In 1939, a Fourth Battalion was added.

For the duration of World War II, academic sessions and the Corps operated on a 12-month cycle. The Corps had grown to a brigade of 2,650 cadets, consisting of two regiments with five battalions. The 1st Battalion was primarily Infantry ROTC. The 2nd Battalion was Engineer ROTC, and the 3rd, 4th, and 5th consisted of Cadet Bat-

teries taking Coast Artillery ROTC. The war demanded that seniors were graduated and commissioned early. Juniors were on an accelerated schedule and brought on active duty. Finally, sophomores and freshmen over 18 were largely inducted into military service. The Corps soon numbered under 300 and was organized into a single battalion.

The Commandant, in addition to the cadet battalion, supervised a unit of the Army Specialized Training Program and Army Specialized Training Reserve Program (ASTRP) for soldiers under 18 years of age and a Navy pre-flight training unit. These units included many former cadets and they adopted many of the traditions of the Corps to include the Honor Code and saluting the Rock. The young men of the ASTRP were actually uniformed in cadet gray. Once again, Virginia Tech was largely an active duty military installation.

During World War II, 7,285 alumni served in uniform. These included 10 Brigadier Generals, five Major Generals, and a Rear Admiral. Three hundred and twenty-three died, three were awarded the Medal of Honor, seven the Distinguished Service Cross, and two the Navy Cross.

Following World War II, returning veterans were not required to serve in the Corps, and the great influx of veterans swelled the number of civilian students. Civilian students outnumbered cadets for the first time in 1946. That same year Air Force ROTC was introduced to Virginia Tech. Initially civilian-cadet relations with the Corps were not good as most veterans were attending Virginia Tech for the first time. Thanks to the regimental commander,

Cadet Rolfe Robertson '49, a World War II Coast Guard veteran, greater understanding was promoted among his fellow veterans.

During the following years, the Corps would expand again back to a regiment and eventually organize into four battalion-sized units. The cadet 1st Battalion was housed at Radford Army Arsenal (now Radford Army Ammunition Plant) for two years at "Rad-Tech." As new dorms were completed, the battalion returned to Blacksburg.

During the Korean War, 1,867 alumni served of whom 30 died in service and one was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In 1952, the university employed a retired general as the commandant of cadets. This was a departure from the policy in place since 1884, in which the senior active duty military instructor functioned as commandant. In 1958, Virginia Tech became the first traditionally white southern college to graduate a black student with the graduation of Cadet Charles Yates '58.

In a move to expand educational opportunities at Virginia Tech, the Board of Visitors made participation in the Corps voluntary starting in 1964. Membership in ROTC continued to require Corps membership.

The Vietnam War period saw unrest on campus outside the Corps ranks. In 1970, demonstrations were conducted with the aim of halting Corps drill. Cowgill and Williams halls were occupied and over 100 arrested. Various other disorderly incidents occurred.

The post-Vietnam years saw the Corps numbers decline and reorganization to a two-battalion regiment.

In 1973, Virginia Tech was one of the first corps of cadets in the nation to enroll women, assigning them to L Squadron. In 1975, the first female cadet was assigned to the Band Company. In 1979, L Squadron was disbanded and female cadets integrated into the line companies. In 1981, the cadet dormitories became co-ed.

Naval ROTC was established in 1983. The cadet regiment expanded to a three-battalion structure in 1998.

Beginning with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the peacetime Corps transformed into a wartime-centric program and began rapidly expanding.

In Blacksburg, alumni Henry Dekker '42, Charles Cornelison '67, and Harold Hoback '53 joined together to form the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Association in 1991, which brought together a network of Alumni to support and bring awareness to the Corps.

Following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, several Corps alumni were killed in support of the Global War on Terror and their names were added to the Pylons.

The campus experienced tragedy during a mass shooting on Apr 16, 2007, that claimed the lives of 32 faculty and students, including a sophomore cadet in Band.

Starting in 2013, the Corps experienced infrastructure updates on Upper Quad with the demolition of Rasche (2013), Brodie (2015), Monteith (2017), and Femoyer (2021) halls. Pearson Hall East and Pearson Hall West were built to house cadets, and in 2022 the regiment expanded to a four-battalion structure.

Since the Spanish-American War, the Corps has provided leadership in our nation's times of need.

Significant Dates

- 1851 Olin and Preston Institute opens.
- 1862 Morrill Land Grant Act (July 2).
- 1869 Preston and Olin Institute chartered with collegiate powers.
- 1872 Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College established as a land-grant institution. VTCC organized as one battalion with two companies.
- 1875 First Corps trip (Richmond) was for the unveiling of the Jackson Monument.
- 1881 All students required to live on campus.
- 1882 Military system firmly established.
- 1886 Academic Building 1 built (later became Rasche Hall)
- 1887 Academic Building 2 built (later became Brodie Hall)
- 1888 Barracks No. 1 built (present day Lane Hall)
- 1892 Cadet Band organized. First football game played. Original colors adopted (cadet gray and black).
- 1894 First VMI game played.
- 1895 First Bugle published.
- 1896 "Polytechnic Institute" added to name of college. Current school colors (Chicago maroon and burnt orange) adopted. Motto Ut Prosim adopted. University Coat of Arms adopted.

