

# GUIDON

2021-2022



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# From Virginia Tech's President

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 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."



Timothy D. Sands

# Vice President for Student Affairs

It is with deep respect and admiration that I extend the heartiest of welcome to Virginia Tech. This is a big deal—and your commitment, persistence, resilience, and character are to be celebrated. Way to go!

The Corps of Cadets is something few experience—and we are very proud of who you are, as well as who you are becoming.

As you set off to live out our motto, *Ut Prosim*, I hope you remember that Virginia Tech is counting on you to embody great hope for a world that is more just, caring, and honorable.

In the wise words of Frederick Buechner, “One life on this earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can.”

I am both confident and grateful you will model the way.



Frank Shushok Jr.

# Commandant of Cadets

Welcome to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. You have made a commitment to a life of service, to something greater than yourself. You are becoming part of an institution that has developed young men and women into outstanding civilian and military leaders.

You have committed to achieving a level of excellence that is above your peers. Much will be asked of you in the coming months and years. The Corps presents these challenges to stretch you beyond what you once thought was possible. When you look back on the experience, you will do so with a sense of pride, but also humility.

Why humility? As you learn more about the history of the Corps, you will find it rich with men and women who have gone on to make a difference. They do so without fanfare. Rather, they and you embody the motto etched at the Virginia Tech War Memorial: "*Ut Prosim* — That I May Serve." I, my staff, and the upperclassmen are here to challenge you, inspire you, and to help you succeed. Now, get ready ... the future is yours to create!



Maj Gen Randal D. Fullhart,

# Regimental Commander Cadet Colonel Justin Ratcliffe

Your decision to join an organization of men and women who have dedicated themselves to service and duty to the nation is admirable. Your time here will help you develop your skills as a leader and a follower. It will not be easy. You will experience hardships. You will fail, but that is OK. Your success will be determined by how well you recover from your hardships and continue facing the difficulties head-on.



As your Regimental Commander, my goal is to help build you up into effective followers and then leaders that will soon lead our nation. My staff and I are excited to welcome you to this organization of tradition, respect, honor, and success. Here, you will develop into the men and women you strive to be. You will develop a sense of urgency, resiliency, and grit to push through the difficult times to set yourself up for success. Winston Churchill stated, "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

As a member of the Corps of Cadets, you will learn things about yourself you may have never learned elsewhere, and I encourage you to venture into territories where you are uncomfortable. By doing so, you will learn to firstly lead yourself, then others. This will lead to your success as a student, cadet, and well-rounded future leader of our nation.

# Major General Randal Fullhart, USAF (Retired)

Major General Randal D. Fullhart is the commandant of cadets.

He received his commission in 1979 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He commanded at the squadron, group, and wing levels and commanded two expeditionary flying squadrons, an expeditionary operations group in Operation Allied Force, and an expeditionary wing in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, he has served as the military commander, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency and commandant of the Air Command and Staff College.

His staff assignments include experience in operations, safety, acquisition, and government affairs at the major command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels. He served as the assistant director of operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and has joint experience at U.S. Transportation Command, as well as joint, interagency experience as deputy chief, Central Security Service, National Security Agency. He was vice commander, Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional), Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, before his final assignment as director, Global Reach Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

His has a bachelor's degree in international affairs from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a Master of Arts from Webster University, and a master's degree in national security affairs from the National War College.

Maj Gen Fullhart is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours in the C-141, KC-135, C-17, F-16, T-38 and T-37. His major awards and decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Aerial Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, and the Combat Readiness Medal.

# Colonel Craig J. Alia, USA (Retired)

Colonel Craig J. Alia is Deputy Commandant for 1st Battalion. He is a native of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, and was commissioned in 1992 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy.

COL Alia has served in command and staff positions. His deployments include Korea, Bosnia, and four deployments to Afghanistan. He most recently commanded 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, where he deployed the unit to Afghanistan and changed command in theater. His last post was as the Chief of Staff for the Future Vertical Lift - Cross Functional Team.

COL Alia is a graduate of Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course; Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Course; Maintenance Managers Course; Command and General Staff College; School of Advanced Military Studies, and the Naval War College. He has earned three master's degrees as well as the Senior Aviator Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal (with "V" device), and the Joint Service Commendation Medal among other awards.





# Lieutenant Colonel Donald G. Russell, USAF (Retired)

Lieutenant Colonel Donald G. Russell is Deputy Commandant of Cadets for 2nd Battalion. He is a 1990 graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder and received his commission through Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He served as a Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Combat Crew Commander before cross-training in 1994 as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer. Throughout his career, he led air expeditionary deployments to Italy, France, Turkey, Egypt, and Kuwait, as well as to Tanzania after the 1998 terrorist attacks on two U.S. Embassies.

Lt Col Russell commanded two maintenance squadrons and served on the Air Staff before his final assignment as Deputy Commander for the 55th Maintenance Group at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

He retired in August 2012 after 22 years of service.

He received a master's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota in 1994 and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree from Air University in 2005.



# Captain James P. McGrath III, USN (Retired)

Captain Jamie McGrath is Deputy Commandant of Cadets for 3rd Battalion.

He graduated from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in history. He holds a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College and a master's degree in military history from Norwich University. He is a nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer.

He served in a variety of at-sea assignments aboard frigates, destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, participating in Operations Sharp Guard, Desert Fox, Souther Watch, Active Endeavour, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn. He served on the staff of Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and Commanded Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Seven, in Guam.

Ashore he taught chemistry, materials and radiological fundamentals at Naval Nuclear Power School. After promotion to Captain, he served as the Liaison for Commander, Naval Forces Europe to Commander, US European Command and on the Joint Staff J7. His final active duty position was as a Military Professor at the Naval War College.

Personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (Second Award), Meritorious Service Medal (Third Award) in addition to other personal, campaign and unit awards.

He is married to the former Kirsten Clos ('90) and they have two grown children, Abigail ('16) and Samuel ('21).



# Commander Nathaniel H. Brown, USN (Retired)

Commander Nate Brown is the Director of Alumni Relations. He is a 1998 graduate of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, where he was a member of Golf, Foxtrot, and Echo companies.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy through the Naval ROTC Program and served on active duty for 23 years as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Sea Duty assignments include: Damage Control Assistant USS Elrod (FFG 55), Navigator USS Gettysburg (CG 64), Chief Engineer USS Porter (DDG 78), Chief Engineer USS San Jacinto (CG 56), and Executive Officer USS Ramage (DDG 61).

Ashore, he served as a Naval ROTC Instructor at Virginia Military Institute, Staff Officer on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff at the Pentagon, Operational Planner at Naval Forces Central Command /Fifth Fleet, Maritime Planner at the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, and Maritime Planner/ Training Officer at Second Fleet.

