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Invent the Future

Dedicated to the memory of
Matthew La Porte



Matthew Joseph La Porte

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Four weeks in spring

by Col. Rock Roszak '71



As the alumni director for the Corps of Cadets, I work with all sorts of alumni matters, from our scholarship program to publishing the Corps Review to planning and executing reunion events. But I also try my best to be the on-campus representative of our 16,000 cadet alumni. I kept this responsibility in mind during everything I did on April 16 and for the next four weeks. This is my report to you of what I observed on the most tragic day in our university's history and the weeks that followed.

Monday, April 16, started like any other Monday. The Class of 2010 had completed the second 13-mile phase of the Caldwell March two days before and the university was back in class. The cool and damp weather for the march had turned sharply colder by Monday morning and it was very windy with a smattering of snow flurries. You know what they say about Blacksburg weather.

As I worked in my office that morning, the world began to change with the receipt of an e-mail notifying me about a shooting in Ambler Johnston Hall. This was followed by subsequent messages by e-mail and phone mail that there was another incident occurring and that everyone should get secure and stay put. After the Morva incident in the early fall—a deranged, escaped prisoner killed a hospital security guard and a Montgomery County deputy—we were familiar with getting locked down.

The magnitude of the incident slowly became clear.

E-mail kept working but the phone systems—land lines and cellular—were both overloaded. From my office in Brodie Hall, I could hear the sirens and see students streaming by my window. I will never forget the sound of the police loud-speaker repeating over and over again that everyone should clear the area and get inside to safety. We now know that the horrific event had only taken nine minutes and was over by the time the PA announcements started. But the police had no way of knowing that there wasn't more to follow.

We checked to see that our office space was secure; after a while, I went out to the lounge. There I met Cadet Joshua Johnson, the Alpha Company commander and one of the resident advisors for Brodie Hall. He was already on top of things and reported that all members of A Company were fully accounted for. He then pointed to several civilian students sitting in our lounge. He told me that cadets had offered our lounge for shelter to students leaving the academic buildings





and that some had taken refuge with us. He showed me a list of their names to tell me that he had accountability for who was in our space, an action that let me know that we were already dealing with matters in the right way. By noon, we had all cadets accounted for except Band Cadet Matthew J. La Porte. A check of his academic schedule showed that he had class in 211 Norris Hall during the time of the shooting.

As the day progressed, we began to grasp the immensity of the tragedy. Tom Tillar, Tech's vice president for alumni relations, called me midday to say that the Alumni Association was ordering a memorial wreath. He asked if the Corps would provide an honor guard and we immediately agreed to do so. After the wreath had been ordered, the florist indicated that it could be delivered by 5:00 p.m. The snow had stopped but we were still experiencing high winds so we decided to place the wreath inside the War Memorial Chapel until weather conditions permitted moving it to the cenotaph on the memorial itself.

On my way to the chapel, I moved past several police cars that had blocked off the roadway. I asked if they would let the florist truck through to deliver the wreath to me at the end of the Alumni Mall. A state policeman approached me, shook my hand, told me that he was so sorry, and thanked me

because, throughout the afternoon, our cadets had checked with the officers to ask if they needed water or snacks.

Cadet Thomas Lenz, the regimental sergeant major, took possession of the wreath and guarded it as part of the first detail of what would eventually be a 30-hour honor vigil. I did a last check of my office and headed home after a long day but I couldn't stay away. After dinner, I checked my e-mail. The messages were still accumulating—I received more than 150 messages from alumni that day alone—and since so many of the messages had well wishes, I decided to go back to campus and share those with the cadets.

I went to see the regimental commander, Cadet Andrew Archut. He gave me a status report on the regiment: all cadets were still accounted for, save one, and the buildings were secure. I asked him if he would take a turn around the barracks with me and we spent the next hour or so going through every cadet hallway. We dropped in on company and battalion commanders to get their sense of cadet well-being.

I spoke to a great many cadets that evening and I told all that their alumni were wishing them strength and keeping everyone at Virginia Tech in their thoughts and their prayers. A memorable sight was the line of cadets who were waiting to sign up for the chance to be in the honor guard at the



chapel. So many cadets signed up that the tour length was reduced from an hour to just 15 minutes in order to give everyone a chance to stand guard.

I spent the most time in the Band Company area because all the Highty-Tighties knew that Matt La Porte was still unaccounted for and we feared the worst. I spoke with Cadet Nathan Boggs, Matt's roommate, and he told me he had been in constant touch with Matt's parents and all were waiting for some word.

I returned home and the day ended for me at three minutes to midnight when Cadet Archut called to say that Cadet Boggs had just been called by Mrs. La Porte. She had been notified by local authorities at their home in New Jersey that

Matthew was among the dead.

On Tuesday, the grieving continued but the healing began. At the 0730 reveille formation, we raised the flag over the Upper Quad like any other day. But before dismissing the regiment, Cadet Archut had the cadets gather around him and he officially notified them that we had lost one of our own. I was so taken by this scene and still so touched by the constant outpouring of sympathy from our alumni that I immediately went to my office and sent the regiment a message from our alumni, with the thought that it would help them get through the next few media-saturated days.

The convocation was held at 2 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum that Tuesday afternoon. The Highty-Tighties marched across



campus two hours beforehand and provided the music for the event. A dozen or so cadet ushers lent an air of formality to the occasion,

and the color guard, led by Cadet Megan Vance, presented the national, state, university, and regimental colors at the beginning of the ceremony. There were probably more than 11,000 people in the coliseum and another 15,000 people watching the event on the JumboTron in Lane Stadium.

A special moment at the convocation was the thunderous ovation given to President Charles Steger by an audience defying the media's rush to judgment and supporting how Virginia Tech's administration had responded to unprecedented and unspeakable events. I watched the beginning of the program from the floor of the coliseum but left shortly after Gov. Kaine began to speak. A Secret Service agent asked for



my help in planning for President and Mrs. Bush to lay flowers at the impromptu "VT" memorial near the War Memorial Chapel and together we moved to the Drillfield. By

this time, the winds had finally died down enough to move the wreath up to the cenotaph. Shortly thereafter, the presidential motorcade came to the Drillfield where President and Mrs. Bush and Gov. and Mrs. Kaine paid tribute to the fallen.

At dusk, the regiment solemnly marched from the Upper Quad to Burruss Hall to the haunting beat of a single snare drummer. The candlelight vigil was about to begin. A detail of the Gregory Guard had already been stationed near the memorial Hokie Stones that were in place to honor the victims. The commandant and his deputies marched in the rear rank of the regiment in what they describe as one of the most solemn moments of their lives. When the regiment





arrived, the cadets dismissed and merged with the crowd of nearly 20,000 people who had gathered to pay tribute as one community. The event concluded with two cadet buglers performing "Echo Taps." The 30-hour vigil at the wreath ended at 2300 hours that evening.

Things quieted on Wednesday because classes had been cancelled for the remainder of the week and most students had gone home. Gen. Allen assigned Lt. Col. Chuck Payne, who oversees the band in the Third Battalion, as the liaison

to the La Porte family. The La Portes showed tremendous strength during this entire period and from the very start declared that they held no anger towards Virginia Tech.

Since the La Portes had previously decided to move to Virginia at some point, they wanted to have Matt buried in Blacksburg after funeral services in New Jersey. Lt. Col. Payne left on Friday to accompany Matt's remains to New Jersey. Since Cadet La Porte was under contract with the Air Force ROTC, he was entitled to a military funeral with full honors,





which the La Porte family wanted. The Air Force Honor Guard from Langley AFB, Va., sent two members who trained the funeral party over the next several days.

Maj. Gen. Allen, Air Force ROTC Commander Col. Dan Lentz, and I drove to New Jersey on Sunday, April 22. Also traveling that day were Highty-Tighty director, Maj. George McNeill, and five band cadets, including Nathan Boggs. We attended the viewing at the funeral parlor with some 600 people who came to pay tribute to Matt La Porte. The following morning we, along with a group of cadets from Matt's military high school, performed honor guard duty as the flag-draped casket moved from the funeral home to the church. After a very moving service at the family church, the La Porte family invited us to a reception at a local hall before we loaded up to return to Virginia that evening. On our way home, we were updated that our ca-

dets had returned to campus and that classes had resumed.

On Tuesday evening, the La Porte family held a viewing at a funeral parlor in Blacksburg. This was a very moving event for the hundreds of our cadets who attended. Many had never seen death in person and they struggled with the experience of seeing someone their own age and dressed in their uniform.

The funeral mass was held on Wednesday at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, which adjoins the Blacksburg cemetery. The church was packed with Matt's family, all the military staffs,

President and Mrs. Steger, Provost and Mrs. McNamee, the entire Virginia Tech women's basketball team and coaches—the Highty-Tighties are their pep band—and 50 cadets, approximately 10 from each battalion and all 19 of Matt's Band Company classmates.

During the mass, the majority of the regiment formed up on the Upper Quad and marched through





With Love
TC

town to the cemetery. As we left the church and moved to the gravesite, the view of the regiment arrayed across the rolling hills of the cemetery is one that I will never forget.

The honor guard carried the flag-draped casket to the grave. They folded the flag and a general from the Air Force ROTC presented it to the La Porte family. Gen. Allen presented the family with a certificate saying that the flag had first flown from the flag pole on the Upper Quad. The Gregory Guard rendered a 21-rifle salute. And then, all 19 of Matt's classmates filed by the coffin, removing their white presidential citation cords and laying them solemnly

on his casket. Throughout this ordeal, the Highty-Tighties superbly memorialized their fallen brother. Besides the poignant white cords placed on Matt's casket, the entire band signed the inside of his drum and donated it to the Corps as a permanent remembrance of Cadet La Porte.

On Thursday, the regiment practiced for a modified change of command ceremony that had been scheduled for Saturday. Change of command is typically held on the Drillfield, which was not possible this year because of the memorial there and the tent erected to hold the mementos that mourners had left at the memorial Hokie Stones.

Because we still needed to conduct the change of command ceremony to celebrate our seniors, the cadets organized and practiced a modified ceremony on the VT of the Upper Quad. That evening, the La Porte family had dinner at the Farmhouse with the Highty-Tighty sophomore class.

The La Portes joined us at reveille formation on Friday morning and then they claimed the rest of Matt's belongings and made ready to return to New Jersey. They decided that instead of returning at graduation to receive Matthew's honorary diploma, they would return in September and attend the annual Highty-Tighty reunion and receive







the diploma then. They will also receive Matt's certificate for his leadership minor and will fulfill their desire to attend a Virginia Tech football game.

