

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 32 NO. 2 FALL 2022





A first-year cadet cheers for the football team as they enter Worsham Field. A photo of a police officer killed on 9/11 shows inside the cadet's cover.



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A LONG LIFE LIVED WELL

As Commandant of the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College in 2004, I frequently invited noted leaders to address students and faculty. There were an infinite number of great people to choose from and that continues today through the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series.

Always on the lookout for the next "great read" on leadership, I came across a small book titled "Hesselbein on Leadership." I had never heard of Frances Hesselbein but was interested when I discovered that Peter Drucker, whom many called the father of modern management, called her "the best CEO in America."

So what company was she the CEO of?

Turns out it had been the Girl Scouts of America. Her work with young people resonated with me. Credited with breathing new life into the scouts, she came to be known as one of the great thought leaders of our time. She was the first woman and the first non-military person to hold the leadership chair at West Point. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor our country bestows on a civilian.

She would go on to become the leader of the Drucker Institute, which later took her name. Her global circle of friends included people like Alan Mullaly, the CEO of the Ford Motor Company, and many general officers in our military, including General Lloyd Austin, now the Secretary of Defense.

That day in 2004, she was my first call to speak to our officers. I expected to be handed off to any number of people in her office, but I called anyway. I spoke to her receptionist and explained why I was calling. After a brief pause, there was a click and a lilting voice came on with just two words, "Frances Hesselbein!"

Talk about shock. We jumped into a conversation about the school, the students, how they would go on to be leaders in our U.S. Air Force and elsewhere, and would she be willing to come and share a message of leadership with them?

Her response was immediate. "I'd be delighted! When can I come?"

"OMG" wasn't a thing back then, but it described how I felt at that moment.

That was my introduction to Frances Hesselbein. She did come to the command and staff college and brought Marshall Goldsmith, considered the top mentor to CEOs around the world and an author in his own right. It was magic. She and Marshall captivated the audience. She stayed with us and spent an extra day, and that was the beginning of a long friendship.

Some years later she called me to share that she was establishing the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement for the University of Pittsburgh and wanted me to be one of the mentors for four days of intentional leadership development. My answer was an immediate "Yes!"

That began over a decade of gatherings which always included a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Frances came to Virginia Tech and spoke to our cadets. She again stayed at our home, and we hosted cadets to dine with her. Again...magic. Her words about leadership and character during that visit are still a part of my presentations to new cadets and their families.

This fall we received a call that prompted us to send her pictures taken over the years to bring back fond memories. All of this took place shortly before her 107th birthday.

In the end, it is the friends you make that are the greatest treasures. Knowing Frances is one of the greatest gifts we have ever had. As Frances says, "To serve is to live." That's what Ut Prosim is all about.

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

UPPER QUAD NOTES

LENDING VOICES TO BEDFORD

Lt. Col. Don Russell and several cadets helped narrate a mini-documentary on 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith, Jr. for the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, as part of an initiative to memorialize Medal of Honor recipients from the Normandy invasion. You can view the video here: <https://www.dday.org/moh/>



CYBER TEAM EVENTS

The VTCC Cyber Team has been busy competing in several events this semester. They placed second in the U.S. Army Central Command Best Cyber Warrior competition against active-duty, reserve, and allied units, and placed 22nd out of 141 teams from industry, colleges, and the security research community at the Department of Energy's CyberForce event.



SAY HELLO TO GROWLEY III

There's a new face on campus. Meet Growley III, call sign "Stryker". He officially joined the Corps in January and particularly enjoys wrestling with his best buddy, Chief, in front of Lane Hall.



NEW EXERCISE AREA COMING TO UPPER QUAD

...and you can help! If you'd like to support the creation of the Corps Outdoor Training Center, you can visit givingto.vt.edu/corps. For fund, select "Other" and in the designation field, enter "VTCC O'Course Fund". For questions, contact the Advancement Office at 540-231-2892 or VTCC@vt.edu.



Rendered photo by Cadet Christina Van Meter

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

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Cmdr. Nate Brown '98, Alumni Director

Katie Mallory '03, Communications Director and Editor

Sandi R. Bliss, Chief Advancement Officer

Photography: H. Pat Artis VT'71; Bob Shelton '95, Nate Brown '98, Katie Mallory '03; Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart; Kalista Luzanta '24, Christina Van Meter '23, Richard Toledo '23, Brianna Kosko '23, Taylor Nordman '23, Duke Maddox '23

Comments and all material for the magazine should be mailed to Editor, Corps Review, VTCC Alumni Office (0213); 252 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech; 280 Alumni Mall; Blacksburg, VA 24061. Persons wishing to reprint any portion of the contents of Corps Review must contact the editor for permission.

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Corps Review can be accessed online at www.vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview

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Front cover: First-year cadets marching on day five of New Cadet Week. Photo by K. Mallory '03.

Back cover: Fall 2022 Regimental Staff at the Pylons. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

It has been a wonderful summer and fall, filled with opportunities on campus and at remote locations for our Corps alums to connect. For all of our events, you have returned and participated in growing numbers which is an indication to us that you are hungry for the connection to the Corps and that the events that are being provided appeal to your taste buds.

Participation: While attendance from the classes from the 1950s, '60s and '70s has been consistently strong at our events, we are starting to see classes from the 1980s and 1990s beginning to return in greater numbers. We need to maintain this trend and also find a way to encourage more of those from 2000 - 2022 to be enticed to brave I-81 and make the return trip.

For those that did return for Corps Reunion or HT Reunion this fall, please find one of your buds that did not attend and encourage them to attend next year's reunion. You all know as well as I do that they will thank you for it.

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

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

SHOW ME YOUR "MUG"

We have a new tradition that was announced in the Spring 2022 Corps Review and appears to be initially successful: the "Show Me Your Mug" campaign. At events this year, we are giving returners a metal VTCC alumni camping mug. Participants also receive a durable event sticker that they can display on their camping mug. It is our intent that alums will bring their mugs back for all future events and use their stickers as a way to document their return visits. It would be great to receive some pictures of your mug as it travels with you to different parts of the world showing off your Corps pride.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

We have started to reach out to various companies and businesses that may be interested in our cadets for internships and our alums for employment. Stay tuned to the monthly e-mail update where we will provide additional information on employment opportunities focused on our alums.





GIVING DAY 2023

Mark your calendars for Virginia Tech Giving Day, Feb. 15-16, 2023. Your donation to the Corps of Cadets on Giving Day directly supports our cadets on their journeys to become the next generation of leaders.

Giving Day brings together Hokies from all around the world to support the colleges, departments, programs, organizations, and teams that mean the most to them. Every gift, no matter the size, helps support students, cadets, faculty, and staff who are doing amazing things.

This year, we will continue to organize and participate in challenges that will allow us to make Giving Day competitive within our Corps alumni community and also with organizations outside the Corps. These competitions help make Giving Day fun, encourage folks to participate, and also allow us the opportunity to compete for additional university funds that can be directed towards our priorities.

If you are inclined to be philanthropic this year, please do it on Giving Day so that your gift can be counted in our Giving Day competitions!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 9: "Leaders in Contact" Alumni Panel
- Feb. 15-16: Giving Day
- March 13: Virtual Diversity Panel
- April 6: Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony
- April 28: Senior Social



REUNION WEEKEND, JUNE 8-11, 2023

Save the Date! June 8-11, 2023. Alumni Weekend is an exciting tradition alumni look forward to all year long. Join us to celebrate being a Hokie! Return to Blacksburg to explore campus, have fun, and learn.

Visit here to learn more: <https://www.alumni.vt.edu/weekend>

HAYFIELD DREAMS AND CORPS VALUES

By Rear Adm. Michael Steffen '92, U.S. Navy

Growing up on a farm in Bedford, Virginia, I used to run out into the front hayfield, look into the sky and watch Navy F-4 Phantoms and A-6 Intruders roar by on a low-level route and dream what it would be like. This was reinforced by my mom, who was a private pilot and used to take me flying when I was little. Fast forward to my senior year of high school and I was working hard to make that dream a reality by applying to the Naval Academy, VMI, and Virginia Tech.

Finding Virginia Tech to be the right mix of military and traditional college experience, I matriculated as a Hokie and joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) and the Naval ROTC program. The VTCC helped launch me on an epic adventure that has spanned four years of college and 30+ years of a Navy career which has taken me around the world and introduced me to many life-long friends, colleagues, and unforgettable experiences.

An initial “unforgettable experience” was my first full day in the Corps with Kilo Company. The previous afternoon our parents had moved us into our rooms and waved goodbye as we observed colors on the VT before dinner. The next morning kicked off the real training when we were woken by the ear-splitting sound of Guns-n-Roses “Welcome to the Jungle” echoing through the hallways and our cadre sergeants bellowing “GET ON LINE”!

Over the course of the next four years, immersed in the VTCC, I gained invaluable leadership training, formed unbreakable bonds with my classmates, blossomed into a decent student, met my future wife, and recovered from a few mistakes that made me a better person and leader. The Corps was a complementary mix of academics, athletics, discipline, and fun, all at

the same time. Some of my fondest memories include things like Halloween formation, pie day, home football games, major class projects, and company athletics.

I look back on my freshman year with a current perspective and am still impressed by how professional our upperclassmen were (C/CPT Rodriguez, C/ISG Lacroix, C/SSG Debbie Werling, C/SGT Clos, C/CPL Seiber to name a few) and how much we learned in such a small amount of time. Of course, they were guided and influenced by an extremely professional and dedicated group of advisors and ROTC instructors, including such legends as Col. Vander Pyl, Col. Wilson, Sgt. Maj. Longrie (and Joyce, the VTCC secretary!), as well as our Naval instructors, Capt. Smart, Maj. Holm and Staff Sgt. Too. Under their leadership and watchful eyes, along with many others in the VTCC, I learned numerous lessons, but here are a few of the most important:

1 – Core values. In the Navy, it’s Honor, Courage, and Commitment... all of which started (with me) at the VTCC. But I would add Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), too. Being a servant leader and carrying yourself with a dose of humility creates trust with the people you serve with.

2 – Performance under pressure. This did me well during four combat tours in Iraq and numerous other real-world operations and intense training evolutions (like landing a helicopter on a pitching deck of a ship at night).

3 – Teamwork. The military is the ultimate “team sport” and the VTCC engrained in me the importance of utilizing the skills and talents of everyone in your unit to get the job done, regardless of their rank or grade.



Top left: Steffen approaching USS Gerald R. Ford.
Bottom left: Senior portrait of then Cadet Major Steffen.

Top right: Steffen and wife, Jen, at the 1992 Military Ball
Bottom right: Steffen with his co-pilot, Jeff Nolan.

4 – Hard work. Nothing comes easy and working hard every day at your profession improves the odds of success.

5 – True Friendship. During the crucible of freshman year and the ongoing training, you get a chance to figure out who's going to run and who has your back. I graduated with an incredible class ('92), many of whom I stay in touch with to this day -- Bruce Curling, Scott Loudenback, Courtney Hollar, and John Marchetti to name a few.

6 – Joint experience. While the service academies offer excellent academic and service-specific programs, I would argue one of VTCC's strongest value propositions for a cadet is being raised in a joint environment with our sister services. I can't overstate how valuable this was throughout my entire career.

7 – Communication & networking. The opportunity to work with a diverse group of people, of all different backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities was impactful on my success.

These lessons carried me through over 30 years of my Navy career with great success, and what an incredible ride it's been. I joined the Navy under the advertising taglines "Join the Navy, see the world," and "It's not just a job,

it's an adventure," and wow, did they deliver!

Having grown up in the shadow of the first Top Gun movie, I thought I was destined to fly F-14 Tomcats, making it through primary flight training with excellent grades. But the Navy had other plans, drafting most of my class to fly helicopters. (Ironically, several of my flight school classmates later transitioned to jets and a good friend who I deployed with during my first tour would become the Navy's technical coordinator for Top Gun: Maverick)

Flying helicopters turned out to be a blessing, exposing me to nearly every mission area the Navy had to offer, from tactical assignments firing Hellfire missiles and fast-roping SEALs on rooftops, to practical duties delivering supplies and medevac flights taking sailors off ships.