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

# Lieutenant Colonel Carrie A. Cox, USAF

Lieutenant Colonel Carrie A. Cox is the Deputy Commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track, better known as VPI Battalion. Most recently, she was the commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 607, Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she was responsible for recruiting and overseeing the preparation and training of officer candidates at Fayetteville State University and four cross-town universities. She will continue her Air Force service as the Maintenance Squadron Commander with the 916th ARW at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.



Lieutenant Colonel Cox earned her commission and was a Distinguished Graduate (with Academic and Military Distinction) from the US Air Force Academy in 1998. She has served in a variety of positions in aircraft maintenance, training, instruction, and recruiting in an active duty capacity and as a reservist.

Prior to returning to active duty, Lieutenant Colonel Cox served as the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Executive Officer as well as the Air Force Liaison Officer Director for the state of Virginia leading a geographically dispersed unit of 17 Admission Liaison Officers responsible for over 640 schools.

Lt Col Cox is a 1999 graduate of Virginia Tech with a master's degree in Civil Engineering.

# Lieutenant Colonel Rewa C. Mariger, Virginia Militia

Lieutenant Colonel Rewa Mariger is the Assistant Commandant of Cadets for Recruiting.

She is a graduate of Purdue University and served eight years in the U.S. Navy. She served aboard the combat logistics ship USS SHASTA (AE-33) as the Combat Information Center Officer. She completed a six-month deployment in the Arabian Gulf as the Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer and as the Intelligence Officer.



LTC Mariger was one of the first women to serve aboard a Pacific Fleet cruiser, the USS PORT ROYAL (CG-73). She served as the Strike Officer, Public Affairs Officer, and Female Crew Integration Officer. During another deployment she qualified for Tactical Action Officer and was the Tomahawk Launch Area Coordinator for three Battle Groups during increased tensions with Iraq.

She transferred to Commander Third Fleet's staff to train deploying battle groups in Tomahawk tactics, before reporting to shore duty as the Junior Class Advisor at the Virginia Tech NROTC Unit, where she also served as the NROTC Recruiting Officer.

She earned a Master of Business Administration in marketing and E-commerce from Virginia Tech in 2001, and spent five years conducting research for the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute before joining the Commandant's staff in March 2006.

## Senior Chief James Bean, USN (Retired)

Senior Chief James Bean serves as the director of the Highty-Tighties, the regimental marching band.

A native of Beverly, Massachusetts, and a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, MUCS Bean joined the Naval Academy Band in 1985 and was named principal trumpeter three years later. He served a distinguished Naval career for 22 years, and he performed with the Naval Academy's jazz ensemble, led the brass quintet, and was featured as soloist with the concert band on numerous occasions. Achieving the rank of Senior Chief Musician, he was one of the band's ceremonial leaders and conducted countless ceremonies for national and foreign dignitaries, including the Vice President and the Secretary of the Navy.



After retiring from the Navy in 2007, MUCS Bean began a second career as a music educator. A teacher in Queen Anne's County for six years, MUCS Bean was director of bands at Matapeake Middle School, building the program from 40 students to well over 100 and earning superior and excellent awards at multiple Music in the Park competitions.

A regular contributor of reviews of new music for the International Trumpet Guild, he has also served as an adjudicator for the National Trumpet Competition, high school division.

MUCS Bean has a Masters of Music in Performance from Towson University.

# Command Sergeant Major Daniel R. Willey, USA (Retired)

Command Sergeant Major Daniel R. Willey is the Senior Enlisted Advisor for 1st Battalion.

CSM Willey joined the North Carolina Army National Guard in April 1982 and entered active duty a year later.

He has been an Aerial Fire Support Observer; Fire Support Sergeant at company, battalion, and brigade levels; Tactical Non-Commissioned Officer at the U.S. Military Academy; Operations Sergeant; and First Sergeant.

Upon graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy, he served as the SGM for the New River ROTC Training Battalion. CSM Willey then returned to the 82nd Airborne Division as the CSM for 3-319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and deployed as a Battalion Maneuver Task Force (Task Force Gun Devil) to Afghanistan in support of OEF VI.

Upon redeployment he was the Fort Lewis Garrison Command Sergeant Major. He served as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the Field Artillery and then as the Command Sergeant Major to the Deputy Commanding General, NATO Training mission Afghanistan.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College. His awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, MSM with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, ARCOM with six oak leaf clusters, AAM with six oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, NCOPDR w/numeral 4, and the French National Defense Medal (Bronze).



# Master Gunnery Sergeant Lance Jones, USMC (Retired)

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lance L. Jones is the senior enlisted advisor for 2nd Battalion.

MGySgt Jones joined the Marine Corps in 1984, attending boot camp at Marine Corp Recruit Depot San Diego, California, and Infantry Training School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

His first duty station was Marine Barracks 8th & I, Washington, D.C. While there, he served three years on the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team. He then served with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as a squad leader. He served on two combat deployments during his tour there.

MGySgt Jones then proceeded to Okinawa, Japan, as a team leader at the Jungle Warfighting School. He then served at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, as a basic warrior instructor. Afterward, was canvassing recruiter at Charleston, South Carolina.

MGySgt Jones returned to Marine Base Camp Lejeune, where he served for 14 years as an infantryman and warfighter at various units and executed three combat deployments to include Operations Iraqi Freedom (Iraq), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and eight combat contingency deployments.

He then received orders to the Pentagon to serve as the infantry occupational field sponsor and enlisted advocate for the Marine Corps.

MGySgt Jones was then selected as the deputy director of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in Okinawa, Japan.

His final, active duty assignment was at Twenty-Nine Palms, California, as the senior enlisted advisor of the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

After his retirement, he served at Hargrave Military Academy as a training advisor and counselor for post-graduate students.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon two gold stars.





# Sergeant Major David M. Combs USA (Retired)

Sergeant Major David M. Combs is the Senior Enlisted Advisor for 3rd Battalion.

SGM Combs entered the U.S. Army in August 1986. Upon completion of Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, and Airborne School, he reported to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in December 1986. He then moved through assignments at locations including Alaska; Fort Kobbe, Panama; and Camp Hovey, Korea, where he served as a UH-60 Blackhawk Door Gunner, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Surveillance Team Leader, Surveillance Platoon Sergeant, Small Group Leader, and Scout Platoon Sergeant.



In September 2003, SGM Combs was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry, Fort Drum, New York, where he served as Platoon Sergeant for 18 months. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry where he served as Rifle Company First Sergeant for three years. In August 2007, SGM Combs was assigned to the Combat Applications Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as Squadron Training Non-Commissioned Officer, Training Sergeant Major, and Operations Sergeant Major.

