

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 33 NO. 2 FALL 2023





First-year cadets sprint during New Cadet Week after completing the team wall on the obstacle course.

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KEEPING THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND

With my announced retirement next July, this and the next magazine will be my last two opportunities to offer some thoughts in this forum.

This is the season of gratitude and reflection. We have much to be grateful for as a Corps: great staff, great cadets, great alumni, great facilities. But we also need to reflect on things more broadly. We also must think about all those who are serving our country, whether in uniform or not, who are on the front lines of a troubled world.

I won't get into specifics, but we know we have alumni who are near where headlines are being made daily. Others are in places where their presence is designed to prevent new, troubling headlines in the future.

We must keep them in our hearts, along with their families who are thinking of them daily.

For many years I have spoken to cadets, families, and friends of the Corps to remind them that the need for ethical leaders, who understand the global nature of our country's responsibilities and influence, are why this Corps exists. Current events highlight why we say this is important...now, more than ever.

Each day, I encounter cadets and staff passing through the atrium of the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. What we have collectively created here is a place that messages our mission to all who come here. The museum celebrates our past. The classrooms are the incubators of our future. The staff are the ones that bring it all to life.

Some years ago, I read a book called "The School of Sun Tzu: Winning Empires Without War." The author's controversial assertion was that Sun Tzu was not actually a single person as many translations suggest. Instead, Sun Tzu was the product of a school in its time that created leaders of influence sent all over China to subtly influence the course of history that yielded victory to the school's overseer, a provincial leader

who then became China's first emperor, all without ever having to resort to conflict.

I always remembered the quote from the original translated text: "The greatest victory is that which requires no battle." In modern terms, that might be the definition of deterrence or at least using one's forces in ways that preclude battle because opponents find themselves in a position where the easier path is one that is peaceable.

Success or failure in achieving this kind of leadership provides the framework for all human history and will determine the history we have yet to write. What a privilege, and responsibility, we have to be the modern school that creates these kinds of leaders.

Yes, it is a time of gratitude and reflection.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RDF", written over a white background.

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

UPPER QUAD NOTES

THE CADETS ARE BACK (ON UPPER QUAD, THAT IS!)

Cadets have made themselves at home in Upper Quad Hall North, the Corps' newest residence hall, which opened in Aug. The building replaces Femoyer Hall, which was torn down in Oct. 2021. With the opening of Upper Quad Hall North, the Corps discontinued use of Main Eggleston Hall on Lower Quad, which had housed cadets from the regiment over the past several years.



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Front cover: Maj. Gen. Fullhart walks on Upper Quad in front of the newly opened Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Photo by Katie Mallory '03.

Back cover: Fall 2023 Regimental Staff in the atrium of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

In 1964, the Corps of Cadets became voluntary, and participation began to decline until we reached our lowest point in 1977 with only 325 cadets enrolled. These numbers translate to our alumni ranks.

We were excited to welcome home a record-setting number of alums and their families to campus this fall. At Corps Reunion in September, we had over 500 attendees, a 15% increase from last year and 22% more than we had in 2021. Corps Reunion 2024 will take place on Sept. 20-22, and we are continuously redesigning the event to ensure that all alums and their families have a wonderful experience. Wouldn't it be something if the number of alums that return for events continues to increase despite the decreasing size of our alumni ranks based on enrollment since 1964? How can we do that?

Step 1: Create events that make our alums want to come home. Our events need to be fun for all alums and families, regardless of age or activity level. The events will account for those with mobility limitations and small children. Multiple activity options will be offered each weekend, some simultaneously, so every alum will have a memorable experience.

Step 2: Decrease the cost of reunion attendance. We strive to set the date for the reunion as early as possible and publish through various outlets to allow alums the opportunity to coordinate lodging, time off work, and other logistical considerations. This year, we announced the weekend of Corps Reunion almost 11 months in advance.

We promise to seek the most affordable venues and catering to keep the per-person cost low, while maintaining quality. We make it our goal to offer multiple cost and no-cost activities within the weekend so returning alums can "choose their own adventure" and only pay for activities they wish to attend.

The highest expense for any returning alum will be lodging. With time to plan and coordinate, alums will have the opportunity to find nearby hotels, rental homes, or partner with others to dramatically reduce this expense.

Step 3: Peer pressure. This is where we need your help. No one wants to attend a reunion when they are worried that there will be no classmates or folks they remember there. We need every alum that is planning to return for Corps Reunion weekend or another alumni-themed weekend to reach out to a bud and encourage them to come, too.

We want to see you, and we want you to continue your lifelong Hokie experience with us. Come home.

Ut Prosim,
Nate Brown '98
nhbrown@vt.edu



DID YOU GET THE EMAIL?

If you are reading this magazine, then we know we have your address correct. But we are also pushing a monthly email to all Corps alumni that provides information on in-person and virtual events that you may want to participate in.

If you are not receiving this monthly email, send your preferred email address to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

SHOW ME YOUR "MUG" CONTINUES

We want to see your smiling face! Throughout the year, we have several in-person and virtual events desperately in need of your participation. Alumni events are no fun without alumni!

As a play on words, we are continuing the tradition of our Mug Campaign, and we hope you all will continue to participate.

We gave out metal camping mugs at the Corps Reunion in Sept. 2022. We still have mugs that can be purchased at our events. Along with the mug, you will receive durable stickers for the mug that indicate you attended an event. Our goal is that alumni will continue to add these stickers to their mugs to document their travels and experiences.



GIVING DAY 2024

Mark your calendars and rally to help the Corps on Feb. 21-22. The Corps competes against other units at Virginia Tech to unlock funds from the university as bonuses during this 24-hour period of giving, and we don't think there's any reason for anyone to beat us. Participate, help cadets, and help the Corps win.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 8: Leaders in Contact Alumni Panel (Burruss Hall)

Feb. 21-22: Giving Day 2024

March 28: Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony

April 26: Class of 2024 Senior Send Off (Upper Quad)

June 6-9: Alumni Weekend

Aug. 16 (tentative): New Cadet Move-in Day

Sept. 19: Leaders in Contact Alumni Panel

Sept. 20-22: Corps Reunion (register at <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/CorpsReunion2024>)

TBD Oct.: University Homecoming and HT Reunion

OUR TOMORROWLAND

By Katie Mallory '03, communications director

The completion of a vision first imagined in 2012 was celebrated Sept. 8 with the grand opening of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building on Upper Quad.

Virginia Tech President Tim Sands; Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets; Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and High-Tighty-Tighty alumni boards chairs J. Pearson and Chuck Rowell; and Senior Vice President for Advancement Charlie Phlegar were joined by College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Dean Laura Belmonte and friends and alumni of the Corps for a ribbon cutting ceremony. In true Corps fashion, a cadet saber did the honors.

The nearly 74,000-square-foot building was funded by the generosity of donors and will now serve as the hub of Corps and ROTC activities. It boasts four dividable classrooms, the Corps Museum, multimedia and office spaces for Corps and ROTC staff members, a library, an honor court room, and the Integrated Security Education and Research Center, an interactive facility aimed at creating interdisciplinary engagement throughout homeland security, national security, and cybersecurity domains.

Virginia Tech is one of the country's six senior military colleges. Its Corps and ROTC programs work in unison to develop leaders for the nation. Previously, facilities for Corps and ROTC units were spread between multiple buildings. Now, the proximity of both programs in the new building strengthens that partnership.

"The building represents a truth that many may not fully appreciate. There are only six senior military colleges in this country. But the college is not the Corps. The college is the greater sum of the parts made up of

the Corps and the ROTCs working and now living together in full partnership for the benefit of our cadets and midshipmen. That is the real promise of this new building," said Fullhart.

Along with the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, the ceremony also celebrated Upper Quad Hall North, the third and newest cadet residence hall that opened in August. The 56,000-square-foot building provides 301 new beds and is the home of cadets in regimental staff and 4th Battalion, who occupy the first two floors and half of the third. The other half of the third floor and all the fourth house students who are not in the Corps. As the regiment grows to its 1,400-cadet goal, cadets will reside on all floors of the residence hall.

Upper Quad Hall North offers a kitchen, a classroom, a conference room, study lounges, staff offices, a mud room, laundry room, instrument storage, and an athletic trainer facility and office.

The completion of Upper Quad Hall North allows all cadets in the regiment to live near each other and returns to the tradition of Upper Quad as the home of all cadets.

"We've essentially created what could be considered a residential college here on Upper Quad," Fullhart said.

The revitalization of Upper Quad was announced in 2013, with the Corps Leadership and Military Science groundbreaking in June 2021. With a total cost of \$52 million, Corps donors were key to the building becoming a reality.

"The spirit of honor, service, and community that resides here will educate new generations of our nation's military and civilian leaders. And it will be an





inspiration for all Hokies for many years to come. To the donors who made this building a reality, thank you. We will be forever grateful," Sands said during the grand opening ceremony.

The opening of both buildings completes the reimagining of Upper Quad with facilities that will accommodate growth of the Corps and excellence in its leader development program.

"It is the beginning, a renewal, a reaffirmation of the entire quad, the Upper Quad, which was the origin site for the university and the Corps of Cadets which characterized this student body," said Fullhart.

The Corps Leadership and Military Science building is replete with Corps symbolism, some hidden and others in plain sight. But it also tells Virginia Tech's story with its museum. A special exhibit honors the sacrifices of Virginia Tech's eight Medal of Honor recipients and recounts early tales of student life. Women in the Corps are celebrated with a display, and the original Skipper, the Corps of Cadets canon, serves as the focal point in the main entrance.

At 1,872 square feet, the new Corps Museum is a much-needed expansion of the Corps' display previously housed on the fourth floor of Newman Library and is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Cadets have found a home in the building and can be seen in between

classes browsing the museum and enjoying the common spaces spread throughout the facility.

"The Corps Leadership and Military Science Building brings everything great about the Corps into one hub for all of us to learn together every day," said Cadet Dylan Bowling, a junior majoring in international relations in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and a member of Air Force ROTC. "I really enjoy the museum. It's a meaningful place for me to stop by after classes to reflect on our history and what it means to be a cadet at Virginia Tech."

"These buildings are not here because the Commonwealth of Virginia invested in them.

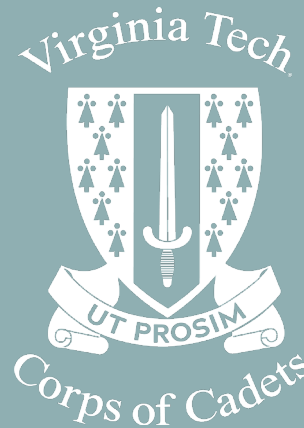
You did.

That's why so many names are featured inside and on scholarships, and so many other aspects of our program.

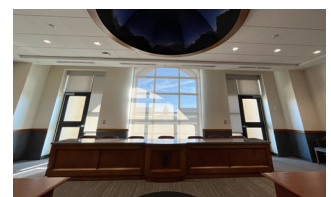
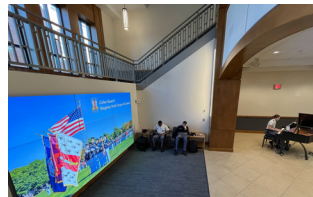
Welcome to your Upper Quad and the home of the Corps for the next 150 years.

This is the true Tomorrowland."

Maj. Gen. Fullhart



STEP INSIDE THE CORPS LEADERSHIP AND MILITARY SCIENCE BUILDING





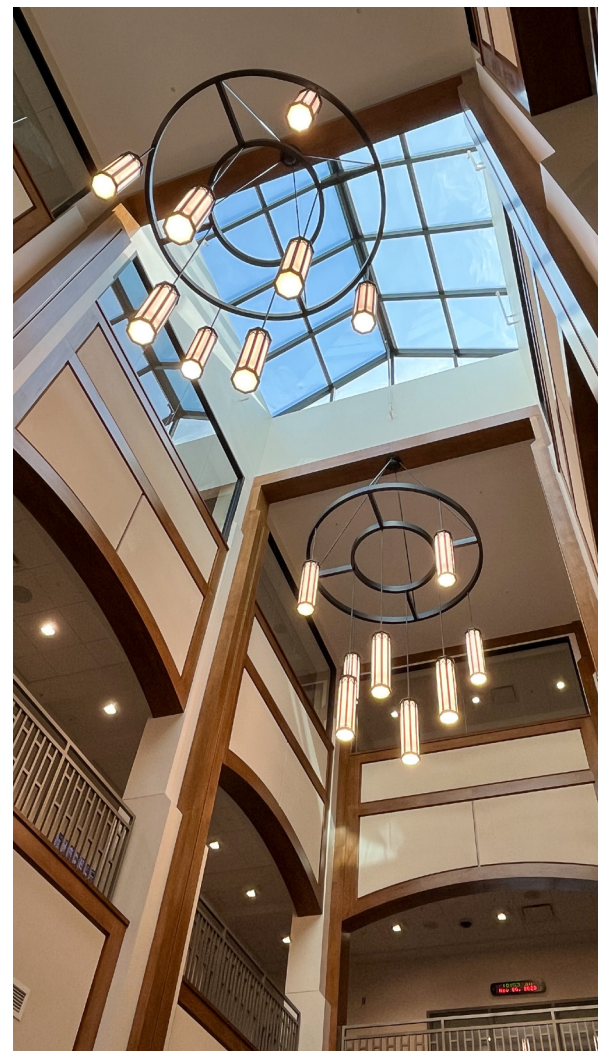
Ut Prosim is translated, "That I May Serve," as guests enter the building.