Later that afternoon, I received a phone call from the Secret Service agent I had worked with on the day of the convocation. He informed me that the White House wanted to invite our cadet chaplain to attend the National Prayer

Breakfast to be held the following Thursday. I put him in contact with Cadet Houston Yu, the regimental chaplain. Cadet Yu selected Cadet James Compton, the chaplain for the band, to accompany him.

I returned to my office early Saturday morning to get ready for change of command and discovered a phone message from the White House, inviting me to attend the prayer





breakfast, as well. The change of command ceremony was a good event and the Class of 2008 took the reigns of command. At Cadet Archut's request, I addressed the Class of 2007 and took that opportunity to wish them the best of luck from all of our alumni.

The following week, I accompanied cadets Yu and Compton to the White House. What a tremendous experience it was for these two young men. Cadet Yu personally met the president and then was privileged to read the National Prayer at the ceremony. When seated, he was immediately followed by President Bush, who thanked him for being a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Most people in the East Room did not know who the cadets were but they all applauded at this mention.

When the president finished speaking, the crowd immediately flocked to the cadets to reach out to them and tell them that the nation was with them, echoing all the support that so many others have given the Virginia Tech community.

As we left the White House via the East Wing entrance, we noted that the photo gallery in the hallway already displayed two images of the president at Virginia Tech—one from the convocation and one at the "VT" memorial.

The rest of the week and the following were fairly quiet; final exams were underway and the dormitories were slowly emptying.

Corps graduation and commencement were held on Friday, May 11. At our largest graduation exercise in 30 years, we honored more than 160 graduating cadets, 75 percent of whom will be commissioned into the armed services. Over the next two days, the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force commissioned their new second lieutenants and ensigns. And the school year came to an end.

What a momentous four weeks. The tragedy could have happened anywhere but it happened here. Our community suffered the unthinkable and still showed the entire world that we are a special community. We are strong. We are together. As Nikki Giovanni so aptly proclaimed, "We are Virginia Tech!"

I want to thank all of you who contacted me during this period. I tried to answer every message but I'm sure that I missed some. If I did not respond, please forgive me. But thank you for reaching out.

Tell anyone who asks that the Hokie Nation is standing tall and we're moving forward.

Ut Prosim.



16 April 2007



Matthew Joseph La Porte

by Cadet Nathan Boggs

Matthew Joseph La Porte—I affectionately nicknamed him “The Door,” which is what his last name means in French. The best way to describe him is as a man of few words.

Upon my return from a two-year sabbatical, I was assigned as Matt’s roommate and he really was a man of few words. It took a good while before I was able to crack his mask of silence, but once I did, I enjoyed having conversations with him. His nickname within the company was “Space Cadet” because he would often have a far-off look on his face. But once you began talking with him, you could see he was far from “lost in space.” He would never say too much but you could tell his mind was working in those “lost” moments because he would come out with the most profound statements at just the right times. I think his mother summed it up best when she said to me, “He must have aggravated his teachers to no end because he was the type of kid to stare out the window and appear inattentive but still soak in every bit of information the teacher would throw out there.”

There is no question that I will miss Matt’s little quirks. He had funny little habits that sometimes drove me crazy and at other times were the funniest things ever. He was a night owl all the way. He would attempt to do some homework during our mandatory sophomore study hours but was often unsuccessful. At exactly 2100 every night of the week, he would be out the door in PT gear to go to War Memorial Gym and would come back right at 2300. He did this every night, no exceptions, whether he had PT the next morning or not. I am convinced that he was not capable of doing homework UNTIL he had done that and it was at least 2300. Of course, by around 0200 in the morning, it was time for another meal so quite often

I was awakened by him coming back into the room followed closely by the smell of Burger King, Taco Bell, or Wendy’s. Those little things are what make memories and they are memories that I will never forget.

Looking back at the events of the past few weeks, I have felt several emotions. I first felt sorrow and loss. After the first few days, I began to feel an extra strength because I was able to help others in the band and to be a support to them. Around that same time, Maj. Gen. Allen sent a statement to the Corps of Cadets saying that he had received word from the police that Matt had apparently attempted to stop the shooter. I have never felt prouder of Matt and I doubt that I will ever again feel such pride in any person. It was not something that Matt was required or expected to do but he did it out of genuine love and concern for the people in his class.

At Matt’s funeral service in New Jersey, a reporter approached me following the service and asked me what I felt right then. My first thought was, “I want you to get out of my face.” But then I felt a quiet calm come over me, one that I knew was from God, and I quietly responded, “Gratitude. For all the people who came to support the La Portes today. For all the people who have supported them thus far and who will continue to support them.”

If Matt were looking down on us right now, I think he would feel proud of who he was in life. His legacy of sacrifice is unparalleled and my greatest desire is to have that same sense of selfless sacrifice, being willing to act when I am needed most and to do so fearlessly. There is no question in my mind that Matthew Joseph La Porte is my hero and I am proud to have been so close to him. It has truly been an honor to be a part of everything, to be a part of the legacy of Matt, and I hope to walk the path less taken as he did.

16 April 2007

Regimental commander's report:

Just a few minutes before 1000, Akrami came to my room and told me that police were evacuating the academic side of campus. I called the BN commanders and told them to lock down the buildings and post guards at every hatch. Then Akrami and I went outside to the PAB as the police began to set their outer perimeter and evacuate surrounding buildings. Martinelli, Wright, Akrami, and I started directing cadets off the academic side of Stanger Street. Students were screaming out of Holden Hall and running past the first officers arriving on scene. We saw students collecting in the bottom of McBryde and began directing them to

Torgersen Hall. We eventually started shuttling them to Torgersen in small groups. Akrami went inside McBryde to collect students, I posted in the stairwell of McBryde, Martinelli stood on the curb to watch for the incoming cops that would speed by, and Wright stood out in front of Torgersen. We moved the students in groups of 6 to twelve through the four of us. Eventually the building seemed empty and we ran up to upper quad. Martinelli and Akrami went to check that Monteith was in lockdown and guarded while I checked Brodie and Rasche. I then went to McNamara's room where I saw the first bodies, about four total, being pulled out of Norris. While watching, I

saw students in the foyer of McBryde 100. I ran down there to see Martinelli and Akrami returning. We again set the three of us in the same system with Akrami sending people in McBryde to me in the stairwell and I would direct them to Martinelli who was taking them between the speeding ambulances and police cars. After another three or four groups, McBryde appeared empty and all three of us returned to the dorms to start checking up on how the battalions' accountability was looking. I had the BN commanders sending me updated counts every thirty minutes. By noon, the only cadet unaccounted for in the regiment was C/Cpl. La Porte.



17 April 2007

To members of the cadet regiment:

I wanted to follow Cadet Archut's words this morning by conveying to you the countless sentiments I have received from many of our alumni from around the world. They are all reacting with shock and sadness to the tragic events that played out at their beloved university. They have asked me to tell you that you are uppermost in their minds and they are keeping you in their thoughts and their prayers.

The Corps of Cadets is the most visible student entity on campus. You represent the tradition of this university and many people will look to you to see

how to react to what has occurred.

I know you will embody the motto of our university—*Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). You will serve our community now by conducting yourselves with integrity and compassion and you will display a resiliency of spirit.

Your watchword should be dignity. Your every action should be aimed at preserving the dignity of the memory of our fallen comrade. Your every deed should be done in the spirit of granting a sense of dignity to the families of those our community has lost who must now deal with unspeakable grief.

Be there for your fellow cadets

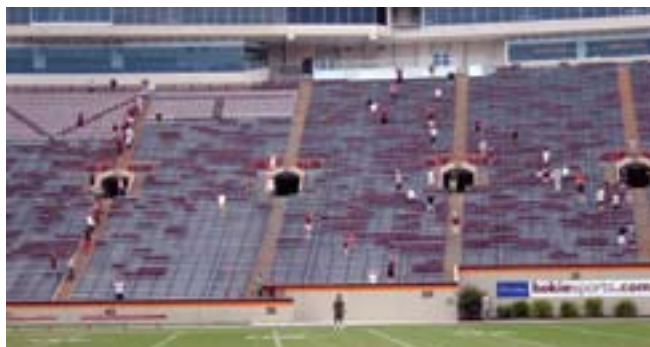
and the family of our fallen cadet. Be there for anyone else in the university community—students, faculty, families, and friends—who needs your support. This is a time for our community to come together.

I am proud of the many cadet actions I witnessed yesterday during the crisis period. I am proud of seeing that line of cadets last evening waiting to sign up for duty at the wreath vigil. I know I will be proud of cadet actions as we begin to heal from this tragic event.

Ut Prosim.

Col. Rock Roszak '71, USAF (Ret.)

Army ROTC news



Stadium seat installation

The New River Battalion cadets had the distinction of being among the first cadets to venture inside the newly remodeled Lane Stadium last year as part of a fundraising effort in which they rent out cushioned seats to fans. Sacrificing some Thursday nights and weekends for the cause, the cadets spent several days placing the chairs under the direction of the members of Ranger Company. With high spirits despite the bad weather, the cadets placed the final chairs on the Thursday before the first home football game.

by Cadet Catherine Helfgott



Cadets Pollock, Bain, and Huff and Maj. Hogeboom in the Merryman skybox at the season opener.

Lane Stadium skyboxes

At the Hokies' home opener on Sept. 2, three lucky Army cadets were afforded a new perspective on the college football experience. Freshman Army Cadets Bain and Huff, along with Cadet Pollak, Hotel Company commander, were invited to the skybox owned by Sonny Merryman, a generous donor to the university and its ROTC programs. Huff and Bain received the honor for having the highest male and female MSI scores for the first APFT of the year.

As Tech shut out Northeastern, 38-0, the cadets enjoyed a magnificent view of the entire stadium and noted that the Corps of Cadets looked great, a true credit to their institution and respective ROTC units. The cadets also enjoyed some fantastic food during this truly memorable way to watch the Hokies play.

This year, 22 cadets and a junior officer serving in Afghanistan—who was home on his mid-tour leave—enjoyed a Tech home game from the well-furnished suite. The Merryman family enjoyed visiting with the cadets; Mr. Merryman said that the cadets were well-behaved and absolutely no trouble. In fact, some of the cadets continue to communicate with the suite owners.

Maj. Patrick Hogeboom initiated the program to increase interactions between cadets and alumni and to recognize those cadets who are strong performers. The Army ROTC program is always on the lookout for other ways to foster cadet and alumni interaction. Submit your ideas to rotc@vt.edu.

by Cadet Mark Pollak

Lane Stadium advertising



The Army ROTC program concluded its most aggressive and most successful advertising campaign ever. The campaign featured a custom-made video—shown before the Virginia Tech–Duke football game—that depicted Gen. HokieBird jumping from a helicopter into a packed Lane Stadium. The campaign also included advertising at all eight sold-out home football games, reaching more than 529,000 people.