After 27 years of active military service, SGM Combs' awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge (2nd award), Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Medal.

# Brooke Schmalhorst

Ms. Brooke Schmalhorst is a Residential Learning Coordinator for the Corps of Cadets.

Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Ms. Schmalhorst moved to Tallahassee, Florida, for college and received a Bachelor of Science in International Affairs and Criminology from Florida State University. She then went on to receive a Master of Science in Higher Education also from Florida State University.



Ms. Schmalhorst has been with Housing and Residence Life at Virginia Tech since August 2020 and has spent that time working with the Corps of Cadets.

Her responsibilities include acting as a liaison and advocate to Housing and Residence Life, providing support and connections to academic and co-curricular resources on and off campus, and supervising and training RAs. In addition, she partners with Deputy Commandants and staff in holding cadets accountable for their actions and engaging in educational opportunities with cadets.

Her office is in Pearson Hall West.

# Cassie Pinaire

Cassie Pinaire is a Residential Learning Coordinator for the Corps of Cadets.

Ms. Pinaire earned her bachelor's degree in forensic psychology and criminal justice at Castleton University in Vermont, and she holds a master's degree in forensic and legal psychology from Marymount University in Virginia. She has experience working with a variety of federal agencies in the Washington, D.C., area, and served as a Community Advisor for Castleton Residence Life during her undergraduate years.



Outside of work, Ms. Pinaire enjoys running, yoga, paddleboarding, and hanging out with her dog, Humphrey. She deeply values an emphasis on a holistic approach to wellness, mental health, and taking care of oneself.

Ms. Pinaire believes in individuals developing a strong sense of agency: or their ability to take action, be effective, influence their own lives, and assume responsibility for behavior. Those with a strong sense of agency will have faith in themselves in difficult situations and remain resilient in the face of conflict or change, she says.

# Katie Mallory

Mrs. Katie Mallory is the Corps' Executive Officer.

She graduated from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets in 2004 with a degree in communication. She was a member of India and Echo companies, Conrad Cavalry, and served on Regimental Staff as the S-2.

Mrs. Mallory commissioned into the U.S. Navy in 2004 and served as a surface warfare officer on the USS Carney, an Arleigh-Burke class guided missile destroyer at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. She deployed, first to the Mediterranean Sea to defend international shipping channels, then to South America to support regional stability. She served as the general quarters officer of the deck and collateral public affairs officer, for which she earned her Navy Achievement medal. She was also the division officer for the Admin and Auxiliaries divisions.

Mrs. Mallory transferred to the USS Theodore Roosevelt at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, as a division officer for operations.

She transitioned to the civilian workforce in 2008 as a government contractor on U.S. Navy contracts including the Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration contract, the SEA 21 contract, and the Standard Labor Data Collection and Distribution Application contract, where she trained and supported program administrators for the application. She earned her Security+ certification in 2016.



# Shay Barnhart

Ms. Shay Barnhart is the Communications Director.

Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, she graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Journalism degree.

Ms. Barnhart spent nearly two decades as a reporter, designer, and editor at newspapers around the country. In 2010, she joined Virginia Tech in University Relations, where she created content for the university's social media accounts and webpages and worked with Virginia Tech News products.

She joined the Corps staff in 2016.

As Communications Director, Ms. Barnhart maintains a comprehensive communications and marketing program for the Corps of Cadets, serves on the Corps of Cadets' advancement team, and supports cadet recruitment and marketing efforts.



# Samantha Riggin

Ms. Samantha Riggin is Curator for the Corps Museum.

She has more than 25 years of experience as an antiques dealer, auctioneer, and personal property appraiser.

Ms. Riggin holds a master's degree in material culture and public humanities from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in history from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Prior to her return to university studies she was the owner of a successful estate liquidation and personal property appraisal business in western Pennsylvania. She also has served as an expert witness in U.S. District Court and Orphan's Court in several counties in Pennsylvania and has earned her professional auctioneers license.

## Growley II (call sign “Tank”)

Growley II (call sign “Tank”) is the Ambassador for the Corps of Cadets.

Since joining the Corps in August 2016, 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 II will live with the Growley Team commanding officer in Pearson Hall West.

He is called Growley II 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 II helps to raise morale within the Corps and create a way for cadets to reconnect with Corps history.



# The Real Techman

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are freshmen, newcomers, but by this time you will feel that you are college students, students of the world starting out on a big career. No one can deny the fact that you are starting a big career, but do not make the mistake of telling everybody about it. Remember that there are others of greater and wider experience than you at Tech. You are in a new world, and it would do you well to learn the customs and traditions of this campus in order that you may become a part of it.

Your former position in high school does not interest other Techmen in the least nor will they care to hear you tell about it. Your progress at Tech will depend entirely upon your conduct and achievement, not on prior records. At first you are only one among many other freshmen, and it is up to you to establish your place here not by your words, but by your works. You will find that courtesy and willingness to learn will pay dividends.

It is the fine old tradition of VPI that everyone speaks to everyone else whether they know them or not. The true Techman treats visitors and town people with all consideration and their fellow students as comrades. A person's name is music to their ears, and effort is well spent in learning the names of those with whom you come in contact, for this is often the first step towards friendship. Fights and ill-feelings are out of place at Tech. Get to be pals with your classmates in particular. They may become your lifelong friends.

Learn to take disappointment and unpleasantness with a smile, then forget about it. If you cannot easily forget, convert your aroused emotional energy to constructive action on another front, whether it be your work, your relations with other people, or any other helpful thing that might divert your attention long enough for you to cool down.

Let your friends see that you are still on your feet with a grin on your face, but with determination in your heart. Disregard the possibly foul but probably temporary blow at your ultimate opportunity



in your fight for achievement. Keep fighting, for your great chance may cross your path but once. Quitting the fight, or taking time out for brooding over your misfortunes, certainly does not help you win anything but the disappointment of your friends.

Techmen respect the uniform they wear, because it is a part of the college, and the student who does anything to discredit the school while on leave, or under any circumstances, will not be tolerated. So, no matter where you go, remember that you are a Techman, known everywhere as ladies and gentlemen and as people of honor.

Study the Honor System. It is the pride and the making of VPI, and you are expected to cherish it as it has been cherished and upheld in the past. Let it guide you while at Virginia Tech and after you have left. Honesty at VPI is very practical, as there is little chance that you will receive a complete education at VPI and graduate unless you are honest. There is no stigma attached to failure in the difficult courses at VPI, but to be branded as a cheat is a lifelong curse, even if no one else but you does the branding. True success is founded on self-respect.