The Pylons are represented by eight pillars, which are labeled in the same order and pairings found at the War Memorial Court.



In the center of the atrium, a skylight casts a light on the hand-installed Corps shield. Material in the shield catches and reflects the light from the sky above.

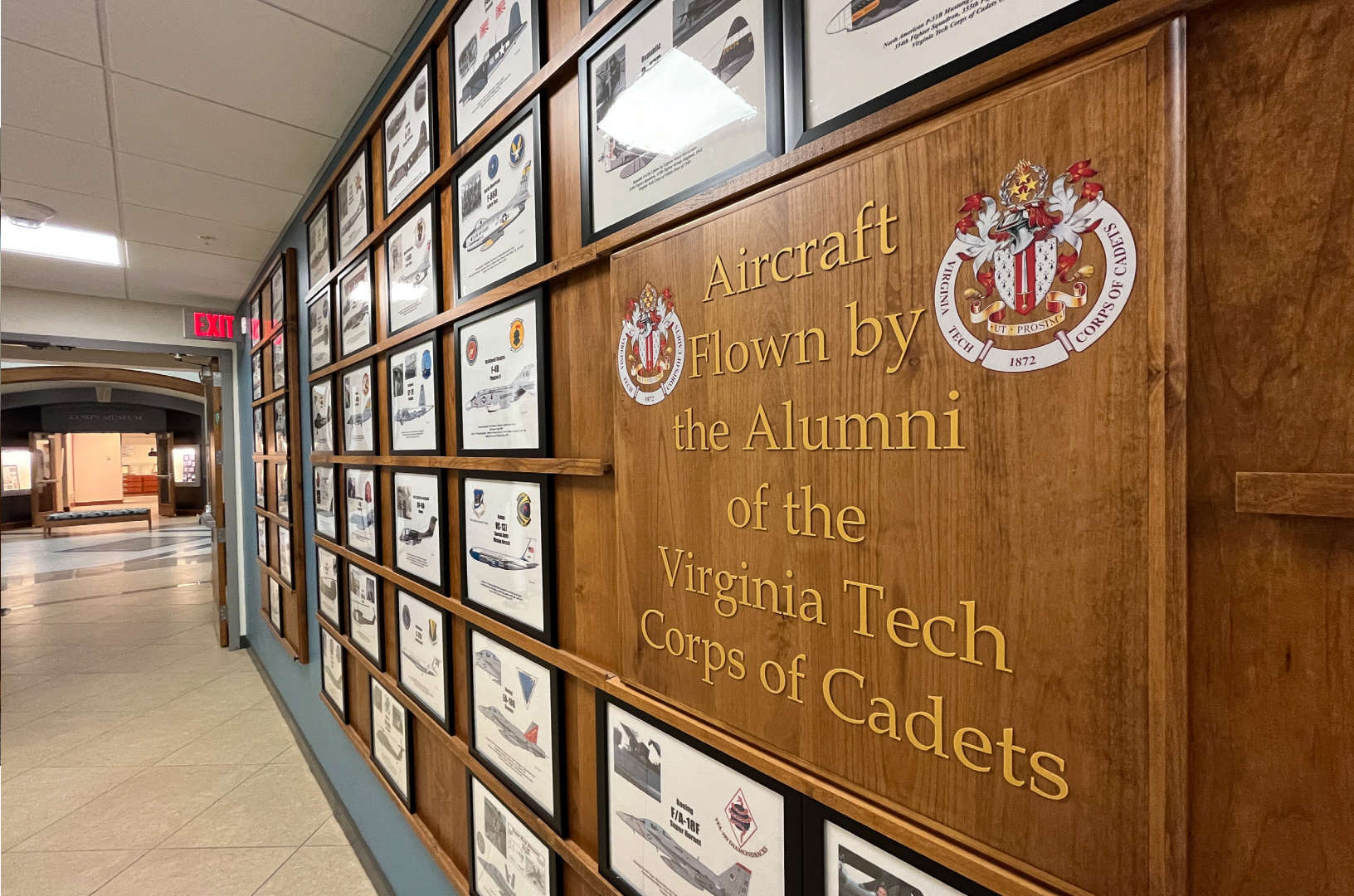
Continuing the theme of "eight," two chandeliers light the atrium, each with eight lights. Each light features eight sides.



The Corps Library contains books on history and leadership, plus copies of the university's yearbook, *The Bugle*, for alumni to revisit their past.

The Corps Museum contains artifacts, memorabilia, and stories from times past and present. Interactive displays help bring the stories to life. The original Skipper welcomes guests and the Medal of Honor Gallery tells the stories of our eight Medal of Honor recipients.





Illustrations of aircraft flown by Corps alumni are displayed on the Aviation Wall of Fame.

The atrium can support various kinds of events from guest lectures, receptions, and dinners.

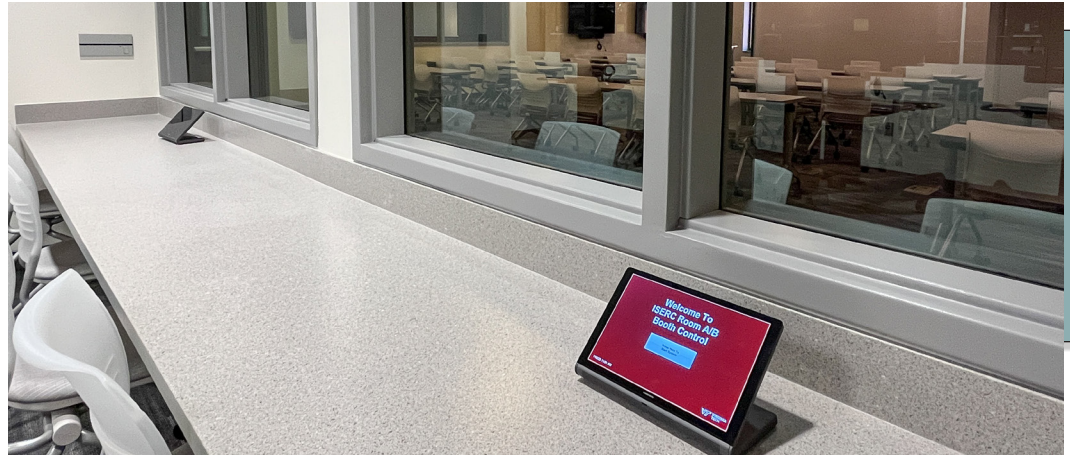


The CLMS contains four large classrooms, one each for the Citizen-Leader Track and the ROTCs. They can be divided into two separate spaces and contain innovative audiovisual support.



CLMS also contains four spaces associated with the Integrated Security, Education and Research Center (ISERC), a facility dedicated to cyber training and exercises. The power comes from ceiling fixtures to allow flexible configurations.

Adjoining the main ISERC room is a war gaming and national security exercise space, used to control exercises and evaluate the performance of teams inside ISERC. A two-way mirror allows observers to view the teams' response to scenarios, without providing any hints to teams.





The ROTC units have made CLMS their home, as well. Navy and Air Force share the second floor, and Army resides on the third floor.

The third floor balcony affords a view of the entire quad, aligning perfectly with the Addison Caldwell statue, all our U.S. flagpoles, including the one on Lane Hall, and the centerline of the CLMS building, creating an unbroken line from our origins to the home of the Corps for the next 150 years.



The Honor Court Room formalizes the Corps' Honor Code process and reflects the importance of character in the development of leaders. The star pattern in the ceiling depicts the night sky in Oct. 1872 when the first cadet arrived, and the presence of true north reflects the necessity for unwavering adherence to a disciplined, ethical life.





The exterior of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building reflects the roles of the military in defending the Constitution of the United States.

All branches of the military are displayed on the front of the building and all service flags are represented in the flag plaza.

The Constitution of the United States is represented by the Great Seal of the United States on the front corners of the building.

Service and Corps symbols are carved on the east and west faces on monoliths, each weighing 38,000 pounds.

As with new Corps buildings, the year that is relevant to the location and the year the building was opened is displayed. In the case of CLMS, the year 1872 represents the beginning of the Corps while 2023 marks the opening of the building.

The grommet between the two years symbolizes what cadets wear on their wheel covers.

The Corps' coat of arms is displayed below the balcony.

NEW CORPS STAFF

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continues to add new faces to the staff. Our newest employees are:

MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES LILLY

Master Sgt. Charles L. Lilly II is the senior enlisted advisor for 3rd Battalion.



Charles Lilly

A native of Pulaski, Virginia, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2002 and was assigned to VFA-106, serving as a flight equipment technician and collateral duty inspector. He later transferred to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 in Iwakuni, Japan where he earned his collateral duty quality assurance representative designation and his quality assurance safety observer designation. He also represented his unit at the Weapons and Tactics Instruction (WTI) class in Yuma, Arizona.

Lilly was then assigned to HMM-774 in July 2007, serving as the collateral duty quality assurance representative

and the quality assurance safety observer.

From July 2010 until March 2014, Lilly served as the ALSS division chief for VMM-266 as the collateral duty quality assurance representative and quality assurance safety observer. While there, Lilly participated in two deployments with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. In 2012, he attended the Aviation Maintenance Control course, earning the secondary Marine occupation specialty of aviation maintenance control safe for flight. Lilly supported the WTI class in Yuma as a V-22 maintenance controller.

In March 2014, Lilly began recruiting duty in Richmond, Virginia until 2015 when he was selected to be the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of recruiting in Petersburg, Virginia.

Upon completion of recruiting duty in July 2017, Lilly was assigned to HMM-461 as the ALSS division chief and was later selected as the enlisted aviation production manager in Quantico, Virginia.

Lilly retired from the Marine Corps in July 2023 after 21 years of honorable service. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars.

He married his wife, Lindsay, in 2009. They have three children, Mackena, Emerson, and Lincoln.

SARAH FLEENOR

Sarah Fleenor is the Associate Director for the Citizen-Leader Track, also known as VPI Battalion.

Fleenor is a 2009 graduate of Hollins University where she obtained a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in international political systems. She also has a master's degree in diplomacy and international commerce from Norwich University, as well as a master's degree in education from Emory & Henry College.

She began teaching middle and high school government in Newport News, Virginia in 2016, serving as student council advisor, a mentor to new educators, and a curriculum writer for Newport News Public Schools. Fleenor has also been involved with the VA Civics nonprofit as a trainer and mentor teacher for the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" curriculum program.

Originally from Abingdon, Virginia, Fleenor has been married to her husband, Justin, since 2016. She enjoys traveling, reading, doing various crafts, going to concerts in the summer, and skiing in the winter.



Sarah Fleenor

CORPS INTERN

MARIA MASTANDO '23

Maria Mastando is the Alumni Advancement Associate Managerial Assistant for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. She is tasked with coordinating events for the advancement team. Maria graduated from the Corps of Cadets in May and served as the Regimental Alumni Liaison Officer. A double major in mechanical engineering and history, she will be commissioned in the U.S. Army upon graduation in 2024 and hopes to serve in the armor or intelligence fields.



Maria Mastando





The original Skipper moved into the new Corps Museum in late July as members of commandant's staff and ROTC staffs began setting up their offices in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. The museum is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Regimental staff and cadets from 4th Battalion moved into the Corps' newest residence hall, Upper Quad Hall North, in the beginning of August.

THERE'S NEVER
A DULL MOMENT
IN THE FALL
SEMESTER!



Watch more about this fall on our YouTube channel!



Cadets completed two pass in reviews in the fall semester, the New Cadet Parade in August, and the Homecoming Pass in Review, in honor of the Class of 1973, in October.