- 1898 Corps petitions governor for active military service. Bandsmen and Director enlist as Regimental Band, 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment.
- 1901 First out-of-state Corps Trip (Buffalo, New York) was to the Pan American Exposition.
- 1908 Honor System established.
- 1913 Living turkey first attends football game as mascot.
- 1916 First Guidon published as the YMCA Handbook (Rat Bible).
- 1917 First R.O.T.C. unit established (Army).
- 1918 VTCC enlisted as a unit of the regular Army and Navy Reserve.
- 1919 Band first called Highty-Tighties. Virginia Tech designated as one of the nation's Distinguished Military Colleges.
- 1921 Women admitted for first time as full-time students.
- 1922 First Regiment organized.
- 1923 First woman receives degree (Mary E. Brumfield).
- 1924 Only two years of Corps mandatory.
- 1926 Future Farmers of Virginia (later FFA) founded at VPI by Walter S. Newman.
- 1930 Civilian Student Union formed.
- 1934 First Ring Dance (for Class of 1935). YMCA Student Handbook renamed 'Guidon'

- 1935 Honor Court established.
- 1942 VTCC organized as brigade of two regiments (five battalions).
- 1944 Radford State Teacher's College becomes VPI Women's Division until 1964.
- 1946 Air Force ROTC detachment established.
- 1949 "Rad-Tech" campus (Radford Army Arsenal) closed.
- 1952 Cooperative Education Program established. Board of Visitors appointed first full-time commandant since WWI.
- 1953 First black student admitted (Irving L. Ped-drew).
- 1958 First black student graduates (Charles L. Yates).
- 1962 First costumed Gobbler.
- 1964 Corps of Cadets becomes a voluntary option.
- 1966 Cadets and civilians unite to form one student government.
- 1967 First black student to receive athletic grant-in-aid (Jerry Gaines).
- 1968 Female students out number cadets for the first time.
- 1970 "and State University" added to VPI's name.
- 1973 Women admitted to the Corps of Cadets and organized into L Squadron.
- 1975 Highty-Tighty Alumni Association established. The first female cadet, Marilyn Helmeyer '77,

- joined the Highty-Tighties.
- 1976 Service academies admit women.
- 1977 Smallest Corps since 1902 (325 cadets enrolled).
- 1981 Cadet dorms become the first co-ed dorms on campus.
- 1983 Naval ROTC detachment established.
- 1985 First black Regimental Commander (Derek A. Jeffries '86).
- 1987 First Female Regimental Commander (Denise A. Shuster '88). White Shirt introduced.
- 1990 Company Commanders given rank of Cadet Major
- 1991 The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. is established. First female Drum Major (Lori L. Keck '92).
- 1993 Camouflage pattern battle dress uniform adopted as cadet field uniform, replacing OD green "Pickle Bag" fatigues.
- 1995 Minor in Leadership Studies is offered. Emerging Leader Scholarships begin.
- 1996 The Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development is established.
- 1998 3rd Battalion stands up with the addition of India and Kilo, with the inclusion of Band Company.
- 2003 First Pylon Dedication Ceremony, honoring Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Kaylor '01.

- 2005 First female black Regimental Commander (Christina Royal '06).
- 2008 First foreign national Regimental Commander, Adnan Barqawi '09 of Kuwait (earned his citizenship before graduating in 2009).
- 2012 Shultz dining hall closes. Corps dining facility in Lavery Hall opens. Band Company splits into two sections. Lima Company stands up in 3rd Battalion. Multicam is introduced to replace the battle dress uniform.
- 2013 Rasche Hall, built in 1897 as Barracks No. 2, is demolished making way for Pearson Hall East. Corps adds Battalion Senior Enlisted Advisors.
- 2015 Brodie Hall, built in 1900 as Barracks No. 3 is demolished, making way for Pearson Hall West. Pearson Hall East opens. Cadet Matthew La Porte is posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for his actions in Norris Hall on April 16, 2007. Lane Hall (Barracks No. 1) is added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2016 Corps Ambassador, Growley II (call sign "Tank"), arrives on campus.
- 2017 Pearson Hall West opens. Monteith and Thomas halls (built in 1949) are demolished.
- 2018 Ensign Sarah J. Mitchell '17 becomes the first female added to the Pylons.
- 2020 1st Lt. Gary Lee Miller is added to the Cenotaph