Remember that when you enter VPI, you are considered responsible. You can do as you please about your work; nobody will make you do it. Be practical and be honest with yourself, you are here for a purpose. Keep your objectives in sight. "Wildness" wastes money; you are only losing other things that you would rather have. Rest or play on Sunday; you will need recreation weekly.

Remember, also, that you are more on your own initiative now than you have ever been before. Remember that you are working for yourself and that it is for you to decide what you want to make of your college career and of your later life. Now is the time to begin building for success in your studies, in your relations with other people, and in your relations with yourself. Practice moderation and good judgment in all things. Do all this and at the end of your four years at VPI, you will graduate as an adult in all respects.

— *Adapted in part from 1938, 1940 Guidons*

# Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets 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.

# Cadet Knowledge Basics

## **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**

Global, Ethical Leaders, Now ... More Than Ever

## **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 and cadets appointed over me in order "That I May Serve."

# American Fighters Code of Conduct

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

# 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 in

spite 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.

# Chain of Command

## **University/State Chain of Command**

President of the United States ..... Pres. Joe Biden  
Governor of Virginia..... Gov. Ralph Northam  
President of Virginia Tech ..... Dr. Timothy D. Sands  
VP for Student Affairs ..... Dr. Frank Shushok Jr.

## **Academic Colleges and Deans**

Agriculture and Life Sciences..... Dr. Alan Grant  
Architecture and Urban Studies.... Dr. Rosemary Blieszner(interim)  
Science..... Dr. Sally C. Morton  
Business ..... Dr. Robert T. Sumichrast  
Engineering..... Dr. Julia Ross  
Liberal Arts & Human Sciences .... Dr. Laura Belmonte  
Veterinary Medicine..... Dr. M. Daniel Givens  
Natural Resources..... Dr. Paul M. Winistorfer

## **ROTC Department Heads**

AFROTC ..... Col Gregory Lowe, USAF  
AROTC ..... COL Jamie Cogbill, USA  
NROTC ..... CAPT Douglas Bradley, USN

## **Commandant's Staff**

Commandant of Cadets ..... Maj Gen Randal D. Fullhart  
Deputy Commandant 1st BN ..... COL Craig Alia, USA  
Deputy Commandant 2nd BN ..... Lt Col Donald Russell, USAF  
Deputy Commandant 3rd BN ..... CAPT Jamie McGrath, USN  
Senior Enlisted Advisor 1st BN..... CSM Daniel Willey, USA

Senior Enlisted Advisor 2nd BN .....MGySgt Lance Jones, USMC  
 Senior Enlisted Advisor 3rd BN.....SGM David Combs , USA  
 Deputy Commandant, VPI BN .....Lt Col Carrie A. Cox, USAF  
 Assistant Director, VPI .....Vacant  
 Acting Director, Rice Center .....CAPT Jamie McGrath, USN  
 Director, VTCC Alumni.....CDRNathanial Brown, USN  
 Assistant Commandant.....LTCRewaMariger, VAMilitia  
 Director, Regimental Band .....MUCS James Bean, USN  
 Executive Officer .....Ms. Katie Mallory  
 Communications Director.....Ms. Shay Barnhart  
 Museum Curator.....Ms. Samantha Riggins  
 Budget Manager .....Ms. Leketa Miller  
 Program Support Specialist .....Ms. Nicole Ward  
 Alumni Director's Assistant .....Ms. Michele Messner  
 Executive Assistant .....Mrs. Robin Atkins  
 Residential Learning Coordinator .....Ms. Brooke Schmalhorst

### **Regimental Staff and Command**

Regimental Commander .....C / COL Justin Ratcliffe  
 Regimental Executive Officer .....C / LTC Madelyn Poteet  
 S-1 (Adjutant).....C / MAJ Nicholas Sisson  
 S-2 (Public Affairs) .....C / MAJ Victoria Ann  
 S-3 (Operations and Planning).....C / LTC Kyle Huffman  
 S-4 (Supply and Finance) .....C / MAJ Nathan Steiman  
 S-5 (Academics).....C / MAJ Connor MacDonnell  
 Command Sergeant Major .....C / CSM Ryan Wagner



### **Regimental Special Staff**

Honor Court Chief Justice ..... C/MAJ Alden Ouzts  
Staff Judge Advocate ..... C/MAJ Neil Bratton  
IG ..... C/MAJ Isabel Berst  
Recruiting ..... C/CPT John Manson  
Athletics ..... C/1LT Michael Sokta  
Religious Liaison ..... C/1LT Amanda Wyche  
Medical Officer ..... C/1LT Paige McCauley  
Safety Officer ..... C/CPT Zachary Krough  
Historian ..... C/SFC Peter Tynan  
Regimental Armorer ..... C/CPT Julie Romutis  
Regimental Bugler ..... C/CSS Patrick Corrigan  
Regimental Alumni Liaison Officer ..... C/CPT Benjamin Janosy  
Liaison to Company Organizations ..... C/CPT Caleigh Mason  
VTCC Director, Hall Council ..... C/SFC Samuel Stewart  
Growley Captain ..... C/CPT Dara Qualter  
Growley Handler ..... C/SFC Cole Shackelford

### **Others**

Color Guard Commander ..... C/CCS Sydney Stanley  
Skipper Crew Chief of Smoke ..... C/ASG Alex Ceol  
Gregory Guard Commander ..... C/CPT Alex Navarrete

## **Battalion Staffs**

### **1st Battalion – First Above All**

CO.....C/LTC Michael Luciani  
XO.....C/MAJ Randy Abilmona  
S-1 .....C/CPT John Stovall  
S-2 .....C/CPT Olivia Ellis  
S-3 .....C/MAJ Bryce Cook  
S-4 .....C/CPT Katelynn Loos  
S-5 .....C/CPT Zachary Hartman  
SGM.....C/SGM Jacob Osborn

### **2nd Battalion – Honor First, Duty Always**

CO.....C/LTC Austin Askew  
XO.....C/MAJ Maverick Liebl  
S-1 .....C/CPT Claudia McCarthy  
S-2 .....C/CPT Caroline Vinter  
S-3 .....C/MAJ Steven Smith  
S-4 .....C/CPT Graham Warren  
S-5 .....C/CPT Jacob Withers  
SGM.....C/SGM Adam Jardines

### **3rd Battalion – Strength from Unity, Pride through Perseverance**

CO.....C/LTC Emma Vogler  
XO.....C/MAJ Brett Nutter  
S-1 .....C/CPT Cam Roberts  
S-2 .....C/CPT Clare Provoncha  
S-3 .....C/MAJ Ayden Blackwood  
S-4 .....C/CPT Grayson Covey  
S-5 .....C/CPT Sarah Mar  
SGM.....C/SGM Claire Seibel