I've had an unusual and diverse career that started with a traditional carrier-based anti-submarine helicopter squadron but took several twists and turns, including a long period with the Navy's only two squadrons dedicated to special operations, and then back to a traditional light anti-submarine helicopter squadron as the commanding officer. I

later had the privilege of commanding at the wing, installation, and flag levels. I joke that over the course of my career, I've been kicked out of every helicopter community in the Navy, but truthfully

my adaptability and work ethic (planted and cultivated by the VTCC) have given Navy leadership the flexibility to place me where I was needed most.

Along the way, I've sailed around the world, done several western Pacific deployments, completed four combat tours conducting special operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, chased drug runners in the Caribbean, and most importantly had the privilege to lead and advocate for our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines at every level.

People usually ask me what was my most meaningful tour. I think that is nearly impossible to answer since each tour has had an incredible impact in both my personal development as well as contributing to the Navy mission, the joint force, and national defense. If I had to pick one, I would say it was all five of my command tours. This is where I feel I had the most impact, both with the mission and our people.

For the mission, I tried to push the edge of the operational envelope and leave the organization better than I found it. My time in the Corps also taught me how important it was to innovate and push to implement new ideas. I'm proud to have been an integral part of the development of the Seahawk Weapons and Tactics program, introducing the FLIR Hellfire weapons system to the east coast fleet, bringing a night airborne use of force capability to the anti-submarine and strike helicopter community, and develop new concepts with our fleet commanders to tackle difficult anti-submarine problems.

For our people, I did my best to ensure they were taken care of by fighting for training and resources, while holding them to a high standard to give the highest possible chance of mission success.

I also have to call out my tours at



Courtney Hollar '92, Scott Loudenback '92, Steve Scarfe '90, Steffen, Bruce Curling '92, Dan Vogel '94, Tim Palmer '91 at Steffen's outgoing change of command at Naval District Washington.

HCS-4 & HCS-5 that covered my time in Iraq. Although I was not in command of either squadron at the time, I was one of the primary mission leads and a weapons instructor, which meant my leadership was best expressed in the planning room and the cockpit. My crews and I conducted over 125 missions and I'm proud to say we usually captured our targets, and everyone got home safe.

All of these experiences have helped prepare me for my current position as Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. In this role, I'm in charge of the manning, training, and equipping of the Navy Reserve, proudly serving a force of 58,000 dedicated Sailors who operate across the entire spectrum of mission sets the Navy has to offer.

Perhaps the most important thing out of all my time in the VTCC and my subsequent Navy career is the importance of family. Both my immediate family and our Hokie family. I've had the great fortune after I graduated to reunite periodically with numerous Hokies, many times in interesting and unexpected places like bumping into John Brinker at the chow hall in Kuwait, Brad Lawing at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., Tim Palmer at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Doug Beaver living 3 blocks away in Norfolk, Mark and Erin Leavitt in Coronado (and around the Navy), Brig. Gen. Doug Clark (USMC) on a secure video teleconference, Steve Scarfe trying to rally local Hokies together in northern Virginia, Dan Vogel and his wife Julie, who always feed me

when I visit D.C. and a whole host of Hokies at the Pentagon, led by Geoff Stewart and Noel Smart who even joined forces with me and braved the great soggy Military Bowl of 2018! To top it all off, I even have a VT alum, Lt. Chelsea Cannaday, working in the public affairs office on my staff; Hokies everywhere!

Last but not least, I need to make sure I give full honors to my beautiful bride, Jennifer, a super motivated Army cadet who I met in the Corps back in 1990 and has followed me (out of sheer curiosity) for the last 32 years. She has been the rock that holds our family together while I'm galivanting around the world and raising three amazing daughters (one of which graduates from VT this winter). When my Navy career comes to an end in a few years, the thing I will be most proud of is that she will still be by my side, ready to become a regular tail-gater as we continue to cheer on our beloved Hokie Nation!



Noel Smart, Geoff Stewart and Steffen at the soggy Military Bowl of 2018.



Steffen with wife, Jen, and daughters Rachel (at far right), Abi (at center), and Sarah (at far left).



Jen as a cadet during Pie Day

NEW CORPS STAFF

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continued to add new faces to the staff. They include the following:

MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH MOORE

Master Sgt. Joseph “Jo” Moore, U.S. Army (retired), is the Deputy Director



Jo Moore

for Operations. Originally from Fayette County, Alabama, Moore has been assigned to a multitude of units and locations across the globe including Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Qatar, Italy, and Russia. In the United States, Moore has been stationed at Fort Belvoir and Fort Bragg.

During his career as a signalman, Moore has been assigned as a team leader, section sergeant, and platoon sergeant. As a psychological operations sergeant, he served as a task force team leader, operations non-commissioned officer and S-3 operations sergeant major. He has completed three combat tours in Iraq and his decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, and the

Office of the Director of National Intelligence Meritorious Unit citation. He earned his senior parachutist wings in 2011.

Moore finished his career as an operations non-commissioned officer while assigned to the Defense Attaché offices in the U.S. embassies in Moscow and Rome. He retired from the Army in 2019.

Moore lives in Blacksburg with his wife and two youngest sons; his oldest son serves as a linguist with the U.S. Marine Corps.

SCOTT LYMAN '84

Col. Robert Lyman, U.S. Army (retired), is the Associate Director of Major Gifts. A graduate of the Corps and former member of Alpha Company, Lyman commissioned into the U.S. Army and



Scott Lyman

served as a scout pilot. His operational assignments included tours with the 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 1st Infantry Division as a military transition team chief and deputy commander in Afghanistan. During his 30-year career, Lyman has had

various aviation, command, and joint assignments culminating as the Defense Coordinating Officer at Fort Shafter in Hawaii where he served as the single point of contact for requesting, validating, and coordinating Department of Defense support for FEMA during disasters occurring in the Pacific region. His badges and awards include the Senior Army Aviator Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Mobilization Medal with “M” and “2” devices, Afghanistan Campaign with one star and the NATO Medal. His military education includes completion of the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Services Staff College, Aviation Officer Advanced Course, and the Armor Officer Basic Course. Lyman is a recent widower. He has four children and two grandchildren.

CORPS INTERNS

CLARE PROVONCHA '22

Clare Provoncha is a communications associate for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. She is tasked with video production, editing, and writing on behalf of the Corps. A political science major, she will graduate in May 2023. As a cadet, Provoncha was a proud member of the VTCC Pipes and Drums,

and in Air Force ROTC, she was the first female commander of Air Force Flyers,



Clare Provoncha

an organization that helps cadets earn aeronautically rated slots in the U.S. Air Force. She has completed a congressional internship with U.S. Rep. Robert Wittman and has traveled abroad with the Corps' Global Scholars program. Upon her graduation and commissioning this spring, Provoncha will begin Combat Systems Officer Training in Pensacola, FL.



Liam Murphy

LIAM MURPHY '22

Liam Murphy is the Alumni Advancement Associate Managerial As-

sistant for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. He is tasked with assisting in the setup and coordination of events for the advancement team. A mining engineering major, he will graduate in December 2022. As a cadet, Murphy commanded Alpha Company during the fall 2021 semester and served as the Naval Battalion commander during the spring semester in 2022. He is a member of the International Society of Explosives Engineers and Society of Mining Engineers. Upon graduation, Murphy will commission as a student Naval aviator and report to Pensacola, FL for flight training.





FROM CONTINUING TRADITIONS TO CREATING NEW LEADERS, THE CORPS WAS BUSY THIS FALL

The Corps honored veterans on Nov. 11 with a remembrance ceremony and vigils at the Rock and Pylons.

New Cadet Week shifted two days earlier, starting and ending on a Thursday to allow for Weeks of Welcome orientation events.

The Corps entered into a memorandum of agreement with Boeing on Sept. 14 that provides guaranteed job interviews for Corps alumni and increased internships for VPI BN cadets.



Esprit De Corps motivated Hokie Nation at all games, seen here at the VT vs. WVU matchup. Photo courtesy of Cadet Duke Maddox '23.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin visited with the Corps during the Boston College game on Sept. 10 which the Hokies won 27-10.



Caldwell March was postponed due to anticipated heavy rains and high winds from Hurricane Ian. The march was completed a few weeks later on Oct. 23 and was the first time since 2020 that the regiment was able to return to the original route starting in Craig County. Photo courtesy of Cadet Brianna Kosko '23.

Halloween formation is always a favorite amongst cadets. This year was no exception.



The Homecoming Pass in Review in honor of the Class of 1972 was conducted on Oct. 14.





THESE WALLS WILL TALK

By Samantha Riggin VT'16, Corps museum curator

How many times in your life have you lamented, "If these walls could talk?" Perhaps the thought pops into your mind during a visit to an old family homestead, or to a historical property. How about when you are inside Lane Hall? Ah, to learn the secrets held within the brick and mortar of our grand old man built in 1888. Surely "war" stories about cadets' infamous first year struggles with upperclassman would ring loud, as would recollections of military veterans who served during World War I, the war to end all wars, a statement proven false by World War II, Korea, Vietnam and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Alas! Not all the chatter from the annals of Lane would ring with despair. Consider the anticipation of a cadet's first Ring Dance, or the day they "turned," no longer having to brace and drag. Happy banter. Joyous days. The walls would sing. The Corps, its alumni, and I, the museum curator, have waited

so long for an official museum facility to showcase the history of our beloved cadets, and now the dream is coming to fruition. The new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, a crowning jewel on the Upper Quad, will open in the fall of 2023, replete with a museum facility incorporated within the Grand Hall. A space to celebrate, to remember, and to learn about yesteryear's Corps. The good and the bad, all interwoven, producing a rich tapestry of military and collegiate history. It is my goal to bring to life stories from Corps history; old standards such as the birth of the Skipper and the infamous cadet versus civilian snowball battles, just two examples of many. A profound way to engage visitors at any museum is to include artifacts from those stories, a chance for us to live vicariously through the lives of former soldiers, civilians and business leaders, whose characters were nurtured by our Corps. That experience is enhanced

The Corps museum is slated to open in the fall of 2023.

when a piece of personal memorabilia is on display to accompany their stories. Matthew LaPorte's drum comes immediately to my mind; its chrome still shiny, the inside covered with signatures of fellow Highty-Tighties who grieved for our one of the thirty-two. A museum can be many things: a repository of history, a showcase of accomplishments, an opportunity to engage with the past, or, as in Matthew LaPorte's drum, a makeshift hallowed ground. I want the new Corps museum's walls to talk, for visitors to "feel" our history palpably. I strive to present alumni stories – from the very first class in 1872 to yesterday's graduates – with professionalism and grace. I need your help to achieve that goal.

A museum collection is only as rich as its holdings, and there are holes in ours that need to be filled. I am putting out a call to action! We are lacking in artifacts from conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East, as well as corresponding interviews from veterans of these wars, to share with today's cadets whose curiosity about their predecessors' histories is almost insatiable. I need former alumni from the eras referenced above to offer up their stories and their "stuff," to be included in the new museum. If offered, they will be treasured and professionally cared for, ensuring their survival and the opportunity for them to echo their stories within the walls of our long-awaited museum. Please consider these requests and contact me directly at samsales@vt.edu to discuss items that you may have to donate, or stories that you would like to share. Let us make those walls talk!



Cadet Fredericks '25 (second row, second from left), Sam Ely '01 (second row, fifth from left), Cadet Bluestein '25 (back row, second from left) and Cadet Stewart '23 (back row, third from left) during workplace fun this summer. Photo courtesy of Cadet Sam Stewart.

THE INTERNSHIP ADVANTAGE

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

Cadets in the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track lead extremely busy lives, combining their studies with opportunity as they prepare to lead lives of service, to their community, nation, and greater world. Honing their leadership and management skills throughout the academic year, many Citizen-Leader cadets put these skills to the test, pursuing summer opportunities to better prepare them for life after graduation. This takes many forms, and the diversity of summer experiences matches that of the cadets themselves and their wide array of majors and areas of professional interest. Whether in a suit on Capitol Hill, wearing a hard hat at a construction site, training for military service, or volunteering to bring much-needed aid to those less fortunate, Citizen-Leader Hokies are going the extra mile.

CADET JENNA MATHIS

VPI Battalion's sergeant major, Cadet Jenna Mathis, a junior majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise, accepted a position with Global Medical



Cadet Mathis (second row, second from left) in Athens with fellow Global Medical Brigades volunteers.