- at the Pylons, becoming Virginia Tech's eighth Medal of Honor recipient listed there.
- 2021 Mike Company stands up in 3rd Battalion. Construction begins on Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Femoyer Hall, built in 1949, is demolished making way for new Corps residence hall. Construction begins on new Corps of Cadets Residence Hall (at site of previous Femoyer Hall). Growley II retires in Dec.
- 2022 In January, Growley III (call sign "Stryker") assumes duties as Corps Ambassador. November and Oscar Companies reactivated and joined with Highty-Tighties to form 4th BN in late spring.
- 2023 Corps celebrates 50 years of women in the Corps. The Corps Leadership and Military Science Building opens. Upper Quad Hall North opens.
- 2024 Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, 35th commandant of cadets, retires. Maj. Gen. William Seely, USMC, is announced as the new commandant. Brig. Gen. Dwayne Edwards (U.S. Army Reserve (ret.)), and member of VT faculty) is named interim commandant until Seely's arrival.
- 2025 First Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Seely takes command on April 1.

Corps Crest Symbolism



Flaming Grenade: Preparation for war

4 Golden Stars: Four major wars in which Tech graduates have fought (to date seven major wars fought)

Laurel Wreath: Symbolizes presidential citation given to the Cadet Band for Spanish-American War service

Color Red: Strength and courage

Sword: Command

On Nov. 26, 1965, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Corps of Cadets became the first unit outside the regular Army to receive a formal grant of Coat of Arms from the Army Institute of Heraldry.

Campus Memorials



"Lest We Forget"

This simple stone monument honors the memory of the VPI alumni who died in World War I ... and by extension a symbol of all former VTCC graduates who have died in conflict.

This silent marker is representative of the deep feeling of reverence felt by every cadet for those alumni who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

It is customary for every cadet, whenever they pass within 6 paces of "The Rock" to salute it as a mark of respect. Remember its significance when you pass and put your heart into that salute... it is worthy of the best you can do.

-Adapted from the 1927 YMCA Handbook

"A Cadet Remembered"



The single unmarked black cobblestone found in the Upper Quad Plaza is a memorial to Matthew Joseph La Porte, one of 32 students and faculty members who lost their lives on April 16, 2007.

La Porte was a member of the VTCC Class of 2009, Air Force ROTC and the Highty-Tighties. The U.S. Air Force posthumously honored him with the presentation of the Airman's Medal for his heroic act credited for saving lives that day.

The black cobblestone is adjacent to The Rock, a memorial to all VTCC graduates killed in World War I, and by extension a symbol of all former VTCC graduates who have died in conflict.

“We Will Prevail”



This memorial set in front of Burruss Hall commemorates the 32 Virginia Tech students, faculty, and staff who lost their lives during the tragic events of April 16, 2007. The student-driven volunteer organization Hokies United placed 32 Hokie Stones on the Drillfield in a semi-circular pattern in front of Burruss Hall, which transformed into the present day memorial. As a community, we dedicate 32 engraved Hokie Stones in honor and in memory of the members of our Hokie family who lost their lives. Hokie Stone has long symbolized the foundation of Virginia Tech. Now, it also symbolizes our relentless spirit, our courage to move forward, and our determination never to forget. Among these names is Cadet Matthew Joseph La Porte, Highty-Tighties Class of 2009, Air Force ROTC.

Medal of Honor Citations

The Medal of Honor was first awarded during the Civil War, 10 years prior to the establishment of Virginia Tech. Of the millions of Americans who have served in our nations armed forces only 4,083 have received America's highest award for valor. Among them are eight alumni of Virginia Tech.

Captain Antoine A.M. Gaujot & Colonel Julien E. Gaujot

Antoine A.M. Gaujot, class of 1900, and Julien E. Gaujot, class of 1894, are one of a few brothers ever awarded the Medal of Honor and the only pair to receive the Medal for actions in different wars.

Antoine Gaujot received the medal for actions as an Army corporal at the Battle of San Mateo during the Philippine Insurrection. His Medal of Honor citation reads: "Attempted under a heavy fire of the enemy to swim a river for the purpose of obtaining and returning with a canoe."

Julien Gaujot received the medal for actions on the Mexican border in 1911. He is the only soldier ever awarded the Medal for actions of a peacekeeping nature. Julien's Medal of Honor citation reads: "Crossed the field of fire to obtain the permission of the rebel commander

to receive the surrender of the surrounded forces of Mexican Federals and escort such forces, together with 5 Americans held as prisoners, to the American line."

Julien served in the Army from 1897-1934. He received two bronze leaves on his service ribbon for action in two major World War I offensives.

Antoine died April 14, 1936, in Williamson, West Virginia. Julien died April 7, 1938, in Radford, Virginia.

Sergeant Earle D. Gregory

A native of Chase City, Maryland, Gregory was a member of the class of 1923 and graduate of Fork Union Military Academy who then studied electrical engineering at Virginia Tech. As a senior at Virginia Tech, he was a Cadet Captain and Company Commander, President of the Corps of Cadets, and selected as Most Popular Cadet. He received the Medal of Honor for actions as an Army Sergeant during the Meuse Argonne Offensive in World War I. He was the first native Virginian to receive the Medal.