### **VPI Battalion**

CO.....C/LTC Erin Geary  
XO.....C/MAJ Claudia McCarthy  
SGM.....C/SGM Satria Knight

### **Company Staffs**

#### **Alpha Company – Still Kickin' Ass**

CO..... C/CPT Liam Murphy  
XO..... C/1LT William Edinger  
1SG ..... C/1SG Frank Vendetti

#### **Bravo Company – Forged in Flame**

CO..... C/CPT Alden Pierce  
XO..... C/1LT Eleanor Verburg  
1SG ..... C/1SG Laura Huddleston

#### **Charlie Company – Semper Primus**

CO..... C/CPT Walker Ade  
XO..... C/1LT Clara Cobb  
1SG ..... C/1SG Jenner Johnson

#### **Delta Company – Spirit of Delta**

CO..... C/CPT Stephen Jones  
XO..... C/CPT Caleigh Mason  
1SG ..... C/1SG Gavin Coburn

#### **Echo Company – Unity and Pride**

CO..... C/CPT Matt Kanney  
XO..... C/1LT Cooper Rapp  
1SG ..... C/1SG Grace Lyle

**Foxtrot Company – Praebate Exemplium**

CO..... C/CPT Margaret McConville

XO..... C/1LT Baker McFall

1SG ..... C/1SG Sean Herndon

**Golf Company – Non Concedo**

CO..... C/CPT Jack Ryal

XO..... C/1LT Phil Boersma

1SG ..... C/1SG Jerry Jones

**Hotel Company – Pride Now, Tradition Always, Hotel Forever**

CO..... C/CPT LaForest Gardiner

XO..... C/1LT James Weldon

1SG ..... C/1SG Elisabeth Swift

**India Company – Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus**

CO..... C/CPT Paul Lobree

XO..... C/1LT Timothy Villanueva

1SG ..... C/1SG Liam Moriarty

**Kilo Company – Ne Te Molesti Deprimant**

CO..... C/CPT William Rakes

XO..... C/1LT Jacob Glauber

1SG ..... C/1SG Zoe Lynes

**Lima Company – Non Timebo Mala**

CO..... C/CPT Austin Tirona

XO..... C/1LT Joseph Canales

1SG ..... C/1SG Richard Weikle

**Mike Company – Primus Inter Pares**

CO..... C/CPT Fritz Gerald Silva

XO..... C/CPT Erin Cross-Kaplan

1SG ..... C/1SG Julian Montes Martinez

**Band Company – Deeds Not Words**

CO.....C/ MAJ Skyler Powell

XO.....C/ CPT Byron Guju

DM.....C/ CPT Joseph Topp

**Band Company A Orange**

CO .....C/ CPT Olivia Asuncion

XO .....C/ 1LT Matthew Mabutas

1SG .....C/ 1SG Ji Min Jung

**Band Company B Maroon**

CO.....C/ CPT Stephen Herrick

XO.....C/ 1LT Henry Bergstol

1SG .....C/ 1SG Benjamin Wooley

# Corps of Cadets Rank Structure



Cadet Colonel  
(C/COL)



Cadet Lieutenant Colonel  
(C/LTC)



Cadet Major  
(C/MAJ)



Cadet Captain  
(C/CPT)



Cadet First Lieutenant  
(C/1LT)



Cadet Second Lieutenant  
(C/2LT)



Cadet Command Sergeant Major  
(C/CSM)



Cadet Sergeant Major  
(C/SGM)



Cadet First Sergeant  
(C/FSG)



Cadet Sergeant First Class  
(C/SFC)



Cadet Staff Sergeant  
(C/SSG)



Cadet Sergeant  
(C/SGT)



Cadet Corporal  
(C/CP)



Cadet Private First Class  
(C/PFC)



Cadet Private  
(C/PVT)



Crossed sabers denotes  
VPI position

## Highly Tighlies



Drum Major  
(C/DF)



Cadet Supply Sergeant  
(C/SSG)

## Color Guard



Cadet Command Color Sergeant  
(C/CCS)



Cadet Color Sergeant  
(C/CSG)



Cadet Color Corporal  
(C/CCP)



Cadet Artillery Sergeant  
(C/ASG)



Cadet Artillery Corporal  
(C/ACP)



Cadet Command Signal Sergeant  
(C/CSS)



Cadet Signal Sergeant  
(C/SSS)



Cadet Signal Corporal  
(C/SCP)



Cadet Ordnance Sergeant  
(C/OSG)



Cadet Ordnance Corporal  
(C/OCP)

# Officer Armed Services Ranks

OFFICERS											
O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	SPECIAL	
NAVY											
Ensign	Junior Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Lieutenant Commander	Commander	Captain	Rear Admiral (Lower Half)	Rear Admiral (Upper Half)	Vice Admiral	Admiral	Fleet Admiral	
MARINES											
2nd Lt	1st Lt	Captain	Major	Lt Col	Colonel	Brig Gen	Maj Gen	Lt Gen	General		
ARMY											
2nd Lt	1st Lt	Captain	Major	Lt Col	Colonel	Brig Gen	Maj Gen	Lt Gen	General	General of the Army	
AIR FORCE											
2nd Lt	1st Lt	Captain	Major	Lt Col	Colonel	Brig Gen	Maj Gen	Lt Gen	General	General of the Air Force	

## Enlisted Armed Services Ranks

Army	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	1-7	1-8	1-9	1-10
Army	Private	Private	Private First Class	Corporal / Specialist	Sergeant (Sgt)	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant First Class	Master Sgt / First Sgt	SFCM / Command SFCM	SFCM & (See Army)
Navy	Seaman Recruit	Seaman Apprentice	Seaman	Petty Officer 3rd Class	Petty Officer 2nd Class	Petty Officer 1st Class	Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Master CPO / Command Master CPO	Master (See Navy)
Marines	Private	Private First Class	Lance Corporal	Corporal	Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Company Sergeant	Master Sgt / 1st Sgt	Master Company Sergeant / Sgt. Major	Sgt. Major (See Corps)
Air Force	Airmen Basic	Airmen	Airmen First Class	Senior Airmen	Staff Sergeant	1st Lieutenant	Master Sgt / 1st Sgt	Senior Master Sgt / 1st Sgt	Chief Master Sgt / Command Chief Master Sgt	Chief (See Air Force)



# Corps of Cadets Uniforms



- Army-style Velcro nametapes will be issued.
- 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



White Shirt with Wheel Cover



Gigline



Gray Bag with Wheel Cover

■ Seniors will wear the brass “VPI” insignia on the right collar and the ROTC branch insignia on the left collar. Both will be placed 1-1/2 inches from the corner tip of the collar along a centered diagonal angle (45 degrees) with the bottom of the insignia facing out toward the cadet’s foot.