The focus of the advertising campaign was the superior training available in the Army ROTC program, which has enabled it to become Tech's largest ROTC program.

As the Army ROTC program continues to grow, the cadre remains committed to producing quality Army officers.

Army ROTC tailgate

On Oct. 21, 2006, the New River Battalion held its first-ever alumni tailgate during Homecoming weekend. Cadets, alumni, and the cadre shared stories over hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by Col. St. Jean while the Homecoming



Army ROTC teamed up with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and displayed one of the Army's new Hummer H2s at the Army alumni tailgate held during Homecoming weekend.

parade rolled by on Alumni Mall. Members of the regional Association of the United States Army (AUSA) chapter also attended and offered the cadets useful advice about the Army, the AUSA, and the support provided to soldiers home and abroad. Many members shared their stories with cadets and provided guidance to the future Army officers. There were also several goody bags filled with pens, informational pamphlets, magnets, stickers, and Army calendars.

Music for the event was provided courtesy of the Christiansburg recruiting office, whose members showed up with their Army-decorated Hummer H2. A few cadets enjoyed playing with the Hummer's Xbox and flat-screen TV.

Although the turnout could have been better, everyone had a great time socializing with old and new friends.

by Cadet Abu Akeel



Army Ten-Miler

Over the fall break, cadets Thomas Bortner, Daniel Digiorgio, Casey Middleton, Nicholas Roland, Katherine Haimann,

Dustin Siddle, Alex Pombar, Justin Leddon, Dennis Porter, and Devan Vaughan traveled to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Army Ten-Miler race on Oct. 8, 2006. Accompanied by Maj. Hogeboom, the cadets well represented Virginia Tech's Army ROTC by placing second among more than 40 ROTC teams from schools across the country. The team time of 4:22:10 was comprised of the top four finishers on the team, cadets Digiorgio, Roland, Vaughan, and Siddle.

Cadet Digiorgio, who ran a personal best of 1:04:59, later commented that "it was an exciting experience, being my first race, and it was great to run with the rest of the team and Maj. Hogeboom." Several members of the team shattered personal records, as well.

Cadet Bortner's parents provided us with food, warm beds, and a hot shower. The team was incredibly grateful for their generosity. Lt. Col. Bortner (Ret.), a 28-year veteran of the Ordnance Corps, also ran the race and finished with a commendable time within his age group. Cadet Middleton praised the pre-race dinner of pasta and the pre-race breakfast of muffins: "The Bortners' breakfast gave us the extra energy to finish the race the way we did."

The team later had time to visit the various memorials in D.C., which helped us remember why we really ran.

To further represent Virginia Tech's Army ROTC, the team stayed an extra day to attend the Annual AUSA conference that Monday. The trip concluded with a luncheon with and speech from Gen. Wallace, commander of TRADOC, and a victorious ride back to Blacksburg.

by Cadet Devan Vaughn



Ranger Challenge

Teams from Virginia Tech and Radford University competed in the annual Eastern Region Ranger Challenge held Oct. 27-28 at Ft. Pickett, Va.

The Virginia Tech team—comprised of cadets Dan DiGiorio, Mike Luth, Erik Anderson, Nick Roland, Casey Middleton, Jordan Martinelli, Kip Beach, T.J. Tekesky, Jesse Counihan, and Derrick Gough—finished in the "Gold Bracket," the top one-third of all competing teams.

Since the beginning of the academic year, the team had worked extra-hard to improve physical fitness and the military proficiencies required to complete the events. The team not only worked out five mornings a week but also spent countless nights honing the necessary tactical skills. The Ranger Challenge consists of seven key events, including the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), land navigation, hand grenade assault course, M16 marksmanship, 10K foot march, team obstacle course, and the commanders event.

The Virginia Tech team fared well in all events and did extremely well in the physical fitness test and 10K foot march. "The team came out and performed exceptionally. Over the past several years, we have developed a strong team with great senior leadership and strong interest from all members of the ROTC," said Cadet DiGiorgio, captain of the Ranger Challenge team.

Sgt. Maj. Anderson (Ret.), Virginia Tech Army ROTC's former sergeant major, paid a surprise visit to Ft. Pickett to cheer on the team. "It was great to see Sgt. Maj. Anderson at the competition. He was our instructor during freshman year and is the reason that a lot of the seniors are participating in the competition," said Cadet Luth.

At the end of the competition, the teams received another nice surprise when they were picked up by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for the ride back to campus.



Cadet Bedell consults the map during the FTX land navigation march.

Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX)

The Virginia Tech and Radford University cadets performed extremely well this year at brigade field training, which evaluates physical fitness, land navigation, and leadership skills. The event is one of the major evaluations that cadets undergo before they attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Wash., during the summer. Achieving an average APFT score of 280, the

Tech cadets clearly demonstrated the high standards of the battalion. Cadet Katherine Haimann had the brigade's highest APFT score at 355 and Cadet Michael Tekesky had the second highest APFT score at 350.

The brigade's results were equally impressive for land navigation despite the fact that this year's night land navigation points did not have chemical lights. Many of the cadets nonetheless found all of their points during the day and night. On the written test, Cadet Dustin Siddle received a perfect score. The cadets also performed very well during the squad tactical exercises, which tested their tactical knowledge and leadership, communications, and problem-solving abilities.

Although he did not receive an award at the FTX, Cadet Ben Chinsky had the best overall performance among the members of the Tech battalion.

by Cadet Charles Gallagher



Cadet Harold and team prepare for land navigation.

Land navigation brigade FTX

At the brigade FTX, the New River Battalion seniors, with the help and guidance of the cadre, conducted the night and day land navigation evaluations for more than 200 cadets from 16 universities in Virginia and North Carolina.

Thanks to the hard work of our seniors, the site was set up quickly. Along with a holding area for cadets and a 300-meter pace count course, three separate tents were erected to facilitate the training.

The first tent served as the land navigation tactical operations center (TOC), where Tech and Radford MS IVs ensured that land navigation ran efficiently. In addition, all event information passed through this tent. When each cadet was released onto the course, both the lane designation and the departure time were recorded. This data, along with how much time each cadet had to complete the course and ultimately his or her final score, was sent real-time from the TOC computers to the projector in the next tent.

The second tent allowed the schools' battalion commanders to see how their cadets were performing and to keep



Cadets negotiate an obstacle on the Leadership Reaction Course.

them from interfering with the TOC, which was accomplished with specially designed software from Maj. Bass. This method greatly enhanced accountability and lost-cadet searches; no cadets got lost, however.

The last tent was set up just for the cadets. Upon their return from crawling through the swamps at Fort Pickett, they found hot chocolate and soup, allowing them to relax and warm up before rejoining their platoons.

by Cadet Jeffery Stine

Leadership Reaction Course

Army ROTC's LDAC-bound cadets and seniors participated in the brigade FTX held the weekend of March 30 to April 1 at Ft. Pickett, Va. In order to better prepare for the LDAC, these cadets arrived a day early to complete the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), which is comprised of various scenarios, requiring cadets to negotiate walls, water obstacles, and many other tasks to complete short team-building exercises and leadership evaluations.

Armed only with a few supplies and their leadership experience, juniors attempted to cross "minefields" and retrieve "enemy supplies" while the seniors evaluated them. Because of the cooperative warm weather, the always-enjoyable water obstacles could be utilized. While only a couple of cadets found themselves in the water, many quickly learned that the

easiest way to complete a mission would not always be the driest. Creative and quick thinking led many cadets to success on the obstacles.

The cadets will no doubt use the lessons learned from the LRC at Ft. Pickett when they travel to Ft. Lewis this summer for the LDAC.

by Cadet Erik Anderson



Cadet Liu is helped through the low ropes course at the SELU team-building exercise.

Low ropes course

First-year cadets learned a great deal at this year's spring FTX. One especially memorable experience was the low ropes course taught by civilian students from Radford University



The Army commissioning class of 2007.

and held at the university's Selu Conservancy. The course taught the cadets such lessons as how to balance all participants on a teetering plank of wood, how to get everyone over a wall, and, most importantly, how to accomplish goals with teamwork.

Little challenges were introduced during every task that made its completion a bit harder. Most obstacles were troublesome once participants started "losing hands," "going blind," and losing the ability to talk because these "losses" made the obstacles much more complicated. While each group worked as a team to navigate the challenges, the cadets learned that thinking outside the box to find a solution is often necessary. And even though the experience might not be considered a traditional FTX, cadets learned much about teamwork and leadership.

by Cadet Kathleen Bain

George C. Marshall Award winner

On April 17, 2007, Cadet Jordan Martinelli traveled to Virginia Military Institute to participate in the 2007 Marshall Award Seminar, during which he was awarded the prestigious George C. Marshall Award, awarded annually to one cadet

in each ROTC battalion. Cadet Martinelli was selected for his outstanding leadership and actions in the New River Battalion as the battalion's cadet sergeant major during the fall semester and as a platoon leader during the spring semester.

Speakers at the conference included the Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Gen. William Wallace, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.



Cadets Stine and Martinelli at the brigade FTX in late March.

2007 Army ROTC commissionees

Active Component

Name	Branch	Duty Station
Chang Ahn	FA	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Anthony Akrami	FA	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Erik Anderson	IN	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Ashley Broaddus	AD	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Matthew Brooks	FA	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Francis D'allura	AD	Japan
Danielle DiCicco	AD	Fort Bliss, Texas
Daniel DiGiorgio	IN	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Charles Gallagher	QM	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Nicole Goodwin	MP	Fort Benning, Ga.
Andrew Howell	AV	Fort Rucker, Ala.
Joshua Johnson	FA	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Michael Luth	IN	Fort Carson, Colo.
Michael Mann	FA	Fort Stewart, Ga.
Jordan Martinelli	AR	Fort Bliss, Texas
Casey Middleton	MP	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Jeffrey Nason	MS	Fort Hood, Texas
Brian Orlino	TC	Alaska
Nicholas Roland	IN	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Alan Schano	MP	Fort Hood, Texas
Matthew Schloesser	EN	Fort Lewis, Wash.
Stephen Schuyler	EN	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Jeffery Stine	IN	Fort Hood, Texas
Chernenko Wheatley	AG	Fort Stewart, Ga.

