

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 34 NO. 1 SPRING 2024





Cadets embrace upon completion of the second half of Caldwell March on April 13. Caldwell March ends with a turning ceremony and marks the completion of first-year cadet training. Photo by Katie Mallory for Virginia Tech.



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RUN THROUGH THE TAPE

Some thirteen years ago, when my wife, Kathy, and I arrived at Virginia Tech, we could not have imagined all the friends we would make, the wonderful people we would encounter, and the leaders this amazing team has produced for our nation and the world.

That "team" extends to family, friends, colleagues, and certainly alumni of the Corps who have contributed in different ways and means, large and small, to the reimagining of Upper Quad, making the Corps experience accessible with scholarships, and underwriting programs that make this senior military college a standout among its peers.

Simply returning to campus, encouraging cadets, and standing as examples has had an enormous impact.

On my desk, I have a photograph of a barn raising. It shows the framework of the building and a multitude of people crawling all over it, with help from people on the ground. They seem to range in age from young children to older adults. The title of the picture is "Collective Effort."

It is the accomplishment of that collective effort of so many years that we all see today.

Thus, in my last letter to all of you, I want to take this space to say thank you. Thank you, on behalf of the cadets, past and present, who you have helped create. Thank you for creating the home of the Corps for the next 150 years. Thank you for all the support you have given to Kathy and me as stewards of your legacy. Thank you to the university and its leaders for their support. Thank you to all those who embraced our vision for the Corps and turned it into a reality. And most importantly, thank you to the wonderful staff of this Corps and its ROTC partners who gave so selflessly of their time, talents, and dedication to the cause.

In a category all her own, I want to publicly thank my wife, Kathy. We got engaged when we were seniors in high school. I cannot imagine a more kind, giving, and supportive partner to have shared this life with. From families to staff and cadets, she has been there, day in and day out, in a myriad of ways, to see to their well-being.

As we look forward now, I know that I can count on that same support and goodwill accruing to the university's selection of a new commandant. I am confident they will select someone who shares a passion for developing leaders in partnership with a wonderful staff, and an enthusiastic friend and alumni base.

Kathy and I will always cherish this time with all of you and will be watching from afar as the Corps continues to grow and produce global, ethical leaders now, more than ever.

Until then, as I pledged to the cadets and the team, I will be running through the tape until the very end. These are the same words I give to the cadets, for everything they do in life.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RDF'.

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

UPPER QUAD NOTES

LANDSCAPING FRAMES UPPER QUAD HALL NORTH AND THE CORPS LEADERSHIP AND MILITARY SCIENCE BUILDING

The final touch for the completion of the new Corps buildings on Upper Quad was the addition of landscaping, which began in November with the planting of several trees. Later over winter break, bushes and mulch were added to complete the new look. Now that flowers are blooming, the former construction zone once again feels like a manicured park and serves as a beautiful space for cadets, alumni, and staff.



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

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Front cover: Change of Command Pass in Review in April. Photo by Katie Mallory '03.

Inside back cover: : Regimental commander gets iced during lunch on Caldwell March. Photo by Cadet Maddie Djuric '25.

Back cover: Color Guard prepares for morning colors during Maj. Gen. Fullhart's last Friday formation. Photo by Katie Mallory '03.

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ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

So...I was going to rinse and repeat what I had submitted in the Fall 2023 edition because it all still applies. But I have very few opportunities to officially communicate with the over 11,000 alums and friends of the Corps that receive this publication, so I need to not waste the opportunity.

My focus for this article is to get after the “why” of maintaining your connection to Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets. Maintaining your connection can come in a variety of ways. You can participate in events both on campus and at the various geographic chapters or virtually. You can stay informed and connected through social media platforms. You can volunteer to serve on Virginia Tech boards or agree to represent Virginia Tech at recruiting events. The manner in which a person maintains their connection can come in all different ways that are dependent on what feels comfortable.

Let’s explore the connection that can be gained through participating in an event on campus, specifically Corps Reunion. Why battle I-81, fight for a hotel room, pay a hefty sum for that hotel room, figure out campus parking, and spend your hard-earned money to participate in an event that only lasts a day or two?

Alumni come back because their time in the Corps was pivotal in their transition from young adult to adult. They come back because they want the opportunity to reminisce with others they knew from back then. No one really cares about the extra pounds they have put on or the amount of hair that they no longer have. They are more excited about getting to be together as a community. They also are excited about interacting with the current cadets and reliving their youth through them.

I am not a professional writer and I have not likely convinced you to hop in the car and head to Blacksburg for our reunion which will be Sept. 20-22. But don’t take my word for it. Ask someone that you know that has been to Corps Reunion in the past. Ask them if they experienced the magic. We work for about a year to plan Corps Reunion to ensure that the event creates that magic for you regardless of your age, class year, profession, or family status. Our planning alleviates many of your concerns about campus logistics and creates programs to appeal to all generations (including the future Hokies that you may have in your household).

The opportunity to come back to campus and be together as a VTCC alumni community is a powerful experience. Many have come to a reunion and communicated their regret that they hadn’t returned sooner. For those that have been to a reunion, please share your reunion experience with your classmates and encourage them to come back. For those that have not yet come to a reunion, take a chance. We are ready to welcome you home!

It remains my commitment to you to ensure that your Hokie experience did not end at graduation, and to provide quality programs and events that allow you to continue to enjoy the camaraderie, school spirit, and connections that we all deserve and have earned through our common experience as cadets.

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 did you know that 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? Our goal is to continue pushing out as much information as possible so that you can continue to live your lifelong Hokie experience.

If you are not receiving the monthly email, it is likely because we do not have an accurate email address for you. Please send your preferred email address to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Alumni of the Corps award are due by Dec. 1, 2024. Those recommended for this award should serve as inspiring examples for our alumni and cadets and embody the values found on our eight pylons. Nominees must have been enrolled in the Corps of Cadets for at least two years (four semesters or eight quarters). Complete instructions and forms can be found online at vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni. Questions should be directed to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

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



YOU ARE OUR BEST RECRUITERS

As we continue our upward trend in the size of our Corps, it remains critical that our alums continue to encourage young people that they know to consider applying to Virginia Tech and becoming members of the Corps of Cadets. Unfortunately, we are still the best kept secret in the Commonwealth. With your help, we can break that secret and provide a young person with a life-changing opportunity that they would have otherwise not even known existed.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

Led by the efforts of our VTCC Alumni Board Career Development Task Force, we are looking for ways in which your connection to VTCC Alumni can assist you as you transition and progress in your careers. One of the foundational resources where we will advertise opportunities for career development and job opportunities is on our LinkedIn site. Please consider joining LinkedIn and following our page “Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni”: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/104064/>

GIVING DAY

This past February, within 24 hours, the Corps of Cadets had 740 unique donors that came together and raised \$585,807 to support the Corps of Cadets. This is a 7% increase from last year in the number of donors and a 188% increase in the amount of funds. Thank you to all that participated – we could not offer the alumni programs and the programs that support the cadet experience without your philanthropy! Let’s make Giving Day 2025 even better!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 16: New Cadet Move-In Day
Aug. 24: New Cadet Pass in Review
Sept. 19: Leaders in Contact Panel
Sept. 20-22: Corps Reunion
Oct. 25-26: University Homecoming and HT Reunion
Feb. 13: Leaders in Contact Panel
TBD Feb.: Giving Day 2025
April 10: Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony

HOKIE HEROES

At each football game, we highlight one of our deployed alums as part of the radio broadcast and do a Virginia Tech news article. We don’t have tracking devices on our alums. If you or someone you know will be deployed overseas during the fall, please make sure you take some Virginia Tech swag with you on deployment and send us a picture. We will then follow up with some questions regarding your deployment so that we can create a story. Help us celebrate you and your service to our country!



CORPS REUNION, SEPT. 20-22, 2024

Save the date! Join us to celebrate being an alumnus of the Corps. We hope you can come see us! Visit here to learn more: <https://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/corps-reunion.html> or register by using the QR code or visiting <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/CorpsReunion2024>





<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/u-s-navy-s-sm-3-missile-interceptor-proves-its-mettle-in-real-world-combat-scenario/ar-AA1o2qQL>

HOKIES AT THE TIP OF THE SPEAR

By Cmdr. Nate Brown '98, Alumni Director

It is a common phrase on Upper Quad: “Cadets need to be ready upon graduation.” Recent world events have highlighted this reality once again.

There have been several instances in our collective history where we have witnessed the pressing need for young leaders, but these examples have lost their relevance to our current generation. How did cadets feel on Dec. 8, 1941, the day following the attack on Pearl Harbor? How did they feel in November of 1955 when President Eisenhower deployed the Military

Assistance Advisory Group to train the Army of the Republic of Vietnam? Or in the subsequent years through the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations when troop presence in Vietnam peaked at over 540,000 and our last combat troops were withdrawn in 1973? How did cadets feel on Sept. 12, 2001 following attacks on our home soil the day prior?

For some of us, we remember vividly what we were doing and how we felt. Our current cadets, however, were not yet born to experience these cataclysmic

events that would propel the United States into war, and instead grew up in the aftermath with the Global War on Terror as their “normal.”

The violence in Ukraine, the continued tension with China, and the conflict between Israel and Hamas that has enticed unrest on land and sea in the Middle East and here at home, have made it evident once again that our graduates are ready.

Our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni, some of whom just graduated last May, are in the areas of the world



(Left and above) Ensign Caleigh Mason on USS Carney. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Public Affairs.



(Right) Ensign Marissa Bell on USS Arleigh Burke. Photo courtesy of Marissa Bell.

that we all see nightly on the evening news. Our alumni office has not had a tracking device on every graduate through the years, so the information below is just a small sample of some of our own who have recently been in harm's way.

Responding to events that transpired in the eastern Mediterranean Sea last fall, Hokies assigned to multiple ships and commands have answered the call. On USS Normandy: Lt. Kyle Luchau (Class of 2018), Lt.jg. Roger Jerome Maisog (Class of 2021), and Lt.jg. Robert McGroarty (Class of 2020). With the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group: Capt. Jim Von St. Paul (Class of 1998) and Capt. Dave Dartez (Class of 2000). On USS Arleigh Burke, Ensign Marissa Bell (Class of 2023).

In the Red Sea responding to multiple drones and ballistic missiles aimed at heightening the instability and unrest in the Middle East, Ensign Caleigh Mason (Class of 2022) is serving on USS Carney and Lt. j.g. Austin Tirona (Class of 2021) is serving on USS Laboon.

In the South China Sea, Lt. Nikki Slaughter's (Class of 2016) interaction with Chinese fighter jet was featured by CNN. In the East China Sea, Cmdr. Kevin Taylor (Class of 2005) is serving as the executive officer of the USS Robert Smalls and Ensign Alexandra Scarfe (Class of 2022) is serving onboard the USS America.

In Japan, Capt. Elizabeth Archer (Class of 2019) and Capt. Amanda Jacobson (Class of 2018) are serving as F-15E Strike Eagle weapon systems officers.

2nd Lt. Grace Kim (Class of 2022) was recently a scout platoon leader with the 1st Armored Division in support of Operation

European Assure, Deterrence, and Reinforce in Poland.

1st Lt. Eryn Wolfe (Class of 2020) and 1st Lt. Zachary Young (Class of 2021) are deployed to Germany in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Both in the 3rd Infantry Division, Wolfe is serving as a UH-60M pilot and executive officer for a maintenance company and Young is a CH-47F pilot and platoon leader.

In the Middle East, Maj. Kyle Hooper (Class of 2013) is the director for operations with the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Kuwait. At Isa Air Base in Bahrain, Cmdr. Keith Frost (Class of 2005) is the Operations Officer and Lt. Naveen Gupta (Class of 2016) is in air operations support. In Iraq, Capt. Alexander Kase (Class of 2016) is deployed with the 10th Mountain Division.