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

■ Upperclass cadets will wear the black belt. First-year cadets will wear the white belt with brass buckle.

■ 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.

▶ 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.

▶ First-year cadets will have the center of their brass centered on the buttons of the shirt.

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

■ 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.

## Dress B

- A white collar will be worn with the blouse and will extend 1/8 inch above the collar.
- The VPI insignia (headlight) is worn on the right with the ROTC insignia (headlight) on the left.
- Insignia will be 1-1/2 inches from the front and centered 1 inch up from the bottom of the collar.
- Citizen-Leader Track cadets will wear the VPI crossed cannons on both sides of the collar.
- Underclassmen will wear the ROTC insignia headlight on the right side of the collar and the branch insignia headlight on the left. It will be 1-1/2 inches from the front and centered 1 inch up from the bottom 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.



Underclass



Seniors

## Dress A - Underclassmen



■ 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.

■ Belts will meet at the hips forming a "V."

## Dress A OG Wrap - Seniors



Half sash with white cross belt, worn with sabers unless specified otherwise by the commanding officer.



On prescribed occasions, the seniors will wear OD wrap (full sash, no cross belt). This is also worn with sabers unless specified otherwise by the commanding officer.

Paletot





■ Paletot is the designated formal dress uniform for all cadets.

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

■ The 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

## Service Designations

■ Army - Crossed rifles

■ Air Force - Prop and wings

■ Navy - Anchor

■ Marine – Eagle, globe, and anchor

■ VPI - Crossed cannons or sabers (seniors)

# Corps Awards and Competitions

## **Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Memorial Award (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 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.

### **The Kohler Cup**

The Kohler Cup, presented by John F. Kohler in 1931, is awarded each year to the cadet unit that demonstrated its superiority in drill competition. The trophy is retired.

The winning unit will carry the Kohler Cup Streamer (red) on its guidon staff. The Kohler Cup will be based on the result of the Homecoming Review, other announced reviews, or marching events.

### **Drill Competitions**

The annual drill competitions held between individuals, squads, and units are important events of the school year for all cadets. Judging teams composed of ranking cadets, Commandant's staff, and ROTC personnel judge these units on the basis of appearance, drill precision and accuracy, knowledge of regulation drill movements, and proficiency. The annual drill competitions include the Jaffe Eager Squad, Eager Individual, and others as announced by Regimental Staff. Drill procedures will be specified by the Regimental S-3 prior to the competitions.

# Awards and Ribbons



Regimental  
Presidential Service

ROTC Awards



Beverly S. Parish  
Jr. Award



Eager Individual



Eager Squad



Presidential  
Inaugural Award



Cadet Achievement



Recruiting Award



VPI Service Ribbon



VPI PFT Excellence



Community Service



Other Corps Awards



Ranger Company



Submarine Society



Naval Aviation Society



Surface Warfare  
Society



Robert F. Femoyer  
Service Squadron



AFSOPT



Scabbard and Blade



Sash and Sabre



Color Guard



Signal Corps



Skipper Crew



Gregory Guard



NSPT



Conrad Calvary



IG Staff



Recruiting Staff



Historians



Hall Council



Regimental Cadre



CTA



Summer  
Orientation Staff



Society of American  
Military Engineers



Eagle Scout  
Association



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



Air Force Flyers



Armed Forces Special  
Operations Team



Association of the  
Army



Athletics



Coast Guard



Color Guard



Conrad Cavalry



Eagle Scout Association



EMT Staff



Gregory Guard



Naval Aviation Society



NROTC Color Guard



Raiders Company



Ranger Company



Recruiting Staff



Sash and Sabre Society



Scabbard and Blade  
Society



Signal Corps



Skipper Crew



Society of American  
Military Engineers



Submarine Society

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

# Corps Terminology

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

**Ace:** To max a test

**Brace Up:** A command given to new cadets meaning "come to attention."

**Bud:** A fellow member of a class who underwent Cadet Basic Training with you. Usually ends in a lifelong friendship.

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

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

**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



**Friendship:** An activity of both unity and camaraderie that reaches far beyond the average professional relationship between cadets

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

**Growley:** Morning meal; Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) formation

**GTD:** General Tightening Down, increased enforcement of regulations

**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

**Horizontal Labs:** Afternoon snooze

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

**Kangaroo:** VMI mascot, any VMI cadet or alumni

**Koofer:** Any test, quiz or homework saved to be used to study for future exams; dates to early '40s

**MCQ:** Morning Call to Quarters, 0800-1100 hours. More commonly used to refer to Marathon Call to Quarters, where ECQ standards are maintained through the entire day.

**OD:** 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

**Old Lady:** Male cadets roommate; used as far back as the 1880s

**Old Man:** Female cadet's roommate

**Pieing:** Hitting someone in the face with a shaving cream pie

**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:** 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.

**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 while under the new cadet system until VPI beats VMI in a major sport

**Shanks Plain:** Area behind Shanks Hall

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

**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

**Tapped:** To be accepted as a candidate for membership into an organization

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

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

**VT:** Area in front of Lane Hall

**Zebra:** A high-ranking cadet officer

## Phonetic Alphabet

A-Alpha

B-Bravo

C-Charlie

D-Delta

E-Echo

F-Foxtrot

G-Golf

H-Hotel

I-India

J-Juliet

K-Kilo

L-Lima

M-Mike

N-November

O-Oscar

P-Papa

Q-Quebec

R-Romeo

S-Sierra

T-Tango

U-Uniform

V-Victor

W-Whiskey

X-X-ray

Y-Yankee

Z-Zulu

# 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.

Note: If exiting an upperclassman's room, the door should be closed.

Note: Navy cadets do not salute Navy or Marine Corps Officers indoors, even if formally reporting.

If reporting to a Non-Commissioned Officer or an

upperclass 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

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## The Purpose of:

### **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.

# 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!

# 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!

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! Rah! VPI  
Team! Team! Team!

– *O.M. Stull*

# 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 135 years old, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



Caldwell March Pin



Caldwell March Tab  
(for Field Uniform)

# 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.

## Military Courtesies

### **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:

1. President and Vice President of the United States
2. State Governors
3. Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense



4. Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
5. All commissioned officers of the military service
6. All cadet officers. A lower-ranking cadet officer must salute a higher-ranking cadet officer; it is unnecessary for two cadet officers of the same rank to salute.
7. Members of friendly governments

The smartness with which a salute is rendered indicates the degree of pride one has in the organization.