Brigades, an international movement of students and medical professionals that works to provide sustainable solutions for women's health in Athens, Greece. While there, she was able to shadow doctors, complete administrative work, and volunteer her time to aid refugees at a shelter for unaccompanied minors. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career in medicine as a doctor for the armed services. Of her experience, Mathis feels that making connections with people was the most valuable part of her travels, along with language interpretation, cultural awareness, and dedication. "You don't have to know everything; you just have to know enough to make your patients comfortable and at ease. Relationships matter, and being culturally aware helps sustain those relationships," Mathis said.

CADET JOSHUA BUCKINGHAM

A senior majoring in history and political science, Cadet Joshua Buckingham recently returned to Blacksburg after completing the “Hokies on the Hill” undergraduate internship program during the spring 2022 semester with U.S. Rep.



Cadet Buckingham (center left) with Rep. Wittman (center right).

Rob Wittman '81. Through this and other opportunities while in the nation's capital, Buckingham served on the front line of politics, answering phones and constituent queries through many hot-button world events such as the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and the Uvalde, Texas school tragedy. Of his experiences on Capitol Hill, he attributes much of his success to the Corps and the Citizen-Leader program. Learning how to “talk and interact with important people, say the right things to win over and influence others, are skills that I learned in part from VPI. Networking has become a major word in my vocabulary,” Buckingham said. Though he admits his time in Washington, D.C. was challenging, he said “it allowed me to grow, escape the routine of being a student, and explore opportunities to open more doors for the future.”

CADET MAKENZIE MILLIGAN

Cadet Makenzie Milligan, a senior double majoring in criminology and soci-

ology, traded one uniform for another as she joined the Ocean City Police Department in Maryland over the summer as a public safety officer. The police department is a frequent partner with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and Milligan was one of three cadets to join their ranks in 2022. After finding out about the opportunity at a recruitment event during a VPI lab during the fall semester in 2021, Milligan applied. As the daughter of a mother employed with the federal government, working for the government was something she said she “always wanted to do, had always been around, and had grown up with.” Milligan felt prepared for the hiring process thanks to her time in VPI Battalion. “Working with Lt. Col. Cox and Mr. Mallory to prep my resume, conduct a mock interview, and help



Cadet Milligan (left) working with the Ocean City Police Department.

prepare me for the hiring process really helped,” she said. Learning time management in the Corps was vital as well, and gave her confidence while managing fast-paced and dynamic scenes. The summer experience helped prepare her for success in the future, and opened doors to even more opportunities. “I’m currently in the indoctrination phase of employment with the U.S. Capitol Police. Ocean City helped make that connection happen. The moment I put that experience on my resume,

it was an attention-getter,” Milligan said.

CADET SIDNEY FREDERICKS AND CADET SAMUEL STEWART

There are few situations that are more ideal than when a Corps alum has found success that provides the opportunity to give back and offer growth and learning opportunities for cadets. Mr. Sam Ely '01 founded Percival Engineering after leaving military service and turned to Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets to mentor and train potential employees. Cadet Sidney Fredericks, a sophomore majoring in computer science and Cadet Sam Stewart, a networking and cybersecurity senior, both were able to pursue this generous opportunity in Columbia, MD, to work on real-world problems in cyber technology and security. Cadet Stewart was gratified to work on such projects, noting that his work had a real stake for the company. Not solving a problem meant that his failure was the company's failure. This type of work, though at times stressful, was incredibly rewarding for Stewart. Cadet Fredericks enjoyed the team approach at Percival Engineering. “Anyone could ask anyone else for help at any time; it was a team effort,” she said. They both view the internship as an extremely valuable experience. Fredericks said, “Working for Sam was awesome; it was great to hear how an alum was able to build a company and culture from the ground up.”

If you would like the opportunity to partner with one of our stellar Citizen-Leader cadets through an internship program or similar experience or would like more information about the Citizen-Leader Track, contact Ken Mallory, assistant director of the Citizen-Leader Track, at kemallor@vt.edu.

CORPS REUNION





IT WAS SPECTACULAR SEEING SO MANY ALUMS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS RETURN FOR OUR REUNIONS IN 2022! DON'T MISS OUT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO RETURN, CONNECT, AND ENGAGE!
— NATE BROWN '98, VTCC ALUMNI DIRECTOR —



HT Reunion photos courtesy of Cadets Christina Van Meter '23 and Kalista Luzanta '24.



Cadets from 4th Battalion review answers from a group exercise on sexual assault prevention during Cadre Week.

FOCUSED TRAINING AND PHASED FOUNDATIONS

By Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Travis Sheets, '05, U.S. Air Force (retired) and Katie Mallory, '03, Communications Director

In late April this year, with New Cadet Week and the arrival of the Class of 2026 just a few months away, commanders and cadre members for this fall were chosen. Past COVID restrictions impacted the training cycle for both classes, so with an influx of new staff members and the unique challenge of stepping past a pandemic, it was a good opportunity to make a few changes to cadet training. The first substantial change: a pre-Cadre Week online summer training course for commanders and cadre.

Corps of Cadets staff members collaborated to create the required online course covering topics ranging from bystander intervention and sexual as-

sault prevention to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and personally identifiable information policy compliance. Commanders were also required to complete Mental Health First Aid, a daylong course that teaches participants how to identify and support someone advancing toward a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Cadre and commanders also participated in discussion boards on articles about hazing prevention and how to create positive cultural shifts. In their required sexual assault prevention training, which was adapted from U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

guidance, cadets learned how to discuss sexual assault prevention with those under their command and debated ways to apply those principles as cadet leaders.

"The intent of the course was to get our cadet leaders into the source documents as much as possible. The course was also a method for Corps staff to know where there are holes in the training or identify areas where we need to exert more time and energy," said 2nd Battalion's senior enlisted advisor, retired U.S. Navy Command Master Chief Richard Curtis Jr.

With the required course underway, cadets were able to move back to campus for the second part of their training:



Cadet Nolan Chong '24 shares his thoughts during a breakout session in the sexual assault prevention training by Hokie Wellness.

Cadre Week.

While portions of Cadre Week are used to polish marching skills and cadence calling, the same hard-hitting topics from the mandatory summer online course continued once cadets reached campus. Partners from University Legal and Student Conduct visited Upper Quad to further the conversation on hazing prevention. Hokie Wellness (a campus partner based in the Division of Student Affairs), in collaboration with Women's Center staff and Corps community members, conducted an additional sexual violence prevention training that was fine-tuned for a military audience, complete with breakout sessions and guided discussions.

"The programming that Hokie Wellness created for the cadre was a combination of best practices in sexual violence prevention, bystander intervention, and our stakeholder model. Our goal was to create programming that was tailored specifically to the needs of our cadre and

Corps students," said Chelsea Cleary, Hokie Wellness' sexual violence prevention specialist.

According to exit surveys from the training, 94 percent of cadre members reported that they felt better equipped to talk about sexual violence prevention in their units after the presentation.

"The training was very successful thanks to our former and current cadre members' assistance in facilitating the training with their colleagues. As a trainer, seeing how current cadre

members were able to connect with the material because someone from their community was involved in sharing that material with them was so inspiring," Cleary said.

The alarming rise in nationwide suicide rates and increased mental health stigma were not ignored when tailoring cadre training. At the request of the Corps staff, Hokie Wellness brought to Cadre Week its Helping Friends in Distress workshop that taught cadre members to identify escalating levels of stress, from homesickness experienced by new cadets to suicidal ideation crises. Throughout New Cadet Week, cadet leaders were challenged to know when to toe the line on strict discipline or take a concerned approach with a new cadet in distress.

Corps staff and cadets rounded out the on-campus week of training with small group discussions on gender equality amongst cadre, review of the Corps of Cadets regulations manual, basic first aid, and the cadet honor code.

The training schedule intentionally took a broad approach to societal issues this year while focusing on cadre leadership development with a heavy nod to team building. The intent of the



Master Gunnery Sgt. Jones addresses cadre and cadet training assistants during Cadre Week this year.



A new cadet during inprocessing on the first day of New Cadet week studies his Guidon.



This year's New Cadet Parade in August was listed as a kick-off event for Weeks of Welcome. Photo courtesy of Cadet Taylor Nordman '23

training was for cadre to share skills with new cadets beyond those solely military in nature and to guide the newest members of the Corps to focus on teamwork and service to others. Mental health was heavily hit in the curriculum to encourage cadets to tune into others around them in the hope of erasing mental health stigma. Sexual violence prevention and bystander intervention taught cadets to look out for one another and enforce the importance of setting an appropriate climate. Even military drill – the most visible cadet training on campus - had a purpose in leadership instruction: to teach discipline and followership as the first steps toward being a successful leader.

Though New Cadet Week is their busiest time, the cadre maintain their trainer role for the first six weeks of the semester, known as Red Phase. Cadet commanders serve in their role for the whole semester, while also serving as Student Leaders (formerly known as residential advisors) in the newly created Residential Well-Being model that now separates residential experiences from Housing. The dual role of cadet commander and Student Leader doubles

the training – cadet commanders are required to complete Residential Well-Being Student Leader training as well as Cadre Week. For Cadet Michael Stanley, a senior majoring in building construction and Golf Company commander, Cadre Week prepared him for the challenge of leading during New Cadet Week and the school year.

“The training during Cadre Week has made me more comfortable going into New Cadet Week in my role of company commander. I have more confidence in myself, and I am more confident in my team knowing that they’ve completed this training. I know that we can address whatever may come up during cadet



training and the semester. We are ready,” said Stanley.

Their Cadre Week training complete, cadet leaders welcomed 441 new cadets to Upper Quad on August 11.

The week was demanding by design with early morning wakeups and days filled with drill, briefings, physical challenges at the obstacle course and rappel tower, basic cadet instructions, and plenty of time getting to know the Guidon. New this year to the schedule: Hokies on Track sessions, which were incorporated as part of the university’s new Weeks of Welcome, which took the place of summer orientation. At the end of the week, new cadets demonstrated their blossoming skills during the New Cadet Parade on Thursday, August 18, and then headed into a weekend of on-campus Weeks of Welcome events run by Student Affairs.

Cadre Week and New Cadet Week were over, but training was not. Ahead of the Class of 2026 are three phases of training: Red Phase, White Phase, and Blue Phase, a gradual building process to transform first-year cadets into sophomore cadet leaders.

Red Phase began with the first day



Caldwell March is the last event for Red Phase and normally occurs at the six week point of the semester. The march was delayed by a few weeks this year due to Hurricane Ian. Photo courtesy of Cadet Richard Toledo '23

of classes. Six weeks of college instruction, formation, football games, and cadet life mingled together as the cadre maintained their focus on polishing basic cadet skills in their first-year cadets during on-line training sessions and weekend training events. Symbolically, the end of Red Phase is marked by the completion of first half of the Caldwell March by the new cadets and their cadre. With Red Phase over, the full chain of command engaged for the next portion of cadet training: White Phase.

During White Phase, first-year cadets were incorporated into the company chain of command structure. The training they receive during this phase is conducted by fire-team leaders, squad leaders, platoon sergeants and the rest of the cadet chain of command. This allows first-year cadets to see other leaders in addition to their cadre team and to operate as a member of larger organization. It also gives upperclass cadets the opportunity to practice their leadership skills. The purpose of White Phase training is to develop critical thinking skills, foster teamwork, develop peer leadership while enforcing basic college skills for academic success, and to educate new cadets about campus resources available to them.

This is done through leadership reaction challenges, experiences, and educational sessions that are designed to educate the entire chain of command, not just first-year cadets. In the later part of this phase, classroom instruction for first-year cadets shifts from how to succeed in college to how to identify personal strengths and weaknesses, which serves as a smooth transition to the upcoming Blue Phase. Sophomore classroom instruction at this point in the year focuses on ethical and honorable leadership, the evolution of leadership and its theories, conflict and appropriate corrective actions, and cultural self-awareness. White Phase ends each year at Military Ball in February as the cadets enter Blue Phase.

Blue Phase training for first-year cadets focuses on honing

what they will bring to the regiment in their second year by preparing them to be fireteam leaders. Blue phase also focuses on preparing sophomore cadets to be squad leaders and cadre for their upcoming junior year. During Blue Phase, first-year cadets are taught to lead small groups, encouraged to develop an understanding of themselves and their leadership style, and instructed on how to be effective and productive upper-class cadets. Blue Phase is marked with a few big events, such as Platoon Tactical Challenge and the second half of Caldwell



A regimental inspection was conducted in August. A second regimental inspection will be conducted in January to challenge cadet leadership's attention to detail. Photo courtesy of Cadet Christina Van Meter.