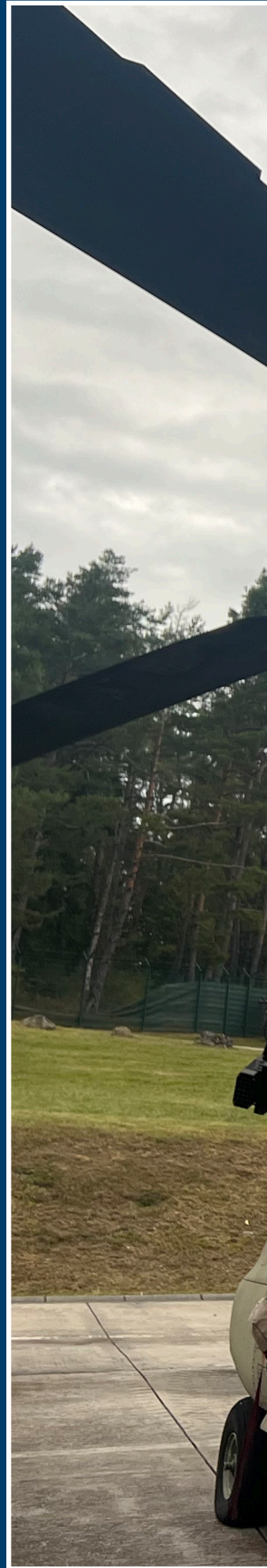
This is only a small sample of our alumni currently serving around the world. If we broadened the example to include not only those serving abroad, but also at home, it would continue to showcase how our graduates are at the frontline of ensuring the security, stability, and freedoms that we all hold dear as citizens.

Sending the Class of 2024 out into the world while preparing to welcome the Class of 2028 in August reminds me of the importance of the work we do here in Blacksburg, and how appreciative we are of our alumni, families, and friends that support this program so much. The development of the future leaders that our commonwealth and nation so desperately need is a calling that we can all be proud of.

If you see it on the news, there is a high probability that a Corps alum is there and living out our university motto, *Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)*.



<https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/24/asia/us-navy-south-china-sea-flyover-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>



DO YOU KNOW AN ALUM THAT WILL BE DEPLOYED THIS FALL?

LET US KNOW SO WE CAN SHARE THEIR STORY AS A HOKIE HERO. NOMINATE A HOKIE HERO AT VTCCALUMNI@VT.EDU





HE WILL BE MISSED

After 13 years serving as the commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart will retire this July. The longest serving commandant in Corps history, Fullhart created an environment of growth and excellence during his tenure, seeing the completion of three new residence halls for cadets and a new headquarters building, the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, for the corps and ROTC units.

But his impact was seen in more than just buildings. He redefined the path for cadets seeking non-military careers after graduation with the Citizen-Leader Track and planted the seed for the credited study-abroad program, Global Scholars, allowing cadets to study leadership decisions on site from the world wars. He created a culture where cadet organizations and identity groups would blossom, such as the Black Cadet



Maj. Gen. Fullhart always made it a point to invite university friends to participate in regimental events. Here, he stands with President Tim Sands and Dr. Laura Sands following the New Cadet Week formation run.

Organization, Cyber Team, and Growley Team to name only a few.

“While we physically see the new state-of-the-art facilities on Upper Quad, thanks in very large measure to our Commandant, the real legacy he leaves is on the thousands of cadets

who’ve passed through those portals over the years, that took the road less traveled, a non-traditional, military-style college experience, to be part of a brother and sisterhood larger than themselves. At the end of the day, it’s all about our cadets, their ability to thrive and succeed, and Maj. Gen. Fullhart worked tirelessly, selflessly, for them. Everything was in lock step with the vision he created for us, “Global Ethical Leaders..Now More than Ever,” said Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant for 2nd Battalion.

Fullhart also worked to foster campus partnerships by including cross-campus entities in cadet training such as Hokie Wellness, Residential Well Being, and Cook Counseling. Another impressive achievement of his is increased enrollment in the Corps, which grew 23 percent in his 13 years. To support the increased number of cadets, he also more



Maj. Gen. Fullhart holds a flag presented to him by cadets at his last Friday morning formation. Photo by Cadet Maddie Djuric for Virginia Tech.

than doubled faculty and staff positions to support cadets.

Col. Craig Alia, deputy commandant of 1st Battalion said, “While his legacy is the completely renovated Upper Quad, we should never overlook that his most important investment was in the people around him. He fought tirelessly to increase scholarship opportunities for cadets, personally welcomed new members of the university and Corps team, grew the Corps, grew the staff to support the cadets, and invested in our leader development program. Maj. Gen. Fullhart fully embodied *Ut Prosim* and we are all better for having worked with him.”

More than just building a staff, he also showed steady support for that staff, especially during a frenzied growth period with constant construction and even a global pandemic.

“Maj. Gen. Fullhart was tremendous in his support of his staff. We all faced various family challenges during his tenure, and he gave each of us his full support in whatever we needed to work through our challenges, especially during COVID. We never had to question whether we had his full support. He made working for the Corps and

Virginia Tech a good place to be. He will be missed,” said Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger, assistant commandant for recruiting.

For the Corps alumni on staff, the positive changes in the Corps thanks to Maj. Gen. Fullhart cannot be understated.

Col. Bob Shelton '95, deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion shared, “As an alum of the program, I can attest that Maj. Gen. Fullhart has absolutely taken the Corps to new heights. His vision was the cornerstone, and from it he laid the foundation for sustaining



the Corps for the next 150 years. Today, these young leaders benefit from a robust professional staff and state of the art infrastructure and facilities resultant from his vision for the Corps. He’s also brought tremendous depth to the 4-year leader development program and catapulted Virginia Tech as the premier senior military college in the country.”

His legacy reaches beyond Upper Quad, and he has impacted more than cadets and Corps staff. Maj. Gen. Fullhart served as a powerful voice for the Corps in Richmond and across the Virginia Tech community.

“Maj. Gen. Fullhart has dedicated more than a decade of service to Virginia Tech, advancing the mission of the Corps of Cadets as an administrator,

instructor, and respected leader,” said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. “The university greatly appreciates his exceptional service. Under his oversight, the construction of new facilities on the Upper Quad, the growth of the cadet population, and the strong relationship with cadet alumni have been transformative and will serve the university well for the generations to come.”

But for the man himself, it was always about the cadets.

“I feel very gratified thinking about all the cadets whom I’ve shaken hands with as they walk across the stage, their next chapter and their next adventure ahead of them. That’s ultimately why I wanted this type of work, to help equip young men and women who aspire to make a difference in the world.”

-Maj. Gen. Fullhart

Upon his retirement, the commandant and Mrs. Kathy Fullhart will move to Texas to be closer to family. The mark he has left on Virginia Tech and its beloved Corps can surely be a point of pride as he transitions into retirement. Maj. Gen. Fullhart embodied *Ut Prosim* and his service to the Corps has been historic.

He will be missed.

PLATOON TACTICAL

TESTS LEADERSHIP ON
EVERY LEVEL

BY KATIE MALLORY '03, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



No cadet was clean after the grueling, day-long event was over. Photo by Cadet Maddie Djuric for Virginia Tech.

The mud was waist deep. There was shouting, confusion, and smoke. Exhausted cadets set a perimeter around the simulated casualty as the urgent order from the platoon leader to move out was yelled across the wet, marshy field. They had miles to go until they were done.

Platoon Tactical Challenge 2024 was going as planned and Cadet Charley Longerbeam watched as three months of careful coordination played out. The event, organized yearly by cadets, was designed to test critical leadership and decision-making skills during high stress and physically demanding scenarios.

Longerbeam, an architecture major in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design and a member of Naval ROTC, is the regimental operations officer for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and it is her responsibility to plan and execute regimental activities.

“We started planning Platoon Tactical Challenge prior to the first week of classes for the spring semester. The most challenging aspect was presenting our ideas to a larger audience, especially the commandant’s staff. Ensuring that our vision made it through everyone was especially important in the planning phase,” said

Longerbeam.

The exercise spread across campus, sending cadets running from the Drillfield to five different stations miles apart, including the rappel tower and the obstacle course, finally ending back on the Drillfield.

The planning phase did not only focus on the events at each station; it also revolved around safety and logistics at those stations and along the over 4-mile route. Tasks like coordination for water, transportation of supplies and meals for cadets managing the stations, first-aid support, contingency planning and more had to be addressed during planning and the event itself.

The mud, though not scripted, was a bonus.

A main concern during the event: timing. With 14 platoons of 42 cadets each running the route, one small misstep in timing could potentially derail the entire day.

“My biggest concern was the timing factor. Although we planned buffer time and communicated clear instructions to stations and cadet staff, there was always a chance that a pile-up could happen,” said Longerbeam.

No such pile up happened, but emphasizing the intricacies of operational planning is one of the many training goals within the Corps.

CHALLENGE

Ken Mallory, director of the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track, served as the faculty advisor for Platoon Tactical Challenge this year.

"It's essential that events like Platoon Tactical Challenge and other training evolutions be planned and executed by cadets. They get hands-on experience

developing a plan from conception to completion, working to account for uncertainties, and learning how to overcome any challenges that happen that day," said Mallory.

The stations were also handcrafted by distinct groups of cadets, and the details were not released to participants before

platoons arrived.

At the rappel tower, cadets from Rappel Committee, many of whom earned their rescue rappel and rappel master certifications through Corps trips over Thanksgiving and winter break, supervised platoon members as they climbed a vertical 20-foot tower using



Teamwork was an important aspect of all stations, but especially during the combat casualty evacuation station, where mud proved to be a worthy obstacle. Photo by Cadet Carrie Stinchcomb for Virginia Tech.



Top: Cadets brief the commandant on Platoon Tac planning. Photo by Katie Mallory for Virginia Tech.

Middle: Ascending the 20-foot tower. Photo by Cadet Dylan Bowling for Virginia Tech.

Bottom: Cadet Ezra Silverburg looks down from the Tough One obstacle. Photo by Katie Mallory for Virginia Tech.

a prusik knot and then rappelled down a 40-foot tower.

The second station was run by the Virginia Tech Army ROTC cadet organization, Ranger Company. There, platoon members faced a memory challenge: they were given thirty seconds to view a 16-square pattern of military patches. The patches were then removed, and the platoon was divided into squads to complete physical activities including carrying weighted stretchers, weighted sled pulls, and a Humvee push, executed as many times as possible in a given period to accrue points.

Once those events were completed, the platoon reassembled and had one minute to correctly place the military patches onto the square pattern to accrue additional points.

From there, cadets moved to the third station: a simulated

combat casualty evacuation run by Marine-Option members of Naval ROTC. Amidst smoke, mud, tall grass, noise, and simulated counterattacks, the platoon, supplied with non-firing rubber M-16s, had to rescue a cadet simulating an injury and move to an evacuation point to complete a request for evacuation using a scripted military format. The station ended with a low crawl under barbed wire and a creek crossing.

The next station, run by the Air Force ROTC organization AFSOPT (Air Force Special Operations Preparation Team), entailed communicating positions of stationary targets while interacting with cadets role-playing as members of the local population. Once the positions were determined, they were shared with others in the platoon who engaged the targets with water balloons, scoring points for their team.

The obstacle course was last, and that station was designed by the cadet-run Obstacle Course Team. Consisting of memorization puzzles and physical challenges, the event was created to test the stamina and mental fortitude of cadets who had already completed miles of exercises. Initial instructions for the station first had to be retrieved from the top of the Tough One obstacle, a 40-foot-high combination of ropes, nets, and elevated beams, and once retrieved, the instructions explained how cadets would need to memorize combinations hidden on obstacles throughout the course to unlock boxes at the end of the course. The more boxes unlocked using the memorized codes in the 20-minute period yielded more points for the platoon.

Though the winning platoon was not announced until the annual awards ceremony for the corps in late April, the success of the day was immediately evident in the exhausted smiles of cadet

participants and planners.

“Now that the event is over, my biggest takeaway was that without the unity created between myself and the station leaders, the day would have never gone as smoothly as it did. Communication and clarity were so important for us as a team. We met several times, and looking back, that is what saved us. I will never forget what the power of a cohesive team can do,” said Longerbeam.

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, the commandant for the Corps of Cadets, has seen his fair share of Platoon Tactical Challenges in his 13 years at Virginia Tech.

“The best part of Platoon Tactical Challenge is that every aspect of the Corps organization, from the regimental commander down to the first-year cadets have to function well for this to be a successful operation. This year’s Platoon Tactical Challenge was the best planned and executed one since I’ve been here. It was clear that the cadets in the platoons had taken the time to prepare and be ready for the unknowns they would face,” said Fullhart.