The medal was awarded for gallantry at Bois de Consenvoye, north of Verdun, France, on Oct. 18, 1918. With the remark, "I will get them" Gregory seized a rifle and a trench-mortar shell that he used as a hand grenade, left his detachment, and advanced ahead of the infantry. He captured weapons and 19 of the enemy.

Gregory also was awarded Croix de Guerre, Medal

of the Legion of Honor, Medaille Militaire, and the Montenegrin Order of Merit. He died Jan. 6, 1972.

The Gregory Guard took its name in his honor in May 1963.

First Lieutenant Jimmie W. Monteith Jr.

Monteith (USA) was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism on a Normandy beachhead at D-Day during World War II. He was a native of Richmond, Virginia, and a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. A member of VPI's class of 1941, he studied mechanical engineering and played football.

Monteith landed with the initial assault waves on the coast of France under heavy enemy fire. Without regard for his own safety, he continually moved up and down the beach, reorganizing men for further assault. He led the assault over a narrow protective ledge and across the flat, exposed terrain to the comparative safety of a cliff. Retracing his steps across the field to the beach, he moved over to where two tanks were buttoned up and blind under violent enemy artillery and machine gun fire. Completely exposed to the intense fire, Monteith led the tanks on foot through a minefield and into firing positions. Under his direction, several enemy positions were destroyed. He then rejoined his company, and his men captured an advantageous position against repeated vicious counterattacks. He continued to ignore his own

personal safety, repeatedly crossing the two or three hundred yards of open terrain under heavy fire to strengthen links in his defensive chain. When the enemy succeeded in completely surrounding Monteith and his unit and while leading the fight out of the situation, Monteith was killed by enemy fire.

Sergeant Herbert J. Thomas

Thomas, class of 1941, was a native of Charleston, West Virginia, and graduate of South Charleston High School. At Virginia Tech he studied business administration. Cadet Sergeant Thomas played football and is a member of Virginia Tech's Athletic Hall of Fame. His senior year, he was the second-highest scorer in the Southern Conference and received All-American honors.

Thomas (USMC) was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism while in action against enemy Japanese forces during the battle at the Koromokina River, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands, on Nov. 7, 1943, in World War II. Although several of his men were struck by enemy bullets as he led his squad through jungle undergrowth in the face of hostile machine gun fire, he destroyed two enemy machine gun positions. Halted by a third enemy machine gun, he positioned his men to rush the enemy after he threw a hand grenade. He threw the grenade only to have the jungle vines drop it back among his men. Thomas flung himself upon it to smother the

explosion, sacrificing his life for his comrades. Inspired by his selfless action, his men unhesitatingly charged the enemy machine gun and killed the crew and several other nearby defenders.

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Femoyer

Femoyer was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II. He was a native of Huntington, West Virginia, and studied civil engineering as a member of VPI's class of 1944. During World War II, he left college and enlisted in the Army Air Force.

While on a mission in Germany, the B-17 bomber on which he served as navigator was struck by three enemy antiaircraft shells. The plane suffered serious damage and Femoyer was severely wounded by shell fragments that penetrated his side and back. In spite of extreme pain and great loss of blood, he refused an offered injection of morphine. He was determined to keep his mental faculties clear to direct his plane out of danger and save his comrades.

Unable to rise from the floor, he asked to be propped up to see his charts and instruments. Femoyer successfully guided the lone bomber through six course changes around enemy antiaircraft concentrations for 2 1/2 hours to avoid enemy flack and returned to the field without further damage. As the crippled aircraft crossed over the English Channel, Femoyer finally allowed an

injection of morphine. Thirty minutes after landing he died of wounds.

Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC has devoted their service organization, the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron (RFSS) in his honor.

First Lieutenant Richard Thomas Shea Jr.

Shea, class of 1948 and a native of Portsmouth, Virginia, graduated from Churchland High School. He first studied in uniform at Virginia Tech at the height of World War II. Enlisting in the Army, he served as a sergeant and entered West Point, where he graduated. He was an All-American in track. Turning down the opportunity to attend the Olympics, he joined his classmates in the Korean War. Shea received the Medal of Honor for actions as an Army first lieutenant at Pork Chop Hill during the Korea War.

Shea was assigned as the Executive Officer for Company A, 7th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division near Sokkagae, Korea. He distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy from July 6-8, 1953.

On the night of July 6, Shea was supervising the reinforcement of defensive positions when the enemy attacked. Voluntarily going to the area most threatened, he led a counterattack. In the bitter fighting that ensued, Shea killed two enemy soldiers with his trench knife.

He fought side by side with his men through the night. Despite heavy losses, the hostile force made an all-out attempt at dawn to overrun friendly elements.