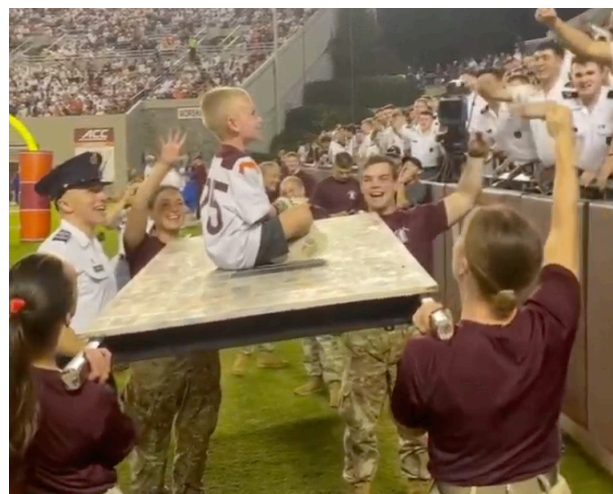
Cadet Zandipour (VPI BN) and Cadet Campione (Marine Option) won the team gold medal in the Virginia Army National Guard College ROTC Marksmanship Competition on Sept. 30 while other VTCC Marksmanship Team members took fourth, fifth, and sixth place in the individual category.



The American Battlefield Monuments Commission included the Corps in their centennial anniversary celebration where they screened "Our Promise", a documentary on the work of the organization.

During the Pittsburg football game, Noah, a young Hokie fan, cheered with the Corps from the pushboard after regimental sergeant major, Cadet Alex Arriza, brought him down to the field. Later, Noah and his parents joined cadets on Upper Quad to meet Growley III and tour cadet residence halls and the museum.

Cadets led family members of Medal of Honor recipient Robert Femyer on a private tour of the new Corps Museum in Sept.





HOMAGE TO LANE

By Samantha Riggan VT'16, Corps museum director

It is safe to say anyone walking through the new museum, about a week before its grand opening on Sept. 8, had serious doubts the space would be up and running in time for its unveiling. Boxes everywhere; worktables strewn with foamboard, frames, paper cutters, and an assortment of thing-a-ma-bobs, all certainly critical to the completion of a project over seven years in the making. The disheveled work area, along with my frantic scurrying (one day I put five miles on my pedometer – and I didn't even leave the building), caused concern for more than one person who passed through the work-in-progress. I believe there were bets placed as to whether I could pull it all together; but I knew I would do it, especially with the assistance of Nick Brown '23, newly minted second lieutenant in the Air Force, who worked with me for four months, just days away from starting active duty. If not for Nick's patience, sense of humor,

and dead-pan imitations of a couple of staff members (all in fun), along with his impersonation of an unnamed Russian operative who jokingly threatened me, in a thick, rolling voice, that if I did not get my act together, I would directly be sent to the gulag, I likely would have been more disheveled than I was. Thank goodness for Nick.

But this article is not about me; it is an homage to Lane Hall. While getting ready for the new museum, and the move out of our grand, old Barracks No. 1, I was too busy going back and forth between Lane Hall and the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, hauling boxes and stuff around the maze of construction paths that led between the two, to mourn the loss of familiarity within Lane's old halls, where I looked for ghosts I never found. It was as if I was in a fog, leaving one world for another. My colleagues also appeared to be in a semi-state of shock, trading in

125-year-old offices, replete with steam radiators that gave off enough heat to fry an egg, and sweltering summers when a window air condition barely cut it, for a brand new, shiny as a freshly-minted penny, modern building with lots of bells and whistles. A grand piano in the atrium of our new digs, its keys often tickled by talented cadets, lends an atmosphere of elegance that old Lane just could not pull off. Praise be to modern restrooms and an elevator!

I am comparing the Corps' former headquarters and the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building not just for effect, but to impart the seduction of the new crown jewel of the Corps. It is easy, at least for me, to forget about how and why cadets and staff now have a comfortable home. We are lucky to be here, thanks to the tenacity of our forefathers. General Lane, the Corps' inaugural commandant, and namesake of our old headquarters, standing fast against bureaucracy, assuring that a well-rounded, military training program mandated by the Morrill Act, instituted by President Lincoln, was not watered down, relegated to a few weekly push-ups. General Lane, namesake of the building I maligned earlier, should never be forgotten. As much as we need to embrace our future, and its potential, we must never forget the regal brick and mortar grandfather to the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

This article is my segue into a new career chapter. I am blessed to have the facilities and the supplies needed to run a professional museum. Let us never forget those who came before us, whose persistence and dedication made it possible for us to bask in the comforts of a genuine HVAC system. Onward and upwards for the Corps, and a sincere amen for General Lane.



At a kick-off and orientation event, cadets and civilian DCTC scholars negotiate the obstacle course. Photo courtesy of Katie Mallory '03.

CITIZEN-LEADERS FOR DCTC

By Ken Mallory '06, director of the Citizen-Leader Track/VPI Battalion

In 1916, as America prepared for World War I, ROTC units were established across the country to prepare young men to serve in uniformed military service. Since then, ROTC programs have been a critical source of officers across all branches of the military in both war and peacetime.

Now, a new training initiative is being undertaken by Congress and the Department of Defense to support military personnel by way of civilian government service. That initiative is the creation of the Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC), which is specifically designed to provide the Department of Defense with a motivated, service-driven pipeline of talent. Four colleges were chosen to host DCTC pilot programs: Virginia

Tech, Purdue University, North Carolina A&T University, and the University of Arizona.

Virginia Tech's cohort, with its 16 Citizen-Leader Track cadets and 14 civilian students, makes up a third of



Cadet Nicholas Ott and other DCTC scholars debate possible logistics and sustainment solutions during the COVID-19 outbreak for the US Navy. Photo courtesy of Ken Mallory '06.

the nation-wide DCTC pilot program, which provides full tuition and a stipend to cover fees, room, board, and textbooks. Internships are also provided to students over the summer, and participating DoD agencies can convert these DCTC scholars to full-time DoD employees by graduation. The pilot program is housed jointly within the Virginia Tech National Security Institute (NSI) and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, with a memorandum of understanding that outlines cadets will comprise no less than half of future cohort slots.

Virginia Tech's status as a senior military college ensures that students benefit from the unique partnership that the Corps shares with NSI and the broader campus community.

“The opportunities our DCTC scholars get to collaborate in the civil-military space are invaluable to their preparation to work with uniform services while serving as a DoD civilian leader,” says CAPT Jamie McGrath, the director of the Rice Center for Leader Development.

With the start of the semester, Virginia Tech’s DCTC cohort began learning about the processes, procedures, and legalities of defense acquisition and sustainment. The advantage of the cohort model, with its multidisciplinary nature comprised of STEM and non-STEM students, is the unique perspectives that this diverse group of students brings to the table.

“Homogeneity of thought breeds complacency and builds a culture that cannot innovate and grow. DCTC is all about creating a holistic transdisciplinary view of the acquisitions process,” said Citizen-Leader Track Cadet Cameron Alemand, a junior majoring in political science.

Though the acquisition and sustainment missions are not new, the DCTC pilot program seeks to engage students from a wide variety of backgrounds and majors to successfully navigate this mission space, capitalizing on the unique talents each scholar possesses. Students are presented with practical issues in weekly classes and immersive coursework, revolving around subjects with real-world impacts and far-reaching implications.

The first cohort focuses on the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP) as a case study. “The MRAP program was selected to demonstrate to students the ability of the acquisitions community to rapidly and successfully respond to the increased threat of IEDs during the Iraq War,” says DCTC instruc-

tor Austin Phoenix, a research associate professor with NSI. “As they train to be the DoD workforce of the future, scholars can learn from this program to develop a more adaptive and responsive DoD.”

The need is clear. An estimated 747,000 civilians in the Department of Defense support active-duty forces. As the nation’s workforce ebbs and flows and innovative technologies emerge, corporations and the government often compete

against one another for a limited pool of qualified applicants. Developing a dedicated pipeline of talent from a population of service-driven Virginia Tech cadets and civilian scholars is a win-win scenario for the Department of Defense and for our students.



Cadets and students enrolled in DCTC pose with an Army National Guard mine resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP), the main focus of their study this semester, during the DCTC orientation event in Aug. 2023. Photo courtesy of Katie Mallory '03.



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW
FOR
CORPS REUNION
2024
SEPT. 20-22





IF YOU HAVEN'T
JOINED US
FOR A REUNION EVENT, YOU
ARE MISSING OUT.



Reunion photos courtesy of Cadet Kalista Luzanta '24, Cadet Maddie Djuric '25 and Katie Mallory '03.



Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) leaders field and record answers during a question and discussion session. The SVP program relies on cadet leaders who have the respect of their peers to make the program successful. Interested cadets could volunteer to serve in the role, or nominate other cadets who they feel would be best at sharing the importance of sexual assault prevention. Photo courtesy of Chelsea Cleary.

BREAKING STIGMAS AND BUSTING MYTHS:

FACILITATING PEER-LED SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION IN THE CORPS

By Cadet Kalista Luzanta, regimental public information officer and SVP leader

Through its partnership with Hokie Wellness, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has proudly installed its Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) program for its second year.

Since its start-up from President Tim Sands in 2021, the Virginia Tech Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative, formerly known as Virginia Tech's Sexual Violence Culture and Climate Work Group, has been an advancement of the university's commitment to addressing and preventing sexual violence. From providing resources, programs, and assessment tools for sexual violence, the initiative has made vast strides to ensure

the university is a safer, responsible, and more educated place for its students and faculty.

Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant of Second Battalion, knew sexual violence was a severe issue in military settings, and wanted a preventative measure to be implemented in the Corps of Cadets.

"I've seen too many tragedies with sexual violence. The military, the service academies, and virtually all college campuses struggle with effective sexual violence prevention programming. The Corps is no different, but we are uniquely positioned to at least try to increase

effectiveness," said Lt. Col. Russell.

The SVP workshop sessions were incorporated into second-year cadets' training and were facilitated by upperclassmen in the Corps. Sophomore cadets have the opportunity to step into leadership roles after Red Phase, and the SVP training provided during this period gives them the knowledge to successfully take care of their peers and subordinates.

Hokie Wellness is a program at Virginia Tech that educates its students on ways to uphold their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Its workshop "Deconstructing Sexual Violence" fo-



Each battalion rotated their sophomores through the cadet-led prevention education sessions, which were held before sophomore cadets assumed their roles as fireteam leaders. Photo courtesy of Cadet Kalista Luzanta.

cuses on defining different forms of violence subsumed under sexual violence. It also addresses proactive bystander intervention strategies. The Corps had the privilege of working with Hokie Wellness's Chelsea Cleary, Virginia Tech's first sexual violence prevention specialist.

Cleary came to Virginia Tech in February 2022. Her primary role focuses on formulating preventive measures for sexual violence. Through her expertise, Cleary adapted the workshop material to take into account the unique experiences of military members.

"This leadership initiative is so important, especially given how prevalent sexual and interpersonal violence is in our military and civilian communities. This initiative not only provided education on sexual violence prevention and active intervention for 285 sophomores but also provided the facilitators with the opportunity to develop their leadership around difficult and sensitive topics," said Cleary.

SVP training started right after New

Cadet Week. Cleary and her graduate student, Sarah Supplee, led six hours of training in one day for 12 cadets to become facilitators of SVP conversations. During the training, cadet facilitators walked through the workshop curriculum and what they would teach: knowledge checks, key terminology, and active intervention. All SVP leaders have expressed that they learned something new when being trained in workshop facilitation.

Knowledge checks consisted of three-question quizzes concerning statistics and true or false statements regarding sexual violence. Many cadet facilitators were surprised by what the knowledge check revealed.

"One thing I learned during the SVP leaders training is just how many misconceptions

there are regarding sexual violence," said facilitator Cadet Barrett Ferguson. A junior in 2nd Battalion, Ferguson said, "As cadets who will one day be leading others, it's important to be aware of the truths behind the misconceptions so we can protect ourselves and stand up for those we are responsible for."

SVP leaders also emphasized the value of the key terminology section and how it identifies the numerous terms related to sexual violence that are not widely recognized by college students.

Active intervention and its scenarios were the last portions of the curriculum. SVP leaders described how gender stigma and an individual's thoughts and feelings towards intervention can change how a person approaches a situation. One of the questions asked at the end of each scenario was, "Would your intervention have changed if the genders were reversed?"

"During our guided conversations on one of three scenarios during facilitation, many individuals expressed that their intervention strategies with sexual violence would change because the gender roles were reversed (male victim and female perpetrator)," said Yollande Djossou, a cadet in 2nd Battalion. "As future leaders, we are responsible for acknowl-

"As cadets who will one day be leading others, it's important to be aware of the truths behind the misconceptions so we can protect ourselves and stand up for those we are responsible for."