The salute is rendered at approximately 6 to 30 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:

1. Out of uniform
2. Engaged in routine work if the salute would interfere
3. Indoors, except when reporting to a senior or on duty as a sentinel on guard, or under arms and covered
4. Carrying articles with both hands, or so occupied as to make saluting impracticable
5. Working as a member of a detail, or engaged in sports or social functions
6. Driving and saluting is not practical
7. 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 headdress 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 headress 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:

1. 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.

2. 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 an 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. Similarly, cadets will not use earbuds/earphones while running on or crossing streets whether wearing Corps or civilian athletic attire. This is to ensure the ability of the cadet to hear oncoming traffic.

Cadets may use cellphones while in uniform. They should stop walking and move to the side of walkways or areas until such time as 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 com-

missioned 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.”

### **Traditional Customs and 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, and seniors will not be permitted to walk on grass in any case but those specified here.

### **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. Conduct of officers will be above criticism. A cadet will be judged on appearance and behavior. Remember perception is just as important as an overt act.

5. Cadets will refrain from public display 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.

# Rice Center for Leader Development

The Rice Center for Leader Development is named in honor of the late Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice '34, a railroad industry executive and rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and it oversees the academic portion of the Corps' leader development program.

The center's mission is to foster the next generation of public leaders by integrating theory and practice through scholarly dialogue and experiential learning in the areas of leadership, civic responsibility, service, global understanding, and ethical values.

Rice Center Academic programs include:

**Leadership Minor-Corps of Cadets:** Accredited through the Pamplin School of Business, cadets can earn the minor through leadership courses and practical experience.

**Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series:** Named for Clifford A. Cutchins III '44 ('47), this series brings to campus nationally known personalities who speak on the topics of leadership and ethics.

**Gunfighter Panels:** Each semester, Corps alumni from all walks of life address the regiment on their experiences during and after their time in the Corps.

**Corps of Cadets First-Year Experience:** Designed to address specific needs of cadets as they transition to college and cadet life.



# Corps of Cadets History



## 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.

## “Lest We Forget”



This simple stone monument honors the memory of the VPI alumni who died in World War I. Remembering the courage and idealism of these heroes who gave their lives for democracy, Virginia Tech cadets regard it with love and reverence. It is customary for every cadet, whenever they pass “The Rock” to salute it as a mark of respect. “What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight — it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”

— General Dwight D. Eisenhower

“The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we would appear to be; all human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them.”

— Socrates

## “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 Awarded to Virginia Tech Alumni

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 3,508 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's chapter of the Silver Wings Society is named 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 Corps of Cadets Story

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 Distinguish 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 Batteries 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 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.

The Corps has weathered many turbulent years. Since the Spanish-American War the Corps has provided leadership in our nation's times of need.

# 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 and its metal tested in the heat of battle between VPI and VMI.

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.

This was too much to bear! Butch looked at Sonny, and Sonny looked at Butch, and the two made a solemn pact right there in the stands. 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 the proverbial problem soon became evident. Where on Earth would they get the money?

They attacked it on two sides. 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. We asked each 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.

It was a moving experience. Sonny and Butch found it

hard to look at each other after each meeting because they knew they would each see a tear in the eye of the other.

### **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.

Time was getting short. The big game was fast approaching. Everything was in place.

It was time to pick up the barrel and the carriage. They rented a truck that Sonny and Butch drove and a chase car was driven by George Fox and a few others also from A Squadron.

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 Reformatory was a bit foreboding, but the carriage was

waiting just as promised. It took all of them to load it into the truck.

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. In those days, they did not know whether it was an international plot, whether war was imminent, or what the future would hold. It was like going from basking in the warm sun to being plunged into the abyss of a cold dark tunnel. 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 a 50-round salute to our fallen President. It would be the test of 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, 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.

# Company Heraldry

**Alpha Company**



**Bravo Company**



**Charlie Company**



**Delta Company**



Echo Company



Foxtrot Company



Golf Company



Hotel Company



**India Company**



**Kilo Company**



**Lima Company**



**Mike Company**



**Band Company**



# 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 Lindsay Lomax (1886-1891) was a confederate general.
- University President Thomas Conrad (1882-1886) was a confederate spy and scout during the Civil War.

- 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.

# 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.
- 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)
- 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. Peddrew).
- 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 closed its doors.
  - 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.
- 2016 Corps Ambassador, Growley II (call sign "Tank"), arrives on campus.
- 2017
  - Pearson Hall West opens.
  - Monteith and Thomas halls are demolished.
- 2018 Ensign Sarah J. Mitchell '17 becomes the first female added to the Pylons.
- 2021 Mike Company stands up in 3rd Battalion.

# University Knowledge

## Seal of Virginia Tech

On Nov. 8, 1963, the university seal was adopted by the Board of Visitors.



Meaning of the parts:

- A shield containing four quarters
- The upper-left quarter representing the obverse side of the great seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- The upper-right quarter containing a surveyor's level and leveling rod superimposed over a scroll which represents engineering
- The lower-right quarter containing a partially husked standing ear of corn which represents agriculture
- The lower-left quarter containing a chemical retort and graduate that represents science
- Above the shield is a flaming lamp of learning with a right hand thumb, forefinger, and part of the lower arm;
- Beneath the shield is the motto *Ut Prosim*, meaning "That I May Serve"
- Science, engineering, and agriculture were the university's first curriculum.



## **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)



## **University Presidents**

- Charles L. Minor (1872-1879)
- John L. Buchanan (March 1880)
- Col. Scott Shipp (April 1880)
- Prof. John Hart (Acting President 1880 -1881)
- John L. Buchanan (May 1881- January 1882)
- Thomas N. Conrad (1882-1886)
- Lindsay L. Lomax (1886-1891)
- John M. McBryde (1891-1907)
- Paul B. Barringer (1907-1913)
- Joseph D. Eggleston (1913-1919)
- Julian A. Burruss 1898 (1919-1945)
- John R. Hutcheson '07 (1945-1947)
- Walter S. Newman (1947-1962)
- T. Marshall Hahn Jr. (1962-1975)
- William E. Lavery (1975-1988)
- James D. McComas (1988-1993)
- Paul E. Torgersen (1993-2000)
- Charles W. Steger '69 (2000-2014)
- Timothy D. Sands (2014-Present)

## Aspirations for Student Learning

Virginia Tech adopted the Aspirations for Student Learning to provide the very best learning — both in and out of the classroom. We want students to do more, be more, and aspire to become their best selves by:

- Committing to unwavering **CURIOSITY**: Virginia Tech students will be inspired to lead lives of curiosity, embracing a life-long commitment to intellectual development.
- Pursuing **SELF-UNDERSTANDING** and **INTEGRITY**: Virginia Tech students will form a set of affirmative values and develop the self-understanding to integrate these values into their decision-making.
- Practicing **CIVILITY**: Virginia Tech students will understand and commit to civility as a way of life in their interactions with others.
- Preparing for a life of **COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP**: Virginia Tech students will be courageous leaders who serve as change agents and make the world more humane and just.
- Embracing *UT PROSIM* (That I May Serve) as a way of life: Virginia Tech students will enrich their lives through service to others.