On the afternoon of July 7, after 18 hours of heavy fighting and having lost key personnel through casualties, Shea rallied a group of 20 men and again charged the enemy. Wounded in the action, he continued to move among the defenders of Pork Chop Hill. When the assaulting element was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire, he rushed the emplacement and, firing his carbine and lobbing grenades, neutralized the weapon and killed three of the enemy soldiers single-handedly. Shea coordinated and directed a holding action throughout the night and the following morning. On July 8, the enemy attacked again. Despite additional wounds he launched a determined counterattack and was last seen in close hand-to-hand combat with the enemy.

First Lieutenant Gary Lee Miller

A unit commander in the U.S. Army, 1st Lt. Gary Lee Miller, Class of 1969, died from wounds he received while serving with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in action in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam.

Miller was serving as a platoon leader at night when his company ambushed a hostile force infiltrating from Cambodian sanctuaries. After contact was broken, Miller

led a reconnaissance patrol to search the area for enemy casualties. As the group advanced, it was attacked and Miller seriously wounded. During the fight, an enemy grenade was thrown into the midst of Miller's group. Miller threw himself on it, absorbing the force of the explosion with his body. His action saved nearby members of his patrol.

A resident of Covington, Virginia, Miller attended Clifton Forge-Covington Community College during a period when it was designated a branch of Virginia Tech.



The Story of the Skipper

The famous game cannon of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was born in the dreams of three cadets of the Class of 1964.

For a third year, two close friends in the Corps, Alton “Butch” Harper Jr. and Homer “Sonny” Hickam, sat in the stands of Victory Stadium in Roanoke, Virginia, in anticipation of the Thanksgiving game with VMI. The Virginia Tech Corps formed on the field first and took position while the VMI Corps marched into the stadium.

Both corps took their traditional positions on opposing sides. And for the third time that Butch and Sonny had witnessed, VMI brought in its game cannon, “Little John.” Oh, it was a small thing that looked more like a mortar than a cannon. They loaded it, fired it, and the whole VMI Corps swelled with the chant “Where’s your cannon?” as a perfect smoke ring rose toward the sky.

Butch looked at Sonny, and Sonny looked at Butch, and the two made a solemn pact that this would be the last time that VMI would be allowed to “out cannon” Virginia Tech. They vowed to build the largest game cannon in the world.

The whole thing took on the form of a major military operation. Sonny found blueprints for a Civil War cannon barrel, and Butch looked to find out where they could

get a carriage made for the cannon. But where on Earth would they get the money?

First, they decided that it would have to come from the Corps itself with some help from alumni. Sonny came up with the idea to have a wooden mold made of the barrel at our College of Mechanical Engineering. They took it on as a class project.

Sonny and Butch decided on a strategy. They would call a meeting of every company and every squadron and they would take the wooden mold of the barrel of the cannon to every meeting. George Fox, another friend from A Squadron, volunteered to help.

The huge wooden mold of the barrel did its job. It inspired every member of the Corps. The meetings, 16 in all, made it evident that never again would the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets go into battle without a gun.

At the end of each meeting, each cadet got up, went back to his room, and brought back what he could spare. Each was asked for just \$1 and all of the brass they could give. They brought their grommets, they brought their brass plates, they brought their old brass buckles. This cannon would not simply be built with their dollars, but with their hearts. It is for this reason that you can find the class numerals of 64, 65, 66, and 67 on the face of the barrel.

The Making

Butch had called the president of the company a few months before and told him what they were about

to do, after swearing him to secrecy. Butch asked him how much it would cost, and he astounded him with his response. "You don't have enough," he indicated, "but I've thought we needed a cannon for a long time, too. Son, I'm a member of the Corps class of '37. We'll be making that barrel for you for nothing. Just blow the heck out of them for us, will ya?"

It was a deal. He took our brass and wooden mold and set about the task of casting the barrel.

A few days later, Butch received a phone call from Mr. Hoffman. He asked where they had gotten the brass for the barrel, and Butch told him the story. It seems that not all of the shell casings they picked up from the floor of the firing range were empty. He said when they poured the brass into the vat for melting, everybody was ducking for cover as the foundry was filled with the sound of gunfire.

No good cannon worth its salt is made without a little effort. He indicated that the brass they had given him was too soft without support and recommended that they let him add some Navy gun metal brass for safety.

It was now time to turn to the carriage. They found the place that made the old Civil War gun carriages for the National Battle Field Parks like Gettysburg. It was the Lorton Reformatory, in Lorton, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. They were given all of the money that Butch and Sonny had saved by not having to pay for the barrel, and they agreed to make the carriage to

hold "Skipper."

The Name

The cannon did not yet have a name, and no one could have ever dreamed of the circumstances that would cause it to have one.

It was time to pick up the barrel and the carriage.

They stopped by the foundry in Roanoke first to pick up the barrel. After all, if the barrel wasn't ready, there was no need to go on to Washington. The whole foundry turned out. They were as proud of the barrel as Sonny and Butch were. They shook hands, wished them well, and gave a big Tech cheer as they headed off to get the carriage.