Cadet Barrett Ferguson



A mix of mature, peer-respected juniors and seniors from across all battalions, genders, and ethnicities were sought for the SVP leader positions to help the message resonate across the regiment. Photo courtesy of Cadet Kalista Luzanta.



Cadet Augustine Duku leads a small group session during SVP training in September. Photo courtesy of Cadet Kalista Luzanta.

edging the stigmas around male victims, preventing the norm around that stigma in our community, and treating every victim of sexual violence equally, no matter the gender of the victim."

The SVP program continued after Thursday Corps Lab for five weeks, starting at the beginning of the fall semester.

Through feedback surveys provided at the end of each training session, the second year of the SVP program seems

to be successful, as many sophomore cadets have praised the importance of the SVP program and how beneficial it is for the program to be cadet-led. Many are also interested in being SVP leaders for next year's installment.

"I think that it's important that the SVP program is cadet-led because they are our leadership of the Corps, and it's important that other cadets feel safe around their leaders. I have been inspired to be an SVP leader because

I want everyone around me, not just cadets, to know that I am a safe place for them as well," said Cadet Leilani Uribe, a sophomore in 2nd Battalion.

The Corps of Cadets intends to continue the SVP program for its fight against sexual assault at service academies and senior military colleges.



TURNING TREE TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH

By Jimmy Robertson

For more than 100 years, a sprawling, majestic elm tree resided on the small hill that serves as part of the Upper Quad of Virginia Tech's campus.

Over the years, it provided desperately desired shade for students on sultry afternoons, particularly for cadets who, until the past decade, lived in Rasche Hall and Brodie Hall, two residence halls without air conditioning. For years, it offered a cool place for lunch, a resting stop from academic studies, and a solitary spot for courting sweethearts.

Many watched the setting sun shimmer through its long, twisting branches, and in the fall, admired its beautiful golden and orange leaves, ones that eventually carpeted the well-manicured lawn surrounding it.

"That tree saw a lot," admitted Commander Nate Brown '98, the alumni director for the Corps. "If that tree could talk, it would have an amazing story to tell."

Unfortunately, though, the Rasche elm tree, as many knew it, is no more. In August, Jamie King, the urban forest manager and university arborist, and a group of researchers and scientists made the agonizing decision to take down the tree after its lengthy battle with Dutch elm disease — a non-native fungus transmitted by a beetle that prevents the steady flow of water from the roots to the leaves. The affliction is common and plaguing elm trees across the United States.

The decision to end the life of the campus' largest tree and one that predates the founding of Virginia Tech, and quite possibly, the Civil War, was heartbreaking, according to King.

"I felt personal failure that we weren't able to save it," King said. "I don't think we could have done anything else. Sharing the news was a disappointment. It still hurts."

To understand Virginia Tech's com-

mitment to its trees, one only needs to consider the efforts put in to saving the Rasche elm.

Not long after being hired in 2019, King, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in natural resources and conservation and a minor in urban forestry, noticed some structural issues with the tree. The following year, they had the tree pruned and collected a sample. A local lab revealed that the tree had bacterial leaf scorch, a disease that causes leaves to turn brown prematurely each year.

Over the next three years, the urban forestry team and researchers monitored the tree. The team oversaw pruning efforts, and injected the tree with a fungicide.

But they continued to notice problems. They tested the mulch around the base of the tree for possible toxins and made plans to install cables to help with the structure problem. They also started irrigating.

Finally, this past spring, King noticed additional wilting of branches and curling of leaves. He made a cut in the tree and saw staining in the wood — a sign of Dutch elm disease. A lab confirmed the diagnosis.

Dutch elm disease is the human equivalent of clogged arteries. By the end of the summer, the fungus had spread so much that it left little alternative.

"At the end of the day, this is science," King said. "I'm a scientist, and we don't make rash decisions.

"We took extra measures with that tree because it was worth it. Generally, when I present the evidence to any stakeholder, they understand. They may be disappointed, and I'm disappointed, but at the end of the day, it's a scientific decision, and it's hard to argue with that."

In all, more than two dozen people have been involved with the tree-saving effort in some capacity over the past three years.

On a perfect late November day, at various spots on the Upper Quad, 14 trees were planted, including six Jefferson elm trees, five Eastern hophornbeams, and three hickory trees. After discussions with researchers from Washington, D.C., King chose the Jefferson elm, a disease-resistant species with a sturdy structure currently thriving on the National Mall in the nation's capitol.

Three elms were planted on each side of the Addison Caldwell statue that sits on the steps that lead from the Alumni Mall area to Pearson Hall East and Pearson Hall West. The Rasche elm used to be to the right of that statue.

Many longtime Corps alumni, along with students and faculty members, will miss that magnificent elm and all it represented. But fond memories always will remain while the new grove of elms matures in its place and offers the opportunity for memories for coming generations.

"I think students will appreciate what we're doing, along with faculty and staff, alums, and our local community," Brown said. "I think it'll make a lot of people happy to see new trees, and we're not planting random trees. We're planting trees that will thrive in this location and are natural to this area.

"We had Herculean efforts to save the Rasche elm, but it had basically come to the end of its healthy life. Now it's a matter of honoring it and talking about the history, the years of shade it provided and the beauty it contributed to the Upper Quad. And we're preserving its legacy by planting other like trees for future generations, and we're hoping they'll last for the next 150 years."

This is an excerpt from a story that originally appeared in VT News. To read the full story, visit news.vt.edu.





FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING

By Cadet Grace Shimkus '24, regimental executive officer

As many of our alumni community have noticed, we have incorporated the celebration of the 50th anniversary of women in the Corps of Cadets into our activities this year. It is our privilege to be the first military college to reach this milestone.

Fifty years of trials, errors, and successes have built a program that is striving towards perfection, one that will never rest on what works today, but focuses on the needs of tomorrow.

We have woven that celebration into our events this year and when we reflect on how women were incorporated into the ranks in 1973, this approach makes sense. The story did not end with admitting women. We had to constantly evolve. We had to look at every aspect of cadet life and determine what modifications would be necessary within a new co-ed construct. Did we get it right from the start? Of course not. But we've never

stopped adapting.

During alumni events this year, I had the opportunity to interact with some notable female alums to better understand how their time in the Corps as females helped shape their lives.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has been around since 1872, but it wasn't until 1973 that we admitted women. The first female cadets were assigned to L Squadron, among them was Emily (Pillsbury) Davis '77. Davis had the opportunity to serve as the first sergeant of L Squadron and later, as its third company commander. "It wasn't always easy," Davis told me. "We would receive new guidance every day. They would change the rules because having women in the program was not something that had been done before, so we had to adapt." Her experiences as one of the first females in the Corps speaks volumes about facing hardships and seeking improve-

ment.

Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michele Compton '83 was the first female Corps alumna to pin on one star. She served for over 30 years, starting as an intelligence platoon leader within Alpha Company, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion. She was one of just a few females out of fifty soldiers in her platoon. When asked about leadership challenges as a female officer, Compton explained, "As a female senior leader working with foreign militaries, I broke barriers and opened the doors for women following in my footsteps." Compton said, "Many foreign militaries didn't have female senior leaders; sometimes even the lower ranked females worked strictly in the admin and protocol areas. Sometimes they were amazed. Sometimes I had to prove myself." Compton offered advice: "You may be breaking down a barrier to women and not even know it. Sup-

port other females; we need to help one another to meet challenges. Seek opportunities for increased knowledge and training. Always strive to do better each day.”

Our female cadets continue to lead and inspire others in the regiment and cadet organizations. Growing Leaders of Women (GLOW) is a new Corps organization that is dedicated to empowering female cadets to serve in leadership roles and become role models for others. “We established GLOW this semester to foster a sense of community for all women in the Corps and provide mentorship to underclassmen female cadets,” said Cadet Madison Kuriger, the president of GLOW. “We have hosted several events this semester such as movie nights, self-defense trainings, and Breast Cancer Awareness Day. We are also involved in helping female veterans and local women in the Blacksburg community.” Kuriger added, “Our main goal is to help women in the Corps feel comfortable with who they are in a predominantly male environment.” Although GLOW is in its early years, it has established a strong membership base and hopes to expand outreach to the alumni community.

You can follow
GLOW on Instagram
[@vtccglow](https://www.instagram.com/vtccglow)





The Purdue game was fraught with dangerous weather including heavy rain, high winds, and close lightning strikes that prompted multiple evacuations of the stands.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

By Capt. Jamie McGrath, '90, U.S. Navy (retired), director of the Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

I am often asked what sets Virginia Tech apart. As a product of the Corps of Cadets, my most frequent answer is that the Corps prepared me to respond during uncertainty. Cadets this semester demonstrated that same ability to respond during the Purdue football game on Corps Reunion weekend. After an initial weather delay, the pre-game festivities were cancelled and despite not rehearsing doing so from the stands, the Highty-Tighties shifted their plans and hit the first note of the National Anthem right on cue.

When the game was delayed a second time and the stadium evacuated, I watched as company first sergeants sprang into action. The Corps, all 1,200

strong, executed a calm and orderly evacuation from the stands – just as those first sergeants and other cadet leadership had walked through in contingency planning the night before. Accurate accountability was rapidly maintained as cadets filed out of the stadium and arrived in their assigned shelter locations in under 10 minutes in an orderly manner.

Cadets on the other side of campus, assigned with preparing for the alumni tailgate outside the Holtzman Alumni Center, on their own initiative brought the supplies inside the building, and working with Skelton Conference Center staff, shifted the entire tailgate enterprise to an empty banquet hall.

Those cadets then pivoted to supporting the returning alumni, despite that not being their assigned tasks, with an attitude of “what can I do next to help.” The attitude of service, despite chaotic weather, permeated the Corps that day. That attitude of service turned a probable disaster into a beautiful illustration of the value of our Leader Development Program (LDP).

Over the past two years, we have worked to put into writing the Corps' Leader Development Program. Approved by the Commandant in Spring 2023, this semester is the first with the LDP in place as one of the Corps' governing documents, and we are already seeing its value. Commanders have em-

Regimental commander Cadet Isaac Lerner surveys the stands as cadets adjust to the cancellation of the pre-game march-on.

braced the LDP and used its language in their command philosophies. We have elevated the role of the regimental training officer from the S-3 staff to its own position on the regimental staff as the S-7, who has developed training objectives in line with the LDP.

Initial feedback from cadets is excellent. They appreciate the time and effort that is being dedicated to their training and making sure they are prepared for the next step in their leadership journey. We recognize that these are merely the first steps, and we are excited to see the LDP and regimental training initiatives evolve to meet the needs of this generation of leaders.

To complement the LDP, we continue to refine the material presented to cadets in their Corps leadership courses. This fall, the Rice Center partnered with



Cook Counseling, Hokie Wellness and the Student Affairs Office of Inclusion and Belonging to incorporate resiliency, peer support, dignity, and respect themes throughout the first-year course. Our sophomores incorporated additional fire team leader preparation into their

course to augment the S-7 efforts, and the number of cadets enrolled in the optional junior course more than doubled. We will continue to refine this pillar of leader development alongside the training and practical elements supported by the deputy commandants and senior enlisted advisors.



Drum Major Cadet Paul Dragan leads the Highty-Tighties in an unrehearsed playing of the national anthem from the stands as the rain begins again.

OLD DOMINION



U.S. Air Force Maj. Kyle Hooper '13 is the director for operations with the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Kuwait, where he has been deployed since May.

WAKE FOREST



U.S. Navy Lt. Kyle Luchau '18, Lt. j.g. Roger Gerome Maisog '21, and Lt. j.g. Robert McGroarty '20 are deployed onboard the guided missile cruiser USS Normandy in the eastern Mediterranean Sea to help provide deterrence and ensure maritime security and stability in the region.



U.S. Navy Ensign Alexandra Scarfe '22 is serving as a surface warfare officer in the 7th Fleet area of operation onboard USS America, the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious assault ship, out of Sasebo, Japan.

PURDUE



U.S. Air Force Capt. Elizabeth Archer '19 and Capt. Amanda Jacobson '18 are deployed to Kadena Air Base in Japan. Both are serving as F-15E Strike Eagle weapon systems officers. Archer is with the 336th Fighter Squadron and Jacobson is assigned to the 391st Fighter Squadron.



SYRACUSE

U.S. Navy Lt. Naveen Gupta '16 is an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter instructor pilot attached to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41 in San Diego. He is deployed to the Middle East supporting air operations for Operation Spartan Shield.