“Platoon Tac is a dynamic event with many parts, pieces, and participants. Cadet Longerbeam and her team were able to plan and implement an event that involved 1,000 cadets. That’s a monumental undertaking. The real reward for cadets in this entire process is the experience they get leading up to the event, and working together to plan for mission success,” said Mallory.

Top: Cadets relay the position of stationary targets back to the platoon leader during the fourth station. Photo by Cadet Michelle Lamborn for Virginia Tech.

Left: Cadets push a Humvee in a timed event for points. Photo by Katie Mallory for Virginia Tech.

Right: (From back left) Battalion commanders Cadet William Connolly and Shelby Stevens stand with regimental commander Cadet William Sosnowski and Ken Mallory behind Cadet Charley Longerbeam at the end of a successful Platoon Tactical Challenge. Photo by Cadet Maddie Djuric for Virginia Tech.





NEW CORPS STAFF

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continued to add new faces to the staff.

KELLEY CORVIN

Kelley Corvin joined the Corps staff this April as the chief advancement officer for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. In this role, she leads the Corps' advancement team in engaging alumni, family, and friends of the Corps to support cadets with scholarship and experiential learning opportunities while increasing operational funding for the Corps.



Kelley Corvin

A Blacksburg native, Corvin is a proud Hokie who graduated from Virginia Tech in 2012 with a degree in apparel, housing and resource management from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

She returned to Virginia Tech in 2016 to begin her fundraising career as a development associate with Student Affairs and later became the assistant director of leadership gifts for Student

Affairs. In 2022, she became the associate director of major gifts for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Corvin earned a master's degree in executive leadership from Liberty University in 2016. An avid football fan, she enjoys time outdoors and is certified in two disciplines of dance fitness.

TAYLOR CUPP

Taylor Cupp joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets staff this May as the assistant recruiter. Taylor is responsible



Taylor Cupp

for developing and implementing Corps recruitment programs to attract diverse and highly talented cadets to Virginia Tech. She works closely with the ROTC departments, Undergraduate Admissions, members of the cadet regiment, and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Board. Taylor has worked at Virginia Tech for over 14



Carter Griffin

years and was previously employed with Continuing and Professional Education, the School of Architecture, and the College of Engineering. Taylor graduated from Virginia Tech in 2009 and lives in Blacksburg, Virginia with her husband and son.

CORPS INTERN CARTER GRIFFIN '24

Carter Griffin was the alumni advancement associate for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets during the spring semester. He was tasked with coordinating events for the advancement team and assisted the scholarship manager with tasks related to scholarship awarding. A criminology and sociology major, Carter served as the regimental alumni liaison and graduated from the Corps of Cadets in May. He commissioned into the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer and following training, Carter will serve with the 82nd Airborne.



A GUEST BOOK FUELS CURIOSITY

By Samantha Riggins VT'16, Corps Museum Director

Looking over the entries of 414 visitors in the museum's guestbook since the facility's opening, a few caught my eye. In a sea of Virginian visitors, there are guests from afar who opted to spend their valuable time with the museum's collection. I spotted information from a Costa Rican, a Norwegian, and a guest from Japan. This sparked my curiosity about foreigners enrolled at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC) during its infancy.

James Dunsmore, a British Columbian enrolled at VAMC in 1874, seemed intent on mastering engineering skills for his family's coal mining business. He must have done well for the single year he attended here, as the family's mining ventures made them one of the wealthiest in British Columbia. Not satisfied at achieving that goal, Dunsmore ventured into politics, becoming British Columbia's premier from 1900 to 1902.

In 1914, Gaston Chaves, son of a Brazilian coffee magnate, trekked to Baltimore, Maryland in pursuit of fur-

thering his family's business, attempting to persuade the mayor of the potential for tremendous economic rewards for the Chaves family and the residents of Baltimore; all he needed was the mayor's backing to ramp up imports of his family's coffee to Baltimore. His hook was to offer, on behalf of the Brazilian government, a quid pro quo in the form of the expansion of American exports to Brazil, a plan designed to entice investments from American elite with the promise of their garnering more wealth (a strategy that backfired, helping to usher in the Great Depression.)

In another alumni story, I have to wonder if J.B. Carper, Class of 1895, ever considered that his education at VAMC, coupled with his agricultural prowess, would lead him to become the chief engineer for the Central Gold Mining and Exploitation Company in South Africa. An article within a 1929 Nevada newspaper detailed Mr. Carper's novel approach to lessen the task of searching thousands of acres of rough, African terrain for

hidden diamonds. In his quest to develop a method that would yield the most diamonds possible in such a difficult arena, Carper discovered that a large population of South African chickens and gamebirds provided an unlikely cache. I've yet to discover how Carper figured out that the stomach contents of the expired fowl often yielded otherwise elusive gems, pecked from the soil in search of food, a valuable side dish, indeed.

The last alumni I will introduce is William E. Dodd, a native Virginian who was appointed United States Consul to Germany from 1933 to 1937. Between World War I and II, Germany was renamed the Weimar Republic, an authoritarian government fueled by those desperate enough to latch onto Adolf Hitler's maniacal rhetoric that promised to resurrect Germany to its former glory. Dodd, recognizing the potential for another war fostered by pure hate girded by the Nazi Party, tried to warn colleagues and President Roosevelt about the dangerous momentum within Germany. Universally dismissed, Dodd remained insistent with his warnings, eventually resigning his post in frustration. One can only wonder if World War II could have been avoided had our government heeded his warnings.

So much to discover, so much to share from so many fascinating Corps alumni. I'm working on an exhibition that will focus on VTCC alumni movers and shakers. Hold onto your hats; it is going to be an interesting ride!



Virginia Tech Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program cadets pose in front of USCGC Legare (WMEC 912) at Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads USCG Base Portsmouth, in Portsmouth, Virginia. Photo courtesy of Ken Mallory.

SEMPER PARATUS, HOKIES

By Ken Mallory '06, Director, Citizen-Leader Track

It was a long time coming. On a Tuesday morning before morning colors this April, cadets and students in the Virginia Tech Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program (AUP) gathered in formation in front of Lane Hall. In a brief ceremony, the detachment's colors were unfurled for the first time before the Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Fullhart and the director of the Citizen-Leader Track. The unit's activation marked the culmination of the enormous efforts of several cadets.

Cadet Cameron Alemand, Class of 2025, was all smiles as he addressed the unit that he was instrumental in establishing. "I've been planning for this since I was a freshman. I had plans for what I wanted to do even before I was unit leader." A member of the Citizen-Leader Track since his first year, the

U.S. Coast Guard has always been his goal. "In high school, I wanted to join the Navy," Alemand said, "but then I saw a pamphlet about the mission and roles of the Coast Guard. It said they save on average 12 lives a day. I felt like it was the place where I could make the most difference."

When Cadet Alemand came to the Corps, there were others in the Citizen-Leader Track who were interested in the same path, but with no common effort or training to help them pursue their goal. "When I arrived, there wasn't much guidance, there were only six of us, and there were no expectations or direction. I had to figure everything out for myself. The future of the program was always uncertain."

In the three years since Cadet Alemand joined, the detachment has exper-

rienced an explosion in growth. Due to his efforts, and those of Corps alumni who remain active in the local Auxiliary flotilla, support for the detachment has grown tremendously. Ensign Kyle Hector '22 and Charlie Fladhammer '22 were instrumental in sitting down with VPI BN leadership and improving connections to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Cadet Alemand and Cadet Brendan Moriarty combined the resources of both organizations to begin developing opportunities for cadets to earn qualifications needed to advance in the Auxiliary and compete for officer candidate school slots upon graduation.

"This year, we've taken things to the next level. We PT as a unit and we have set training plans that help us earn necessary qualifications," said Moriarty. Also new this year, with financial sup-



AUP cadets had the opportunity to explore a 45-foot multi-mission USCG response boat while on their trip in Portsmouth. Photo courtesy of Ken Mallory.

port from the commandant, twelve cadets traveled to Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, Virginia to network with active-duty Coast Guard members. They listened to personal stories, gained wisdom and advice, and learned more about the importance of the Coast Guard’s missions of maritime safety, security, and stewardship. Cadet Springer, a senior who joined the unit this past year, shared that the support has been tremendously impactful. “As I move on from the Corps, this unit has given me new purpose,” said Springer.

The base visit also offered an opportunity for the unit to purchase much-needed uniform items, boost morale, and further the recognition this new unit has

achieved. The base’s “lucky bag” store provided an opportunity for cadets to purchase gently worn uniform items at steeply discounted prices. “This is critical for us right now as a new unit, and this is an important piece to building a cohesive identity and showing everyone that this is a serious program,” says Alemand. Unlike traditional four-year collegiate ROTC programs, the Coast Guard currently does not offer a similar commissioning pathway and there are few scholarships. Individual students must take the initiative to train and prepare on their own, possibly through the Auxiliary, before applying for officer candidate school. Interested cadets who have earned enough qualifications can apply for unpaid summer internships

with the active-duty Coast Guard to gain more experience and further qualifications.

These barriers make what Cadet Alemand and his team have accomplished even more special. “We are now a unit with direction and guidance, with the very real and achievable goal of graduating and commissioning into the United States Coast Guard,” said Springer.

A fund for the new Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program has been established. To support cadets in this program, visit give.vt.edu/CoastGuard or scan the QR code.



AUP cadets and civilian participants celebrate the formal activation of their unit as a corps of cadets organization. Photo courtesy of Ken Mallory.



On April 24, the Corps participated in International Denim Day in support of victims of sexual assault. The event was paired with a week-long focus during cadet training on breaking myths associated with sexual assault, sharing current statistics on sexual violence, and resources for victims.



The command passed from the Class of 2024 to the Class of 2025 on April 27 from Cadet William Sosnowski to Cadet Carson Manternach.



Left: In March, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia honored Virginia Tech Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith with the first plaque placed in their new Medal of Honor Garden. Cadet Jacob Troupe spoke eloquently about the legacy provided by Monteith's ultimate sacrifice and how that legacy is honored in the training of all cadets.



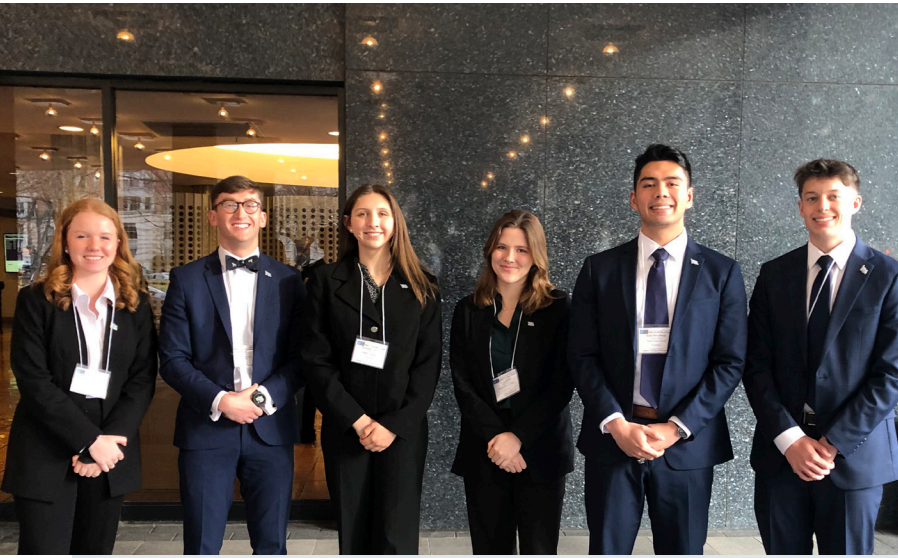
Above: Cadets Ethan Homenik and James Lively played with the U.S. Navy Band during a concert at Moss Arts Center in February. Photo by Cadet Ashley Golden for Virginia Tech.



Above: Cadets Joseph D'Agostino and Ellie Thurneysen were named recipients the Student Affairs Aspire! Awards, which recognize students, faculty, and staff who exemplify Student Affairs' Aspirations for Student Learning. This academic year, six different cadets received Aspire! Awards. Photo courtesy of Student Affairs.