Reserve Component, National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve

Megan Bradner	AG	Maryland National Guard
Alan Campbell	QM	NC National Guard
Nathaniel Carter	IN	Maryland National Guard
Justin Ligon	FA	NC National Guard

Matthew Schloesser graduated with a bachelor's degree in industrial systems engineering and has branched engineers. Chernenko Wheatley graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and has branched adjutant general. They were commissioned on May 17 by President Bush at the White House.

U.S. Small Arms Championship

During spring break, 15 Virginia Tech Army ROTC cadets participated in the U.S. Small Arms Championship, otherwise known as "All Army," at Fort Benning, Ga. The Army Marksmanship Unit based at Fort Benning hosts this event annually and teaches two marksmanship classes, one on rifle and one on pistol. Units of all kinds, ranging from special forces and



Virginia Tech cadets at the Army marksmanship competition.

civil affairs to conventional forces and civilian marksmanship programs, sent competitors from as far away as Korea.

The first half of the week was devoted solely to rifle matches, including an excellence-in-competition match during which participants could receive points toward earning a distinguished badge. Most of the Virginia Tech team did extremely well and Cadet Mann was the top cadet rifle-shooter in most of the matches.

The second part of the week was devoted to pistol discipline. Although the cadets did not receive formal pistol training from a certified weapons instructor, they were familiarized with .45 caliber pistols, an extraordinary handgun with considerably more firepower than the M9 Beretta, the Army's service pistol. The Virginia Tech team did very well in the pistol competition despite not having a great deal of experience with competitive pistol-shooting.

At the end of the week, an awards ceremony and banquet were held and the top shooters in each category were awarded their prizes. Cadet Mann was the top cadet shooter and was awarded a plaque commemorating his achievement, along with a presentation M-1 Garand provided by the Civilian Marksmanship Program for winning the Secretary of the Army Match.

This cadets' success would not have been possible without the help of the two noncommissioned officers, Sgt. Maj. Ferrone and Sgt. 1st Class Jones, who took the team to Fort Benning. Exhibiting the true spirit of *Ut Prosim*, Sgt. 1st Class Jones prepared the team by setting range times and running the practices.

Congratulations to the Virginia Tech Army ROTC team for its success at the championship. Good luck next year.

by Cadet J. William Parker

2007 Army ROTC recruiter of the year



Maj. Patrick Hogeboom (civil engineering '94) was selected from among 272 officers as the nation's top U.S. Army ROTC cadet command recruiting officer. Maj. Hogeboom will complete his ROTC tour this summer and will move to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to attend Army Command and General Staff College.

Ranger Assessment Phase

Ranger Platoon recently completed Ranger Assessment Phase (RAP), during which cadets were tested on individual skills and tasks required to gain entry into the newly restructured organization. The five-day testing phase consists of a timed five-mile company run, a 10-kilometer road march, negotiation of the obstacle course, a knot tying/belaying and rappelling test, and the Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT).



Ranger 100-mile run cadets Middleton, Urick, Tubesing, and Haimann.

Candidates must complete the five-mile run in 37:30, finish the 10-K road march within an arm's length of their buddy at a 14-minute-per-mile pace, and pass the RPFT at 90 percent in each event and perform six chin-ups. Candidates must also successfully negotiate each obstacle on the obstacle course and then demonstrate proficiency in instructing the proper negotiation of each obstacle. The knot test requires candidates to tie nine knots, with two minutes allotted for each knot, and to state the purpose and checkpoints for each knot. After completing RAP, the candidates become full-fledged members of Ranger Company and are able to wear the Ranger Company beret and black PT gear and participate fully in all company activities, such as the annual whitewater rafting trip.

RAP was an overwhelming success, with a large majority of the newest Ranger Platoon cadets performing their tasks and skills successfully to earn full membership in the Cadet Ranger community.

The final event, the five-mile run, ended with a motivational sprint across the Drillfield—which was lined with the battalion's cadets cheering the new members of Ranger Platoon—to the Pylons, where the Ranger Creed was recited.

Every Tuesday morning at formation, Ranger Platoon now stands at full platoon strength in its distinctive PT gear, helping to motivate other cadets to go beyond the everyday activities of ROTC and the Corps.

by Cadet Nicholas Roland



Maj. Wright and Cadet Schano at the annual dining-in.

Dining-in

On Feb. 1, 2007, the New River Battalion held a dining-in ceremony at Owens Banquet Hall. Although the traditions and protocol of the dining-in were totally unfamiliar to the first-year cadets, Sgt. Maj. Ferrone did his best to prepare them for what was to come. As a result, it was an amusing night filled with Army tradition, laughter, and grog!

A tradition associated with the British Army's regimental mess, the dining-in serves to build bonds between the units. The major elements of the evening include skits, a formal dinner, and the grog bowl.

The skits did not spare any member of the cadre staff. The dinner was delicious but took a long time to eat because of the points of order. Mr. Vice, Cadet Akrami, was in charge of determining who was sent to the grog but could be overruled by the president of the mess, Sgt. Maj. Ferrone. Mr. Vice even entertained us with his dancing skills after someone made a point of order about them.

The cadets had many laughs and even got to know some of their fellow cadets in the ROTC program at Radford University.

by Cadet Kathleen Bain



Summer training

Congratulations to the summer training selectees!

Cadet Troop Leader Training

Cadet Andrew Baum, Ft. Hood, Texas
 Cadet Andrew Cahan, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.
 Cadet Jesse Counihan, Baumholder, Germany
 Cadet Katherine Haimann, Hanau, Germany
 Cadet Stephanie Kessinger, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas
 Cadet Justin Leddon, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
 Cadet Timothy Wu, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

Airborne School – Fort Benning, Ga.

Cadet Benjamin Chinsky
 Cadet Derrick Gough
 Cadet Timothy Hall
 Cadet James Huff
 Cadet William Hurt
 Cadet Shaun Revene
 Cadet Wallace Rollins
 Cadet Matthew Streams
 Cadet Michael Tekesky
 Cadet Monica Tubesing
 Cadet Weston Walrond

Air Assault School

Cadet John Steger
 Cadet Matthew Van Arsdale

Mountain Warfare School

Cadet Kip Beach

Cadet Field Training – West Point, N.Y.

Cadet David Lape
 Cadet Alexander Pombar
 Cadet Meredith Simon
 Cadet Alex Tardiff

Key events, fall 2007

Aug. 11-18	New cadet training
Aug. 20	Classes begin
Aug. 21	VT welcome back leadership lab
Aug. 25-26	Lane Stadium PT, VT and RU
Aug. 30	Academic awards
Sept. 8-9	Basic rifle marksmanship training
Sept. 29	Army ROTC alumni tailgate
Oct. 7	Army Ten-Miler
Oct. 13	JROTC Raider FEX II
Oct. 20	Family Day
Oct. 26-29	Ranger Challenge
Nov. 2-4	Battalion FTX and land navigation
Nov. 17-25	Thanksgiving break
Dec. 1	Combat water-survival training
Dec. 13	Virginia Tech commissioning
Dec. 15	Radford commissioning

If you'd like to keep abreast of current Army ROTC activities, join the Army ROTC's listserv by sending an e-mail to rotcc@vt.edu. Alumni, we love hearing from you. Please send us your photos and updates and we will post them in the detachment area.



The pride of the Corps

by Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen, USAF

In the aftermath of the tragedy of 16 April, I have been especially impressed by the extraordinary leadership that our cadets demonstrated and by the many expressions of sympathy and support extended to the Corps of Cadets.

On the morning of the shootings, cadet leaders helped evacuate students from the academic area and escorted them to shelter in the cadet residence halls. The cadet chain of command took the initiative to establish accountability quickly and accurately.

Cadets presented a memorial wreath in the War Memorial Chapel; then, more than 300 cadets volunteered to take turns guarding the wreath for the next 30 hours. At reveille formation the next morning, Cadet Col. Andrew Archut formally notified the regiment that Cadet Matthew J. La Porte had been killed during the shootings.

Later that day, the Corps provided the High-Tighties, color guard, and

ushers for the university convocation. All performed superbly in front of President and Mrs. Bush, a crowd of 10,000 people in Cassell Coliseum, and another 15,000 or more who watched the ceremony on the scoreboard in Lane Stadium.

That evening, the regiment marched solemnly to the candlelight vigil. Members of the Gregory Guard stood over the 32 memorial Hokie Stones and two of our buglers played "Echo Taps."

Five staff members and five cadets traveled to New Jersey to be with the La Porte family for services. The entire regiment participated in Matt's burial in Blacksburg and gave him their final salute.

I have never been more proud of the Corps of Cadets and its cadet leaders.

I have been touched by the hundreds of messages of support sent by alumni and friends of the Corps. I have heard from so many of you, along with the leaders of the senior military colleges and many of the members of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States.

Especially impressive has been the support provided by our friends at the Virginia Military Institute. First, VMI loaned us their chaplain, Col. Jim Park, to counsel cadets. Col. Park stayed two days and then returned the next week for another two days. VMI sent eight cadets and their professor of aerospace studies, Col. Jim Tubbs, to march with the regiment and stand formation for Matt La Porte's burial service. Next, VMI invited our color guard to participate with theirs in a dedication ceremony at the renovated Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. Then, when VMI was invited to provide an honor guard for Queen Elizabeth, we were quickly invited to share this special duty with them. VMI chose to present a 24-member honor guard: 12 VMI cadets, 11 Virginia Tech cadets, and an unfilled position in memory of Matt La Porte.

We are grateful for the wonderful outpouring of support for Matthew J. La Porte. We mourn his passing and we hold his family, and the families of all the victims, in our thoughts and prayers.



© Getty Images



The Corps, front and center

by Col. T. O. Williams III '59, chairman

University officials and many others are heavily involved in the assessment of the tragic events of

16 April 2007 to determine how we might be better prepared should some other such disaster occur in the future. Indeed, universities and colleges across the country are anxiously awaiting our assessment and recommendations.

From the moment of the horrendous shootings to the extensive press coverage across the nation and throughout the ongoing elements in the aftermath, our awesome Corps has been front and center for all the world to see.

The Corps' performance during this time has been so outstanding as to be unique in my memory. The presentation of the colors at the convocation viewed nationwide, the entire regiment marching silently to the candlelight memorial vigil on the Drillfield, and the cadets in full dress standing an around-the-clock vigil on the War Memorial are but a few examples.