LOUISVILLE



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Kevin Taylor '05 is the executive officer for the USS Robert Smalls. He is forward deployed with 7th fleet in the East China Sea.

MILITARY BOWL

U.S. Navy Capt. Dave Dartz '00 is serving as the deputy commander of Carrier Air Wing Eight and U.S. Navy Capt. Jim Von St. Paul '98 is serving as the deputy commander of Destroyer Squadron Two. Both are deployed to the 6th Fleet Area of Operations as part of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group.

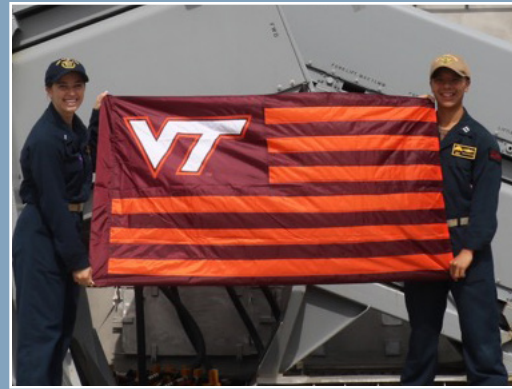
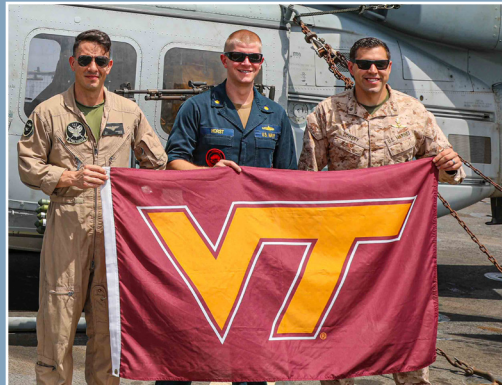
MARSHALL



U.S. Army Capt. Alexander Kase '16 is currently deployed with the 10th Mountain Division in Iraq.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mark Horst '11 and U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Mike Lowery '12 are deployed as part of the Bataan Amphibious Readiness Group and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. They are operating in the 5th Fleet area to help ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East.

PITTSBURGH



U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Anna Miller '21 and U.S. Navy Lt. Tristan Nguyen '18 are deployed together on the USS Oakland in support of the 7th Fleet. Miller serves as the assistant operations officer on the USS Oakland and Nguyen serves as the ship's navigator.

BOSTON COLLEGE



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Zachery Young '21 and U.S. Army 1st Lt. Eryn Wolfe '20 are in Germany with the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. Wolfe is a UH-60M pilot and Young is a CH-47F pilot.



NC STATE

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Grace Kim '22 is a scout platoon leader and armor officer with the 1st Armored Division. She is currently deployed to Poland in support of Operation European Assure, Deter and Reinforce.

VIRGINIA



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Keith Frost '05 is an E-2D Naval Flight Officer currently deployed to Bahrain where he is serving as the operations officer at Isa Air Base, supporting U.S. Central Command.

REACH OUT TO
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TO NOMINATE A HOKIE HERO

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Mark A. Childers '63 was awarded the Chairman's Award for 2022 at the Oilfield Energy Center (OEC) Gala.



Members of Echo Company Class of 1966 gathered at Yorktown, Virginia on Sept. 11-12 to visit and catch up. (Left to right) **John Hall '66** & Susan; **Grayson Harding '66** & Eva Gray Harding; Di-anne & **Ken Whiteside '66**; and Mag-gie & **Bob Bailey '66**.



Four members of the **Class of 1968** and their spouses returned to campus for a mini-reunion on Sept. 28 where they installed a brick plaque for Frank Sloop '68 in the Corps Leadership and Military Science building as he was unable to attend. (Left to right) **John Charlesworth '68**, **John Watkins '69**, **Mike Saunders '66**; and **Bill Mullins '68**.



1970s

Class of 1973 celebrated their 50th anniversary and entry into the Old Guard at various events this summer and fall including Alumni Weekend in June, Corps Reunion in September, and Homecoming in October.

John Kinsey '77 retired from the U.S. Air Force as a major general after serving as the commanding general of the Air Component Command for the Texas State Guard. He also received the Superior Service Medal from the governor of Texas.

Gary N. Jackson '78 was selected as the 18th recipient of the Highty-Tighty Distinguished Alumni Award.

1980s

Maj. Gen. Timothy Williams '85 retired as the 28th Adjutant General of Virginia after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the commonwealth and nation.

Jonathan Clough '88 was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service this May.

1990s

Rich Davis '90 was selected as a Virginia Veteran Artist by the Virginia

War Memorial. His photography and items from his time in the Corps and Navy were displayed from May through November.

Kate (O'Brien) Hutson '90, 174th Maintenance Group Commander, was awarded the Legion of Merit when she retired from the Air National Guard. She served 32 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard.



Lori Keck-Beach '92 returned for HT Reunion and Homecoming, and her likeness was included on HT-27 first-year cadets Homecoming banner to celebrate the 50 years of women in the Corps. Lori was the first female drum major of the Highty-Tighties.



Matthew Cosner '97 was inducted as an Associate Fellow for operations research for the Naval Air Warfare

Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). The NAWCAD Fellows program is a peer-oriented, technical recognition for the commands who have made major contributions to naval aviation. Associate Fellows represent the top 3% of NAWCAD's scientists and engineers.

Hotel Company **Class of 1997** held a 30th bud class reunion in Arlington & participated in a 10-mile Army run.

(Left to right) **Tim Singstock, Steve Cooper, Chuck Koerber, Aaron Williams, and Chris Ives.**



2000s

Frank Theising '01 (center), was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Air Force in April on the deck of the USS Missouri in Honolulu, Hawaii with his wife **Erika Theising '01** (at right) and classmate **Maj. Patrick Manrique '01** (on left).



Lt. Col. Krishna Easton '02 (on right) and **Capt. Steven Apsley '14** (at left) conducted response missions for Typhoon Mawar in Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.



Charlie Norsky '02 promoted **Kevin Rooney '01** from commander to captain in a ceremony on Upper Quad. Also in attendance was **Ryan Bauernschmidt '01** and the Class of 2001 Class Champion, **Shawn Cagle '01.**



Future Hokie Alert! **Michael Martinez '04** and Lorraine Martinez would like to introduce the next future Hokie, Michael Edward Martinez!

Class of 2007 Echo Company got together in Purcellville, Virginia to celebrate their 20th anniversary of being a bud class. (Left to right) **William Whitehill, David Maloof, Daniel Dively, Noah Sevier, Alex Fry, Ricky Heinzman, Joshua Morgenstern, Justin Urban, Andrew Smithey, and Eric Hahn.**



Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Bethel '08 completed the Ironman World Champi-

onship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on Oct. 14. She carried a Virginia Tech flag over the finish line to honor the 32 victims of April 16, 2007. Since 2012, she has also



run a half-Ironman for each of the April 16 victims. She has eight more half-Ironman races remaining to achieve her goal of honoring all 32.

Lt. Cmdr. Ned Burgwyn '08 recently reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he will teach undergraduate courses in history and government. Ned earned his master's in international relations from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy.



(Left to right) **Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Callen '13, Cmdr. Michael Steffens '03, Lt. Evan Hughes, Cmdr. Rob Dalton '07, and Lt. Lindsey Campbell '18** deployed together on board USS Nimitz.



2010s

Maj. Bryan Peterson '10 recently completed his assignment and received Meritorious Service Medal as Aide-de-Camp to the U.S. Navy's 32nd Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Michael Gilday.



Capt. Benton Howser '11, Capt. Ross Holdsworth '13, Capt. Josh Levine '16, and Capt. Seth Mykut '17 (left to right) deployed to Camp Kościuszko in Poznań, Poland from 2022-2023 as members of V Corps' Forward Company Post in support of the European Deterrence Initiative and Operation Atlantic Resolve.



Future Hokie Alert! **Michael McCaffrey '16** and his wife, Haley, welcomed their daughter, Margo Rose McCaffrey, on April 22.



Alston Pugh '16 commissioned this spring in the U.S. Coast Guard as an ensign through the Direct Commission Officer program and is currently stationed in Los Angeles on the USCGC Forrest Rednour.



Capt. Maddie Mitcham '18 transitioned to the Army Reserves and began pursuing a medical degree at the University of the Incarnate Word's School of Osteopathic Medicine.

2020s

Lt.j.g. Justin Halsey '21 and Lt. Cmdr. John Sapliway '12 are deployed together on the USS Eisenhower.



2nd Lt. Ben Janosy '22 graduated from Airborne School in Ft. Benning, Georgia in March. His first duty station is Grafenwöhr, Germany with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.



HOKIES take over Pensacola! Our alums, all in various stages of their career, at Naval Air Station Pensacola. (Left to right) **Capt. Savannah Bailey '15, Maj. Lucas Bamford '11, Maj. Gary Machamer '09, Maj. Joeseeph Dedonato '04, 2nd Lt. Henry Bergstol '22, 2nd Lt. Margaret Kyte '22, 2nd Lt. Clare Provoncha '22.**



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



SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS FALL 2023

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **ISAAC LERNER**

Cadet Col. Isaac Lerner is pursuing a degree in political science with a concentration in national security and minors in strategic communication and leadership. He plans to commission into the U.S. Army. He has previously served as first sergeant of Alpha Company and the regimental sergeant major. He is a member of Rappel Tower Committee and is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship. He has also completed a government internship, Global Scholars, and U.S. Army Air Assault School.

FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **AIDAN BYRNES**

Cadet Lt. Col. Aidan Byrnes is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in leadership. He plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force. He has held multiple leadership positions within the Corps and Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, he served as a cadre platoon sergeant and squad leader. In Air Force ROTC, he was the Bravo Flight commander for Squadron 1 and the deputy commander for Air Force Flyers. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **CJ GIRTS**

Cadet Lt. Col. CJ Girts is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with minors in green engineering and leadership. He plans to commission in the U.S. Navy and hopes to fly F/A-18 Super Hornets. He has held several leadership positions within the Corps and NROTC including Golf Company first sergeant and Bravo Department chief. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **WILLIAM SOSNOWSKI**

Cadet Lt. Col. William Sosnowski is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering with minors in astronomy and leadership. He plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force. Within the Corps, he has served as a platoon sergeant and regimental bagpiper. Within Air Force ROTC, he was the Juliet Flight commander for Squadron 5. He is also a part of the Virginia Tech Alpine Ski Team.

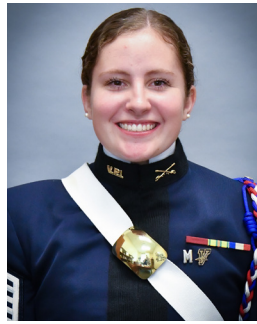
FOURTH BATTALION COMMANDER **CAMDEN MCCULLOUGH**

Cadet Lt. Col. Camden McCullough is pursuing a degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry with a minor in leadership. She plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force. She has held multiple positions in the Corps, from first sergeant, battalion sergeant major, Honor Court representative, and Executive Court representative. In Air Force ROTC, she served as a deputy flight commander, a physical fitness officer, and element leader. She is the recipient of an Emerging Leadership Scholarship.

COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2023



Regimental Executive Officer
Grace Shimkus
English
Army



Regimental Adjutant
Jenna Mathis
Human Nutrition, Foods and
Exercise
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Public
Information Officer
Kalista Luzanta
Psychology
Air Force



Regimental Operations
Officer
Ellie Thurneysen
Business Information
Technology
Navy



Regimental Supply Officer
Marc Mendez
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Navy



Regimental Academics
Officer
Andre Asarian
Public Health and Political
Science
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Information
Officer
Carly Wolfe
Secure Computing
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Training Officer
Christopher Hall
Political Science
Army



Regimental Sergeant Major
Alex Arriza
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Army



Regimental Alumni Liaison
Officer
Carter Griffin
Criminology and Sociology
Army



VPI Battalion Commander
Gennaro Cardarelli
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Payton Gore
Political Science
Army



Bravo Company Commander
Shelby Stevens
Agribusiness
Citizen-Leader Track



Charlie Company
Commander
Cameron Rowley
Aerospace Engineering
Navy



Delta Company Commander
Jacob Troupe
History
Army



Echo Company Commander
Sarina Heron
Economics
Air Force



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Charley Longerbeam
Architecture
Navy



Golf Company Commander
David Peritore
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Navy



Hotel Company Commander
Shane Ervin
Computer Science
Army



India Company Commander
Gabriela Munson
Accounting and Information
Systems
Army



Kilo Company Commander
Oliver Nazarian
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Navy



Lima Company Commander
Joseph Bowers
Political Science
Citizen-Leader Track
Navy



Mike Company Commander
Eric Prindle
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Army



November Company
Commander
Aidan MacDonald
Biochemistry
Army



Oscar Company Commander
William Connolly
Aerospace Engineering
Navy



Band Commander
Joey Vocaturo
Mechanical Engineering
Navy



Drum Major
Paul Dragan
Finance
Navy



Cadet leaders from the six senior military colleges and other collegiate corps of cadets' programs in front of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Photos courtesy of Katie Mallory '03.