March. Classroom instruction in this phase focuses specifically on how to become an effective fire team leader and wraps up with fire team leader selections for the upcoming fall semester. Corps labs in the spring for sophomores focus on squad leader preparation while their classroom sessions will include many of the same topics included in the cadre summer training course. The best among the first-year cadets will have the opportunity to serve as Cadet Training Assistants (a logistical support role) as sophomores during Cadre Week and New Cadet Week, and then have one more year of training as sophomores before they are able enter the cadre training program.



Classroom instruction during one session of the Corps leadership courses.

SMALLER SESSIONS FOR BIGGER GAINS

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

Over its lifetime, the Rice Center for Leader Development has adapted to the needs of the Corps. Early in its existence, a leadership minor was created to capture the broad range of leader development activities in the Corps and provide academic credit for the work being done. At the time, the Corps Leadership Minor was the only such minor at Virginia Tech. In the intervening decades, other leadership minors were created, capturing a wide range of activities in a wide range of academic disciplines. As a result of these options, cadets are no longer limited to the Corps' leadership minor and as such, enrollment in the Corps minor has declined.

As part of developing the Corps

Leadership Minor, Corps leadership courses were developed and accredited through the Pamplin College of Business Management department. As these courses have evolved, their value to all cadets has grown, regardless of a cadet's decision to pursue the Corps Leadership Minor. As the focus on these leadership education opportunities grew, the dedicated opportunities for cadet training that had existed within Corps lab shrank to the point where the ratio of cadet training to education became imbalanced.

To address this imbalance, starting in the fall of 2022, the Corps leadership courses were pulled out of the Corps Lab period on Thursday afternoons and

distributed throughout the academic week. This separation provided several benefits. First, it allowed us to offer multiple sections of the mandatory first-year and sophomore level courses, greatly reducing the number of cadets with irreconcilable class conflicts. Second, multiple sections allow for smaller class sizes which presents a better classroom learning environment, especially for the first-year course that provides essential first-year experience topics that are better presented through discussion instead of large-format lectures. And lastly, moving the academics out of the Corps Lab period frees up five sessions per semester that can be returned to the training leg of the leader develop-

ment process. These time blocks have been labeled as Corps Training Time (CTT) and are now part of the Corps lab program which still includes Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series presentations and the revamped alumni panel, Leaders in Contact.

Initial results show promise that this change will result in both more effective training and more effective education. First-year cadets are more engaged in the classroom, and the Corps' training organization, led by the Regimental S-3 and recently created Regimental Training Officer (S-37), is identifying common training activities that can be more effectively presented in a dedicated Corps Training Time. Corps Training Time sets aside a block when the majority of the Corps is available for Corps-wide, Battalion-wide, or class-specific training.

As this is the first semester of this new program, much remains to be learned. What is the right number of sections for the first-year cadet and sophomore Corps leadership course, and how do we assign instructors to those sections? What training activities should be included in the newly created Corps Training Times? How will the completion of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building support the Corps leadership courses while also supporting VPI and ROTC classes? These are all questions the Rice Center aims to address, and if possible, answer this academic year.

We believe these changes set the Corps on the right path for the future and will go a long way toward standardizing our formalized Leader Development Program which we plan to reveal this coming spring.



Homecoming Pass in Review practice during Corps Training Time in October.



Virginia Tech Men's Basketball Coach Mike Young spoke to cadets during a Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series in October.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Terry Lyon '68 was the featured artist at the Art Pannonia gallery in Blacksburg for the month of June. The title of the exhibit was "Farms, Faces and Figures." He recently had a write up in the New River Valley section of the Roanoke Times.

1970s

M.K. Miles '71 was inducted into the Army Corps of Engineers Gallery of Distinguished Civilians on June 29, 2022, in Washington, D.C. During his 35-year career with the Army Corps



of Engineers, he helped revolutionize engineering and navigational practices worldwide during the early development of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.



Members of the **Class of 1972** arrived in great numbers for events this

summer and fall to celebrate their 50th reunion.

1980s

Col. Robert (Scott) Lyman '84 was hired as the Associate Director of Major Gifts for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Maj. Gen. Timothy Williams '85 took the oath of office as Adjutant General of Virginia on June 28, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia.



1990s



Brig. Gen. Douglas Clark '90 completed his tour as the Chief of Staff of the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway and is now the commanding general of 4th Marine Division.



Rear Adm. Michael Steffen '92 completed his assignment as the commandant of Naval District Washington and is now serving as the commander of Navy Reserve Forces Command.



Brig. Gen. Kelly Dickerson '95 completed his assignment as the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army John Fitzgerald Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School in Fort Bragg North Carolina and is now assigned to the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve in Fort Belvoir, VA as the G-357, Director of Operations, Plans, and Training.



Brig. Gen. Jasper Jeffers III '96 completed his assignment as the Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver), 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Georgia and is now assigned as the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism, J-3, on the Joint Staff in Washington, DC.

William "Bill" Jones '98 and Shawn Talmadge '98 earned their master's degrees in strategic studies from U.S. Army War College.



2000s

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Cheng '01 retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service. He served as an infantry officer and deployed to Afghanistan three times and once to Iraq.



He is an acquisition officer fielding new equipment.

2010s

Capt Chris Hintz '17 and his fellow Marines stopped by Blacksburg this summer and were nice enough to share information about their aircraft with the Hokie Community!



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



OLD DOMINION



U.S. Air Force Captain Katy Hintz '17 is deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve with the 335th Flight Generation Squadron. As a flight commander, she leads over 300 personnel in the maintenance of F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft to provide close air support and strike capabilities to coalition forces.

WOFFORD



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Colleen Pramenko '19 and U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Abby Houghtling '19 are rooming together again while stationed at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

NORTH CAROLINA



U.S. Army Capt. James Turbyfill '16 and U.S. Army National Guard 1st Lt. Matthew Oermann '16 are deployed to Iraq. Turbyfill is an intelligence officer with the 1st Brigade Combat Team and Oermann is with the 111th Field Artillery Regiment.

BOSTON COLLEGE



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Meredith Oakes Moughan '20 an unmanned aerial systems platoon leader stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She is currently deployed to an undisclosed location in the Middle East as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

WEST VIRGINIA



U.S. Air Force Capt. Dimosthenis Doulamis '18 is currently stationed at an undisclosed location in the Middle East. He is a member of the 335th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, flying the F-15E Strike Eagle in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

PITTSBURGH



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Kimberly Hoffman '19 is deployed to Poland, where she serves as a tank platoon leader in the 3rd Army Brigade Combat Team.

MIAMI



U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Eggleston '10 and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Shann Ignacio '08 are serving in Bahrain with Naval Forces Central Command. Eggleston is an operations planner and Ignacio is the ballistic missile defense staff planning officer.

GEORGIA TECH



U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Katie Loffert '20 is deployed with the 5th Fleet on the USS Delbert D. Black as an operations intelligence officer supporting freedom of navigation, maritime security, and stability in the Middle East.

LIBERTY



U.S. Navy Lt. Nikki Slaughter '16 is deployed to Japan as a P-8A pilot with Patrol Squadron 10 out of Jacksonville, Florida.

NC STATE



U.S. Army Maj. Travis Taggart '10 is currently deployed to Europe with the 501st Aviation Regiment in the General Support Aviation Battalion as a medevac commander.

DUKE



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christopher Stock '20 is deployed to the Middle East with Central Command where he serves as a postal officer for the 36th Sustainment Brigade in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

STARTED IN 2006 BY IMG COLLEGE, THE HOKIE HEROES PROGRAM HONORS CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI WHO ARE DEPLOYED

BOEING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORPS ALUMNI AND CADETS

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



Cadet Patel '25 and Cadet Gopalam '25 stand with David Calhoun VT '79 after being awarded their internships this fall.



Marc Allen and Maj. Gen. Fullhart signing the memorandum of agreement in September.

Cadets Pramil Patel (aerospace engineering, '25) and Vivek Gopalam (electrical and ocean engineering, '25) stood amongst some of the pillars of The Boeing Corporation on Sept. 14, 2022, to mark a significant occasion, both for Boeing and the Corps of Cadets. The cadets are recipients of a brand new opportunity where, by taking an innovation collaboration class co-sponsored by Virginia Tech and Boeing, they have been awarded internships for the upcoming summer. On hand for the event were several Boeing executives including David Calhoun VT '79, president and CEO, as well as Dr. Robert Smith, Boeing senior technical fellow and a Calhoun Honors Discovery Program distinguished professor of practice, among many other distinguished Boeing employees.

As part of the greater memorandum of understanding also signed that

day between the Corps and the Boeing Company, this small ceremony represented the start of something much larger: all cadets participating in the Citizen-Leader Track will be provided with a job interview upon graduation from Virginia Tech. The same opportunity will exist for alumni of the Corps who have fulfilled their military service commitment. As the Corps continues its mission of growth and developing leaders of character, opportunities like this demonstrate the commitment that companies like Boeing are willing to make in recognition of the global, ethical leaders that the Corps produces.

Marc Allen, chief strategy officer of The Boeing Company and senior vice president of strategy and corporate development, affirmed that sentiment at the signing ceremony. "We know the caliber, the quality. We can commit to interview all because we know that all

represent the high standard that is in place here in the program," Allen said.

The implications of this partnership are clear and will have a direct impact on the lives of graduating Citizen-Leader cadets and Corps military alumni. Civilian cadets and Corps alumni transitioning to civilian life continue to seek ways to serve the nation, and this partnership provides a direct path towards that end. Boeing is partnering with the Corps and its alumni, not because of major, course background, or degrees conferred, but rather because of the progressive leader development model that the Corps offers and the leaders it produces, speaking volumes about the success of this program.

Corps alumni wishing to capitalize on the guaranteed job interview with Boeing should reach out to vtccalumni@vt.edu to be connected with Boeing.

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS FALL 2022



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **BROOKE JOHNSON**

Cadet Col. Brooke Johnson is pursuing a degree in animal and poultry sciences with a minor in Mandarin Chinese and leadership studies. She plans to commission into the U.S. Army. She has held many leadership positions in the Corps, including cadre sergeant and cadet command sergeant major. She is also a part of Esprit de Corps and is a member of the VTCC Basketball Team. She is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **JAKE OSBORN**

Cadet Lt. Col. Jake Osborn is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in leadership. He plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force. He has held several positions in the Corps and within Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, he served as the battalion sergeant major and 1st Battalion commander and in Air Force ROTC, he has served as the Delta Flight commander for Squadron II, the Aviation Wall of Fame officer in charge and vice commander for Robert Femoyer Service Squadron. He is a recipient of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **COREY CASIANO**

Cadet Lt. Col. Corey Casiano is pursuing a degree in controls, robotics, and autonomy and a minor in leadership. He plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force. He has held multiple positions within the Corps and Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, he served as a cadre squad leader and as the NCO on the inspector general staff for second battalion. In Air Force ROTC, he was the Alpha Flight Commander for Squadron 1. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **CLAIRE SEIBEL**

Cadet Lt. Col. Claire Seibel is pursuing a degree in mathematics with minors in Chinese studies, leadership, and agricultural and applied economics. She is involved with Esprit de Corps, the Army Ten-Miler team, Global Scholars, and is a recipient of the Emerging Leader Scholarship. She served in many roles including cadre training assistant, honor court defense attorney, 3rd Battalion cadet sergeant major, and regimental S-37 NCO. A member of VPI Battalion, she has completed a government internship and is applying to Officer Candidate School.



FOURTH BATTALION COMMANDER **CHRISTINE JUNG**

Cadet Lt. Col. Christine Jung is pursuing a degree in human nutrition, foods, and exercise and minors in Russian and leadership. She plans to commission into the U.S. Army. She has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps and Army ROTC. In the Corps, she served as first sergeant of Band Company and sergeant major of 3rd Battalion. In Army ROTC she has served as a squad leader and MSIV trainer. She is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship and an AUSA scholarship.

COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2022



Regimental Executive Officer
Jenner Johnson
Political Science
Army



Regimental Adjutant
Euri Choi
International Public Policy
Air Force



Regimental Public
Information Officer
Christina Van Meter
Interior Design
Air Force



Regimental Operations
Officer
Laura Huddleston
Civil and Environmental
Engineering
Navy



Regimental Supply Officer
Ben Wooley
Civil Engineering
Air Force



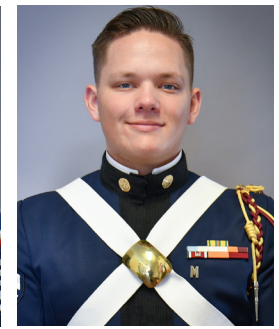
Regimental Academics
Officer
Jay Yim
Machine Learning
Air Force



Regimental Information
Officer
Grant Smith
Business Information
Technology
Army



Regimental Sergeant Major
Charles Davis
Business Management
Army



Regimental Alumni Liaison
NCOIC
Carter Griffin
Criminology and Sociology
Army



VPI Battalion Commander
Amelia Krafsig
Human Nutrition, Foods and
Exercise
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Jackson Bracknell
Political Science
Marines



Bravo Company Commander
Brianna Smiley
Biology
Navy



Charlie Company
Commander
Bruce Parshall
Criminology and Sociology
Air Force



Delta Company Commander
Kelvin Zheng
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Air Force



Echo Company Commander
Grace Lyle
Political Science
Army



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Sean Herndon
Political Science
Army



Golf Company Commander
Michael Stanley
Building Construction
Air Force



Hotel Company Commander
Chase Morris
Mechanical Engineering
Army



India Company Commander
Alexandra Koler
Meteorology
Air Force



Kilo Company Commander
Satria Knight
Human Nutrition, Foods, and
Exercise
Citizen-Leader Track



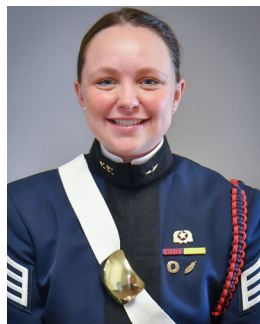
Lima Company Commander
Zoe Lynes
Business Information
Technology
Navy



Mike Company Commander
Evan Spradling
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Army



November Company
Commander
Adam Jardines
Political Science
Army



Oscar Company Commander
Grace O'Brien
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Air Force



Band Commander
William Albertson
Ocean Engineering
Navy



Drum Major
Kurt Gustafson
Ocean Engineering
Navy



Sgt. Maj. Combs providing feedback and mentorship to his cadet leaders during Cadre Week this fall.

PARTING THOUGHTS OF A SERVANT LEADER

From the editor:

It's hard to get a picture of Sgt. Maj. Combs. He stands outside the spotlight and prefers to work quietly behind the scenes as his U.S. Army Ranger and Sapper tabs might indicate. He doesn't want fanfare and avoids bringing attention to himself. For the time that I have known him, his service to his battalion has been his voice. A man of measured actions, he is the ever-present mentor behind the crowd of cadets – watching, listening for an opportunity to guide those in his charge. He has been the quiet dedication to leadership education in 3rd Battalion for the last 9 years and early this fall, Sgt. Maj. Combs announced his approaching retirement in May. Despite his dislike of personal attention, he agreed to let me interview him for a farewell piece. As a co-worker, I selfishly enjoyed the interview with him and hope you do, too.

-Katie Mallory

What made you want to take the position of SEA?

The fall before the job opened, we came up here for a game in October of 2012. It just so happens it was Military Appreciation weekend and Friday was Corps Reunion. I had no idea

about the Corps, I'd never been to Virginia Tech, I'd never been to anything around here, so it was my first time seeing this community. It was pretty ironic that about six months later as I was working with my transition officer at Bragg and there just happened to be a job at VT. It was the same place that we'd visited the year prior. There was probably a reason for that. So that helped my wife get back to VA and since I'd never lived here, that was good for me, and the job was military oriented, so I thought that was a pretty natural fit and at least a good steppingstone for the first place out of the Army. It was a win/win all around.

Was there a lot of difference being a senior enlisted soldier here vice being on active duty as a senior enlisted?

Not really. It's pretty comparable at a different level, though. The differences came with the cadets. They're not soldiers; they're not active duty. Even a private or private first class has quite a few more competencies than the freshmen and sophomore classes. A lot of cadets don't have that knowledge and experience because they just haven't been here



Sgt. Maj. Combs during the VT vs. Boston College game this fall.

long enough. So, there is quite a gap between the basic soldier and the basic cadet. Juniors and seniors are more equal to the E-4s and E-5s. They've been in a military environment, been to military training; they've worn a uniform for a few years. Their competency level is quite a bit higher. Another difference is the training we do here is quite a bit different than what soldiers are doing out in the force. When we talk about training here, it's a lot of conceptual training, paired with some practical application, with classroom training and some hands on. The Corps partnered with the ROTC components blend leadership with service-specific technical/tactical training that helps mold a more rounded cadet.

You've served with three different DCs from three different branches during your time (Col. Payne, Capt. McGrath, Col. Shelton). What was that like?

It's been really good overall. I'm thankful that if I was going to have three deputies, I would have chosen it just like that, for all three to be different. Of course, I probably learned more from Capt. McGrath and Col. Shelton because they are a different service than I am. I definitely learned some things from folks from other branches. Lt. Col. Payne was the first deputy I had; I was thankful that we came from the same background.

We had a lot of the same schooling, the same training, and absolutely spoke the same language. I learned from all of them. It's good to be around other services with other backgrounds and strengths. They all had their strengths and weaknesses just like me, but I was able to adjust and adapt to all three pretty easily and enjoyed my time with all of them.

What's your favorite Corps tradition, and why?

So, I can't just say one because there are too many. There are a lot...marching to games, saluting the rock, morning formation, Veterans Day, how cadets present the veterans gifts through campus. Watching flag cadets receive the colors on the field. Homecoming banners. Old Guard parade, seeing the old alums. Corps Reunion because seeing all the guys come back that I met over the years that I've grown pretty close to. Caldwell, for sure. I've been involved in that since I started here. Band banquet for sure, commissioning, Corps graduation, first salutes. We are busy and do a lot of things so there's no way to say just one for sure. Band banquet was always one of my favorite things. If you've never seen one, you have missed out.

Tell us about your time with the Rappel Team.

When I first got here it was very scripted and very rigid in terms of the training and who was assigned to the organization. It wasn't as open as it is now. It's in a much better place in multiple areas. One, we have new equipment. Our gear is ex-



Sgt. Maj. Combs providing guidance at the rappel tower. Photo courtesy of Col. Bob Shelton '95.

cellent now. Our training and the level of training that cadets are at now are much higher than it was. One key thing was the rappel committee was all Army, so when they had any kind of training event, we couldn't do any training. That's one reason



Sgt. Maj. Combs accepts a tearful embrace from then Cadet Margaret McConville '22 during Change of Command Pass in Review last May.

I wanted to reach out to VPI and the battalions to have a more diverse training team. The fact that there were no females on the rappel committee was an issue of mine. Mature, confident young female cadets needed to be on the team. I felt both male and female cadets were necessary to bring a more enhanced training environment to the Rappel Committee, plus I wanted to use more of the Corps resources to make the best team I could. The team is more integrated with males and females and all the different services, and I think we make a better team.

What is your favorite (or funniest) work-related cadet story?

I don't know that I have a funny story. Every now and again just walking down the hallway and hearing a room out of control or loud music, with a bunch of dudes in there laughing and carrying on, and I knock on the door, and you hear that silence. They open the door and you've got three knuckleheads in there all silent and as soon as the door shuts you hear a bunch of laughter. That always made me smile as I walked away.

What's your parting message for the young alumni

that you advised?

They won't soon outgrow the term knucklehead, that's for sure. A lot of cadets are so eager to get out of here and to start their career, start their job, and their life, that they minimize what we do here. We know where they are going is ironically very similar to here, but they can't digest that as truth. They have to see it for themselves and normally at the games or other opportunities when they come back, they look at me and say, "you know, some of that stuff you said to me is really true." That's pretty hilarious to hear. Yeah, we know!

I'd also say service doesn't stop when you leave. Actually, it never stops. I think cadets when they leave here, they think a lot of stuff is over, but it's actually the beginning. Long hours and studying and up early and PT, that schedule seems horrible but there are probably not many out there now in the force that wouldn't take a day back in the Corps versus a few days on active duty with the responsibility, time commitment, sacrifice, and the level of expectation that's required. It comes pretty fast and hard when they put on real rank.

What are your hopes for the program as you leave?

I want to see the Corps infrastructure finished and finally

integrated on Upper Quad. A more integrated Corps-ROTC environment; I think it will help when everyone is in the same buildings together. I hope to see our cyber component up and fully functional. I hope to see more support from the university and our donors with financial support to assist in outfitting the staff so that the Corps can run more smoothly.

Any parting thoughts on your time here?

It's been a good ride, that's for sure. It was a little challenging at first with the university not being the active-duty military. I worked with a lot of good people, good staff members, and a lot of good cadets and I'll remember names as long as I can. A lot of kids out there are doing really good things. I keep in contact. I have at least 200 cadet contacts in my phone that I get pictures and updates from regularly. I hear from a lot of them. Cadets ask me that quite a bit about when cadets leave, if I'm still in contact with them, and yes - ten years of cadets from every service and walk of life in my phone is my example that service doesn't stop. I think I've imparted some small nuggets of wisdom out there somewhere. The experiences exceeded my expectations upon arriving.



Cadet Clair Seibel and Sgt. Maj. Combs share a laugh during a busy first day of New Cadet Week this year.

"... service doesn't stop when you leave. Actually, it never stops. I think cadets when they leave here, they think a lot of stuff is over, but it's actually the beginning."

**SGT. MAJ. DAVE COMBS
SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR, 3RD BATTALION**



Sgt. Maj. Combs observes his last practice for the Homecoming Pass in Review.



Check presentation during Band '71's 50th reunion weekend. Photo courtesy of Chuck Rowell.

1971 HIGHTY-TIGHTIES AND HOMECOMINGS (50 YEARS AND COUNTING)

By Chuck Rowell, '71

When I think of Homecoming at Virginia Tech, the first thing I look forward to is seeing many of our Band '71 classmates, spouses, and friends.

In mid-September of 1967, we entered Brodie Hall on the Upper Quad at Virginia Tech and were immersed in Band activities from day one. We began work on the first halftime show for football season. It was an exciting time as Coach Jerry Claiborne and the football team began the season going 7-0. We went to away games at Kentucky and West Virginia University. It took 4 buses for us to travel that fall and our freshman class was assigned to make long banners for both sides of each bus.

We played for every home men's basketball game and were thrilled to be

part of the home crowd playing "Tech Triumph" often.

The winter and spring quarters of our freshman year were amazing. As a class we rented a home on Roanoke Street and had our own parties on Friday and Saturday nights with black lights and a stereo playing soul music and hits of the 1960s. This allowed us to create a special bond that has never ceased.

After graduation, we began a series of Homecoming events. For our fifth alumni get together, we had a catered dinner at my parents' home in Salem, Virginia. We were young and starting careers and families but most of us tried to get back to Homecoming as often as possible, but especially on every fifth anniversary. We have had weekends at Mountain Lake in

cabins and other venues.

For our 25th anniversary, Mark Levin, an architect in Baltimore, took charge and contacted each of our classmates asking them to pledge support for creating our Class of 1971 Highty-Tighty ELS (Emerging Leader Scholarship). With Mark's diligent work and encouragement, we were successful in creating the scholarship in 1996. It took \$25,000 given by our classmates from Band '71.

Then in 2006 and 2011, Mark again undertook the task on his own initiative to get pledges for an additional \$50,000 for the 35th and 40th anniversaries. In 2016, he orchestrated another \$50,000 class pledge!

In 2021, even with the pandemic, most of us retired, and many other chal-

lenges, Mark directed us in a campaign for our 50th anniversary and entry into the VTCC Old Guard. On October 16, 2021, at the annual Homecoming luncheon for the Highty-Tighty Alumni and the current Highty-Tighties, Mark Levin and 12 of us presented a pledge check for \$86,000 to add to our HT '71 Emerging

dren to come to Blacksburg for Homecoming. We always had a block of 10 to 15 rooms booked early by Jim to make it easier for us to schedule the trip for our big marching weekend.