One of the most indelible events involved the funeral in Blacksburg for sophomore Cadet Matthew La Porte. Although Cadet La Porte was from New Jersey, his family wanted him buried in Blacksburg, where the Corps meant so much to him. The service was heart-wrenching but so lovingly performed for this young man. When the Corps pallbearers carried La Porte's flag-draped casket from the sanctuary and directly to his burial site behind the church, there at the top of the cemetery was the entire regiment, lined up from one end of the cemetery completely

to the other, with our flags flowing proudly in the center. It brings tears to my eyes as I write this, even as it did on that memorable day. Many more details of Corps actions are covered elsewhere in this issue.

All of us owe so much to Henry J. Dekker '44 for his vision and determination in ensuring in 1989 that our Corps would have a future at Virginia Tech. The Corps was on its way into history when Dekker organized a strong group of Corps alumni who would reach out to all of our alumni, the university administration, the faculty, and potential new cadets. Henry had the fortitude to "make it happen" and he should be recognized as the "Father of the Revived, Improved, and Reconstituted Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech."

Very sadly, Henry's beloved wife, Louisa, his prime supporter in his many contributions, recently passed away. All of us shall miss her. To you, Henry, please accept our condolences on Louisa's passing and our most sincere expression of gratitude for all you have done for the Corps and Virginia Tech.

In 1989, Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser was selected as the commandant of cadets to jumpstart the Corps' revitalization. He and his staff did a magnificent job, devoting 10 years to developing the Corps and bringing Henry's ideas to fruition. Our current commandant, Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen, and his staff have literally taken the Corps to the next level. We are so fortunate to have had both of these generals involved in our reconstruction!

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the members of the Corps Class of 2007 upon their graduation from Virginia Tech. We welcome them

into the ranks of Corps of Cadets alumni and we look forward to the opportunity to follow their progress in either the military or the civilian world. They will take with them the lessons of the most extensive leadership training laboratory available on the Virginia Tech campus today.

Under John Cahoon '59, our recruiting task force has grown to more than 80 Corps alumni volunteers around the country. They are already active and making a big difference in getting the word out about the Corps to high school students, faculty, parents, and communities. It is important to note that we are recruiting cadets for the leadership training that the Corps provides, whether the Corps graduate plans to enter the military or the civilian workforce. The training these students receive applies equally.

Scholarships are still the single most important tool we have to encourage potential Corps members to enroll here. For details about how you can help, contact Dave Spracher at 540/231-2806.

On a lighter note, the annual Corps Homecoming will be held here on 21-22 Sept. 2007, when the Hokies will play William and Mary, a former "regular" on our football schedule. For this reunion, all of us Corps alumni will have the opportunity to march onto the field before the game. It is important that we have a big turnout for this event and that we show the world who we are! Col. Rock Roszak, our director of Corps alumni affairs, has arranged for distinctive hats and shirts for us to wear. Please get this on your calendar and sign up online as soon as you can.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim!*



Lessons from the Corps

In August 1962, Rick Monroe '66 attended a Corps of Cadets freshmen orientation camp held off-campus, a great way to get an early start on understanding the Corps and how it works. Some upperclassmen were present, including the regimental staff for the 1962-63 school year, and it was a casual, easygoing time. When the weeklong camp concluded, the attendees were taken to campus where they were issued uniforms and room assignments.

That's when, Monroe says, reality struck—they were “rats” in the Corps. The sophomores and other upperclassmen were back with a vengeance; in those days, hazing was still allowed so there were no holds barred. Monroe was assigned to H Company, newly formed that fall, and the upperclassmen were

“hell bent for leather” to be the best company in the regiment. It would be a long year.

Monroe had come to VPI to be a part of the Corps of Cadets at his father's urging. His father had been in a cadet corps in high school and felt that the VPI Corps experience would be beneficial. Early on, Cadet Monroe doubted his father's wisdom.

In a few months, however, cadet life settled into a routine. The endless harassment from the upperclassmen became more manageable. As the freshmen learned the personalities of certain upperclassmen, it became almost a “cat and mouse” game to see what they could get away with as rats.

The freshmen cadets started working together and always watched out

for each other. Class leaders started to emerge and the lessons of leadership and teamwork started to come into focus.

On Thanksgiving day, Monroe made his first trip with the Corps to Roanoke, Va., for the annual football game against the Virginia Military Institute. Marching through the streets and onto the football field, the cadets looked sharp. The brass buttons on their blue overcoats glimmered in the sunlight and their capes were blazed in red. Monroe remembers that when he snapped to attention and stepped off to the drumbeat of the Highty-Tighties, a chill ran down his back. He knew then that his father had been right about the Corps life. He liked being part of a team that functioned together and took care of

each other. They would survive their rat year by being a team. Teamwork would be a key lesson of leadership.

Monroe made three more trips to Roanoke as a VPI cadet. By his junior year, he had moved up in the column to stand just behind the regimental staff and in front of the band. He was part of the color guard that proudly carried the flags of our country, state, and school. By his senior year, Monroe was on the front row as a member of the regimental staff as the Regimental S-3 (operations officer) and had become one of the leaders of the cadet corps.

In June 1966, Monroe, a “distinguished military graduate,” was offered and accepted a regular Army commission and began his active military service. Stateside training schools lasted approximately nine months and then orders came for an assignment with the 3rd Squadron of the 14th Armored Cavalry in Bad Hersfeld, West Germany. This was a border patrol unit with an active mission of surveillance and first response should there be an incident along the heavily mined and barbed-wire-protected demarcation line between East Germany and West Germany.

During the two-year assignment in Germany, Monroe served as a recon platoon leader, a troop commander, the S-2 officer, and the squadron executive officer during the last few months before his next assignment. While there, Monroe was promoted to captain.

Monroe arrived in South Vietnam in February 1969, assigned as a MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam’s (ARVN) 6th Armored Cavalry, the unit that had captured and

killed then-President Diem during the CIA-promoted coup in 1962. Monroe received a field assignment and he patrolled almost every day except during the rainy season when the armored personnel carriers could not negotiate the “muck” in the rice paddies.

A most interesting mission for Monroe during this assignment was a photo shoot with Larry Burrows, a well-known

and staff responsibilities, would prove invaluable to Monroe, who had been called upon to make decisions both in daily life and in combat and to be responsible for the training and welfare of “the team.”

At the suggestion of a friend, Monroe interviewed with Reynolds Metals Company, the world’s second-largest aluminum company at the time. He

was hired right away by the vice president of personnel, a former Naval officer who appreciated ex-military officers because of their leadership training, experience, and maturity. The benefits of Monroe’s leadership experience had paid off once again.

During his subsequent 26 years with Reynolds, Monroe held various sales and management positions. Monroe’s first assignment was in Atlanta as a rookie sales representative. While there, he met and married Mary Marston, a teacher and graduate of Mary Washington College. During their four-year stay in Atlanta, their daughter was born.

Promoted to senior sales status, Monroe was moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where he handled several key corpo-

rate accounts, including defense and aerospace contractors because of his military knowledge. While there, the Monroes had a second child, a son.

After four years, another opportunity presented itself and Monroe moved to northern Indiana to become a business unit general manager at a small building products manufacturing facility. Monroe was given full responsibility for manufacturing and sales but the assignment lasted barely a year as Reynolds was beginning to downsize. In 1978, many



Capt. Rick Monroe with a destroyed VC bunker in South Vietnam.

and respected *Life* magazine photojournalist. Burrows, who had followed the development of the ARVN since the first half of the ‘60s, was later killed in the war.

When Monroe’s tour ended in Feb. 1970, he resigned his commission and, upon his return to the states, was separated from active duty on Feb. 24, 1970. He was ready to begin his civilian career. The leadership responsibilities undertaken during his active-duty military years, including his experience with command



U.S. companies had begun to feel the pressure of increased competition and the need to focus on core business. Accordingly, the facility would later be closed. Flexibility and resilience were leadership traits that Monroe would rely on again.

Moving on to Kansas City, Mo., Monroe oversaw contact with defense and aerospace companies in an assignment that lasted four years. Promoted to district sales manager, Monroe was assigned to Houston but a corporate restructuring eliminated the job after a year. The family moved back to Atlanta. Five years later, Monroe received a major promotion to Reynolds' corporate headquarters in Richmond, Va., for move number six.

In Richmond, Monroe was the national sales manager for key distribution accounts, a job whose scope led to his promotion to national industry manager. This was a major position with responsibility for sales, marketing, product development, and margin management for a group of products, markets, and customers, ultimately Monroe's last assignment with Reynolds.

Monroe became part of the sale of some of the company's assets to a private equity firm. He spent the last 10 years of his working career as the

national sales manager for that same business but under several different owners, including Owens Corning.

Monroe retired in July 2006. He and his wife sold their home in Richmond and moved to Blacksburg, where they are building a new home and plan to become active in the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech communities.

Their daughter, Jennifer, a 1996 graduate of Clemson University, is a CPA with PricewaterhouseCoopers accounting firm. Her husband, Todd, also a Clemson graduate, is a manufacturing manager with Siemens. They live in Simpsonville, S.C., and have a son, Grant, the Monroes' first grandchild. The Monroes' son, Spencer (landscape design '00), lives in Richmond and works in residential remodeling.

During his 40 years of work after graduating from Virginia Tech, Monroe says that he often called upon his

experiences and the leadership training he learned as a cadet and as a commissioned officer on active duty.

But what he remembers most from Corps life is some advice his H Company rat class received from its company executive officer. The cadets were down in the basement of Monteith Hall for an attitude-adjustment session. They were locked in a stiff brace, surrounded by upperclassmen just looking for someone to blink. It was hot, they were in full uniform, their long-sleeve wool shirts tucked so tightly that the cadets could barely breathe, and they felt as if they must have been there for hours. Some guys passed out and fell over. But those who remained upright remember these words: "Don't expect to be rewarded for doing the job you're supposed to do. Rewards come from doing something extra."

Monroe never forgot those words.



Rick and Mary Monroe with their children, Spencer and Jennifer at Jennifer's wedding.



Leadership skills, courtesy of the Corps

Air Force Capt. Kelley Erin Jessee '02 recently completed her assignment as the lasercom test manager for the Transformational Satellite Communications System (TSAT) program, one of the six communications satellite programs in MILSATCOM, a wing of the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base in California.

With the unique mission of equipping the president, secretary of defense, and all services' combat forces with survivable, worldwide, rapid communications for all levels of conflict, MILSATCOM develops, acquires, and operationally deploys a weapon system consisting of satellites, terminals, and control stations—worth more than \$40 billion—that provides communication for 16,000 aircraft, ships, and mobile and fixed sites.

Specifically, Jessee led a combined government and contractor team directing all-laser communications testing. Her team of 130 national experts was tasked with building five first-generation space laser communications payloads worth more than \$300 million each. Testing this new technology reduces risk for the \$18 billion TSAT satellite program.