CADETS REPRESENTED THE CORPS AND VIRGINIA TECH AMIDST A BUSY TRAINING SCHEDULE THIS SPRING.



Top: Cadets participated in Model NATO in Washington, D.C. in February. Photo courtesy of Col. Craig Alia.

Middle left: Cadets honored Maj. Gen. Fullhart during his last Friday formation before his retirement in July. He was presented with a flag raised and folded on Upper Quad during morning formation as Pipes and Drums played the U.S. Air Force song.

Middle right: Cadets were enthralled and inspired by CW2 Nick Lavery during the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series by the Rice Center for Leader Development. Lavery is the first special forces operator to return to combat as an amputee.

Below: The 39th Leaders in Contact Panel continued the celebration of women in the Corps by inviting to the stage three very special alumnae: Emily Pillsbury Davis '77, Christy Nolta '85, and Sandy Siegrist '85.



Below: The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was named the Residential Community of the Year by Virginia Tech's Residential Well-being program. This honor is thanks to the hard work of our cadet commanders who serve as residential advisors and the dedicated Residential Well-being employees who support the Corps. Photo courtesy of Student Affairs.



Above: During the first Corps lab of the spring semester, cadets folded a flag in honor of Cadet Alexis Brotherton who passed away over winter break. The flag was given to her family.



Cadets and Defense Civilian Training Corps scholars at the Naval Academy Leadership Conference in January. Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.

A CURRICULUM OF CONFERENCES

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

When the Corps implemented the Leader Development Program last summer, it identified three pillars of leader development – experience, training, and education. The Rice Center for Leader Development supports all three of these pillars alongside the ROTC programs, the commandant's staff, and the cadet training and academics staffs. One way the Rice Center supports experiences is by sponsoring cadet attendance at leadership conferences throughout the academic year.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Rice Center sent 35 cadets to 10 different conferences, ranging from conferences at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia, to Palermo, Italy.

Cadets are selected for these con-

ferences based on personal interest and their performance as cadets. Once selected, cadets meet with the staff member supporting each conference to discuss expectations to include personal and professional goals around each conference's theme. Upon return, each attendee is required to submit a reflection on their participation in the conference to the commandant. Excerpts from some of those reflections are included below.

In October, eight cadets went to VMI for their conference on the topic "Principled Dissent: Navigating Moral Challenges." During the two-day event, cadets participated in small group sessions and scenario-driven activities exploring their moral obligation to speak truth to power. Junior Cadet Abigail Sundberg reflected that, "The lessons and leader-

ship attributes that I gained by partaking in this conference will be actively used in my time as a cadet, but more importantly in my future time as an Army officer. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in this conference and would encourage others to do so as well."

January saw our return to the Naval Academy Leadership Conference in Annapolis, Maryland with nine cadets who were joined by five Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC) scholars (sponsored by DCTC). During the conference, cadets and DCTC scholars interacted with students from the service academies, all six senior military colleges, ROTC and leadership programs across the country, and cadets from over 20 other nations around a theme of "Learning to Lead - The Lifelong Pursuit of

Excellence.” Cadet Alex Arriza, a junior in Army ROTC and participant in the conference said, “Hearing Maj. Ball open up about his difficult experiences as a leader and tie in lessons about character that I have heard during my time at Virginia Tech reinforced the importance to me of being a leader of character who prioritizes honor and ethics.”

Comically, Cadet Arriza also became an instant celebrity among midshipmen and made 4,000 friends during the con-



Cadet Arriza at the moment of becoming a celebrity at the U.S. Naval Academy. Photo courtesy of USNA's social media team.

ference at the annual Forrester Lecture by asking for the new superintendent to grant the midshipmen brigade a free weekend – to which she agreed!

February was an active month with cadets headed to four separate events across the country. At the 64th Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) at Texas A&M University, Cadet Joey Bowers observed that, “It was an excellent opportunity to meet cadets and students from other SMCs and universities, but also to network with facilitators who were subject matter experts on national security and foreign affairs.”

Cadets from the Corps’ honor committee traveled to the annual Citadel

Honor Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. One attendee, Cadet James Scott, said, “During the conference, I enjoyed getting to know and talk to cadets and midshipmen from all over the country with varying views around the discussion of integrity in their schools and in the military.”

Two cadets also flew out to the National Character and Leadership Symposium at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cadet Grace Purvis was in attendance and remarked, “One of the speakers, Col. Bree Fram, spoke about how the obstacles that you face in your life will help you grow, and it is likely that others may have experienced something similar. Always encourage others to have those challenging conversations about culture and seek mentorship.”

A team of cadets formed the delegation from Greece at the Model NATO conference sponsored by Howard University in Washington, D.C. At the conference, the group interacted with teams from other universities and Cadet Kayleigh Castro observed that, “Participating as the Greece delegation on the political committee was an amazing experience between coming up with a plan of action to select NATO’s next secretary general, to discussing threats to NATO’s southern neighborhood. Engaging in strategic discussions and crisis simulations enhanced my understanding of NATO’s role in maintaining global security.”

This year, in addition to the normal slate of conferences, the Corps was invited to send representatives to the 4th International Forum on Peace, Secu-

rity and Prosperity (IFPSP) in Palermo, Italy. Cadets Isaac Lerner and Nicholas Dominique represented not only the Corps but also the United States at this forum attended by over 200 cadets from 87 academies, universities, and training units in over two dozen nations. The companion article by Cadet Lerner on the next page describes this incredible opportunity in more detail.

Leadership conferences are an important element of the Leader Development Program and the Corps’ mission to “graduate leaders of exemplary character who are instilled with the values and skills essential for leadership success in service to the nation.” They provide cadets opportunities to interact with diverse students from across the nation and the world to broaden their perspective and further develop those values and skills essential to success.

Cadets Joey Bowers and Siena Dellicarpini at the Student Conference on National Affairs. Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.





(From left) Cadets Isaac Lerner and Nicholas Dominique pose with the Corps flag outside of the entrance to the IFPSP inside of the Palazzo Sc lafani. Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.

FOUNDATIONS IN PEACE THROUGH NETWORKING

By Cadet Isaac Lerner '24, Fall 2023 Regimental Commander

“Have you heard that your friend is the BNOC?” said a female cadet from the Royal Navy.

“What’s a BNOC?” I replied.

“Big name on campus. Everyone is talking about the Space Force cadet from Virginia Tech!” She was talking about Cadet Nicholas Dominique, and she wasn’t kidding; everyone WAS talking about him.

In March, Cadet Nicholas Dominique, Capt. Jamie McGrath, and I traveled to Palermo, Italy to attend the 4th International Forum for Peace, Security, and Prosperity (IFPSP). This event brought together over 200 in-person attendees from 87 academies, universities, and training units from 38 different

countries around the world. The forum's purpose was to discuss the peace process and instill in young leaders an appreciation for positive peace.

But why was everyone talking about Cadet Dominique? The early portions of the event focused exclusively on networking, which became a theme for the forum. The idea was that hundreds of young people would make connections and develop an appreciation for other countries’ militaries. We, as officer cadets, will inevitably work with one another throughout our careers and will have this forum to fall back on as a foundation for working with foreign military leaders. During these social gatherings, we would typically discuss what branch

of the military we were in, what our job would be, and the basic structure of our program. Through these conversations, word quickly spread that there was a Space Force cadet in attendance. Not only is the United States the only country with an independent force dedicated to space, but Virginia Tech was also the only delegation to bring a Space Force cadet.

Cadets from other countries were eager to learn about Virginia Tech and our unique Corps of Cadets model. Their interest in space and its role as a warfighting domain drew them to Cadet Dominique, which was the perfect lead up to his presentation. Cadet Dominique participated in a panel titled “How

Regional Conflicts and Global Tensions are Shaping the World Order” in which he presented his paper on “The New Age Space Race: Why ‘World’ Peace Is Not Enough.” His presentation was given in English and translated to French and Italian. Out of the many panels we listened to throughout the conference, this panel was highly regarded as the best and most engaging, certainly due in part to Cadet Dominique’s unique and compelling presentation on space and its implications for peace.

While Cadet Dominique’s presentation was a highlight of the trip, we appreciated many other aspects of the Forum. Networking and relationship-building was the most impactful for Cadet Dominique and myself. We spoke to cadets from Hungary, Kosovo, Canada, the UK, Italy, and many more. We also worked with these cadets during a model United Nations simulation executed by Ph.D. students at the University of Palermo. The connections we built led to deep appreciations for each other’s programs and a better understanding of how other countries and their militaries operate.

We also spent time hearing from a



(From left) Cadet Isaac Lerner, Capt. Jamie McGrath, and Cadet Nicholas Dominique standing outside of the Teatro Politeama prior to the culminating event for the IFPSP. Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.

wide range of people on panels. These panels were titled “Women, Peace & Security,” “Resiliency and Leadership in Peace,” “The Evolving World: What is going on at the international level,” “Is the UN still relevant?” and the “Impact of the Current International Situation on NATO and the EU.” We also participated in the Walk for Remembrance & Peace through the streets of Palermo which attracted over 2,000 participants.



Cadet Nicholas Dominique presenting his paper titled “The New Age Space Race: Why ‘World’ Peace Is Not Enough.” Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.



Cadet Lerner talking to officer cadets from other delegations during the Walk for Remembrance and Peace. Photo courtesy of Capt. Jamie McGrath.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Don Sowder '59 recently authored and published a book entitled "If You Think You Can, You Can." The book tells the heart-warming and fascinating story of the author's rise from near poverty as a mountain farm boy to prominent leadership roles at the local, state, and national level. Born and raised in his early years in a home that did not have electricity or indoor plumbing, he rose to participate in much of what this country has to offer.

1960s

Homer Hickam '64 was awarded the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his service in Vietnam, career with NASA, and his illustrious accomplishments as an author.



1970s

Bruce Simmons '72 in July 2024 published a fiction novel about the first women admitted to a previously all-male senior military school, titled "The

Women of Company L - Marching Through the Sally Port."

Tom Belote '77 recently served in Santa Anna, El Salvador delivering bibles and wheelchairs to the disabled community. Additionally, Tom spearheaded a fund-raising campaign to place a plaque honoring all VTCC Army alumni at The National Museum of the United States Army.



1980s

Bill Glose '89 recently received the Fiction Book of the Year Award from the Library of Virginia for his book titled "All the Ruined Men." Borrowing from his own experience as a paratrooper and a combat veteran, Glose tells the stories of soldiers adjusting to life as civilians after years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bill Glose (left) with best-selling author David Baldacci



at the 2023 Library of Virginia award ceremony.

1990s

Capt. Jim Von St. Paul '98 assumed command of Destroyer Squadron Two in Norfolk, Virginia.



2010s

U.S. Marine Corps **Capt. Eleanor Franc '19** is a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) team leader. She deployed on a DPAA recovery operation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in March 2024.

2020s

265 members of the **Class of 2024** graduated from the Corps of Cadets this May.





The Corps Wants YOU

TO

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VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES.

LET'S GROW THE ALUMNI AVIATION GALLERY!

By Col. R. S. "Rock" Roszak '71



One of the features of the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building is the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Aviation Gallery, located just outside the doors of the first-floor classroom. The gallery is a collection of colorful prints of combat aircraft flown by a host of Corps alumni over the years, stretching from early World War II to the present day—80+ years of history.

More than 75 pieces of artwork are already on display, highlighting aircraft

flown by our alumni in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. But there is still room to grow, and we need your help doing that. If you were a military aviator, we want your help in getting your aircraft up in our gallery. Reach out to the VTCC Alumni Office email address (vtccalumni@vt.edu) and let us work with you to add your aircraft to our gallery.

These are not generic aircraft prints, but each is personalized for the in-

dividual aviator, depicting an exact aircraft flown with the correct serial/bureau number, paint scheme, tail codes and colors, unit emblems, and personal photographs to make the artwork truly unique. It is a keepsake that highlights our aviation legacy to our cadets, and to your family and friends. And let us know if you have a story to tell. Many of our alumni aviators have also told their stories in past issues of the Corps Review.

Let's grow the gallery!