Most of us still march in the Homecoming parade, attend the pregame performance rehearsal, and then march

onto the field immediately before the game to participate in the Highty-Tighty and Highty-Tighty Alumni performance show.

Over the years, Mark Levin has gathered,

collated, and sent to us a Highty-Tighty Class of 1971 Reunion roster. It included a full page for each classmate with a picture from our senior year in dress whites. The roster would list our current address, occupation, family members, a history of work, and time spent since graduation. These rosters of our class

helped us stay in touch over the past 50 years as we moved, had career changes, and as most of us retired.

As you can tell from this article, both Mark Levin and Jim Campbell have done an excellent job of helping keep our Highty-Tighty Class of 1971 engaged and in contact with each other.

We hope that this short history of our class gives everyone the understanding that we feel and act like a large family of Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets and Band Company Alumni.

As to why we continue to dig deeper and give back time and resources to the continued support of the Regimental Band, we want to see it flourish!

We believe that our friendships and love for each other began in the fall of 1967. Those years together cause each of us to want to see other young cadets in the Highty-Tighties experience some of the same bonds that allowed the Highty-Tighty Class of 1971 to be so committed to each other over the following years.

Editor's note: Jim Campbell '71, mentioned in the article, passed away on August 17, 2022, after this article was submitted. His funeral was attended by 17 of his HT '71 classmates, as seen below.



Band '71 in 2016 recreating their 1970 photo taken after the Cherry Blossom Festival parade. Photo courtesy of Chuck Rowell.

Leader Scholarship.

There is also a great seal of the Highty-Tighty Class of '71 that travels with us to each Homecoming. It was in the Lane Hall tower for a while when we were at college.

Beginning in 1981 for our 10th Homecoming anniversary, Jim Campbell in Richmond, VA, started contacting us to arrange hotels for us to stay in as a group for Homecoming weekends. We always tried to have a meal together on Saturday night after game day activities. Jim would make the arrangements and begin contacting our classmates and assisting in making our stay wonderful. Often, we would have potluck get-togethers at the hotel and the hotel would provide a room for our evening-long visits together.

On each 5th year anniversary since graduation in 1971, Jim has encouraged classmates, spouses, and sometimes chil-





Cadets during field training exercise at Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

ARMY ROTC NEWS

By Col. Jamie Cogbill and Cadet Katie Honan

The Army ROTC New River Battalion (NRB) came into the fall semester riding high from an excellent summer of training and excited for the opportunities laying ahead. We started the new academic year with eight new members of our cadre as we said farewell to 10 others. We're confident that our new team has what it takes to continue the battalion's recent success. We also were happy to welcome 130 new cadets as part of our freshmen class, all aspiring to become officers of character for our Army. Looking back at summer activities, our cadets absolutely excelled at 2022 Cadet Summer Training (CST). We were proud to have 23 of them earn the highest overall rating of "Outstanding" at Advanced Camp and 23 earned the coveted Recondo badge. In addition, 13 cadets ranked first in their squad, 12 were in the top three of their platoon, and six were selected out of 600 other cadets for overall camp awards. Also of note, NRB cadets completed the following professional development courses: Air Assault, Airborne, Jungle Ops Training Course, Cadet Troop Leader Training, along with defense internships. And for the second year in a row, the NRB was thrilled to have three cadets in the top 25 of the national rankings and was the only Senior Military College to have more than one cadet in the top 25. The rest of the battalion returned ready to mentor our newest members and share the lessons from their recent summer training.

Our fall semester has already included a battalion run, "oh-dark thirty PT," leadership labs, a field training exercise (FTX), Ranger Challenge preparation, and the Army Ten-Miler. Our Army Ten-Miler team came in 1st place among all Army ROTC teams competing at this year's event. Most recently, three Army cadets helped propel the VTCC Cyber Team to a 2nd place overall finish among 59 cyber teams during the US Army Central's Best Cyber Warrior Competition.

Looking forward, our cadets graduating this December and next spring will soon find out their branches as they take the next

step toward commissioning and a lifetime of committed service to the nation.

FTX

From 23-25 Sept., the New River Battalion conducted its semi-annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Radford Army Ammunition Plant New River Unit in Dublin, Virginia. The training was to prepare our cadets for Cadet Summer Training (CST) as well as reinforce basic warrior tasks expected of every 2nd lieutenant and soldier in the US Army. Operations conducted included day and night land navigation, round robin Army basic warrior task training, battle drill instruction and execution, and platoon patrol base operations. The FTX offered the opportunity for MS I's to get their first experience in the field while MS II and MS III cadets built upon previous experience and learned from the experiences of the MS IVs who attended Advanced Camp over the summer. Throughout the FTX, MS IIIs were assessed on their operational knowledge and implementation of troop-leading procedures. Leading up to FTX, cadre and MS IV cadets from headquarters company planned the operation during Army labs. The culminating event was a rehearsal of concept drill, where cadet staff and company leadership briefed their roles and responsibilities to our professor of military science, Col. Cogbill and cadre.

Day one consisted of round robin training, night and day land navigation, and patrol base operations. MS III cadets began their day with round robin training on how to apply camouflage face paint, fieldcraft, tactical combat casualty care, and radio setup and use. After that, they transitioned into individual day land navigation. Cadets were



provided with compasses and maps and they traversed miles of roads and thick brush to find their assigned points. Once complete, they were offered time to relax and refuel before heading back out onto the course for night land navigation. Meanwhile, MS I cadets learned tactical tasks like individual movement techniques and special teams' duties on the objective throughout the day.

Day two consisted of tactical lanes for the MS II and III cadets. Attack, ambush, and raid lanes were conducted with MS III cadets getting their first experience at the platoon level. Their tactical knowledge and leadership abilities were showcased as platoon leaders, platoon sergeants, squad leaders, and fireteam leaders. During the lanes, they were evaluated by cadre and MS IV cadets who offered advice from their own learned experiences in the Army and at CST.

On the last day, the battalion held a final formation where cadets who had excelled throughout the training event were recognized by Col. Cogbill. In the end, the battalion accomplished its mission to train cadets in basic military tasks and give tactical leadership opportunities to those preparing for Advanced Camp, all thanks to the hard work and dedication of

the cadets and cadre in the New River Battalion.



New River Battalion Army Ten-Miler Team.



U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Jeff Jablon visits the Navy Battalion and shares insight from his time in the Navy.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

Virginia Tech Naval ROTC midshipmen experienced a full summer of training cruises in 2022 before returning for the fall. Thirty-six rising fourth-class midshipmen became the first in unit history to attend the Navy's NROTC New Student Indoctrination (NSI) at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. These midshipmen joined several hundred others from across the nation, learning basic Navy skills including close order drill, physical training, customs and courtesies, and entry-level knowledge. Thirty-one rising third-class midshipmen completed Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) in Norfolk and San Diego, spending a week each with aviation, surface, and submarine communities, plus a week with the Marine Corps. Eighty-seven midshipmen completed second and first-class cruises with in-depth time spent exclusively with aviation squadrons, ships, or submarines and eight second-class Marine Option midshipmen attended Fleet Marine Force in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where they were given a broad introduction to the Marine Air Ground Task Force. Finally, seventeen rising first-class Marine Option midshipmen, a 100 percent success rate, graduated USMC Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. In total, 162 Virginia Tech NROTC midshipmen completed summer training cruises around the globe.

Virginia Tech Naval ROTC was represented internationally as well. Midshipman Ceol and Midshipman Moreno, both seniors, went on a surface warfare cruise aboard a Navy patrol craft operating from Bahrain. Midshipman Friedemann flew onto an operational aircraft carrier in Europe!

Upon his return, Midshipman Ceol reflected on his cruise. "In June of 2022, I was given the amazing opportunity to complete my first-class aboard the USS Sirocco, stationed in Manama, Bahrain. During my 21-day cruise, I was able to watch and participate in the ship's two main missions: drug interdiction and maritime security. The crew of 24 was incredibly competent and professional, teaching the other midshipmen and me valuable lessons and skills that will serve us well as future Naval officers. I learned how to handle lines, navigate the ship, stand watch as the helmsman, and shoot the various small arms on the ship. I got to do things I never thought I would do on summer cruise, like pull into 3 foreign ports, and be on the bridge during a tense standoff with the Iranian navy. Despite all that, my favorite part of the experience was the mundane tasks I was responsible for performing every day, and the knowledge that my actions - however small - were helping the ship make a difference in the world," said Ceol.

The Navy battalion had the honor of hosting Rear Adm.

Jeff Jablon, the commander of the submarine force for the U.S. Pacific Fleet in September. Rear Adm. Jablon presented his 12 leadership lessons from over 30 years of experience in the Navy and submarine fleet, teaching midshipmen how these principles will apply to them as future officers. Some of his important lessons included how leaders should know their people, develop their character and personal integrity, demonstrate unselfishness, and instill the power of ownership. The unit midshipmen look forward to more highlights coming this fall including senior service assignments and the Navy Marine Corps Midshipman Birthday Ball!



Midshipman Alex Ceol conducting small arms training on his first class cruise aboard USS Sirocco.



Midshipmen on operational missions during summer training cruise in Bahrain.



Cadets after their graduation from field training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

WELCOME HOME

Detachment 875 is back in full force after a busy summer. We welcomed 126 new cadets, who are eager to learn more about the Air Force and Space Force. Some hailed from right here in Blacksburg, while others came from as far as Uzbekistan. Seven of those cadets earned a full scholarship through the High School Scholarship Program.

After landing his HH-60W on the Drillfield last fall, Maj. Adam Cade '09 decided to stick around and join us as our new AS300 instructor. Detachment 875 also welcomed Capt. Easton Penland, an Airfield Operations Officer, prior-enlisted linguist, and UCLA AFROTC graduate.

SUMMER TRAINING

This summer Det 875 sent 38 cadets to Maxwell Air Force Base to attend field training. Every cadet graduated and two cadets earned the coveted Distinguished Graduate Award. Fourteen non-scholarship cadets were welcomed back to the

detachment with the new Charles McGee Leadership Award. Brig. Gen. Charles McGee was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and served as a fighter pilot in three wars. This award gave all non-scholarship cadets who completed field training a sizable scholarship. It is the Air Force's intent for all cadets in the future to receive a similar award after they complete field training.

Other VTAF cadets spent the summer doing incredible things around the country. Cadets Jake Osborn '23 and William Dwivedi '23 were hand-selected as cadet instructors at the U. S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School. For the last three weeks basic military training, Osborn and Dwivedi helped prepare incoming cadets by teaching them military discipline, confidence, and drill.

Cadet Nick Vrael '25 attended the Air Force Academy's Intro to Powered Flight program. This 15-day course used virtual reality software to provide basic flight fundamentals in the Cirrus SR-20 aircraft and the T-6 Texan II. Addition-

ally, Cadet Jarod Mills '25 was selected for the Special Tactics Orientation Course. For 7 days, Mills tested his physical and mental fortitude at Hurlburt Field, FL while being “encouraged” by some of the best special operations instructors in the Air Force.

Cadet Giavanna Angelo '22 was named the Air Force Association (AFA) Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award at the Southeast Region level. The AFA Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award recognizes the cadet who excels in academics, athletics, and military performance, making her the best of 3,229 cadets in the region!



2nd Lt. Virginia Carpenter '22 celebrates her commissioning on the Pylons with Det. 875 Commander, Col. Greg Lowe '97.

SEMESTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The fall semester was exciting, and Det 875's cadets continue to pursue excellence in everything they do.

Seven cadets traveled to Wright Patterson AFB for the 26th Annual Air Force Marathon. Capt. Da'rrell Cousin led the contingent and competed in his first marathon along with his father. Everyone crossed the finish line, and they all look forward to returning next September.