It was a long trip, all the way across the state. The carriage was waiting just as promised.

They had it! They had it done! And they were on the way back to show it to the whole Corps. It was the best feeling in the world. Nothing like it.

After about 20 minutes, the chase car that was now the lead car pulled over on the shoulder and waved us to pull over. Our truck did not have a radio. George Fox came back to Sonny and Butch and indicated that it had just been broadcast that the President had been shot in Dallas and that they did not know how severe it was. They continued back to Blacksburg — not in the exhilaration that they had experienced, but with a

tremendous foreboding. They did not know whether it was an international plot, whether war was imminent, or what the future would hold. There was no more joy in the trip. Everyone was quiet.

By the time that they arrived back in Blacksburg, the President was dead.

They all felt terrible and wanted to do something in honor of our Head of State. They remembered an old military tradition that, at the death of a President, all military installations give a 50-gun salute to their fallen leader.

It was then that they knew what they had to do. It was then that they knew what they had to name their cannon. It would be named "Skipper" in honor of Kennedy and his naval background.

The Salute

The first firing of "Skipper" would be the 50-round salute to our fallen President. It would test the barrel's strength, and it would be the salute of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

As they placed "Skipper" in position on the lawn in front of Brodie and Rasche halls (now known as Pearson Hall West and Pearson Hall East), General Schewe appeared. It was an emotional moment for everyone.

"Skipper" did just fine. A tradition was born.

The Game

After they found out that the Thanksgiving Day game would indeed be held, they immediately began laying plans for introducing "Skipper" to the opposing Corps of Cadets from VMI.

They met with Curt Tompkins, Captain of the Highty-Tighties. He was brought into the big secret.

They would take the cannon to Roanoke the night before the game and hide it in the stadium. They would let our Corps and the VMI Corps march in the parade and into the stadium. They would take their place in the stands and let the VMI Corps form and take their place as normal.

They would let them bring in "Little John," their mortar, and fire it as usual. They would let them chant, "Where's your cannon?"

At that time, Sonny, Butch, and George would stand and signal Curt and the Highty-Tighties to strike up the march of the Charioteers from "Ben Hur". Five members of the rat class, with Sonny as their commander, would pull in "Skipper" with two long heavy ropes, place it in position aimed directly at the center of the VMI Corps of Cadets and fire it!

And fire it they did. Sonny and George placed a charge in the barrel and looked at Butch, with a twinkle in their eye, as if to ask if that was enough. Another charge would be appropriate and yet another. They placed a triple charge into the cannon that day.

What happened after that became a legend. The folks sitting next to the VMI Corps later told that it blew the covers off of half of the corps and a huge announcement came pounding from the press boxes.

The VMI Corps was quiet. They knew never again to challenge the veracity of VPI's artillery. The mission was complete. The duty was done. The game was won.

Marching Through History

The date was 1 October 1872. The path was 26 miles from a Craig County farm to what was then, the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. The journey was taken by William Addison Caldwell. “Add” Caldwell was the first student to enroll in the school we now know as Virginia Tech.

In honor of Addison Caldwell and to serve as a symbolic reenactment of part of the University’s heritage, the Corps of Cadets has incorporated the Caldwell March in its training schedule.

In years past, the administration of the Corps of Cadets had tried to improve the effectiveness of the training system, focusing on the gradual initiation of freshmen into the Corps. With the assistance of a resident history expert, Clara B. Cox, the then-Commandant of Cadets, Maj Gen Stanton R. Musser, and his staff, a route was plotted that would most likely match the one that Addison traveled.

In the spring of 1997, during the celebration of Tech’s 125th anniversary, several cadets volunteered to do the Caldwell March as a kind of commemorative reconstruction.

Many cadets voiced the opinion that they wanted a right of passage connected with the history of the University. During 2000, with the input of the cadet leadership,

it was decided to officially include the Caldwell March in the Corps' training schedule.

The march is broken into two parts. The first half is to be conducted to mark the end of the first training phase, and the final half of the march is to take place near the end of the third phase, shifting the emphasis of First-Year cadets from followership to leadership.

The significance of the Caldwell March is to give cadets the idea to strike out and seek to better themselves through education and that they are not adverse to undergoing some hardship to accomplish that. Addison Caldwell is a mirror of the students who come to the Corps. They want an education and are not afraid to undergo a sort of trial by fire to achieve it.