MILITARY COLLEGES COME TOGETHER

By Katie Mallory '03, communications director

Not long after officially opening its doors, the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building provided the setting for the Fall Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States' (AMCSUS) Senior Military College Conference on Sept 25-27.

The annual conference brought together senior staff and student leaders from the six senior military colleges in the U.S., along with other collegiate corps of cadets' programs. Representatives from Texas A&M University, the Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, Norwich University, and the University of North Georgia were joined by staff and cadets from Tarleton University, Louisiana State University, the Vir-

ginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College, and Texas A&M University at Galveston.

At a time when military recruiting is in a downward trend, the gathering provided an opportunity for military college programs to discuss best practices in their organizations, Department of Defense and ROTC program updates, and help them jointly address trends in mental health, cybersecurity, sexual assault prevention, recruiting and retention, affordability, student wellness, and other critical topics faced by colleges and military branches today.

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets, presided over the conference. "The annual SMC [senior military

college] conference is an incredibly valuable time for the six senior military colleges, established under Title X, to share best practices. We collectively work with the military services to ensure our military-leader tracks will meet the growing demand for officers and that our citizen-leader track programs are the best they can be to meet national security needs," said Fullhart.

Cadet leaders from each college also attended discussion sessions addressing peer accountability, recruiting and retention, and character development, giving them an opportunity to mold their programs from a student viewpoint.

Virginia Tech Cadet Alex Arriza, a national security and foreign affairs

major in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the highest-ranking member of the corps' junior class, attended the event.

"The SMC conference was a unique experience. I had the opportunity to get to know the cadet leadership from other schools and build bonds between our institutions. The cadets were very professional, and I really enjoyed talking with them and learning about how their organization is run," Arriza said.

"The curriculum covered multiple topics that we all deal with in some way at our schools. It was interesting to hear how the other senior military colleges share similar situations with us at Virginia Tech. We were able dig into those topics and share ways to better ourselves moving forward," Arriza said.

During staff sessions, Chris Wise, assistant vice president for health and wellness, spoke about Virginia Tech's Residential Well-being initiative and Matt Holt shared how Virginia Tech Advantage is providing resources and removing financial barriers for students. Virginia Tech Advantage, a university-wide priority set by President Tim Sands and the Virginia Tech Board of Visi-

tors, addresses unmet and basic student needs, while focusing on transformational learning opportunities, career preparation, and increasing university scholarships.

Laura Freeman, deputy director of the Virginia Tech National Security Institute, also spoke during the conference, highlighting the collaborative efforts between the institute and the Corps of Cadets.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Jamie McGrath, director of the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development, coordinated this year's gathering. "Hosting the SMC conference at Virginia Tech allowed us to highlight the amazing cooperation the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has with partners across campus. It is this cooperation, along with that of our ROTC partners, that demonstrates why Virginia Tech provides the best opportunity for our cadets to succeed in the military or civilian work force," said McGrath.



Inside the multipurpose room in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, cadets discussed topics relevant to the current collegiate and military environments.



Below: Senior staff members from senior military colleges across the country met at the Inn at Virginia Tech





Global Scholars 2023 Europe Cohort. Photo courtesy of Randy Fullhart.

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCIES

By Cadet Ezra Silverburg

During the summer, I had the privilege of taking part in training opportunities provided by both the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and Army ROTC. Global Scholars took me to various historic sites across Europe before I attended Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, and later in the summer, U.S. Army Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) took me to Grafenwoehr Army Garrison in Germany. These parallel experiences showed me the need to cultivate cultural competence within the framework of modern military leadership.

The Global Scholars trip to Europe gives cadets the opportunity to conduct on-site battlefield tours of the Allied campaign through Normandy, Germany, and the Ardennes. I visited the historic landing sites and drop zones of Operation Overlord, ventured into the dense foliage of the Hurtgenwald, and explored the enduring craters that bore witness to the valor of the 101st Airborne Division in the Ardennes. The soldiers who fought there, many the same age as me, bore the responsibility of spearheading the liberation of Europe from the clutches of Nazism. In this endeavor, they collaborated with a diverse array of allied armies and resistance movements.

These soldiers, whose lives had been predominantly spent in rural America or within the precincts of metropolitan areas, suddenly found themselves serving as liberators in a foreign land. They represented a beacon of hope to the Europeans who had valiantly withstood the oppressive Nazi threat. They were thrust into an environment that demanded not only combat leadership but the art of diplomacy and cultural bridge-building. Thus, history reinforces the necessity for today's military to embody not just the mantle of a warfighter, but also that of an international ambassador for the United States.



Above: Cadet Silverburg in the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Photo courtesy of Don Russell.

Below: Global Scholars in Bastogne, Belgium. Photo courtesy of Randy Fullhart.



My time at CTLT in Grafenwoehr offered a lesson in the importance of globally-present leadership. I spent most of my time with the 51st Truck Composite Company, learning how our support forces enable our combat arms and NATO allies in training. Within U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF), integration is a mainstay, entwining our forces with the rich history and doctrine of our NATO allies in pursuit of interoperability to deter aggression. Our troops stationed in Europe serve as both a response and deterrent force, poised to act swiftly to any potential conflict that may threaten the continent. The relationships with our partners and allies is essential to success in current competition



Cadet Silverburg during CTLT in Grafenwoehr.

and any future conflict.

Furthermore, I worked with an engineering unit tasked with the role of instructing allied soldiers in the utilization of American equipment. In this task, junior enlisted and non-commissioned officers assumed the role of instructors, teaching equipment operation to their allied counterparts, while officers taught equipment employment. Overcoming not only the barrier of language, but also bridging disparities in thought processes and training methodologies, these soldiers demonstrated remarkable adaptability and an ability to find common ground in the process of instruction. For those who consistently collaborate with foreign partners, it is the capacity to dynamically learn and collaborate with individuals representing diverse languages, cultures, and doctrines that facilitates efficient training and effective operations.

Being a leader of character transcends borders and extends to encompass all individuals. A shared attribute among many successful leaders, both past and present, is an unwavering dedication to hone cultural competencies and shared ethical values. Values and ethics transcend the individual cultural and linguistic experiences, and serve as the foundation for trust between those who differ. Individual character is the glue that holds together collective effort, especially in a cross-cultural setting.

Leaders of the past also exemplified cultural competence in their capacity to adapt on the fly while working alongside foreign allies. Fortunately, the Army and the Corps have given us the resources and opportunities necessary to sharpen our own cultural competency through a blend of classroom education and experiential learning. As the torchbearers of future leadership, it is our duty to enhance the interoperability and adaptability of our military forces by deepening our comprehension and competency in the diverse array of cultures with which we interact.



Virginia Tech NROTC midshipmen got underway on training cruises this summer. Photo courtesy of Midshipman 2nd Class Corbin Birt.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Midshipman 2nd Class Jerome Smith

In the summer of 2023, Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen from Virginia Tech embarked on a transformative journey of training and enrichment, setting the stage for their promising careers in the Navy and Marine Corps. This cohort of dedicated midshipmen undertook a diverse range of activities and programs, expanding their knowledge and honing their skills in preparation for their future roles.

The summer kicked off with the New Student Indoctrination (NSI) program held at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. This rigorous program welcomed 83 eager fourth-class midshipmen from Virginia Tech, alongside counterparts from across the nation. Overseeing this educational voyage were 14 midshipmen instructors from Virginia Tech who imparted invaluable lessons in close-order drills, physical training, etiquette, and foundational Navy knowledge.

Meanwhile, in Norfolk and San Diego, 22 third-class midshipmen took part in the Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTAMID). This comprehensive program exposed them to the aviation, surface, special warfare, and

submarine communities over a week each. Additionally, they spent an extra week with the Marine Corps, gaining insights into the various facets of military service.

The second and first-class midshipmen embarked on their respective cruises, where they delved deeper into their chosen specialties. Fifty-one midshipmen were privileged to spend quality time exclusively with aviation squadrons, ships, or submarines, gaining hands-on experience with state-of-the-art machinery and technology. Eight second-class midshipmen pursuing the Marine Option attended Fleet Marine Force training in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, immersing themselves in the world of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

Notably, 11 first-class Marine Option midshipmen achieved a remarkable milestone by graduating from the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia. With a perfect success rate, they officially earned the title of Marines, a testament to their unwavering dedication and commitment.

In total, a remarkable 178 Virginia Tech NROTC midshipmen completed summer training cruises across the globe.



U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Mattingly. Photo courtesy of Midshipman 2nd Class Corbin Birt.

A senior in NROTC at Virginia Tech, Midshipman Gupta, recounted his experience during a surface warfare cruise aboard the USS George H.W. Bush, an aircraft carrier based in Norfolk, VA. Gupta emphasized character development and the opportunity to gain insights into the Navy's operations and equipment.

"The ability to have such a privilege to receive hands-on experience with state-of-the-art machinery and technology aboard one of America's finest vessels has been nothing short of a learning-filled experience," said Gupta.

The Virginia Tech NROTC unit was honored to receive a special visit from U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Mattingly, the commander of the Naval Service Training Command, who shared invaluable wisdom with the midshipmen. He emphasized the significance of knowing one's people and upholding values, providing valuable insights into their future roles as officers. As the fall season continues, the midshipmen eagerly anticipate more highlights, including the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball, as they continue their journey of growth and preparation for their noble service to the nation.



Midshipmen on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier during summer cruise. Photo courtesy of Midshipman 1st Class Sarthak Gupta.



Detachment 875 cadets in front of a C-17 from Dover Air Force Base at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport in September. Photo courtesy of Col. Greg Lowe '97.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

It was a beautiful and rewarding fall semester for Det 875, Air Force ROTC. We said farewell to Maj. Kristen Baker as she left for Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas to serve as the deputy director of the Force Support Squadron. Kristen left big shoes to fill, so the Air Force sent two officers! Lt. Col. Rach Smith is a Guardian in the U.S. Space Force and will serve as the detachment's director of staff, while also managing our fifth-year cadets. Capt. Amy Silverbush is a civil engineer, having just spent a year deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, and is the primary instructor for our AS200 class. Additionally, we are fortunate that headquarters renewed the contract for our civilian instructor, Kate Lowe. Kate is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve and F-16 pilot. She started last academic year and will continue as our primary AS400 instructor. We also welcomed Staff Sgt. Bryce Larkin to the team, an administration non-commissioned officer in charge of cadet actions. Our cadets are in good hands with this elite team!

Our first celebration of the semester was with the 48 graduates of field training. Several were awarded high-performance orientation flights, and even more went on to capstone training events at various Air Force and Space Force bases. The goal is for every cadet to get those opportunities next summer.

Cadet Carter Kinhead, this fall's cadet wing commander, led the new leadership team as they organized 16 leadership labs, 60-plus PT sessions, and over a dozen additional development and training events. New this year was Air Force Exercise (AFEX), which replaced the detachment's traditional fall Warrior Day. This new event still included training in expeditionary skills but added a new element: a tabletop wargame developed by the Air Force Wargaming Institute. Focused on a high-end fight against a peer enemy, this game teaches cadets how to use different elements of air and space power, including cyber, joint, and coalition components. Cadet Corey Casiano, AFEX leader, described the wargame as "a way to teach basic airpower concepts to our junior cadets, as well as

more advanced tactics like agile combat employment to our senior cadets.”

Flyovers are always an exciting part of the game day experience at Virginia Tech. This season, we had a unique opportunity to showcase the Air Force to our fans with a 10-minute flyover of campus one hour prior to kickoff. Additionally, the aircrew from the 326th Airlift Squadron at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware conducted two low-level incentive flights over the Blue Ridge Mountains for 200 cadets. We also hosted 1st Lt. Micaela Albright '19 who brought an HH-60W rescue helicopter in for an exciting Drillfield landing, impressing more than 300 joint-service cadets, and members of the university and Blacksburg communities.

This semester, the cadet wing was honored to host two incredible speakers. Air Mobility Command Director of Operations Maj. Gen. Darren Cole talked about his experiences as an ROTC cadet, instructor/evaluator pilot in C-141, C-21, and C-17 aircraft, and his growth as a senior leader impacting the lives of thousands of airmen. Later in the fall, Lt. Col. Brian Desautels visited from the joint staff and described his

harrowing experiences as the Personnel Recovery Task Force commander in the final withdrawal of U.S. personnel and its partners from Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021. He tied together the leadership traits our cadets are building here at Virginia Tech with the skills they will need as airmen and Guardians.