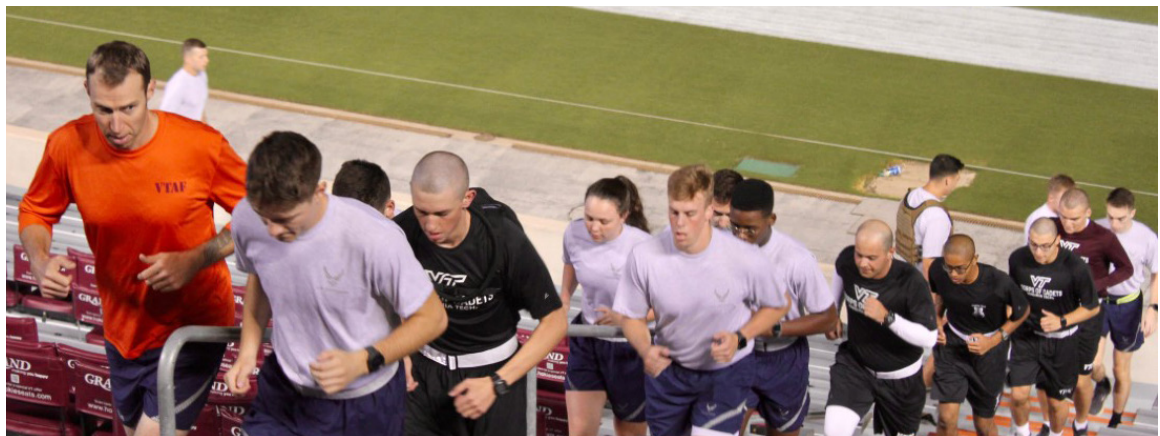
Cadets Jillian Haas '22 and Nicholas Knapp '23 completed Phase II of the Tactical Air Control Party Officer selection process. Phase II is a one-week evaluation assessing candidates' aptitude to complete the training pipeline and lead close air support operations for the ground components. Haas was awarded a TACPO slot and will start training after she graduates Virginia Tech this spring.

Hokie football games continue to be a celebration of airpower! Lt. Col. Mike “Flex” Wheeler '04 led a four-ship F-16 fly-over of the Miami game and forty AFROTC cadets unfurled an enormous American flag at halftime of the Wofford game, celebrating the 75th birthday of the US Air Force!



VTAF's team for the Air Force Marathon.

Finally, congratulations to our nine cadets who graduated and commissioned this Fall. We wish you the best of luck in your Air Force and Space Force careers!



Maj. Adam Cade '09, AS300 instructor, leads VTAF cadets in Lane Stadium for 9/11 remembrance stair climb.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PHILANTHROPY

By Sandi R. Bliss, Chief Advancement Officer



As a college student, I never understood where my scholarships came from. I knew the university awarded a scholarship, however I never realized that it was because of someone else's generosity I had this extra resource. As a first-generation college student, I could not have made it through college without the scholarships I received. My story is not unique and is true for so many of our cadets. However, here's what makes their story different from mine and so many others: we make sure cadets know who their donors are. The relationship between Corps and the donors who have invested in its future success is critical to our continued growth. Below I hope you will see why this relationship matters.

*Don't forget Giving Day 2023 is Feb. 15 starting at 12 pm EST through 12 pm Feb. 16. Please join Corps family and friends in some friendly competition. If you want to give early to be counted in Corps participation, let us know.

WAYS TO GIVE

Reach out to the Corps' advancement team to discuss how you'd like to help play a role in the Corps' continued success.

Special Naming Opportunities

If you are interested in investing in the fantastic new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, there are a few naming opportunities available starting at \$25,000. All naming opportunities can be obtained through a five-year pledge. Be sure to secure your legacy naming soon; we open in the fall of 2023. We now also have naming opportunities in each of the residence halls along with a few other special opportunities on Upper Quad.

Endowments provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding for things such as cadet scholarships. Endowed gifts are invested and each year a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000.

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made once or arranged to be made on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet in the fall or spring. Through these contributions, you can be counted for Giving Day 2023 and work toward the \$2,500 cumulative threshold needed to earn a Brick Plaque. The deadline to earn a Brick Plaque is March 10, 2025. There is also now a way for you to pledge \$10,000 a year for five years to have your own named scholarship during those five years.

Non-Cash

You can support the Corps in many other ways. You can donate securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. You can

also donate real estate, including both present and future interests, and you can donate gifts-in-kind of tangible property, such as works of art or historic memorabilia

In Memory / In Honor

Scholarships, endowed positions, Corps facilities, or programs can be named in memory of a special individual. Gifts may be made to honor a loved one or someone who inspires you. All of these opportunities can be made through a 5-year pledge.

Employer Matching Gifts

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

Gift Planning Options

There also are many additional options for leaving a powerful, smart legacy through planned gifts to the Corps. Are you

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

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



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN THE CORPS



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

Here's how it works: Donate at least \$2,500 to any Corps of Cadets non-endowed fund, such as the Commandant's Priorities Annual Fund, between March 10, 2020, and March 10, 2025. That's just \$500 a year. Once you reach the \$2,500 total giving threshold, we will send you a sample inscription to approve. The inscription will include your full name, class year, and Corps company on three separate lines. You can choose our typeface or your own handwriting. (Because of space limitations on the plaque, we will be unable to add titles, honorifics, military rank, or nicknames.) Each brick plaque must be tied to a single giving record, and we must limit one plaque to each record. The \$2,500 threshold can only be counted once to an individual giving record. If you are giving to honor a friend or loved one in addition to your own brick plaque, please be sure that \$2,500 donation is tied to that person or another family member's giving record. We are unable to count company matches toward any \$2,500 giving threshold. The brick plaques will be featured in a special place in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, expected to open in 2023. Give now to ensure your name is in place for the dedication ceremony.

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

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

IN MEMORY



BERTRAM DONALD AARON '43

1922 – 2021

Bertram Donald Aaron died December 31, 2021. He served in the US Army during WWI, at NASA as a research scientist, and in the US Army Signal Corps as an engineer. An entrepreneur, he lost his first wife, Marcia, and second wife, Judith, to breast cancer and organized the first Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation Symposium. A supporter of symphony and art in James City County, he endowed programs for the Cleveland Clinic, Virginia Symphony, and Hillel at Virginia Tech. Bert is survived by his wife Gladys, his brother Cyril Aaron and his wife Patti, two daughters, one son, four stepchildren, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren.



GERALD CHILDRESS '52

1930 – 2022

Gerald “Jerry” Childress died July 7. Born to a modest coal miner family in Dickenson County, Virginia, he graduated from VPI in 1952, receiving his degree in agriculture education. He commissioned in the Army and served in field artillery and the 82nd Airborne. After 25 years of active-duty service he retired as a brigadier general in 1977 and became the superintendent of New Mexico Military Institute. Jerry is survived by his wife of over 65 years Martha “Marty” Childress, his brother, sister, daughter, son, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.



JOHN CROMBIE GLENN '52

1931 – 2022

John Crombie Glenn died Jan. 24. Born in Abingdon, Virginia, John received his degree in agriculture from Virginia Tech and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. John returned to Marion and was vital in the success of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store chain and management of the Highland Shopping Center. John spent his life in Marion and was deeply steeped in the community. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 56 years, Lydia Rice Glenn. John is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren, and great-grandson.



WILLIAM FREDERICK ENGLISH JR. '53

1932 – 2022

William Frederick English Jr. died June 24. Bill graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and served in the Army. He was accepted into the MIT Graduate Nuclear Engineering Program. A subsection manager with GE, Bill retired early to pursue his dream of adventure. Outfitting a sailboat, he sailed down to Mexico, went through the Panama Canal and into the Caribbean. An avid motorcyclist, he toured the U.S., New Zealand, and Europe with friends every year. Bill’s dream of a full and adventuresome retirement was a great success.



EDWARD LEE RICHARDSON '55

1933 – 2022

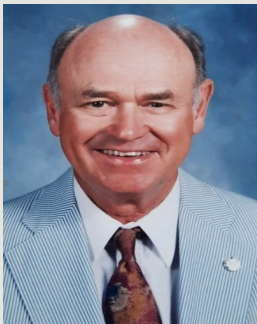
Edward “Ted” Lee Richardson died August 28. Born in Roanoke, Ted was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and studied mechanical engineering. After graduation, he served in the Army and spent his career with Ford Motor Company. Ted was an active member of the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers International and served as president for three years. Ted was preceded in death by his first wife, Virginia Thackston Richardson, his brother, his sister, his daughter, and his niece. He is survived by his wife Pat; his son, two daughters, twelve grandchildren, a great-grandson, his brother-in-law, and several first cousins.



FLOYD EDWARD ADAMS JR. '56

1933 – 2022

Floyd Edward Adams, Jr. died August 2. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in industrial engineering and served in U.S. Army as an artillery officer and in the Virginia Army National Guard as a battery commander. After his military service, he attended UVA and Rutgers University to become a marketing specialist for Cities Service Oil Company. Later, he served as vice president of Central National Bank in Richmond and retired as President of Floyd E. Adams & Associates, Inc. He is survived by two children and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Mary Eakle Adams.



GLENN MEADE AYERS '57

1936 – 2022

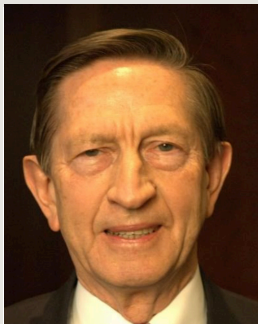
Glenn Meade Ayers died June 27. Glenn was a native of Moneta, Va. and earned degrees from Virginia Tech, Michigan State College of Law, and University of Virginia. An Exxon scholar at UVA and NEH Fellow at Drake University and Duke, he was chosen as a resident of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. He taught English, dramatics, and the humanities for 39 years. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bettie Lu (Blu) Ayers; two sons, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two brothers.



JOSEPH S. DEBLASI '57

1935 – 2022

Joseph S. DeBlasi died April 3. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Joe served as the Regimental Executive Officer in the Corps of Cadets and earned a degree in mathematics from Virginia Tech. As a student, he was heavily active in intramural football, softball, and basketball. During his career, Joe was managing director of International Telecommunication Standards for IBM and then became CEO of American Computing Machinery (ACM). He later founded a yearly ACM computing award with global computing competitions. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Helen, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.



WILLIAM KYLE BARLOW '58

1936 - 2022

William Kyle Barlow died Sept. 21. Born in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Bill served as the president of the Class of '58 and regimental commander at Virginia Tech, earning his degree in agricultural economics. He then served in the U.S. Air Force and earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. Bill returned to Smithfield to practice law for over 55 years and represented the 64th District for 20 years in the Virginia House of Delegates. He was also President of the Board of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. Bill is survived by his wife, Taylor, his two sisters and brother, a son, daughter, five grandchildren, and six nieces and nephews.



RONALD LEE WADE '58

1935 - 2022

Ronald "Ron" Lee Wade died July 12. Born in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, Ron was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and graduated with a degree in dairy science. He worked for the submarine program at Newport News Shipbuilding and was drafted into the U.S. Army. After serving honorably, Ron became an accomplished manager during his 16-year career at W.T. Grant and later opened a True Value hardware store in 1977. Ron was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 58 years, Rowena "Jill" Wade and is survived by his three children, three grandchildren, and numerous cousins.



ROBERT EDWARD MCCLENNY JR. '59

1937 - 2022

Robert Edward "Bobby" McClenny Jr., of Pamplin, Virginia, died August 13. He was the loving husband of Laura Carson McClenny for 60 years. Born in Appomattox County on October 25, 1937, he was a graduate of Pamplin High School and Virginia Tech. Bobby taught agriculture, served as soil conservationist, and became a full-time farmer after retirement. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, eleven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two sisters.



BERNARD LLOYD WHITLOCK JR. '65

1942 - 2022

Bernard Lloyd Whitlock Jr., of Chesapeake, Virginia died June 24. Bernie graduated with a degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech and worked on the Saturn V space program. He then served in the U.S. Army where he earned the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Vietnam. After his service, Bernie earned his master's degree in civil engineering at Penn State and was the city traffic engineer for Chesapeake from 1979-2006. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Garnett Camden Whitlock, his brother-in-law, two daughters, a son, a niece, a nephew, six grandchildren, and one grandnephew.



JAMES D. CAMPBELL '71

1948 – 2022

James “Jim” D. Campbell died August 17. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Jim received a degree in business management from Virginia Tech. He became the assistant county administrator in Warren County and later served as the county administrator in Fluvanna County. Jim was named the executive director of the Virginia Association of Counties in 1990, a position he held for 26 years. He is preceded in death by his oldest brother, Julian Jr., and daughter, Amy Campbell Brueckner. He is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Christine, a brother, a sister, brothers and sisters in law, his son and daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and grandchildren.