Preparing the freshmen for this endeavor gives the companies a mission. It is the goal of the upperclassmen to condition the freshmen, as well as themselves, for this march. It is the goal of the freshmen to complete both parts of it in order to earn their place among the ranks of a tradition over 150 years old, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



Caldwell March Pin



Caldwell March Tab
(for Field Uniform)

Virginia Tech Trivia

- The Morrill Land Grant Act was signed by President Lincoln on July 2, 1862 (Land Grant College Act).
- Virginia Gov. Gilbert Walker signed legislation on March 19, 1872, establishing Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Hampton Institute as land-grant institutions. March 19 is Founder's Day at Virginia Tech.
- Virginia Tech first opened as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC) on Oct. 1, 1872.
- The first student to register was Cadet William Addison Caldwell.
- The first Commandant was General James H. Lane, a VMI graduate. He was the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia, wounded three times, led his brigade in Picket's Charge, and was credited with saving General Robert E. Lee from capture during the Battle of the Wilderness.
- General Lane served under both Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill. His men were responsible for the mortal wounding of Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville.
- University President Thomas Conrad (1882-1886) was a confederate spy and scout during the Civil War.
- University President Lindsay Lomax (1886-1891) was a confederate general.

- Two former university presidents commanded Echo as cadets. Julian Burruss, 1898, commanded E Battery, while John R. Hutcheson, 1907, commanded E Company.
- The Father of Modern VPI was President John McBryde (1891-1907).
- Cadet James H. Clark, class of 1881, functioned as the commandant of cadets 1880-1882.
- Lieutenant Sheldon W. Anding (USA) was the only Naval Academy man to be the commandant of cadets. He was USNA class of 1886, but a severe case of typhoid prevented his graduation. With the outbreak of the Spanish American War, he enlisted in the Army.
- Cadet O.M. Stull, class of 1896, wrote "Old Hokie" for a contest in which he won \$5. The word "Hokie" from this cheer is actually a nonsense word, now used for Tech students and athletes.
- The HokieBird's origins can be traced to the nickname given to cadet athletes. As early as 1908, the cadets were nicknamed "gobblers" for the way they ate in the dining facilities. In 1913, a live turkey began appearing at football games. For many years, the football team was known as the "Fighting Gobblers." A costumed student replaced the turkey in 1962.
- Cadet Wilfred Preston "Pete" Maddux, class of 1920, wrote the words to "Tech Triumph."

- Virginia Tech's official school colors are Chicago maroon and burnt orange. The original school colors were black and gray, but the students thought they looked like prison colors. Instead, they chose two colors no other school had used together.
- The bushes around Lane Stadium turn orange and maroon.
- McBryde Hall has the largest compass on the campus.
- The flagpole at Burruss leans 4.5 degrees NNW.
- The flagpoles at Burruss are 77 feet apart.
- There are 14 gargoyles on campus: 4 at Eggleston, 4 at Hillcrest, 3 at Smyth, and 3 at Saunders.
- The Mall is .25 miles from North Main Street to the Pylons.
- The oldest academic building still in use is Henderson Hall, dating to 1876. It was the president's house until 1902.
- Virginia Tech's oldest fraternity, the G.E.R.M.A.N. Club of Virginia Tech, was originally founded as the Cadet Dancing Club in 1887.
- The bookstore is shaped like the state of Virginia.
- The longest pipe on the organ in the Chapel is 16 feet.
- There are 61 bells in the Carillon.
- VPI&SU is located at 80.5 25' 16" W-37.5 13'54" N.

- Two Virginia governors were born at Smithfield Plantation. Governor James Patton Preston (1816-1819) is buried in the Smithfield Plantation cemetery behind the Cage.
- Women were not allowed into the Bugle until 1935.
- The first female cadet was admitted to the Corps in 1973.
- Two large universities — Virginia Tech and Texas A&M — and the smaller North Georgia College & State University, are the only public universities to have a corps of cadets along with a civilian, undergraduate student body.
- The first three professors were Lane, Martin, and Carrol.
- Virginia Tech's only Noble Prize winner is Robert Richardson '58. This former Regimental S-1 discovered Liquid Helium -3.
- The movie "October Sky" is about Homer Hickam '64. The film is based on Hickam's book "Rocket Boys," which he wished the title of the film to be. The studio believed that title would not sell well, and changed the name. "October Sky" is an anagram of "Rocket Boys."
- The regimental band has won three Presidential Inaugural Parades in 1953, 1957, and 1961. The parade was ruled non-competitive days before the 1965 Inaugural.
- John Philip Sousa dedicated "Hands Across the Seas" to the Highty-Tighties.

- The creek under the Drillfield is Stroubles.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded the Highty-Tighties a white cord in 1936 for their service in the 1898 Spanish-American War. Because the cord was supposedly pinned on backwards, the band wears the cord with the braid facing outward.
- The Highty-Tighties have gone to the Presidential Inaugural eleven times: 1917, 1953, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1969, 1973, 1977, 1981, 1997, 2005.
- General Lewis Pick, class of 1914, was the engineer who built the Burma Road (Pick's Pike). It was "the road that could not be built."
- Virginia Tech has over 100 Generals and Admirals among its alumni. These include three Four Star Generals.
- Virginia Tech's highest ranking alumni are General Thomas Richards, 1956 (USAF Ret.); General Lance L. Smith, 1969 (USAF Ret.); and General Carlton D. Everhart II '83.
- General Eisenhower's ranking engineer in the World War II European Theater was Major General Cecil Moore, 1916.
- The eleven names on the Rock are: Capt. Lloyd W. Williams, Lt. Howard T. Barger, Lt. R. L. Butler, Lt. J. Frank Clemmer, Lt. Jerome M. Cudlipp, Lt. J. W. France, Lt. A. R. Harvey, Lt. Arthur B. Moore, Lt. S. B. Moore, Lt. S. W. Murray, and Pvt. J. Campbell Berkeley.
- The term "rat," as in rat belt, was first used for freshmen cadets in 1873. Its use was discouraged after 1934. "Mister" and more recently "New Cadet" became the official