McDonnell Douglas

**F-4D
Phantom II**



PILOT: MAJ D. REE
WSO LT T. LAMONICA
CO: SGT J. WELCH
ASST CO: C. STEPHENS



*McDonnell Douglas F-4D Phantom II crewed by 1st Lieutenant Tom LaMonica
44th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, October 1975
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1971*

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS SPRING 2024



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **WILLIAM SOSNOWSKI**

Cadet Col. William Sosnowski will graduate with a degree in aerospace engineering with minors in leadership and astronomy in 2025. He was a member of the Pipe and Drum Band and Air Force Flyers. In addition to serving as the regimental commander, he has served as 3rd Battalion commander and regimental piper. In Air Force ROTC, he served as the Juliet Flight commander for Squadron V. This summer he will intern at the U.S. European Command for six weeks with Air Force ROTC.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **SHELBY STEVENS**

Cadet Lt. Col. Shelby Stevens graduated with a degree in agriculture business. During her time in the Corps, she served as Delta Company first sergeant, as the cadet non-commissioned officer in charge of the Regimental S-7 staff, Bravo Company commander and 1st Battalion commander. In the Citizen-Leader Track, she served as a squad leader. Stevens was a recipient of the Lacy O. Brumback award at the top company commander for the Class of 2024.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **SHANE ERVIN**

Cadet Lt. Col. Shane Ervin graduated with a degree in computer science with a minor in leadership. He was a member of the Global Scholars program and received the Emerging Leader Scholarship. He served in many Corps leadership roles including 2nd Battalion sergeant major, Hotel Company commander, and 2nd Battalion commander. He commissioned into the U.S. Army as a cyber officer.



THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **OLIVER NAZARIAN**

Cadet Lt. Col. Oliver Nazarian will graduate with a degree in industrial and systems engineering in 2025. Upon graduation, he will commission in the U.S. Navy as an ensign. In the Corps, he served as 3rd Battalion sergeant major, Kilo Battery commander, and 3rd Battalion commander. He is a recipient of the Monteith Award and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



FOURTH BATTALION COMMANDER **WILLIAM CONNOLLY**

Cadet Lt. Col. William Connolly will graduate with a degree in aerospace engineering with minors in mathematics and leadership in 2025. He was a member of the Naval Aviators Society, Navigators ministry, and led Cadets for a Cause. A recipient of the Emerging Leader Scholarship, his leadership roles include Oscar Company cadre sergeant, November Company first sergeant, Oscar Company commander, and 4th Battalion commander. In Navy ROTC, he was the battalion S-7 and S-7a, and the Alpha department head. This summer he will attend New Student Indoctrination as an instructor for rising scholarship midshipmen in NROTC.

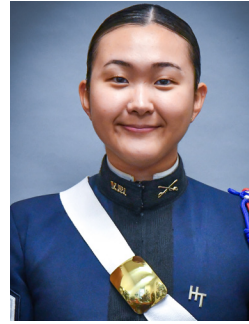
COMMAND STAFF, SPRING 2024



Regimental Executive Officer
Camden McCullough
Chemical Engineering and
Chemistry
Air Force



Regimental Adjutant
Charles Parker
Criminology
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Public
Information Officer
Suhyoung Kwak
Public Health
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Operations
Officer
Charley Longersbeam
Architecture
Navy



Regimental Supply Officer
Joseph Purvis
History
Army



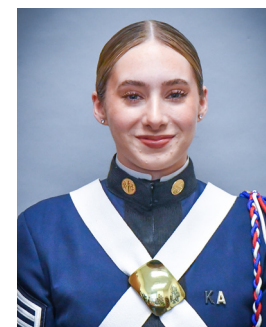
Regimental Academics
Officer
Brooks Robinson
Aerospace Engineering
Army



Regimental Information
Officer
Luke Cheung
Cybersecurity Management
and Analytics
Air Force



Regimental Training Officer
Anthony Villante
History
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Sergeant Major
Taylor Schiltz
Building Construction
Army



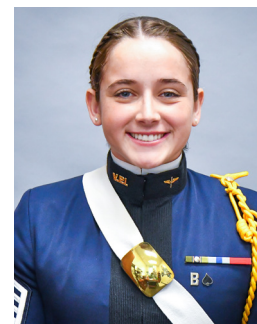
Regimental Alumni Liaison
Officer
Carter Griffin
Criminology and Sociology
Army



VPI Battalion Commander
Kian Zandipour
Criminology
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Sarthak Gupta
Construction Engineering
and Management
Navy



Bravo Company Commander
Brady Peterson
Construction Engineering
and Management
Air Force



Charlie Company
Commander
Ellie Thurneysen
Business Information
Technology
Navy



Delta Company Commander
Ryan Wienckoski
Mining Engineering
Army



Echo Company Commander
Gennaro Cardarelli
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Citizen-Leader Track



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Marc Mendez
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Navy



Golf Company Commander
Cameron Hogge
Management
Air Force



Hotel Company Commander
Soreenna Jean
Biochemistry
Army



India Company Commander
Caleb Cox
Public Relations
Army



Kilo Company Commander
Jenna Mathis
Human Nutrition, Food, and
Exercise
Citizen-Leader Track