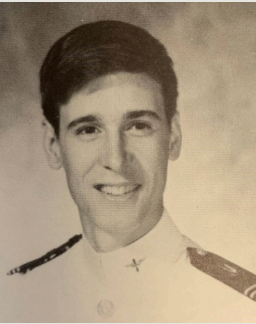
RUSSELL E. SYPOLT JR. '74

1952 – 2022

SHIRLEY R. SYPOLT '75

1953 – 2022

Shirley R. and Russell E. Sypolt Jr. died June 7. Russ and Shirley fell in love at Virginia Tech and began their journey as husband and wife in 1974. They had three children, Russell E. Sypolt III, Jason M. Sypolt, and Ryan A. Sypolt. Shirley was born on September 9, 1953 in Prince Edward County, Virginia and was a retired teacher and member of multiple science organizations. Russ was born on May 27, 1952, at Bolling Air Force Base and was a retired lieutenant colonel and B-52 pilot in the U.S. Air Force.



RANDOLPH LOWRY '76

1955 – 2022

Randolph “Randy” Lowry died September 4. Randy spent his childhood in Pointe Claire, Quebec. He earned an aerospace engineering degree from Virginia Tech and excelled at his craft, becoming a professional engineer and project manager in Tennessee. Randy was a boundless adventurer; no challenge could rival his indomitable will. His passion for planning was eclipsed only by his dogged determination to succeed. Randy is survived by his wife Marilyn, his two children and their spouses, his mother, two sisters, brother, grandchild, and numerous Corps of Cadets 'buds'.



BRENDAN RICHTER CORRIGAN '13

1990 – 2022

Brendan Richter Corrigan died July 15. Brendan was born on October 8, 1990, in Charleston, South Carolina. He gave his life to save his dog, Gadsden, in a tragic swimming accident at Virginia Beach. He is survived by his mother and father, Terry and Tim Corrigan, his sister, Kelly, his many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, and his loyal dog, Gadsden. Brendan was adamant about making people's lives better and it is only fitting that his last act was the gift of his heart, both kidneys, and liver to save five people as well as other medical donations to help many others.

LEST WE FORGET

Robert L. Svoboda '39, New Smyrna Beach, Florida,
8/29/2022

William S. Cross '41, Greensboro, North Carolina,
8/25/2022

Raymond M. Wright '44, Springfield, Virginia, 8/16/2022

John P. Williams '47, Chatham, New Jersey, 10/24/2022

Harold C. Glass '48, Annandale, Virginia, 5/6/2022

Sidney O. Dewberry '48, Arlington, Virginia, 7/16/2022

Donald C. Thomas '49, Hixson, Tennessee, 9/17/2022

Ferris D. Portner '49, King George, Virginia, 5/20/2022

Wilton L. Hall '49, Prince George, Virginia, 5/1/2022

Arthur W. Shelby '50, Chester, Maryland, 5/10/2022

Jack D. Garman '50, Greensboro, North Carolina, 8/4/2022

Branch R. Hammock '50, Waynesboro, Virginia, 10/8/2022

Karl R. Alexander '50, Westminster, Maryland, 8/7/2022

James E. McClary '51, Bena, Virginia, 8/14/2022

Merritt L. Raiford '51, Courtland, Virginia, 5/10/2022

William T. Tucker '51, Maidens, Virginia, 8/2/2022

Ralph M. Farrar '51, Marietta, Georgia, 10/20/2022

Jean T. Wood '51, Victoria, Texas, 7/21/2022

Lucian F. Draper '52, Boykins, Virginia, 8/4/2022

Samuel D. Craig '52, Charlottesville, Virginia, 9/21/2022

Frederick P. Griffith '52, Falls Church, Virginia, 8/5/2022

James M. Stevens '52, Gainesville, Virginia, 10/18/2022

George F. Moore '52, Hockessin, Delaware, 9/5/2022

Gerald G. Keller '52, Newport News, Virginia, 5/4/2022

Willie C. Rigsby '52, Richmond, Virginia, 9/15/2022

Ross F. Hawkins '52, Suffolk, Virginia, 5/18/2022

W. David Fletcher '53, Bristol, Virginia, 5/17/2022

James F. Hawes '53, Catonsville, Maryland, 7/11/2022

Murry J. Spangler '53, Catonsville, Maryland, 5/6/2022

George L. Freeman '53, Culpeper, Virginia, 5/23/2022

Nicholas J. Andre '53, Poquoson, Virginia, 6/26/2022

Thomas N. Waller '53, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 7/1/2022

Joel H. Bell '54, Carolina Beach, North Carolina, 6/12/2022

Nickos C. Papachristos '54, Endicott, New York, 5/2/2022

L. Robert Vaughan '54, Fincastle, Virginia, 5/27/2022

Leonard H. Lee '54, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 9/28/2022

James K. Skeens '54, Richmond, Virginia, 5/25/2022

William D. Edwards '54, Saluda, Virginia, 8/28/2022

Robert R. Schmidt '55, Blacksburg, Virginia, 10/16/2022

Robert H. Giles '55, Blacksburg, Virginia, 5/5/2022

L. Gardner Brannon '55, Galax, Virginia, 6/28/2022

Robert H. Crewdson '55, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 7/27/2022

Barry Kantor '55, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 6/19/2022

Arlin Deel, '56, Arroyo Grande, California, 7/25/2022

Lynn R. Wolfe '56, Winchester, Virginia, 9/23/2022

Charles I. Cather '56, Winchester, Virginia, 7/3/2022

William H. Baker '57, Aiken, South Carolina, 6/13/2022

Ralph C. Moore '57, Delmar, Maryland, 8/19/2022

Lowell K. Coffelt '57, Edinburg, Virginia, 9/11/2022

William D. Ballard '57, Elgin, Texas, 8/7/2022

Alton O. Crawley '57, Ellicott City, Maryland, 6/26/2022

Sidney R. Sewell '57, Niceville, Florida, 8/16/2022

William C. Britts '57, Playa del Rey, California, 5/10/2022

Frederic B. Mullin '57, Saint Helens, Oregon, 8/18/2022

William I. Jenkins '57, Wakefield, Virginia, 7/13/2022

Robert J. Gardner '58, Alexandria, Virginia, 9/15/2022

Frank J. Trapp '58, Arlington, Virginia, 7/20/2022

George W. Fisher '58, Quinton, Virginia, 9/6/2022

Sumner W. Patch '58, Spicewood, Texas, 6/4/2022

Vincent T. Shea '59, Franklin, Virginia, 10/18/2022

Alfred L. Shawcross '59, The Villages, Florida, 5/7/2022

Charles E. Croley '60, Baltimore, Maryland, 8/13/2022

Jack R. Farmer '60, Cary, North Carolina, 10/5/2022

Joseph B. Martin '60, Clemmons, North Carolina, 8/7/2022

Carlyle P. Highfill '60, Henrico, Virginia, 8/18/2022

Donald F. Morrison '60, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania,
7/11/2022

William O. Slade '60, Princeton, West Virginia, 8/3/2022

Randolph B. Peters '60, Ridgeway, Virginia, 5/20/2022

Don Q. Fink '60, Roanoke, Virginia, 7/8/2022

William H. Huebl '61, Annapolis, Maryland, 7/8/2022

Ronald G. Arritt '61, Covington, Virginia, 5/15/2022

Kenneth C. Scarce '61, Dry Fork, Virginia, 9/17/2022

Frank A. Wood '61, Richmond, Virginia, 9/14/2022

Charles W. Burton '62, Cullen, Virginia, 8/13/2022

James E. Wilkinson '62, Lynchburg, Virginia, 8/25/2022

Robert C. Wales '62, Riverside, California, 8/12/2022

Roy S. Stephenson '62, Saltville, Virginia, 7/17/2022

Jack W. Sisk '62, Tazewell, Virginia, 6/5/2022

Reginald F. Rose '62, Tupelo, Mississippi, 7/31/2022

Robert D. Lancaster '62, Winchester, Virginia, 5/25/2022
Richard N. Green '63, Fairfield, Ohio, 9/26/2022
Daniel H. Hanchey '63, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 5/17/2022
Wayne V. Modisett '63, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 9/23/2022
Alvin A. Akers '63, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, 7/12/2022
Vernon C. Gross '63, Ooltewah, Tennessee, 5/22/2022
Stephen E. Collins '63, Sumter, South Carolina, 7/8/2022
Louis K. Palmer '63, Williamsburg, Virginia, 10/5/2022
Samuel W. Jenkins '64, Manakin Sabot, Virginia,
9/28/2022
Daniel J. Bakun '64, Portland, Oregon, 7/4/2022
Eric B. Larsen '65, Bethesda, Maryland, 10/8/2022
Richard M. Williams '65, Suffolk, Virginia, 8/1/2022
William H. Parcels '65, Topeka, Kansas, 5/16/2022
Charles W. Ferst '67, Blacksburg, Virginia, 5/20/2022
Herbert H. Gilliam '67, Charlotte, North Carolina,
6/16/2022
Geoffrey C. Hintze '67, Huntsville, Alabama, 5/16/2022
Joseph R. Coggi '68, Knoxville, Tennessee, 10/27/2022
Joseph F. Hunt '70, San Antonio, Texas, 8/31/2022
Thomas D. Dudley '71, Arvada, Colorado, 8/1/2022
Billy J. Stephenson '72, Georgetown, Texas, 10/4/2022
George E. Clark '72, Richmond, Virginia, 9/25/2022
Thomas P. Perry '73, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 9/19/2022
Richard G. Hatch '73, Louisville, Kentucky, 8/4/2022
David L. Dale '74, Prosperity, South Carolina, 8/31/2022
Randolph L. Lowry '76, Lebanon, Tennessee, 9/4/2022
Carl C. Newcomb '86, Charlottesville, Virginia, 6/4/2022
Andrew J. Harmon '94, Columbus, Wisconsin, 10/17/2022





Photo courtesy of Cmdr. Nate Brown '98.



Photo courtesy of Cadet Suhyoung Kwak.

CLASS OF 2026

The Highty-Tighties were excited to welcome over sixty incoming first- year cadets, the largest class in over 10 years. This milestone was made possible through many efforts ranging from recruiting, alumni interaction with prospective students, and the return of Corps Summer Orientation which was curtailed during the pandemic.

NASCAR NATIONAL EXPOSURE

Last year, the Highty-Tighties represented Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets at the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade. This year, they performed the national anthem to a nationally televised audience for the NASCAR Cup Series: Xfinity500 at Martinsville Speedway. Planning is underway for the HTs to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.

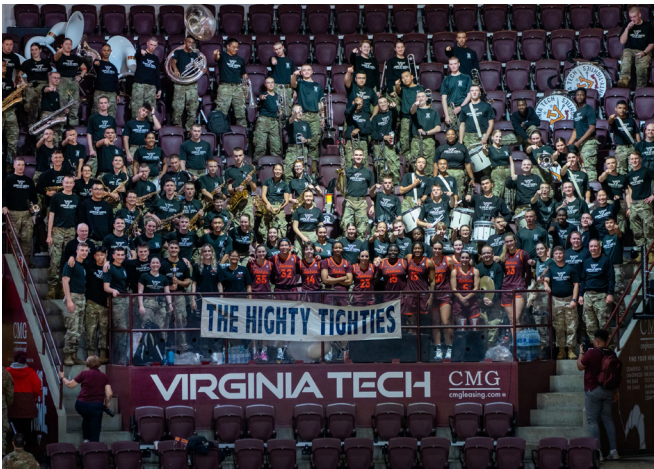
COMPANY UPDATE: HIGHTY-TIGHTIES

SUPPORT TO ATHLETICS

Our HTs not only provide the musical accompaniment to regimental formations, they are also an integral part of Hokie sporting events. While most visible at home football games, they also serve as the pep band for Virginia Tech Women's Basketball in Cassell Coliseum. Recently, Coach Kenny Brooks and Team Captain Elizabeth Kitley sent a thank you video to the HTs. (https://youtube.com/shorts/AndMVAZ_P9c?feature=share).

A CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL ALUMNI

The Highty-Tighties are Virginia Tech's longest-serving musical organization and the oldest collegiate band in Virginia. Many high schools are scaling back on music programs and we ask that all alums (not just HT alums) reach out to your local high schools with music programs and start the conversation. Oftentimes, our best recruiting comes from word of mouth and educating others. Share our latest recruiting video found here: www.vtcc.vt.edu/band.





VTCC Alumni Inc.

VTCC Alumni Office (0213)
141 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech
280 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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