freshman title. Unlike VMI's "brother rat" applied to classmates there, the term or wearing of related items, such as rat belts, is dropped immediately and eagerly by all concerned upon achieving upper-class standing at Virginia Tech. Freshmen cadets were told in past years that the only thing lower in their chain of command is a senior at VMI.

- Christopher Kraft '45, N company, was NASA flight director for the first spaceflight, first orbital, and first spacewalk. He was NASA's Director of Flight Operations when the crew of Apollo 11 made the first lunar landing. Eventually he served as Director, Manned Spaceflight Center.

- The Cadet Corps owns two unmounted 3-inch Civil War cannons. They are on display at the flagpole. Both were purchased with the money won as a drill prize from the 1888 Virginia Exposition. C Company performed the prescribed drill with such proficiency that the attending company from VMI refused to take the field. The carriages for these cannons were destroyed during World War II. Designated for the wartime scrap drive, these historical trophies were hidden in the Duck Pond by cadets.

- The Five Names of Tech - Virginia Agriculture & Mechanical College (1872), Virginia Agriculture & Mechanical College & Polytechnic Institute (1896), Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944), Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (1970), Virginia Tech (recognized as an official name) (1980)

Campus Map



Interactive Campus Map with Search Function
and Resources Link



Dragging Map

- Freshmen are expected to drag on all areas of Upper Quad.
- Freshmen are not to drag in laundry rooms, mud rooms, study lounges, kitchens, Commandant's staff hallways, in shower gear, or off Upper Quad.
- Freshmen are required to drag on basement floors except where carpeted.

Orange: dragging

Black: Off limits except for formation



Rice Center for Leader Development

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' Rice Center for Leader Development strives to transform aspiring undergraduates into inspiring leaders. It does so through a comprehensive program of academic coursework, real-world leadership experiences, ethics education, public lectures, and guest speakers.

Virginia Tech is the first land-grant university in the nation to successfully combine the leadership development elements embedded within a corps of cadet's experience with existing ROTC training to produce a program of study so rigorous it has been recognized by the award of a minor in leadership studies. The center is named in honor of the late Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice (Class of '34, civil engineering).

Rice Center academic programs include a **Leadership Minor** accredited through the Pamplin School of Business, the **Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series**, which brings nationally known personalities to speak on the topics of leadership and ethics, **Alumni Panels** where Corps alumni from all walks of life address the regiment on their experiences, and the **Corps of Cadets First-Year Experience curriculum** which is designed to address specific needs of cadets as they transition to college and cadet life.

Commandant's Staff
(continued from page 12)



Director, Rice Center
Captain James P. McGrath III,
USN (Ret)



Deputy Director, Rice Center
Col. Jamie Cogbill, USA (Ret)

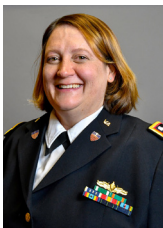
VTCC Alumni Director
Brian Callsen, USAF (Ret)



Communications
Director
Katie Mallory



Commandant's Staff



Asst. Commandant
for Recruiting
Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger
VA Militia



Assistant Recruiter
Taylor Cupp



Recruiting Assistant
Darien Stewart

Residential Well-being
District 5 Managing
Director
Vacant

Case Manager for
Residential Well-being
Keely Arbenz-Smith

Case Manager for
Residential Well-being
Jennings King



Commandant's Staff



Chief Advancement Officer
Kelley Corvin



Manager of Donor Relations,
Scholarships, and Stewardship
Nicole Freeman Ramos

Band Director
Vacant

Administrative Assistant
Anna Kirk



Growley III (call sign “Stryker”)

Growley III (call sign “Stryker”) is the Ambassador for the Corps of Cadets. Joining the Corps to continue the Growley tradition in January 2022, he has become a symbol of selfless service and a way to share Corps experiences with the campus community.



The Labrador retriever is cared for by 12 cadets, who make up the Growley Team. They follow a strict daily care, exercise, and training schedule.

Growley III lives with the Growley Team commanding officer in the residence halls.

He is called Growley III because, according to Corps folklore, a Depression-era commandant had a dog named Growley. Food was somewhat scarce, so the cadets kept a portion of their breakfast to help feed him.

Today, Growley III helps to raise morale within the Corps and create a way for cadets to reconnect with Corps history.