"As a developmental engineer for the Air Force, I support the war fighter by developing cutting-edge technology for the future," Jessee explains. "Basically, I planned and oversaw all the testing required to prove that the laser communications technology can support the mission of the TSAT Satellite."

In the TSAT program for nearly four years, Jessee served as a program office engineer in the systems engineering

segment, as the executive officer to the program director, and as the spacecraft subsystems branch chief before her position as the lasercom test manager.

As a program office engineer, Jessee led a 100-person government and contractor team supporting TSAT's vital systems engineering and integration efforts. While serving as the executive officer, she coordinated the activities for a 200-person group-level organization, managed the center's largest program's administrative functions, and supervised a support team of 10 government and contractor personnel. As the spacecraft subsystems branch chief, she led more than 20 government and contractor personnel on the \$700 million development of the space vehicle and all subsystems design efforts for the TSAT program.

continued next page

"I started with the TSAT program during its early stages and I had the opportunity to see the program from many angles during my time at LA AFB," Jessee says. "It was amazing to see firsthand the Air Force acquisitions process."

A member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets from 1998 to 2002, Jessee served as a cadre corporal and fire team leader in India Company, a platoon sergeant in Echo Company, the 3rd Battalion sergeant major, the 3rd Battalion commander, and the India Company commander. "My job as a developmental engineer involves managing billions of dollars in technology development with major government contractors,"



says Jessee. "I owe my success to the leadership skills that I cultivated while in the Corps of Cadets. Were it not for the four years of excellent leadership training and education that I received at Virginia Tech, I would not be able to lead government contractors who have years more acquisition experience than I do!"

"I couldn't have attended Tech

without the support of my Air Force scholarship and my Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Emerging Leader Scholarship," adds Jessee. "I would like to thank all those involved with the VTCC scholarship programs—you are enabling future leaders to have a priceless

leadership experience with the VTCC!"

Jessee moved to Edwards AFB, Calif., in October 2006 to become the lead engineer for F-22A weapons integration testing with the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron. She can be reached at kelly.jessee@f22ctf.edwards.af.mil or 661/275-4734.

Ut Prosim!

We've reached 83% of our goal—Help us get there!



1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor



1st Lt. Tim Price

The Virginia Tech *Ut Prosim* Memorial Project was established to help fund memorial scholarships to honor Army lieutenants Jeff Kaylor and Tim Price, Class of 2001, who were lost on operations in Iraq. Our goal is to sell enough memorial magnets and pins to raise \$100,000 for their scholarships. So far, more than \$83,000 has been raised. Show your Hokie pride on your car and on your person and order yours now from our retailers.

Available at:

www.bookstore.vt.edu

www.maroonhelmet.com



We're marching on!

by Col. Rock Roszak '71, vtcc71@vt.edu, 540/231-9369

If you read my column in our last issue, you know that we're going to try something that I

think will be special at this fall's Corps Homecoming the weekend of Sept. 21 and 22. The Hokies will be playing the College of William and Mary and we're going to put an alumni unit on the field during the pre-game ceremony.

To take part, all you need to do is register for Corps Homecoming at www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/vtcc/index.html.

Registration requires signing up for one of the meals, either the cadet leadership dinner on Friday or the game-day reunion meal on Saturday. If you want to march on, sign up on the registration page and indicate your shirt size. You'll be charged \$30 for the "uniform of the day," a maroon Corps polo shirt and a matching alumni hat.

It's the beginning of June as I write this and more than 120 alumni have already signed up for the march-on. That's a good start but we can do a lot better!

By early September, I'll be in contact via e-mail with detailed information for everyone who signed up. But for now, I know that everyone in the alumni unit will wear the maroon shirts and hats with khaki slacks/skirts. At the stadium, we'll meet at the outside entrance to the southeast tunnel at the base of the south stands. After the William and Mary team exits the field, we'll move up to the mouth of the tunnel. When the regiment has marched into place on each sideline, we'll enter the stadium and march onto the field down the east sideline.

You can check the diagram to get the general idea. We're keeping it

simple; it's a straight march with a halt and a left face. We'll remain in place through the National Anthem—since we'll be in uniform, we'll salute to render honor to the colors—and then we'll be dismissed.

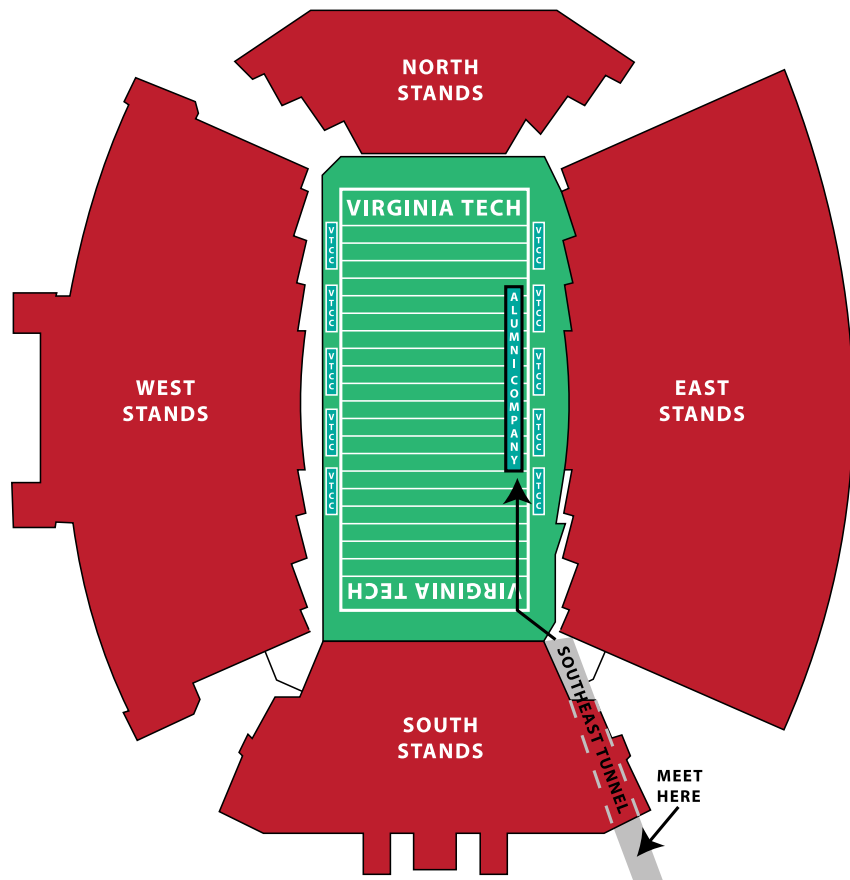
At dismissal, we'll need to quickly move to the southwest tunnel to exit the field and stadium. Keep your ticket with you because you'll need it to enter the stadium for the game. Due to game-day security needs, we must do it this way. Don't enter the stadium through a normal gate and try to gain

entry to the field from there. Meet outside the tunnel and enter with the alumni unit.

I hope this will be a great event for all. We'll march behind an alumni guidon although there will be a few unit guidons available for groups who have had these for prior reunions.

I'll be in touch via e-mail to go over additional and more detailed information. Until then, tell your buddies to sign up. And remember: we step off on the left foot!

Ut Prosim.



Register for Corps Homecoming
at www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/vtcc/index.html.



We will prevail

by Dave Spracher '70, director of development, 800/533-1144, dlsprach@vt.edu

Anyone who normally reads or even scans this section knows that we always include a sidebar from the Office of Gift Planning. Judith Davis did such a wonderful job with the sidebar this time that I'm making it the centerpiece of this section. Please take a moment to read it before proceeding.

Esprit de Hokie

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

"How are things at Virginia Tech?"

During the most intensive news coverage in the university's history, that is the question we heard most. And as spring warms into summer, it's the question we continue to hear: "How are you? Really."

The answer amazes me still: We're stronger.

In this *Corps Review* column, I usually provide information about the many ways you can support the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. In this issue, I want to share something different.

Make no mistake: Your financial support continues to be greatly needed and much appreciated and your generosity helps train leaders and perpetuate Corps values. I hope that you will call Dave Spracher soon. He is always delighted to discuss ways that you can make a lasting gift to Virginia Tech.

But today I'd like to focus on a lasting gift that Virginia Tech has given all of us—a reminder of the university's great strength.

In the military, it's called esprit de corps: shared strength in the face of adversity; shared determination to press on; shared pride in success; shared goals for the future. Some call it teamwork or loyalty or solidarity. Whatever we call it, we know it when we see it in action.

And the world saw it in action at Virginia Tech: our own esprit de corps—Hokie Spirit.

In the university's darkest hour, Hokie Spirit rose to the occasion. Hokies did not ask themselves, "What will become of us" but "What can I do to help—right now?" From encouraging words to logistical assistance to gifts of all kinds, Hokie generosity was, and is, extraordinary.

In front of the cameras and behind

the scenes, Hokie Spirit sustained Virginia Tech through graduation ceremonies that remembered lives cut short, celebrated achievements, and promised new beginnings.

That resilient Hokie Spirit continues to sustain us as we resume the business of the university—not "business as usual" but "business despite the unthinkable." The Corps continues to train leaders who are proud to be both cadets and Hokies. The university continues its mission of teaching, learning, research, and outreach spanning the globe.

We are moving forward with a renewed confidence that has been reinforced by this reminder of the university's underlying strength. Virginia Tech's indomitable Hokie Spirit is ready to invent the future.

We will prevail.

Many from around the nation have asked what makes us Hokies unique. I have known the answer for a long time and I've seen it vividly demonstrated in recent weeks. It is the Corps of Cadets. The Corps has always been and will undoubtedly remain the foundation of this institution long after we have met our fundraising goals and I am retired again.

Yes, our alumni now represent less than 10 percent of the university's alumni population but we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. Corps alumni have made this institution what it is today. And the incredible Hokie Spirit that has re-

sounded from our students is a result of the legacy they have inherited, whether they are cadets or civilians. I could not be more proud of all Hokies than I have been recently.

Absolutely, we will prevail.

Annual Fund campaign

The events of April 16 threw a wrench into the calendar for our Annual Fund campaign. Earlier in April, many of you received a mailing that highlighted our campaign to sponsor a cadet in the Caldwell March. If you still have that mailing, it is valid and I ask that you consider making a donation. The mailing

was supposed to have been followed by the annual telethon from our call center, which did not happen. We are promised another mailing in the fall to be followed by calls but we do not know any dates yet.