# Commandant of Cadets

There have been 33 commandants (two served twice). West Point graduates have dominated with 15, Virginia Tech had five, VMI had three, the Air Force Academy had two, and the Naval Academy had one.

1872-1880 .....	BG James H. Lane
1880-1882 .....	Cadet James A. Clarke '1880
1882-1884 .....	COL W. Ballard Preston
1884-1887 .....	LT John C. Gresham
1887.....	COL W. Ballard Preston
1887-1890 .....	LT John T. Knight
1890-1894 .....	LT John A. Harmon
1895-1898 .....	LT David C. Shanks
1898-1901 .....	COL Adam T. Finch '93
1901-1906 .....	COL John Samuel Johnson '1898
1906-1909 .....	CPT George H. Jamerson '1892
1909-1911.....	CPT William R. Dashiell
1911-1914.....	LT Joseph F. Ware '02
1914-1917 .....	LT Sheldon W. Anding
1917.....	CPT Clifford C. Carson

1917-1918 ..... MAJ William P. Stone  
 1918-1919 ..... MAJ John C. Skuse  
 1919-1920 ..... MAJ Clifford C. Carson  
 1920-1924 ..... MAJ F.E. Willford  
 1924-1929 ..... MAJ W.R. Nichols  
 1929-1935 ..... LTC John B. Maynard '1907  
 1935-1938 ..... LTC C.H. Tenney  
 1938-1942 ..... COL John H. Cochran  
 1942-1945 ..... COL R.R. Wilson  
 1945-1946 ..... COL George Henderson  
 1946-1951 ..... COL T.M. Mumford  
 1951-1952 ..... COL W.B. Merritt  
 1952-1961 ..... MG John M. Devine  
 1961-1967 ..... BG M.W. Schewe  
 1967-1972 ..... MG Francis T. Pachler  
 1972-1973 ..... BG David S. Henderson  
 1973-1980 ..... BG Earl C. Acuff  
 1980-1989 ..... Lt Gen Howard M. Lane  
 1989-1999 ..... Maj Gen Stanton R. Musser  
 1999-2011..... Maj Gen Jerrold P. Allen  
 2011-present..... Maj Gen Randal D. Fullhart

# The Air Force Song

Off we go into the wild blue  
yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun;  
Here they come zooming to  
meet our thunder,  
At 'em now, Give 'em the  
gun!

Down we dive, spouting our  
flame from under,  
Off with one helluva roar!  
We live in fame or go down  
in flame. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air  
Force!

Brilliant minds fashioned a  
crate of thunder,  
Sent it high into the blue;  
Valiant hands blasted the  
world asunder;  
How they lived God only  
knew!  
Boundless souls dreaming of  
skies to conquer  
Gave us wings, ever to soar!  
With scouts before and  
bombers galore. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air  
Force!

Here's a toast to the host  
Of those who love the  
vastness of the sky,  
To a friend we send a  
message of the brave who  
serve on high.  
We drink to those who gave  
their all of old,  
Then down we roar to score  
the rainbow's pot of gold.  
A toast to the host of those  
we boast, the U.S. Air Force!

Off we go into the wild sky  
yonder,  
Keep the wings level and  
true;  
If you'd live to be a grey-  
haired wonder  
Keep the nose out of the blue!  
Fly to fight, guarding the  
nation's border,  
We'll be there, followed by  
more!  
In echelon we carry on.  
Oh, nothing'll stop the U.S.  
Air Force!

# The Army Goes Rolling Along

March along, sing our song  
with the Army of the free  
Count the brave,  
count the true,  
who have fought to victory.  
We're the Army and proud of  
our name;  
We're the Army and proudly  
proclaim:

First to fight for the right, and  
to build the nation's might,  
And the Army goes rolling  
along  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army goes rolling  
along

## CHORUS:

Then it's hi, hi, hey! The  
Army's on its way  
Count off the cadence loud  
and strong (two, three)  
For wher-e'er we go, You will  
always know

That the Army goes rolling  
along

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,  
San Juan Hill and Patton's  
tanks,  
And the Army went rolling  
along.  
Minute men from the start,  
Always fighting from the  
heart,  
And the Army keeps rolling  
along.

## CHORUS:

Men in rags, men who froze,  
still that Army met its foes,  
And the Army went rolling  
along.  
Faith in God, then we're  
right,  
And we'll fight with all our  
might,  
As the Army goes rolling  
along

# Anchors Aweigh

Stand Navy out to sea  
Fight our battle cry  
We'll never change our  
    course  
    So vicious foe  
    steer shy-y-y-y  
Roll out the TNT.  
Anchors aweigh  
Sail on to victory and  
Sink their bones to Davy  
    Jones hooray!

Yo ho there shipmate  
Take the fighting to the  
    far off seas  
Yo ho there messmate  
Hear the wailing of the  
    wild banshees  
All hands, fire brands  
Let's blast them as we  
    go. So

## CHORUS:

Anchors aweigh my boys  
Anchors aweigh  
Farewell to college joys  
We sail at break of day  
    day day day  
Through our last night  
    on shore'  
    Drink to the foam  
Until we meet once more  
Here's wishing you a  
happy voyage home!

Heave a ho there sailor  
Everybody drink up  
    while you may  
Heave a ho there sailor  
For your gonna sail at  
    break of day  
Drink away, drink away,  
For you sail at break of  
    day, hey!



# The Marines' Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli;  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air on land and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title of  
United States Marine

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun.  
In the snow of far off northern lands  
And in sunny tropics scenes;  
You will find us on the job — the United States Marines

Here's to health to you and to our corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve;  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on heaven's scenes;  
They will find the streets are guarded by  
United States Marines

# Semper Paratus (Always Ready)

From the North and South and East and West,  
The Coast Guard's in the fight.  
Destroying subs and landing troops,  
The Axis feels our might.  
For we're the first invaders,  
On every fighting field.  
Afloat, ashore, on men and Spars,  
You'll find the Coast Guard shield.

## CHORUS:

We're always ready for the call,  
We place our trust in Thee.  
Through howling gale and shot and shell,  
To win our victory.  
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,  
Our pledge, our motto, too.  
We're "Always Ready," do or die!  
Aye! Coast Guard, we fight for you.