Lima Company Commander
Carly Wolfe
Secure Computing
Citizen-Leader Track



Mike Company Commander
Mark McGrade
Political Science
Navy



November Company
Commander
Ryan Willis
Business Information
Technology
Air Force



Oscar Company Commander
Lesly Molualisi
Criminology
Marine Option



Band Commander
Andre Asarian
Public Health
Citizen-Leader Track



Drum Major
Paul Dragan
Finance
Navy

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

CLASS OF 2024

NOEL ADEJAYAN

Lima Company, Air Force

***MARY ADEN**

Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ODEN ALARIC

Oscar Company, Air Force

JOSHUA AMATO

Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

BRIANA ARROYO

Golf Company, Air Force

***ANDRE ASARIAN**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

ALEXANDER ASHFORD

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

TURNER BAREFOOT

Echo Company, Army

SAM BARNHART

Foxtrot Company, Army

***VANESSA BARSOOM**

Golf Company, Air Force

***CHRISTINE BAYLY**

Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

PETER BENAVIDES

Delta Company, Army

CAITLIN BENDIT

Lima Company, Marines

DAVID BLANKENSHIP

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CURTIS BOATENG**

Hotel Company, Air Force

JOSEPH BOWERS

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

SPENCER BROOKS

India Company, Army

RIVKA BRUBAKER

Hotel Company, Air Force

***JACOB BUSH**

Kilo Company, Navy

AIDAN BYRNES

Alpha Company, Air Force

BENJAMIN CAMPBELL

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ANGEL CARCAMO-REYES

Echo Company, Marines

***GENNARO CARDARELLI**

Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

EMELIA CARISSIMO

Charlie Company, Army

***CHRISTIAN CEOL**

Bravo Company, Army

LOGAN CHANEY

Kilo Company, Army

JOSEPH CHELLIS

Alpha Company, Army

NOLAN CHONG

Golf Company, Army

ANDREW CHUN

India Company, Army

NIKOLAI CLAYTON

Lima Company, Army

THOMAS COHEN

Echo Company, Army

***NATHANIEL COLE**

Mike Company, Air Force

***KATELYN COLLETT**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

DREW CONBOY

Bravo Company, Army

***WILLIAM CONNOLLY**

Oscar Company, Navy

***CALEB COX**

India Company, Army

JADA CRAWFORD

Alpha Company, Army

CALEB DANKWA

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CHARLES DAVIS**

Kilo Company, Army

JACKSON DAVIS

Charlie Company, Air Force

RYAN DEERIN

Lima Company, Army

AIDAN DENNY

Charlie Company, Marines

YOLLANDE DJOSSOU

Foxtrot Company, Army

BRANDON DO

Charlie Company, Navy

***JESSICA DODSON**

Kilo Company, Navy



NICHOLAS DOMINIQUE

Foxtrot Company, Space Force

JOSEPH DOYLE

Alpha Company, Navy

PAUL DRAGAN

Highty-Tighties, Navy

***SHANE ERVIN**

Golf Company, Army

JACK EVANS

Mike Company, Army

NOAH FANZ

Kilo Company, Navy

EMILY FETZER

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

HARRISON FRY

Golf Company, Army

WYATT GEORGE

Echo Company, Army

ISAIAH GERHARDT

Mike Company, Army

JAMES GILHOOL

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CHRISTIAN GIRTS**

Hotel Company, Navy

NICHOLAS GLASENAPP

Echo Company, Navy

PAUL GLASS

Echo Company, Air Force

REILLY GLASS

Delta Company, Army

PAYTON GORE

Bravo Company, Army

SAMUEL GOTARD

Kilo Company, Army

MAX GREENEY

Alpha Company, Air Force

CARTER GRIFFIN

Mike Company, Army

SARTHAK GUPTA

Alpha Company, Navy

NICHOLAS HAGEN

Charlie Company, Army

***CHRISTOPHER HALL**

Mike Company, Army

WILLIAM HAMILL

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

KARL HANSON

Golf Company, Air Force

***MORGAN HENDRICKSON**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

NOAH HERNANDEZ

Delta Company, Army

TYLER HEROD

Alpha Company, Army

KEVIN HICKS

Charlie Company, Army

AIDAN HING

India Company, Army

CAMERON HOGGE

Golf Company, Air Force

JAKWEIL HOLDEN

Highly-Tighties, Army

JOHN HOLSKE

Kilo Company, Air Force

DRAKE HORNBURG

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

MATTHEW HORSTKAMP

Alpha Company, Navy

***DREW JACKSON**

Bravo Company, Army

SORENNA JEAN

Hotel Company, Army

***BRANDON JETER**

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

EMANUEL JUNG

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

SANGMUK KANG

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ANDREW KEATING

Echo Company, Army

KEVIN KENT

Golf Company, Navy

MASON KIENZLER

India Company, Army

***CARTER KINKEAD**

Bravo Company, Air Force

BRIAN KIRK

Oscar Company, Army

ANDREW KOONMEN

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

XAVIER KRESSLEIN

Golf Company, Navy

SUHYOUNG KWAK

Highly-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

SARAH LANCASTER

Hotel Company, Marines

CHRISTOPHER LEE

Delta Company, Navy

DANIEL LEE

Lima Company, Army

YOHAN LEE

Golf Company, Army

***ISAAC LERNER**

Alpha Company, Army

DEVON LIEBL

Echo Company, Army

THOMAS LINK

Delta Company, Navy

AARON LITMAN

India Company, Air Force

CHARLEY LONGERBEAM

Foxtrot Company, Navy

ISAIAS LOPEZ

Golf Company, Army

RYAN LUI

Mike Company, Army

***KALISTA LUZANTA**

Foxtrot Company, Air Force

***AIDAN MACDONALD**

November Company, Army

JACOB MACIAS

Highly-Tighties, Navy

PATRICK MAIER

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JONATHAN MALAKOFF

Kilo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***SEBASTIAN MATA**

Lima Company, Marines

JENNA MATHIS

Kilo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

SEAN MCCABE

Kilo Company, Navy

DECLAN MCCLANAHAN

Delta Company, Navy

MITCHELL MCCLURE

Echo Company, Army

EMMA MCCUBBIN

Bravo Company, Navy

CAMDEN MCCULLOUGH

November Company, Air Force

***MARK MCGRADY**

Mike Company, Navy

***MARC MENDEZ**

Foxtrot Company, Navy

JAROD MILLS

Alpha Company, Air Force

***MATTHEW MINE**

Mike Company, Army

***LESLEY MOLUALISI**

Oscar Company, Marines

***DAVID MOON**

Highly-Tighties, Air Force

SAMUEL MORRISON

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

GERRIT MOYAR

Golf Company, Air Force

***GABRIELA MUNSON**

Lima Company, Army

PAUL MUNSON

Highly-Tighties, Army

OLIVER NAZARIAN

Lima Company, Navy

MARY ORTWEIN

Lima Company, Navy

PEYTON OSBORN

Mike Company, Army

***MATTHEW OWEN**

Mike Company, Army

HYO WON PAHNG

Lima Company, Army

CHARLES PARKER

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ANDRES PENAFIEL

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

DAVID PERITORE

Foxtrot Company, Navy

BRADY PETERSON

Bravo Company, Air Force

***ERIC PRINDLE**

Kilo Company, Army

VICTORIA PRITCHETT

India Company, Army

GRACE PURVIS

Highy-Tighties, Army

JOSEPH PURVIS

Highy-Tighties, Army

IAN QUIACHON

Echo Company, Army

JARED RASMUSSEN

Hotel Company, Army

BRYAN RICH

Bravo Company, Air Force

BAILEY RICHARDSON

Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

CAMERON RICHARDSON

Foxtrot Company, Army

MATTHEW RO

Bravo Company, Army

COLBY ROBERTSON

India Company, Air Force

***BROOKS ROBINSON**

Golf Company, Army

STEPHEN RODRIGUEZ

Alpha Company, Marines

***JACKSON ROSS**

Kilo Company, Navy

CAMERON ROWLEY

Bravo Company, Navy

WILLIAM RUSH

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***THOMAS RYDZEWSKI**

Hotel Company, Army

ANDREW SAMONTE

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ROBERT SAVAGE

Oscar Company, Marines

AIDAN SHAFFREY

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

TONY SHANNON-AMATO

India Company, Air Force

CARL SHAPIRO

Kilo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

NATHANAEL SHORE

Kilo Company, Army

SOFIA SHREWSBURY

Charlie Company, Army

OMAR SHUHAIT

November Company, Air Force

BENJAMIN SHUMATE

Charlie Company, Air Force

***EZRA SILVERBURG**

Bravo Company, Army

JOSHUA SIMMERS

Hotel Company, Army

***EDMOND SION**

Oscar Company, Army

COLTON SMITH

Hotel Company, Army

MATTHEW SMITH

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

DYLAN SNIDER

November Company, Air Force

ZAAKEE SOLAIMAN

Delta Company, Navy

WILLIAM SOSNOWSKI

Lima Company, Air Force

***DAVID SOUSA**

India Company, Marines

SAM SPRINGER

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

BENJAMIN STEIN

Mike Company, Marines

SHELBY STEVENS

Delta Company, Citizen-Leader Track

THOMAS STEWART

Alpha Company, Army

KYLE SUDLER

Lima Company, Navy

KYLE SULLIVAN

Kilo Company, Army

***MIKAELA SULLIVAN**

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

WEIQIAN TANG

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

UMAR TARIQ

Alpha Company, Air Force

CHARLES TAYLOR

Echo Company, Air Force

***MATTHEW TENTCHIKOV**

India Company, Army

CONNOR THOMPSON

Delta Company, Army

***ELLIE THURNEYSEN**

Charlie Company, Navy

***JULIA TONGARM**

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***JACOB TROUPE**

Charlie Company, Army

EVAN TUCKER

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

KALEB TUGGLE

Charlie Company, Army

TIMOTHY VAN BRUNT

Delta Company, Navy

ANTHONY VILLANTE

Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JOSEPH VOCATURO

Highty-Tighties, Navy

ANGELA VOELKEL

Mike Company, Army

ETHAN WAKSMUNSKI

November Company, Army

MATTHEW WELLS

Delta Company, Army

GARRETT WESSELLS

Echo Company, Navy

RYAN WIENCKOSKI

Delta Company, Army

RYAN WILLIS

November Company, Air Force

CARLY WOLFE

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***NICHOLAS WOLFF**

Oscar Company, Navy

JOSHUA YOON

Mike Company, Army

WILLIAM YOUNG

Delta Company, Air Force

ALEX YUN

Charlie Company, Army

***KIAN ZANDIPOUR**

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

IGOR ZAPOROZHSKI

Golf Company, Army

JEFFREY ZHENG

Hotel Company, Citizen-Leader Track

VICTOR ZORIN

Lima Company, Army

* With Distinction







New River Battalion cadets celebrate their accomplishment at the conclusion of their fall FTX in September 2022. Photo courtesy of Cadet Aidan Hing.

ARMY ROTC NEWS

By Col. Jamie Cogbill, Virginia Tech Army ROTC Professor of Military Science

PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE

On Sept. 20, 2023, the commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, Maj. Gen. Andy Munera, acting on behalf of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, presented the New River Battalion with the 2021-2022 Department of Defense (DoD) ROTC and Educational Institution Partnership Excellence Award. This award recognizes the top ROTC unit and host educational institution from each military department (Army, Navy, Air Force) based on accomplishments in three broad categories: performance, educational institution support, and other noteworthy achievements.

Four days after receiving the award at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Virginia Tech Professor of Military Science Col. Jamie Cogbill, traveled back to Virginia to meet the New River Battalion actively training in the field during their fall field training exercise (FTX). At the conclusion of the FTX, during the normal end-of-event awards ceremony, Col. Cogbill unveiled the award for the 500 assembled cadets. Jubilation and general pandemonium ensued.

The New River Battalion originally submitted its nomina-

tion packet for the award in December of 2022, basing the award on an extraordinary record of accomplishments in the previous year, which included netting the most proceeds in the country at the cadet-organized “Ruck for Life” in November 2021, a first-place finish over 60 ROTC teams at the Army Ten-Miler race in October 2022, and having four cadets in the top 25 of the national order of merit list, the only program to boast more than one!

Also especially notable in Virginia Tech’s award write up was the outstanding support from the Corps and university, especially the over \$100 million invested into the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and Upper Quad Hall North residence hall. The commendation from the Secretary of Defense noted the strong support provided in the form of Emerging Leader Scholarships to over two-thirds of incoming first-year cadets.

In February 2024, the 1st Brigade of U.S. Army Cadet Command, which comprises all the Army’s senior military colleges and military junior colleges, announced that once again, the New River Battalion would represent the brigade

in the national competition. As such, Virginia Tech and Radford Army ROTC was named for the second year in a row as the top military college in the nation and the recipient of the General Douglas C. MacArthur Award for 2023.

In 2023, the New River Battalion's accomplishments included the following: having 7 cadets in the top 100 of the national order of merit list (the only SMC to have more than two), producing the #6 cadet in the nation (now 2nd Lt. Garrett Lyons), boasting an exceptional record of success at Cadet Summer Training 2023, and accomplishing 117% of our commission mission by commissioning 105 officers of character. The strong partnership with the Corps continued with the opening of our beautiful new headquarters, in which the commandant hosted the 2023 Senior Military College Conference.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2022-2023 DoD award competition, the New River Battalion is proud of its record of accomplishments in strong partnership with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. We remain



(From left) Cadets Charlie Davis, Christian Ceol, and Sorena Jean hoist their trophy. Photo courtesy of Cadet Grace Purvis.

firmly committed to developing the future leaders of our Army by cultivating character, a commitment to service, and a winning mentality.



Col. Cogbill and Master Sgt. Embler unveil the trophy to the assembled cadets. Photo courtesy of Cadet Aidan Hing.



The Virginia Tech NROTC Battalion celebrated the end of the fall semester with the joint commissioning ceremony in December. (From left): Maj. Gen. Fullhart stands with Ensign Marie Wickard, Ensign Logan Witte, Ensign Zoe Lynes, Ensign Joe Neskow, 2nd Lt. Conner Bowman, Ensign Laura Huddleston, Ensign Joshua Nacheman, and Ensign Matthew Moreno who commissioned into the United States Navy and Marine Corps after completing their degrees.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Midshipman Carrie Stinchcomb

Each semester Marine-option midshipmen complete a field training exercise that evaluates what they have learned throughout the semester. These field exercises typically include weighted conditioning hikes, obstacle course physical training, small unit leadership evaluations, and land navigation evaluation.

During the spring semester, Marine-option midshipmen travel to Marine Corps Base Quantico to conduct joint training with Marine-option midshipmen from schools along the east coast. This year's spring training was conducted April 12-14. Midshipmen Joseph Campione and Samuel Fisher and midshipmen at the University of Virginia assisted in coordinating the effort, to include sitting in on planning conferences with the active-duty staff from other participating schools.

As the semester comes to a close, midshipmen are ramping up their summer training preparation. Each class goes through a wide variety of trainings that range from attending New Student Indoctrination (NSI) to shadowing a junior officer aboard a ship or submarine during their first-class cruise.

"Summer training has changed within the four years I've

been here," said Midshipman Mary Ortwein. "When I came as a freshman, we did not have any training the summer prior to our freshmen year. Now, incoming freshmen on scholarship and any upperclassmen without a scholarship must go to NSI."

To prepare, incoming first-year students focus on Navy customs and courtesies to understand how to properly conduct themselves on ships over the summer. Rising sophomores prepare for an educational cruise known as CORTRAMID. These upperclassmen experience the different warfare communities firsthand and learn essential damage control skills to prepare them for the fleet. During their junior and senior years, midshipmen shadow enlisted sailors and junior officers. NROTC's ProLab, a class that all midshipmen take at Virginia Tech, offers the opportunity to improve leadership competency, fleet knowledge, and learn from officers' experiences. This summer, rising senior Marine-option midshipmen will attend Officer Candidate School (OCS).

"Officer Candidate School is a screening process to see if candidates have what it takes to be a Marine Corps officer, and a huge part of that is the candidate's ability to communicate, decide, and act under pressure. Raider Company trains its

members early on to be able to meet these criteria by putting Raiders in difficult situations where they need to think on their feet and lead while dealing with the friction instilled by the first-class midshipmen. By the time Raiders become second-class midshipmen, they become experts on this way of thinking and leading through trial and error, and their pre-OCS training becomes focused on key wickets they must master to be successful at OCS. First-class midshipmen are tasked with creating OCS prep sessions to review information and skills that we deem most important for OCS, including drill, five paragraph operation orders, small unit leadership evaluations, rifle maintenance, and land navigation. Overall, these prep sessions are more of a review for the second-class midshipmen and an opportunity to iron out any weaknesses they may have in preparation for OCS,” said Midshipman Carcamo-Reyes, who leads second-class training. The Virginia Tech NROTC Battalion recognizes and appreciates the hard work these midshipmen have put in to better serve their country.



Midshipmen train in the pool. Photo courtesy of Midshipman Carrie Stinchcomb.



Virginia Tech midshipmen after their New Student Indoctrination (NSI) graduation in summer 2023. Photo courtesy of Midshipman Carrie Stinchcomb.



Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC cadets flash the “gunfighter” sign of the 55th Fighter Squadron. Photo courtesy of 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Maj. Adam Cade '09

Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 started 2024 with an exhilarating semester! As we continue to appreciate the beautiful new Corps Leadership and Military Science building, we are enjoying the increased office space and functional areas while we benefit from the high-tech classrooms and wonderful facilities. We are so grateful for Maj. Gen. Fullhart’s leadership and extremely thankful for the generosity of the Corps alumni that enabled us to work and learn in these incredible surroundings.

This semester, the detachment facilitated three mission integration visits, which offer cadets terrific opportunities to immerse themselves in various mission sets and interact with the officers they desire to become. Maj. Cade kicked off the semester with a trip to Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, where 23 cadets learned about the combat search and rescue mission. Cadets met members of the 41st Rescue Squadron and 41st Rescue Generation Squadron maintenance unit and received briefings, participated in hands-on training, and topped off the visit with an incentive ride in an HH-60W helicopter!

In February, Capt. Penland accompanied cadets to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, where they met the 77th Wild Weasel Fighter Squadron and toured the aircrew flight equipment room. After trying on G-suits, flight helmets, and night vision goggles, cadets visited the ammo facility and watched crews practice loading bombs, then finished the trip with a stellar company-grade officer and senior non-commissioned officer panel at the 9th Operational Combat Weather Squadron. Finally, in March, Capt. Silverbush and Staff Sgt. Perez led a trip to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, where 50 cadets observed the inaugural Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day and then toured a C-5M Super Galaxy transport aircraft! They also attended an interactive demonstration on explosive ordnance disposal and visited the security force’s K-9 unit.

This semester also witnessed the inception of a cadet-led wargaming team, Strategic Wargaming and Resource Management, affectionally called SWARM. The team took airpower strategy planning to a new level and injected valuable wargam-



Incentive flight near Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Photo courtesy of 23d Wing Public Affairs.

ing events into a multi-day Air Force training exercise. Cadets also planned and executed our biennial dining out event, which introduced everyone to that honored Air Force tradition.