The dollars raised through the Annual Fund are vital to our Corps of Cadets alumni operation to support our cadets. Please give generously. As always, you may donate to the Corps at any time by contacting Sarah Woods or me at 800/533-1144 or by mailing your gift to the address listed at the end of this article.

VTCC Matthew J. La Porte '09 Scholarship

As many of you are no doubt aware, the university will endow a scholarship or professorship in the name of each victim of April 16. The Matthew J. La Porte Scholarship will benefit a cadet who is a Highty-Tighty, preferably a cadet in the Air Force ROTC.

The La Porte Scholarship fund has received contributions from ROTC units, Air Force Association chapters, active and reserve military units, the Order of Dædalians, and countless individuals around the country. Anyone wishing to contribute to this scholarship to honor Matt may send a contribution to the address listed at the end of this article.

Major gifts (\$25,000 and up)

You may have seen in the Corps' aviation gallery the Douglas SBD-4 Dauntless flown by Bob Anthony '36 in the Pacific theater during World War II, one of the many aircraft he flew during his career in the Navy. Bob has decided to endow the VTCC Cmdr. Robert D. Anthony '36 Scholarship with a combination of outright gifts and his estate plans.

Former members of L Company from various classes under the leadership of Jim Day '62 are working to endow the VTCC John E. Harris L Company Scholarship. You may recall from the Fall 2006 issue of the *Corps Review* that L Company members from 1959 to 1962 held their own reunion last fall at which John presented Roy Burrows '60 the saber that Roy's class had purchased for John to use during his senior year. Roy was pictured presenting the saber to Regimental Commander Rob Dalton with Gen. Allen looking on. The group decided to endow an Emerging Leader Scholarship in honor of John but he passed away before it could be completed. Contributions to this scholarship may also be mailed to the address listed at the end of this article.

Betty Smith has committed to endow

the VTCC A.O. Smith '54 Memorial Scholarship. A.O., a member of the baseball team and K Company during his cadet years, was a strong proponent of the mission of the Corps to develop leaders for tomorrow. Betty and her family have made this scholarship commitment in hopes that the recipient will develop the same Hokie Spirit that A. O. demonstrated during his life.

Aubrey V. Watts Jr. '63 and his family have decided to create the VTCC Watts Family Scholarship, named for Aubrey; his wife, Emily, who is Class of 1963 at Radford; his daughter, Barbara '91; and his son, Aubrey Vernon III '89. The family wanted to sponsor a scholarship to provide some deserving student the



Betty Smith and grandson Drake Dragone present Maj. Gen. Jerry Allen with their check to initiate the A.O. Smith '54 Memorial Scholarship.

opportunity for a high-quality education in one of the most beautiful places in the world. The Watts family is committed to Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets and wishes to honor a student who is a developing leader.

Recent estate designations, of which we are aware, that benefit the Corps:

Katherine K. and Hollis B. Cahoon '63
Susan and Chip Houston '61
Martin A. Rafferty
Mark B. Sherkey '95

Class scholarship news

Several classes are actively pursuing the minimum \$50,000 goal to endow

their class scholarship. We truly appreciate the efforts of our volunteer class chairmen who stay in touch with their classmates and build spirit. Remember that you can check the status of all class scholarships on the Corps alumni website at www.vtcca.vt.edu.

If your class scholarship is not where you would like it to be and you would like to take on the effort of rejuvenating it, please contact Sarah at sawoods1@vt.edu for more information on how we can help you accomplish your goal. Our class scholarships are critical to reaching our goals for the Corps.

We recently welcomed the Class of 2007 into the ranks of our alumni. Rob Dalton, the class chairman, has already received commitments exceeding \$3,100 for the class scholarship. Great job, Rob!

Summary

These are indeed challenging times. We have suffered a great loss as an institution but we will be stronger. I see it and feel it every day on campus, and the world has indeed seen it as our grief has been shared. Our spirit will not be broken. We are Virginia Tech.

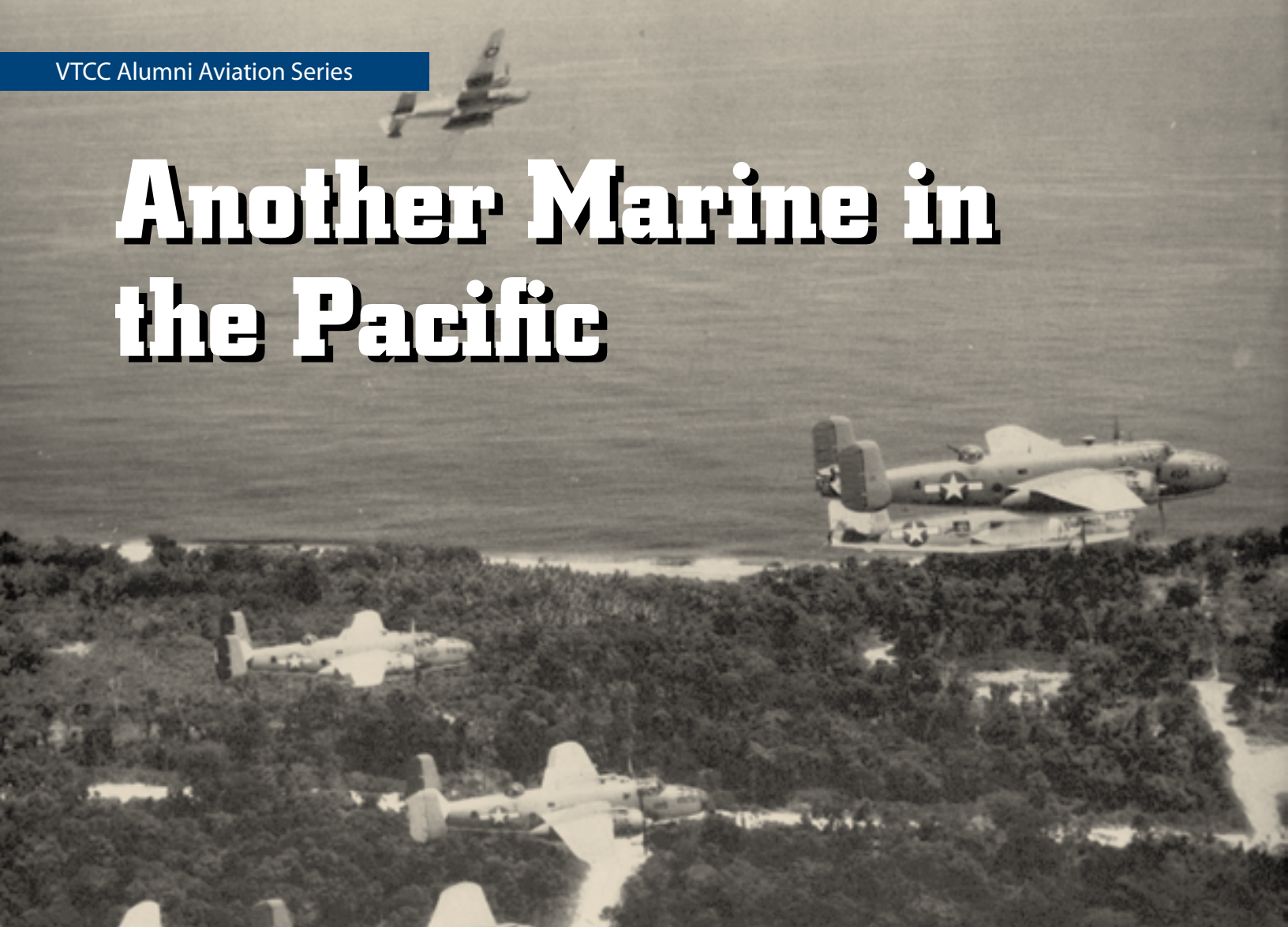
The exciting news that I mentioned in the last issue is going to have to wait again. In the meantime, if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to benefit any area of the Corps of Cadets, you may do so online by clicking on "Giving to VT" on the university's homepage at www.vt.edu. Or you can simply mail your check payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation to:

Virginia Tech
University Development (0336)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Attn: Corps of Cadets

Please annotate the memo line with the gift designation you desire or include a note that indicates how you would like your gift used. We will make sure that the gift goes to the correct account.

Ut Prosim.

Another Marine in the Pacific



In the Fall 2006 issue of the *Corps Review*, the featured aviator was a Marine Corsair pilot who flew in the Pacific theater during World War II. We return to the same theater to highlight another Marine, Ray Toms, a member of the Class of 1945 who became a navigator in the B-25 Mitchell bomber, known to the Navy and Marines as the PBJ-1. Toms is the third member of the Class of 1945 in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Aviation Gallery.

Toms was born in Montgomery, Ala., on May 30, 1924. When he was five years old, his family moved to Chevy Chase, Md., where he lived until he enrolled at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in September 1941. He spent the next two years as a member of C Company in the Corps of Cadets before joining

the Marine Corps in June 1943.

Toms was fortunate enough to be selected to attend the navigator-bombardment school at Quantico, Va. In December, he graduated from the course second in his class and was promoted to sergeant. He then joined Marine Bombing Squadron (VMB) 443 at Peter Field, New River, N.C., for training in the PBJ-1. In mid-February 1944, the squadron traveled by train from North Carolina to El Centro, Calif., for intensive training consisting of gunnery, navigation flights, and bombing school, from which Toms graduated on May 5.

In mid-May, VMB-443 set sail for the South Pacific. On Aug. 17, the squadron mated up with its aircraft on Emirau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago. During the next year, Toms flew 45 combat

missions in the PBJ-1 against targets at Rabaul and Kavieng, two major bypassed Japanese bases, dropping everything from 100-pound cluster bombs to 2,000-pound block-busters. He was rotating back to the states and was aboard ship heading for San Francisco when he received news of the Japanese surrender.

Toms was discharged from the Marine Corps in November 1945 and returned to VPI in January 1946. That June, he married Patty Lane, whom he had known his entire life. He graduated in March 1947 with a degree in civil engineering and went to work for the Carbide and Chemical Corp. in South Charleston, W.Va.

While there, Toms joined a local reserve unit and was recalled to active



Sgt. Ray Toms (second from right) with his Mitchell crew on Emirau Island.

duty in June 1950 for the Korean War. He spent more than a year navigating aircraft between the West Coast and Tokyo; Toms says it was great to get in some real long-distance navigation.