Cadet Kinkead captured the experience perfectly. “It’s an honor to be a part of the leadership development that culminates with our eight newest Air Force lieutenants at the fall commissioning ceremony,” said Kinkead.

The C-17 flyover was in support of the Military Appreciation game against Pittsburg. Fans were treated to repeated low-altitude passes over Upper Quad and Lane Stadium. Photo courtesy of Cadet Brian Levitow.





SCHOLARSHIPS: RESTRUCTURED FOR IMPACT

By Nicole Freeman Ramos, Corps scholarship manager

Starting out in my position in February 2023, I was not sure what to expect with the financial need of the cadets. Nine months into my position, I can honestly say that the impact that our scholarship program has made on some of our cadets is overwhelming. It really hit home this semester when I met with a cadet who had no way to pay his upcoming tuition due to a devastating change in his family situation. He also shared that he did not have money for food. It was apparent that Corps donors were his only hope to stay at Virginia Tech. His story was heartbreaking and thankfully, through Corps scholarships, we were able to help him stay at Virginia

Tech and address his food insecurities.

The impact on the family was real. His mother reached out to vow that when she was able, she planned to donate to the Corps to help another child like our current donors helped hers. Without the support of our donors and our recently restructured scholarships, none of this would have been possible.

The restructuring of Corps scholarships began this academic year. These changes have allowed the Corps to better align with Virginia Tech Advantage, a commitment by Virginia Tech President Tim Sands and the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to offer a broad educational experience to Virginia students with

financial need. The previous scholarship method was based on a tiered system that placed use limitations on the awarding abilities due to the limited scholarship funding that the Corps once faced. Compounding the Corps advancement team's successful investment strategies, and the ever-increasing support from our dedicated alumni, our scholarship funding has consistently increased over the last few years.

The Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) was created years ago to offer financial assistance to at least 200 cadets each year. While the scholarship name remains the same, the new goal is to offer a minimum of \$1,000 each year

to all cadets in good standing who have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the university. The amount of money awarded in each scholarship factors in the overall merit and unmet need of each student, based on the FAFSA. This allows for a more flexible solution for those who may need additional assistance to attend Virginia Tech and the Corps. This new high impact method allows us to assist cadets from all walks of life.

We have also made a few changes to help cadets faced with emergency tuition and educational expenses. To address that need, we have created the Commandant's Response Scholarship Fund to allow donors to contribute to a scholarship fund that addresses emergency issues. This annual fund can accept donations of any amount as one-time payments or a pledge over multiple years and allows the Corps to retain cadets who otherwise would have to leave the university due to unexpected financial constraints. Almost half of the Corps' population is classified as having a financial need, meaning the amount that a student and their family can pay for their education is less than what it costs to attend each year. While an ELS scholarship would aid a cadet in that circumstance, the Commandant's Response Fund assists those who have unexpected financial emergencies.

Along with the Commandant's

Response Scholarship Fund, the Corps has continued the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Scholarship Annual Fund to supplement ELS scholarships to allow for larger awards. This flexibility allows the Corps to give extra funding for those who have higher unmet need. Both annual scholarship funds are important to the success of the Corps' scholarship program.

Cadets can receive scholarships from both the Corps and from their respective ROTC programs. ROTC scholarships provide a range of funding, which can include full tuition and fee coverage for in-state and out-of-state cadets, depending on the ROTC branch. Currently, the ELS program is unable to fully provide coverage for tuition and fees, or room and board, but with the recent updates to the program, it is a priority to help cadets attend and continue to stay at Virginia Tech and with the Corps as an undergraduate. Emerging Leader scholarships are especially important for those not receiving ROTC scholarships.

With the rising costs of college education, and the urgent situations that our cadets sometimes face, the Corps' scholarship program will need to consistently grow to address the current financial climate. Virginia Tech, through Virginia Tech Advantage, is working to meet the needs of students who face financial barriers. The Corps will continue to do the same, with the support of our donors.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Angela Hayes, associate vice president for advancement



The Corps has experienced some extraordinary successes over the last several months, due in part to the wonderful generosity of our donors and friends. We achieved a campaign milestone of nearly \$58M raised for the Corps and have reached more than 73% of the overall campaign goal. We celebrated the official opening of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, honored our donors during the Corps breakfast, and introduced new scholarship opportunities for our growing Corps. This semester has been nothing short of phenomenal! Thank you for setting the stage and creating an enduring foundation for our future leaders and sustaining tradition. It was also a privilege to connect with so many alumni during Corps Reunion and Highty-Tighty Reunion and to also acknowledge the impact of 50 years of women in the Corps, who continue to inspire, support, and transform.

As we look toward our goals for the remainder of the fiscal year, I encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to

have an active role in Giving Day 2024, scheduled for 24 hours beginning at 12 p.m. EST Feb. 21 through 12 p.m. EST Feb. 22, 2024. Please join the Corps family and friends in some friendly competition! For those who wish to give early to be counted in Corps participation or create a Giving Day Challenge, please contact us and we will follow up with you directly.

WAYS TO GIVE

The Corps' advancement team would love to connect with you to discuss how you would like to help play a role in the Corps' continued success. Please contact Scott Lyman (540-231-2805, rlyman@vt.edu) or Angela Hayes (540-231-7676, anhayes1@vt.edu) for more information.

Special Naming Opportunities

A few naming opportunities starting at \$25,000 remain available in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Secure your legacy naming for years to come. We also have available naming opportunities in each of the residence halls along with a few other special opportunities on Upper Quad.

Endowments provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding for things such as cadet scholarships. Endowed gifts are invested and each year a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000 and the benefits will last in perpetuity.

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be in the form of a one-time gift or set up on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet in the fall or spring. Through these contributions, you can be counted for Giving Day 2024 and work toward the \$2,500 cumulative threshold needed to earn a Brick Plaque. The deadline to earn a Brick Plaque is March 10, 2025. In addition, your gift commitment of \$10,000 a year for five years will create your named current-use scholarship during those five years.

Non-Cash

There are many other ways to support the Corps. You can donate securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. You can also donate real estate, including both present and future interests, or certain gifts-in-kind of tangible, personal property.

In Memory / In Honor

Scholarships, endowed positions, Corps facilities, or programs can be named in memory of a special individual. Gifts may also be made to honor a loved one or someone who inspires you. Contact our team to learn more!

Employer Matching Gifts

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Donors who wish to support the Corps often can provide more substantial support with the assistance of a matching gift company. Before making your gift, please check givingto.vt.edu/match to see if your company provides matching contribution.

Gift Planning Options

There also are many additional options for leaving a powerful, smart legacy through planned gifts to the Corps. Are you interested in a fixed income that could include the avoidance

of capital gains taxes? Are you looking for a way to use the best asset choices for gifts to family and the Corps? We encourage you to reach out to find what fits best. There are several options, such as designating the Corps of Cadets as the beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. You may also use a charitable IRA rollover to make a gift that can count toward your required minimum distribution without it being taxed as income. Utilizing a gift model that can provide an income such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, or a charitable lead trust may fit your donation desires. Another option is creating a Donor Advised Fund to maximize tax benefits now and recommend charitable gifts for many years to come. If you are interested in pursuing one of these charitable options, we can connect you with a member of our Gift Planning team for next steps. We value your continuing support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets!

SUSTAIN OUR MISSION
GIVE ONLINE AT
GIVINGTO.VT.EDU/CORPS



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN THE CORPS



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

Here's how it works: Donate at least \$2,500 to any Corps of Cadets non-endowed fund, such as the Commandant's Priorities Annual Fund, between March 10, 2020, and March 10, 2025. That's just \$500 a year. Once you reach the \$2,500 total giving threshold, we will send you a sample inscription to approve. The inscription will include your full name, class year, and Corps company on three separate lines. You can choose our typeface or your own handwriting. (Because of space limitations on the plaque, we will be unable to add titles, honorifics, military rank, or nicknames.) Each brick plaque must be tied to a single giving record, and we must limit one plaque to each record. The \$2,500 threshold can only be counted once to an individual giving record. If you are giving to honor a friend or loved one in addition to your own brick plaque, please be sure that \$2,500 donation is tied to that person or another family member's giving record. We are unable to count company matches toward any \$2,500 giving threshold. The brick plaques are featured in a special place in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Give now to ensure your name is in place for the dedication ceremony.

The process of acquiring information and printing Brick Plaques can take months to complete. The deadline to have your brick completed in time for the fall Corps events each year is May 1 to reach \$2,500 threshold and Brick Plaque name and details received by June 15. The deadline for spring is Nov. 1 to reach \$2,500 threshold with your Brick Plaque name and details received by Dec. 15. Please note we will reach out to you after the cutoff dates listed above once you have reached the \$2,500 and are ready for your Brick Plaque details.

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

IN MEMORY



FREDERICK ROBERTSON JARRATT '49

1925 - 2023

Frederick Robertson Jarratt died on Aug. 12. He enrolled in 1943 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His college years were interrupted when he was drafted into the Navy and served on the USS Cabot. He returned to VPI after WWII to graduate with a degree in electrical engineering in 1949. The skills Fred learned in the Navy and at Virginia Tech led to his career as an electrical engineer. Fred was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Page Scarborough Jarratt, and his oldest son. Fred is survived by two children, a daughter-in-law, four grandsons, three granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren.



GUY WARREN BUFORD '52

1930 - 2023

Guy Warren Buford died Sept. 8. Guy grew up in Roanoke and graduated with a degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech in 1952. He married Margaret Smith in 1961 and they had three children. A civil engineer in Roanoke, he also farmed and volunteered with the Boy Scouts, Virginia Master Naturalists' Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter, Franklin County School Board, Boones Mill Lion's Club, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Guy is survived by one son, one daughter, grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces. Guy is preceded in death by wife Margaret; son Guy Scott, two sisters, and a brother.



RICHARD EARL HARMAN SR. '52

1929 - 2023

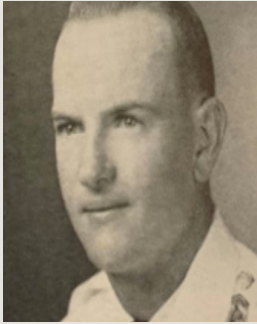
Richard "Rick" Harman Sr. died Oct. 19. Rick played trombone in the Highty-Tighties, and after graduation joined the U.S. Army. He then served as a lieutenant colonel in the reserves and founded Harman Ceiling and Partition Company. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Peggy, of 65 years and his son, Mark; his daughter-in-law, Cathy; his sister, Betty; and his brother-in-law, Ed Dickerson. Rick is survived by two sons and two daughters, 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and many special friends.



BENJAMIN LOUIS ABRAMOWITZ '55

1934 - 2023

Benjamin Abramowitz was born in 1934. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and graduated in 1955. A colonel in the U.S. Army, he served as an aviator and infantryman with two tours in Vietnam. Ben later taught business ethics at the University of Central Florida for 20 years. He volunteered as guardian ad litem for foster kids and served as a past president for Temple Israel. Ben is survived by his wife of 65 years, Irene Miller, of Manhattan, Kansas, and many family members. He was always proud of his three sons and 14 grandchildren.



ALEXANDER TERRELL BASKERVILLE. '56

1934 – 2023

Alexander Terrell Baskerville died May 14. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute as a cadet in 1952 and graduated in 1956 with a degree in agricultural engineering. From 1965 to 1995, Terrell served as county administrator of Dinwiddie, Botetourt, Orange, and Fluvanna counties. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Channing Field Baskerville Jr. and is survived by his loving wife, Elaine, two sisters, two daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



LEO PATRICK BURKE JR. '56

1934 – 2023

Leo Patrick Burke Jr. died Oct. 13. He earned his business degree from Virginia Tech in 1956 where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He was listed in the 1956 yearbook as one of the “Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges.” Leo was a part of the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame, Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, and the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Julia Anne Burke, three sons, a daughter, five grandsons, and three granddaughters.