Summer field training is just around the corner! Sophomore Air Force cadets have been conducting early morning prep sessions and recently attended a joint training day at Virginia Military Institute with 200 fellow cadets from three universities. Det. 875 earned 70 training allocations this year, which reflects everyone's hard work and dedication.

Our wing commander, Cadet Vanessa Barsoom, has per-

formed remarkably well leading the cadet wing this semester. She described her tenure by saying, "The spring semester has entailed making our vision of providing quality training, ample resources, and a motivational culture of adaptability a reality. Within the cadet wing, senior members developed under cadre mentorship for commissioning preparation, while our junior members diligently trained in competencies required for field training. I could not be more appreciative of the continued cohesion and dedication of our cadets."

Lastly, the only constant in the Air Force is change, and we must acknowledge the amazing staff who departed this semester. In February, we bid farewell to an outstanding non-commissioned officer,

Tech. Sgt. Melvin Henderson, who accepted an assignment at the Pentagon. Operations flight commander, Capt. Da'rrell Cousin will move on to the National Security Agency in May. Capt. Easton Penland, our AS100 instructor, will transition from active duty in June and remain in the local area. And finally, our detachment commander and Hokie alum, Col. Greg Lowe, will retire this summer. He and his family will remain in Blacksburg, so watch for him playing "Tech Triumph" during the annual Caldwell March in a future spring semester.



The Air Force Flyers Club poses in front of the new HH-60W rescue helicopter at Moody Air Force Base. Photo courtesy of 23d Wing Public Affairs.



THIS IS HOME

By Kelley Corvin VT'12, Chief Advancement Officer

Growing up in Blacksburg, my Hokie pride runs very deep; some might even say I bleed orange and maroon. Although I was not a cadet when I attended Virginia Tech, the rich history and tradition that the Corps of Cadets has at the university is fundamental to the DNA of Virginia Tech and the values that are important to our student body.

When I think about Virginia Tech, I cannot do it without picturing cadets marching on campus, hearing the iconic boom from Skipper at football games, or even eagerly listening for the jubilant voices of Ranger Company as they run around campus Homecoming week with the game ball. It is these iconic moments, paired with the incredible service and sacrifice that our cadets make while they are at Virginia Tech and after graduation, that have always inspired me to support the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets through my personal philanthropic contributions.

As I start as the Chief Advancement Officer for the Corps and reflect on my eight years being back in Blacksburg, I am beyond grateful to be able to serve the regiment and I'm filled with a tremendous sense of pride to be on the commandant's staff. I look forward to building relationships with alumni and friends of the

Corps and cannot wait to see the impact these relationships will foster to support current and future cadets. As Cecelia Ahern so wisely stated, "I've learned that home isn't a place, it's a feeling." As I sit in my office and look out onto the Upper Quad, I am filled with a feeling...THIS IS HOME!

I look forward to connecting with you and exploring the impact you wish to have in the Corps' continued success. Please contact me, Kelley Corvin, at 540-231-2806 or kcovin@vt.edu for more information.

Special Naming Opportunities

A few naming opportunities remain available in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, as well as other locations on Upper Quad. Secure your legacy naming for years to come.

Endowments

Endowments provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding for things such as cadet scholarships, travel funding, and programmatic support. Endowments create a funding source to support the Corps in perpetuity.

Brick Campaign

There is still time to qualify and have a personalized brick plaque in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Cumulative giving to VTCC Annual Funds of \$2,500 qualifies you for this special opportunity. The deadline to earn a Brick Plaque is March 10, 2025.

Annual Gifts

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. Annual gifts can help sponsor a cadet on Caldwell March, be used to set up a named current-use scholar-

ship, or even support some of our newest funds: Commandant Scholarship Response Fund or the Major General and Mrs. Randal D. Fullhart Horizon Fund.

Non-Cash

There are many other ways to support the Corps with non-cash gifts. If you are interested in learning more about one of these ways to give, please contact us to learn more.

- ◀ Designating the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as the beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.
- ◀ Make a distribution from your charitable IRA.
- ◀ Set up a gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, or a charitable lead trust.
- ◀ Create or give through a Donor Advised Fund.
- ◀ Donate securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.
- ◀ Donate real estate.
- ◀ Donate gifts-in-kind of tangible, personal property.

Employer Matching Gifts

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Before making your gift, please check givingto.vt.edu/match to see if your company provides a matching contribution.

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!

SUSTAIN OUR MISSION AND

SUPPORT CADETS.

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 the atrium of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Give today to leave your mark on CLMS.

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 the \$2,500 threshold and Brick Plaque name and details received by June 15. The deadline for Spring is November 1 to reach \$2,500 threshold and Brick Plaque name and details received by December 15. Please note we will contact 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

Learn more at vtcc.vt.edu/give

IN MEMORY



RAY CARMINES JR. '51

1927 - 2024

Ray Carmines Jr. died March 28. A lifelong resident of Poquoson, Virginia, Ray started classes at Virginia Tech in 1944. After two quarters, he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and served from 1945 to 1946. In July 1950, he married the love of his life, Beulah, and earned a degree in rural sociology from Virginia Tech in 1951. Ray devoted 36 years to Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company as a design engineer and cost engineer, retiring in 1987. He is survived by four daughters, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.



JERRY EZZELL CLARK '54

1932 - 2024

Jerry Clark died Jan. 16. Originally from Danville, Virginia, he graduated from VPI in 1955 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served in the Corps of Engineers. In 1956, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring in 1963. Jerry worked for E.I. DuPont de Nemours as an engineering specialist in the fibers division for 36 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Myrtice Wrenn Clark. Jerry is survived by a son, a daughter, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



EUGENE C. MONCRIEF '54

1932 - 2023

Eugene "Gene" Moncrief died Oct. 22. Gene had nearly fifty years of experience as a researcher, businessman, and consultant. He spent five years at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 23 years with Babcock & Wilcox Company, and 20 years as chairman of Merrihill Inc. He was also a partner with Inventory Solutions, Inc. He was a visiting graduate professor at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. Gene received his doctorate in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frankie, parents, and his brother. He is survived by his daughter, son-in-law, sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.



THOMAS COVER JOHNSON JR. '56

1934 - 2023

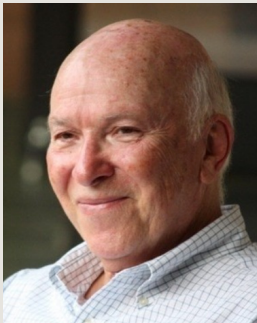
Thomas Cover Johnson Jr. of Narrows, Virginia, died Nov. 16. A lifelong resident of Narrows, he graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1956. While at V.P.I., he commanded Company I in the Corps of Cadets and was a member of Scabbard and Blade. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Reserve. Tom retired from Celanese Corp in Narrows after 25 years of service as a senior procurement agent. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean, his two sons, three grandchildren, nephew, niece, great-nieces, and great-nephew.



IRVING LINWOOD PEDDREW III '57

1935 – 2024

Irving Peddrew III died May 11. The first Black student admitted to a historically white, four-year college in any former Confederate state, he was the only African American among the university's 3,322 students in 1953. While enrolled, Peddrew was not allowed to live or eat on campus and due to potential social uproar, he did not attend Ring Dance. Later, he became the namesake of a residence hall and the Class of 2023 class ring. Despite withdrawing from the university before graduating, his academic performance and character paved the way for other Black students. In 2016, he became the ninth person to receive an honorary degree from Virginia Tech.



ROBERT EARLY HALE '57

1930 – 2023

Robert Early Hale died Dec. 8. Born in West Virginia, Bob attended Virginia Tech, pausing to serve in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and then graduated from Virginia Tech in 1957. He married Dorothy "Dot" Scarborough Parker in 1962, began a career in banking, and together with Dorothy raised two sons. In Henderson, North Carolina, he served as the city manager, returning to Virginia to retire at Smith Mountain Lake. Later, they moved in with their son's family. Bob is survived by his sister Mary Hale Madge, sons John Claytor Hale (Elizabeth) and Alexander Parker Hale (Sarah), and four grandsons, niece, and nephews.



LELAND DAVID EISENHOWER '58

1937 – 2024

Leland David Eisenhower died Jan. 3. He graduated from Virginia Tech and served in the U.S. Army, volunteering in the explosive disposal unit. After military service, he worked at the Goddard Space Flight Center and then at GHT in Arlington. In the late 1970s, he founded Leland D. Eisenhower, LTD, Professional Engineers and Consultants and became a specialist in leadership in energy and environmental design. He later worked for several years in Swaziland. He is survived by his wife, Dee Palmisano, and numerous extended family. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mary Ann and Charles, and his brothers Warren and Charles.



MATT WINSTON SR. '59

1938 – 2024

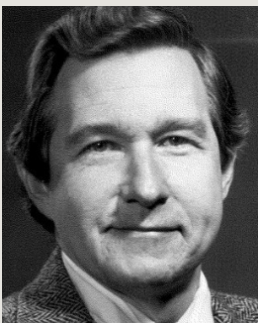
Matthew Maurice Winston Sr. died May 14. He was among the first Black students to attend Virginia Tech. He pursued a degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering and became the school's second Black graduate. Later earning a master's degree in engineering administration from George Washington University, Matthew enjoyed a distinguished 35-year career at NASA-Langley where he was the recipient of many agency awards. He married Margaret Sneed, and together they raised two children, Matthew Jr. and Meta. He is also survived by a sister, two grandchildren, daughter-in-law, and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.



ROBERT SMITH BRUGUIERE '61

1934 – 2024

Robert Smith Bruguere died Feb. 19. Bob graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in business administration and education. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a medical administrator. After various careers, Bob found his passion serving as a financial advisor for IDS/Ameriprise, helping young people prepare financially for the future. Bob met his wife, Judith Hogle, in 1964 and after the birth of their son and two daughters, they moved to Martha's Vineyard, later retiring to New London, New Hampshire. Bob is survived by Judy, his wife of 59 years, son, two daughters, eight grandchildren, sister, and nephews.



EUGENE W. CARSON JR. '61

1939 – 2023

Eugene Watson Carson Jr. died Nov. 24. He married Frances Carson in 1960. Gene earned a degree in agronomy at Virginia Tech and his doctorate from North Carolina State. He was a professor at Virginia Tech for 30 years, a member of the Academy of Teaching Excellence, and served as the associate provost. He taught courses at Radford University and served as international chief examiner on the board of directors for the International Baccalaureate. After Fran died, Gene married Karen Sirgy Carson. He is survived by his three daughters, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren and Karen's three daughters and their children.



DANIEL LAURENCE RUBINI '68

1946 – 2023

Daniel Laurence Rubini died Dec. 31. Larry earned his political science degree from Virginia Tech and served in the U.S. Army. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from Temple University Law School and practiced law for 22 years. He then served as an administrative law judge for 24 years while in the Army reserves. Larry retired from the reserves in 2004. From 2012-2018, he received appointments to serve as an Army Reserve ambassador for Pennsylvania. Larry is survived by his wife, Joan, two sons, three grandchildren, two sisters, and many extended family members.



DAVID CURTIS BARON '73

1951 – 2023

Born on July 30, David attended college at Virginia Tech, where he was a proud member of the Corps of Cadets. He met his wife, Linda, while attending graduate school. David and Linda married in 1975 and settled in Linda's hometown of Fairfax, Virginia. He held several positions before becoming a successful business owner in the 90's, and later held supervisory and training roles in the Transportation Security Administration for nearly a decade. He is survived by his wife Linda Baron, son, daughter, granddaughter, sister, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew.



FRANCES MARSHA HART '78

1955 – 2024

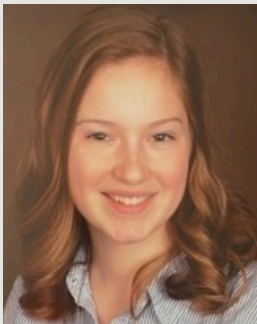
Frances Marsha Hart died Jan 4. After graduating from Christiansburg High School in 1973, Fran became one of the first females to enroll in the Corps of Cadets as a member of L Squadron. Graduating in 1978, she held many leadership roles in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, the City of Bedford, and at the Christiansburg Senior Center. She was active in philanthropy and support of non-profit organizations until the time of her passing. An avid reader, Fran never gave up the desire to learn and help others. She is survived by her sister, Pamela Hart King, four nephews, two nieces, two great-nieces, one great-nephew, and two great-great-nieces.