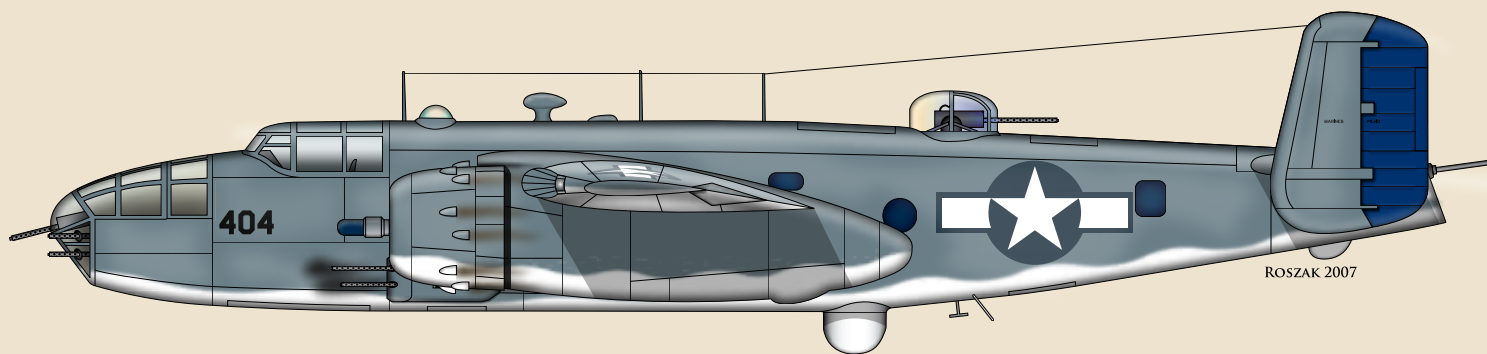
Returning to civilian life in September 1951, Toms took a job with the Wallace and Tierman Co. in Roanoke, Va., selling and servicing chemical feeders for water and sewage plants. In 1954, he moved to Richmond, Va., to work for Shultz and Jones Inc., where he spent the next 24 years, rising from a manufacturer's representa-



tive to vice president. In 1978, he went to work for the U.S. Army at Fort Lee, Va., where his job was to design and build Army commissaries.

Toms retired in 1998 at the age of 64 and now lives with his wife in Deltaville, Va. They raised three daughters and two sons and have had a fulfilling life together. Toms's hobby is sailing and for many years he raced a 26-foot Ranger.

Our hats are off to Ray Toms for his service in World War II and the Korean War and for his success in the civilian world. He is truly a member of "The Greatest Generation."



North American PBJ-1D Mitchell Crewed by Sergeant Raymond Toms, USMC
Marine Bombing Squadron (VMB)-443, Marine Air Group (MAG)-61, Emirau Island, South Pacific, 1944-45
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1945

In the wake of the April 16 tragedy, we received countless photos from alumni sharing in our grief and showing their support for Virginia Tech. Here is a sampling.



Lt. Col. Chris Ireland '91, Maj. Tom Snead '93, and Capt. Dave Brown '01 show their Tech pride with their own "Orange and Maroon" day from a deployed location.



Lt. Adam Schultz '98, Lt.j.g. Adam Wilson '05, Cmdr. John MacMichael (father of an '07 Tech student) and Ensign Christopher Daniels '05 gather on the flight deck of the USS Nimitz to show their support.



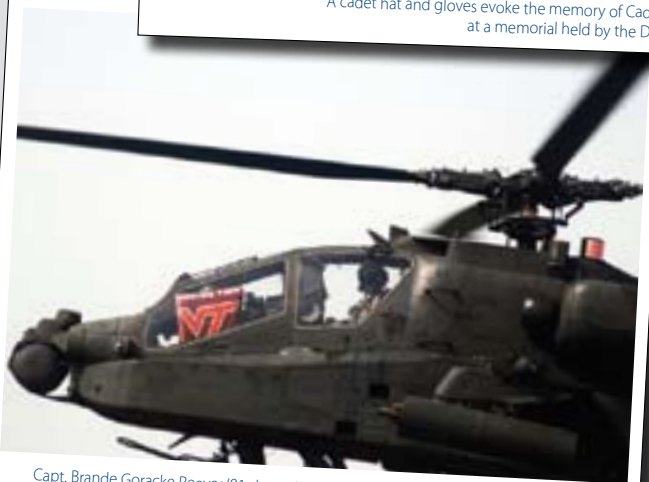
Eric Claunch '85 showed his support by flying the VT flag and wearing his Highty-Tighty sweater at the National Reconnaissance Office.



Lt. Col. Patience Larkin '87 (center, holding the flag) and her office mates at NATO Headquarters in Brussels show their support on Orange and Maroon Friday.



Tracey Dolehite '00
A cadet hat and gloves evoke the memory of Cadet Matthew La Porte at a memorial held by the Dallas alumni chapter.



Capt. Brande Goracke Reeves '01 shows her VT pride from the cockpit of her Apache attack helicopter somewhere in Iraq.

Museum corner

by Col. Rock Roszak '71



Two wonderful, unique items were recently donated to our Corps museum for display.

The first item, given to us by Claude Kinder, Highty-Tighty Class of 1950, is an original Highty-Tighty sweater, along with the story of how the sweater originated.

Claude writes: "The Class of 1950 seniors decided to try to secure approval for a monogram which could be worn on a sweater on campus. Sterling Carter, our captain, asked me to work on it.

"My first move was to try to work something out with the Monogram Club. I met with the athletic director—I believe it was Monk Younger—and told him about our desire to have our monogram approved. His first statement was that we could not use 'VP' and that whatever we proposed would have to receive approval from the Monogram Club. I immediately concluded that a 'VT' was the answer. I did a full-scale drawing of a 'VT' with a relatively small lyre and presented it to the athletic director. His response was that the lyre must be larger so there would

be no confusion. My next presentation was approved. I was then advised that the Student Senate's approval was required. I recall that the senate meeting was in the evening. The senate voted for approval. I believe we first wore our sweaters off-campus as a unit at the 1950 Apple Blossom Festival, not in the parade but at casual activities."

Last fall, I had the honor of helping host the members of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1950 for one of their periodic reunions. I found them to be an outstanding group of alumni and it was wonderful to show them around campus and to experience some of their continuing traditions. I guess they were satisfied with the reunion because, shortly afterwards, I received from Sterling Carter a resolution making me an honorary member of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1950, which now hangs proudly on my office wall.

The other donation to our museum is indeed a very special one. The Fall 2005 issue of the *Corps Review* included the obituary for William Farthing '46. I



had gotten to know Bill during my time here in Blacksburg and I once asked him what he did in World War II. He told me that he was in the Army in the European theater but that he had gotten there at the end and hadn't seen much action. Only after he was no longer with us did I discover that this wonderfully quiet and amiable man had received the Silver Star for gallantry in Germany in December 1944. We reprinted part of his citation in that issue.

Bill's wife Nina has kindly donated his Silver Star to our museum where it will be honorably displayed with his photo. Thank you very much for your generosity, Nina. Bill's Silver Star has come home.

In Memory

Harry R. Dudley Jr. '43
1922 – 2007



Harry Roy Dudley Jr., 84, died peacefully on Feb. 26, 2007.

Dudley is survived by his wife of 63 years, Audrey Doughty Dudley, and his children, Audrey Diane

Chenery and Roy Allan Dudley. He was predeceased by his parents, Merle Garrett Dudley and Harry Roy Dudley, and a brother, the Rev. Dr. Merle Bland Dudley.

Graduating from Maury High School in Norfolk, Va., in 1939 and Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1943, Dudley served as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Europe and Korea, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He also served in the Army Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dudley was a practicing architect for 27 years and a senior partner in several firms, including Dudley, Morrisette, Cederquist, and Associates. He served on the appraiser and inspector panel of the Department of Veterans Affairs for 53 years. An active member first at Park Place Methodist Church and later at Larchmont United Methodist Church, he served on the board of stewards and taught Sunday School for three decades in several classes.

Dudley was the first chairman of the board of Chesapeake College, which is now the Chesapeake campus of Tidewater Community College; a past president of the Civitan Club and the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Executive Club; a member of the foundation board of the Cosmopolitan Club of Norfolk; and a past district chairman and council vice president in the Boy Scouts of America, receiving the Silver Beaver Award in 1973.

Peyton Edward Hutchens III '69
1947 – 2007



Peyton Edward Hutchens III died unexpectedly at his home in Baton Rouge, La., on Feb. 28, 2007.

Born March 20, 1947, in Hampton,

Va., where he was reared, Hutchens received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute; a master's degree in electrical engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.; and an M.B.A. from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He was a reserve officer of the U.S. Armed Forces in Fort Campbell, Ky., and Kings Mills, Ohio.

After college graduation, Hutchens worked for the Newport News Shipyard before accepting a position with A.M. Kinney in Cincinnati. He also worked for Jacobs Engineering in Cincinnati before transferring with Jacobs to Baton Rouge. He was employed by ENGlobal Engineering Inc. as senior electrical engineer in Baton Rouge.

Hutchens is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 38 years, Constance Horton Hutchens; and two sons, Warren Andrew Hutchens of St. Clair Shores, Mich., and Paul Edward Hutchens and fiancée, Lori Lynn Creech, of Lake Charles, La. He is also survived by his stepmother, Rosetta Tuttle Hutchens; sisters, Cindy and Ann; brother, Steve; and family and friends in Hampton. He was preceded in death by his father, Peyton Hutchens Jr., and a brother, Paul.

He dearly loved his wife and family and he will be missed.

Irvin L. Hylton Jr. '52
1930 – 2007



Retired Col. Irvin L. Hylton Jr., 76, of Woodstock, Va., formerly of Henry County, Va., died May 3, 2007, at Winchester Medical Center.

Hylton

was born Oct. 24, 1930, in Martinsville, Va., to Irvin L. Hylton Sr. and Nora Austin Hylton. He was preceded in death by his parents and by his wife, Rita Ann Christie Hylton.

Hylton was a graduate of Bassett High School in Bassett, Va., and Virginia Tech, where he was later a member of the *Ut Prosim* Society. A long-time, strong supporter of the Corps of Cadets, Hylton established the Col. Irv Hylton Jr. '52 Emerging Leader Scholarship in 2000 in memory of his wife.

Hylton retired from the Army as a colonel and became involved in a number of organizations in Woodstock, including the Woodstock Rotary Club, serving as president from 1984-85 and receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 1997. He was a member of the Shenandoah County Republican Party and the Economic Development Commission of Woodstock.

Surviving are three daughters, Deborah K. Cureton of Alexandria, Va.; Donna L. Garth of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; and A. Regan Laughlin of Edinburg, Va.; a brother, Gerald Hylton, of Centre, Ala.; and five grandchildren.



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