JOHN BELVILLE WHITMORE JR. '56

1934 – 2023

John B. Whitmore Jr. died June 7. While a cadet at Virginia Tech, John served on the Color Guard. He graduated with a degree in business administration and commissioned into the U.S. Navy. After completing active duty, John served in the Naval Reserve for 29 years and attained the rank of captain. He also worked for the Department of Labor as an investigator. John is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Theresia Helmlinger Whitmore, and three children, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



STUART TEMPLE JONES '57

1934 – 2023

Stuart Temple Jones died Aug. 27. A Richmond native, Stuart was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. He met his bride, Mary Virginia Kelly Jones, at Virginia Tech and the two were inseparable until her passing. Stuart served proudly in the U.S. Army, after which he began a long and successful career as an engineer for Union Camp Paper. He is survived by his two children, two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and many nieces and nephews.



WILLIAM DEAN KILGORE '57

1935 – 2023

William Kilgore died Sept. 21. Bill earned a degree in mining engineering at Virginia Tech and began a successful mining career with Kanawha Eagle Coal and Mossy Eagle Coal. In 1972, Bill was named an honorary Kentucky Colonel in recognition of his efforts toward the betterment of elementary education in the Phelps, Kentucky area. In 2007, he was inducted into the Virginia Tech Academy of Engineering Excellence. He is survived by his three sisters, his loving wife, Christa Sutherland Kilgore, two children, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, four stepsons, six step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



J.E. CAUSEY DAVIS '58

1936 – 2023

J. E. Causey Davis died Oct. 11. He was a member of the Highty-Tighties and received a degree in business administration. He served nine years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and was a member of the banking industry, serving as president of several banks before retiring in 2005. He is survived by Beverley Harris Davis, his wife of 62 years; a sister, a sister-in-law, three daughters, and four grandchildren.



JOHN LEE CAHOON '59

1937 – 2023

John Lee Cahoon died Oct. 11. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1959, and was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, becoming a fixed-wing aviator. He later pursued a career in civil engineering. John was an active supporter of the Corps of Cadets and established the first Corps Alumni Marketing and Recruiting Task Force on the Corps Alumni Board. He was preceded in death by wife, Sue Ellen, and brother, Hollis B. Cahoon. He is survived by a brother, daughter, son, grandson, and great grandson.



MICHAEL JOSEPH MUGLER SR. '59

1936 – 2023

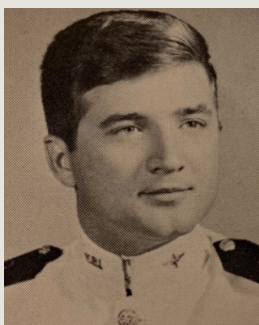
Michael Joseph Mugler Sr. died Aug. 12. Mike graduated from VPI and commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. Later, he worked at NACA (now NASA), Continental Army Command, and the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command. He volunteered at the Virginia Air & Space Museum and served as president of the York River Exchange Club. Mike was predeceased by his daughter Molly Williams and his sisters Ann Marie Wilt and Joan Conlin. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, one brother, three sons, two stepsons, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.



RICHARD L. SMITH '65

1942 – 2023

Richard L. Smith died on July 13. He received a degree in mathematics at Virginia Tech and entered the U.S. Army. He served for 28 years including two tours in Vietnam as an artillery forward observer and attack helicopter pilot. After retiring from the military, he entered civil service with the Army. In 1969, he met Ginger Smith in Dallas, Texas. They married in 1970 and went on to have one child. Richard is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ginger, his brother, son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters.



WILLIAM A. MCCLINTIC '66

1944 – 2023

William A. "Bill" McClintic died Sept. 22. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemistry. Upon graduation, he worked at Hercules Corporation in Covington, Virginia and then Brunswick Defense. His final employment was with ITT Night Vision in Roanoke. His work in the defense industry involved traveling to many countries around the world. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Janice. He is also survived by his brother, two sons, grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



JOHN ROBERT STALLINGS JR. '67

1945 – 2023

John Robert Stallings Jr. died Aug. 20. Johnny graduated from Virginia Tech in 1967 with a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He retired from Newport News Shipbuilding after 40 years of service and was a member of the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department where he had served in many positions. He loved the outdoors, hunting, and working on his John Deere tractors. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sherri Lyn Stallings Woodyard. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Brenda Lynn Gwaltney Stallings; daughter, son-in-law, four grandchildren, brother, and many nieces and nephews.



BRYAN K. PATRICK '90

1968 – 2023

Bryan K. Patrick died on Aug. 18. Bryan was proud of his time in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets during which time he graduated from Army Airborne school. He had a full career as a manager in retail, leading teams at multiple large stores. He is survived by his wife Tracey, two sisters, and his brother. He enjoyed camping with Tracey and her extended family, riding motorcycles, visiting Tracey's daughter's farm, and spending time with her grandkids whom he adored.

LEST WE FORGET

David M. Bland '44, Plano, Texas, 7/16/2023
James F. Dinwiddie '45, Moneta, Virginia, 6/19/2023
Henry R. Forkner '45, Reedville, Virginia, 8/18/2023
Edwin H. Powell '45, Williamsburg, Virginia, 8/20/2023
Frederick R. Jarratt '46, McLean, Virginia, 8/12/2023
William C. Strauss '46, Keymar, Maryland, 9/13/2023
Terry F. Tanner '47, St. Petersburg, Florida, 6/29/2023
Laurie V. Atkinson '48, Huntsville, Alabama, 8/11/2023
Clarence R. Jones '50, Henrico, Virginia, 6/27/2023
Samuel C. Redd '50, Bloomington, Illinois, 9/23/2023
Ira N. Schwarz '50, Denver, Colorado, 9/22/2023
Beverly M. Anderson '51, Ashland, Kentucky, 9/19/2023
Albert J. Engelberg '51, Springfield, Missouri, 8/17/2023
Terry A. Hurlbut '51, Plano, Texas, 8/18/2023
William P. Varson '51, Pound, Virginia, 6/3/2023
Guy W. Buford '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 9/8/2023
James C. Eggleston '52, Wilmington, North Carolina, 7/26/2023
Thomas M. Grizzard '52, Richmond, Virginia, 7/4/2023
Wilfred C. Williams '52, Warfield, Virginia, 8/22/2023
James A. Zollman '52, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 7/4/2023
Robert L. Hartman '53, Roanoke, Virginia, 7/19/2023
Howard R. Beck '54, Deerfield, Virginia, 9/30/2023
Roger M. Brewster '54, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 7/20/2023
T. Roger Chartters '54, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 8/13/2023
P. Decatur Gwaltney '54, Manns Harbor, North Carolina, 8/24/2023
Benjamin L. Abramowitz '55, Melbourne, Florida, 10/1/2023
William D. Ditman '56, Keller, Texas, 8/13/2023
Charles E. Gray '56, Delton, Michigan, 9/5/2023
John B. Whitmore '56, Roanoke, Virginia, 6/7/2023
Carl W. Balance '57, Parksley, Virginia, 9/24/2023
Charles W. Cox '57, Columbia, South Carolina, 8/15/2023
Hugh C. Hilliard '57, Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, 7/23/2023
Stuart T. Jones '57, Franklin, Virginia, 8/27/2023
William D. Kilgore Jr. '57, Abingdon, Virginia, 9/21/2023
Neubert C. Phillips '57, Buckhannon, West Virginia, 7/5/2023
Roy E. Philpotts '57, Marietta, Georgia, 6/13/2023
Bronson E. Stoneman '57, Richmond, Virginia, 7/8/2023
Samuel M. Williams '57, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 7/22/2023
J.E. Causey Davis '58, Richmond, Virginia, 10/11/2023
Francis W. Gencorelli '58, Merrick, New York, 6/27/2023
Ryland J. Hall '58, Danville, Virginia, 10/2/2023
Dabney E. Short '58, Chester, Virginia, 7/7/2023
Allan L. Butler '59, North Chesterfield, Virginia, 8/31/2023
John L. Cahoon '59, Roanoke, Virginia, 10/11/2023
Walter L. Gallion '59, Forest, Virginia, 5/29/2023
Michael J. Mugler '59, Yorktown, Virginia, 8/12/2023
David T. Shereda '59, Seattle, Washington, 7/27/2023
Frederick J. Turner '59, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 8/28/2023
Jon H. Betts '60, Powhatan, Virginia, 7/28/2023
Charles L. Dunn '60, Glen Allen, Virginia, 9/26/2023
Roy P. Green '60, Alberta, Virginia, 8/26/2023
Henry C. Page '60, Valrico, Florida, 5/25/2023
Ralph E. Snyder '60, Mebane, North Carolina, 7/4/2023
William W. Stover '60, Simpsonville, South Carolina, 6/2/2023
Douglas L. Testerman '60, Harrington, Delaware, 10/3/2023
Brian B. Zittrain '60, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 6/22/2023
Larry G. Conner '61, Roanoke, Virginia, 9/26/2023
John H. Costenbader '61, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 9/4/2023
Patrick A. Robinson '61, Carmel, Indiana, 9/28/2023
Joseph C. Bryant '62, Dillwyn, Virginia, 8/20/2023
Edgar L. Capps '62, Newport News, Virginia, 7/30/2023
Charles O. Farris '62, Southern Pines, North Carolina, 9/4/2023
Robert L. Gillenwater '62, Summerville, South Carolina, 7/31/2023
John R. Hebel '62, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, 6/1/2023
Ronald E. Hilton '62, Jacksonville, Florida, 9/16/2023
James M. Gray '63, Dunn, North Carolina, 7/6/2023
Douglas O. Hubbell '63, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 9/26/2023
Johnny M. Logan '63, Gray, Tennessee, 7/2/2023
Leonard L. Manning '63, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 8/7/2023
Russell H. Smith '63, Plymouth, Minnesota, 8/21/2023
Landon C. Campbell '64, Merritt, North Carolina, 9/8/2023
Morris T. Hudson '64, Saint Augustine, Florida, 7/5/2023

Justian A. Kelly '64, Long Valley, New Jersey, 9/2/2023
William E. Klotz '64, Cary, North Carolina, 7/14/2023
Thomas P. Pettigrew '64, San Antonio, Texas, 9/13/2023
Richard L. Smith '65, Austin, Texas, 7/13/2023
John A. Tice '65, Raleigh, North Carolina, 5/31/2023
Norman R. Cox '66, Carrollton, Texas, 8/1/2023
William A. McClintic '66, Salem, Virginia, 9/22/2023
Kenneth A. Skrivseth '66, Laurel, Maryland, 8/10/2023
David A. DuFresne '67, Bethany Beach, Delaware,
7/12/2023
John R. Stallings '67, Smithfield, Virginia, 8/20/2023
Elonza T. Turner '67, Wirtz, Virginia, 5/30/2023
Larry A. Hollada '68, Selbyville, Delaware, 9/6/2023
John A. Roberts '68, North Chesterfield, Virginia, 6/6/2023
Paul W. McClanahan '69, Stephens City, Virginia,
7/24/2023
Harry D. Immel '70, Clarksville, Virginia, 6/6/2023
Bruce E. Mayer '71, Vinton, Virginia, 8/13/2023
James N. Taylor '81, Londonderry, New Hampshire,
7/29/2023
Bryan K. Patrick '90, Salisbury, Maryland, 8/18/2023
Julie A. Romutis '22, Leesburg, Virginia, 10/16/2023



Alpha Company sophomores showed their teamwork and motivation early in the semester. Their excitement after shuffling into Alpha was evident!



Teaching new cadets about the sacrifice memorialized at the Pylons is a crucial step in their training as they are learning how to succeed at this storied institution. Alpha cadre shared the eight Medal of Honor citations of Virginia Tech alumni with A-27 early in the semester to bring home the true meaning of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve).



COMPANY UPDATE: ALPHA

Last year was a great year for Alpha Company, capped off by winning the coveted “gold cord” of the Beverly S. Parish Jr. Award. We hit the ground running this semester, striving to outperform all companies again this year. We are working diligently to train our first-year cadets and welcome the new sophomores into the company while also supporting Blacksburg with several service projects.

Our legacy is strong; Alpha cadets have obtained many senior leadership positions this fall, such as regimental commander, 1st Battalion commander, 1st Battalion S1-S4, and Regimental Handler, to name a few. We remain true to the motto of “SKA”

We would love to hear from Alpha alumni. Follow us on Instagram @vtcc_alphaco

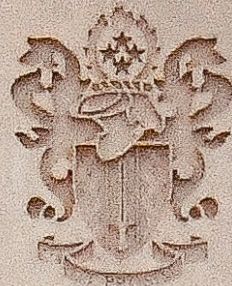


Successful Alpha cadets are everywhere. Taken during the Old Dominion game, this photo features the regimental commander and various organizations that Alpha cadets represent, such as Skipper Crew, Color Guard, and Gregory Guard.



Alpha cadre and TC 1-1 worked hard to prepare for the New Cadet Parade. We are excited to watch them develop even more this year.

VIRGINIA TECH



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