ANDERSON K. KING '18

1996 – 2023

Anderson Keaton King died Nov. 2. Andy earned a degree in agricultural studies at Virginia Tech and commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. He embraced his military service with unwavering dedication, rising to the rank of captain. He was Helena Agri-Enterprises' top-selling branch manager and an active member of the Woodstock community. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and their cherished daughter, three brothers, parents, grandparents, two nephews, aunt, and uncle, two cousins, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law.



JULIE ROMUTIS '22

2000 – 2023

Julie Anna Romutis died Oct. 16. Julie was born to Timothy and Grace Romutis, a cherished sister to Shannon Marie Romutis. Her grandparents held a special place in her heart, and she is survived by her beloved grandmother, Elizabeth Antol. Julie made history as the first field hockey goalie for Tuscarora High School. An avid gamer, she immersed herself in both video games and board games. In the kitchen, Julie was a true culinary artist. One of Julie's most cherished qualities was her unwavering loyalty and dedication as a friend. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered for her extraordinary spirit and warmth.



ALEXIS BRIDGET BROTHERTON '25

2003 – 2023

Alexis Bridget Brotherton died Dec. 24. A senior in animal and poultry sciences and a member of the Corps of Cadets and Army ROTC, Alexis was on track to graduate in 2025. She was president of the Phi Sigma National Biological Honor Society, a member of the Virginia Tech Clay Target team, and was ranked Little International at the Virginia Tech Livestock Show in 2022 and 2023. In the Corps, she served as the 4th Battalion tradition group leader and helped plan service projects for November Company. She is survived by her grandparents, parents, brother, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

LEST WE FORGET

R. Roy Cosby '45, Falls Church, Virginia, 2/18/2024
John P. Gilman '47, Richmond, Virginia, 3/12/2024
John E. Scott '48, Charlottesville, Virginia, 3/16/2024
Wesley Witcher '49, Clemson, South Carolina, 11/9/2023
Melvin H. Lewin '49, Huntington Beach, California, 10/18/2023
Oliver P. Strawn '50, Blacksburg, Virginia, 11/13/2023
Howard S. Hardcastle '50, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 2/6/2024
Thomas C. Hunter '50, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 3/20/2024
James O. Ash '51, Callao, Virginia, 11/12/2023
Charles I. Tynan '51, Harrison, Tennessee, 1/28/2024
Robert D. Cassell '51, Mineral Wells, Texas, 1/31/2024
William R. Wisman '51, Roanoke, Virginia, 10/29/2023
Ronald W. Palin '52, Bristol, Virginia, 1/11/2024
Ira P. Cromer '52, Midlothian, Virginia, 11/28/2023
Willard E. Foss '52, Newport News, Virginia, 12/14/2023
Richard E. Harman '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 10/19/2023
Thomas M. Hudson '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 10/31/2023
Edward J. Scully '52, Shelton, Connecticut, 1/23/2024
Jackson E. Kinzer '53, Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, 2/6/2024
Charles C. Jones '53, Richmond, Virginia, 1/13/2024
Gene L. Lewis '53, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 4/6/2024
Herbert C. Milton '54, Brookneal, Virginia, 4/7/2024
Houston N. Snoddy '54, Burnt Chimney, Virginia, 4/11/2024
Thomas A. Blackstock '54, Newport News, Virginia, 4/21/2024
Charles R. Gunter '54, Norfolk, Virginia, 1/5/2024
Manning C. Merritt '54, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2/21/2024
Charles W. Miller '55, Bridgewater, Virginia, 3/8/2024
Robert H. Daley '55, Charleston, West Virginia, 1/2/2024
Amos L. Fisher '56, Graham, North Carolina, 4/6/2024
Charles R. Boley '56, Pulaski, Virginia, 1/14/2024
Alan D. Fetterolf '57, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 10/25/2023
Royce O. Hall '57, Clearwater Beach, Florida, 3/1/2024
Robert M. Meith '57, Diamondhead, Mississippi, 3/30/2024
Harry A. Austin '57, Dyke, Virginia, 3/9/2024
Frederick C. Robinson '57, Fairchance, Pennsylvania, 3/5/2024
Jack P. Orr '57, Troutville, Virginia, 1/9/2024
Harold H. Ralston '57, Waynesboro, Virginia, 2/28/2024
James S. Whited '58, Ashburn, Virginia, 12/29/2023
Reuben L. Graham '58, Fairmont, West Virginia, 2/13/2024
John V. Blondell '58, Germantown, Maryland, 2/21/2024
William F. Trapp '58, Monument, Colorado, 1/24/2024
Marvin F. Hogue '58, Powhatan, Virginia, 10/31/2023
Richard E. Gillock '58, Roanoke, Virginia, 3/5/2024
Charles T. Shotton '58, Suffolk, Virginia, 2/11/2024
Robert V. Eckert '59, Atlanta, Georgia, 2/2/2024
Charles W. Fox '59, Manlius, New York, 11/6/2023
Robert J. Wondrack '59, Naples, Florida, 4/6/2024
Nathaniel E. Wray '59, Richmond, Virginia, 11/21/2023
Neal N. Viar '60, Forest, Virginia, 1/14/2024
Warren O. Wells '60, Meadowview, Virginia, 1/18/2024
Lewis E. Taylor '60, Pfafftown, North Carolina, 11/22/2023
George H. Ellis '60, Pinehurst, North Carolina, 2/13/2024
John C. Waddell '60, Richmond, Virginia, 11/11/2023
Joseph D. Mitchell '61, Ashburn, Virginia, 2/11/2024
Neil A. Tucker '61, Bluefield, West Virginia, 4/5/2024
James A. Purdy '61, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2/11/2024
James C. Burgess '61, Dyersburg, Tennessee, 1/7/2024
William S. Shepard '61, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 3/22/2024
Larry S. Click '61, Knoxville, Tennessee, 3/4/2024
Thomas S. Speakman '61, Reading, Pennsylvania, 2/8/2024
Donald H. Messersmith '61, Silver Spring, Maryland, 1/8/2024
George R. Robinson '61, Winchester, Virginia, 11/4/2023
Robert N. Harvey '62, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, 2/18/2024
Fuller Moore '62, Edgewater, Maryland, 11/1/2023
Franklin B. Gattis '62, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 4/23/2024
Robert T. Pritchard '62, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 3/7/2024
Jerry T. Reed '62, Midlothian, Virginia, 4/22/2024
Clarence R. McGlothlin '62, Mooresville, North Carolina, 1/10/2024
Russell S. Wood '62, North Chesterfield, Virginia, 2/1/2024
Clyde K. Venable '62, Roanoke, Virginia, 12/2/2023
Bobby L. Moore '62, San Francisco, California, 2/6/2024
Dennis R. Luck '62, Westminster, Maryland, 10/26/2023
James W. Grant '63, Charlottesville, Virginia, 12/5/2023
Robert D. Meek '63, Culpeper, Virginia, 12/1/2023
Robert L. Hume '63, Garner, North Carolina, 10/22/2023
Henry J. Colavita '63, Haymarket, Virginia, 12/25/2023
Jeffrey A. Smith '63, Mobile, Alabama, 1/27/2024
Conway B. Moncure '63, North Chesterfield, Virginia, 12/7/2023
Hobert H. Cook '63, Saltville, Virginia, 2/6/2024
Joseph A. Robbins '63, South Bend, Indiana, 2/15/2024

Gordon W. Collins '64, Dinwiddie, Virginia, 11/14/2023
Howard D. Thornett '64, Fairfax, Virginia, 3/30/2024
Locke A. Taylor '64, Glen Allen, Virginia, 11/30/2023
William H. Felton '64, Suffolk, Virginia, 4/17/2024
Dennis L. Umberger '65, Corolla, North Carolina, 1/9/2024
Mikkel B. Johnson '65, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 3/7/2024
Philip C. Reese '65, Muncie, Indiana, 4/18/2024
Arthur C. Gudikunst '65, Newport News, Virginia, 3/12/2024
Jan Eversen '65, Norfolk, Virginia, 4/14/2024
Hugh S. Bishop '65, Peachtree City, Georgia, 3/11/2024
Arnie J. Riisen '65, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, 10/16/2023
John F. Burrow '65, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, 3/28/2024
Paul L. Shepherd '65, Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, 11/7/2023
John E. Bolling '66, Glen Allen, Virginia, 1/5/2024
Michael J. Eunice '66, Henrico, Virginia, 10/30/2023
Wilford R. Reams '66, New Port Richey, Florida, 11/8/2023
James E. Johnson '66, Petersburg, Virginia, 1/22/2024
Marcus B. Moses '66, Roanoke, Virginia, 1/24/2024
Basil G. Jennings '66, Tarboro, North Carolina, 10/30/2023
Richard L. Swanson '67, Blacksburg, Virginia, 1/10/2024
George C. Newcomb '67, Christiansburg, Virginia, 4/1/2024
Robert R. Bergseth '67, Dayton, Ohio, 11/28/2023
Earle W. Griffith '68, Leesburg, Virginia, 2/24/2024
Joseph D. Barkley '68, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 12/28/2023
Charles W. Allen '69, Staunton, Virginia, 2/8/2024
John S. Huddleston '70, Franklin, Tennessee, 1/6/2024
Logan B. Christy '70, Lincoln, Nebraska, 12/15/2023
Lawrence D. Jackson '75, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 11/15/2023
Edwin H. Harris '93, Clarksville, Virginia, 1/3/2024





By Cadet Shannon Hutchens '25

Cadets for a Cause (CFC) is an organization focused on serving the New River Valley (NRV) through service projects and local partnerships. Established in 2021 by Cadet Jenner Johnson, CFC

maintains Johnson's organizational intent to give back to the communities that have supported the Corps of Cadets for over 150 years now.

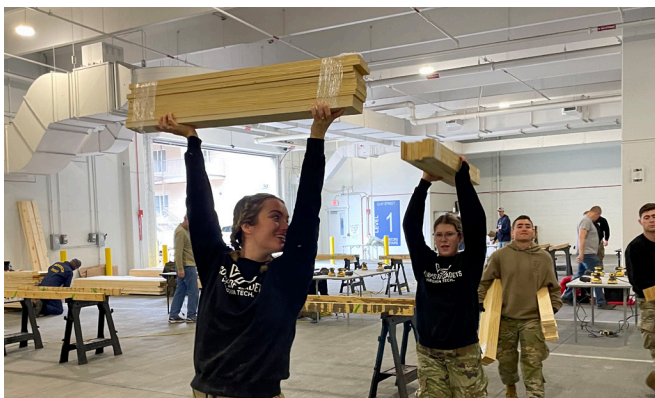
"The vision for CFC is to help our community by taking action," said Cadet Lily Adams, the current CFC officer in charge. "We want to display the uniform well and connect to people around us starting with members that are eager to make a difference."

Members join with a shared passion for service.

"I have always loved volunteering and jumped at the opportunity to get more involved not only with the Corps, but with the wider community," Cadet Ryan O'Donnell said.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: CADETS FOR A CAUSE



Under Adams' leadership, CFC remains involved in several service projects around the NRV. Cadets for a Cause maintains a longstanding relationship with the Roanoke chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, run by a former Virginia Tech Army ROTC Professor of Military Science. Cadets regularly partner with local churches, service organizations, and Virginia Tech clubs or sports teams to build beds for local families unable to finance a bed.

This year, CFC facilitated three drives to provide school supplies for Kipps Elementary teachers, homemade blankets for local LewisGale Hospital patients, and nonperishable food items to donate to the Agape Center NRV Food Bank. All three drives address food and resource insecurity in the NRV, familiar difficulties for families in the region. Recently, CFC volunteers planted trees to combat soil erosion and invasive environmental changes during the sixth annual Big Plant event.

With more projects in the works, Cadets for a Cause remains excited for the future of serving the New River Valley!

Follow Cadets for a Cause on Instagram: @cadetsforacause and Facebook: Cadets for a Cause





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