



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

July 2016

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From the Superintendent's Desk

Dear Parents,

I have found that this annual letter is the most effective tool I have to communicate to you Institute challenges, achievements, and priorities. I ask you to read the following pages to learn about the regulations governing cadet behavior, standards cadets are expected to meet, and how you can help the Institute by letting your cadet know of your concern that he or she follow these and all rules. These pages let you know about changes on post and in programming that may affect the daily life and academic opportunities of your cadet. This is also where I lay out for you the major events scheduled for the coming year.

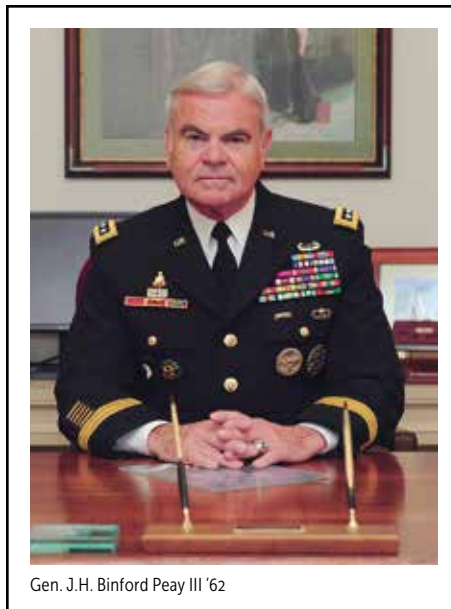
This academic year will be one of completions, but also one of opportunities.

The most obvious completions will come when the renovated Cocke Hall and the newly constructed Indoor Training Facility are dedicated. These buildings, joining as they do with Cormack Hall to create a comprehensive system of physical training facilities for the Corps of Cadets, will mark the culmination of a major multiyear initiative to improve cadet physical training and wellness. Some construction will continue, however, as necessary repairs will be made to barracks and other Institute facilities. You are also likely to notice smaller projects that are part of a comprehensive plan to improve security on post.

I am excited about the makeup of the Class of 2020, which matriculates Aug. 20. The initial reports on its members' academic abilities, record of leadership, and interest in commissioning are promising. These young men and women will be joining the returning classes in a Corps that will undoubtedly face up to the challenges that will emerge during the coming year. For the rats, this is an important time as they deepen their intellectual development and begin the process by which their character is forged in the VMI system. A great deal of planning and preparation has taken place to make this year's rat experience one that will launch our new cadets on a successful four-year journey to their graduation.

This year will build on the success of the academic year that ended with the graduation of the Class of 2016 in May. The Corps continued to sustain the high degree of civility that has been building and maturing over the past decade. The 1st Class survey was among the most positive in my time at VMI. There is no

question that the leadership of the Corps is on the right track, and this trajectory is poised to continue in the new academic year. If civility is a key attribute that your cadet should develop, the Honor System is the foundation upon which character is built. Life in barracks is just one element in the character development process that will help your cadet succeed in life after graduation. Other elements include leadership opportunities in the Corps, in the Class System, in clubs, and elsewhere; the self-discipline required to earn a commission; and, of course, living in and truly buying into the Honor Code. No cadet ever "gets" this multilayered system at first, but none are incapable of eventually embracing



Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62

it and growing within it. Ultimately, however, the development of character is the responsibility of each cadet. In many ways, character development is the heart of VMI and is what sets VMI graduates apart from graduates of other colleges.

I expect cadets to commit themselves to the Honor Code and to all VMI systems. I ask that parents also commit to the VMI way and be supportive of our efforts to develop their children. Modeling good sportsmanship and supporting our rules and regulations are important ways you can be partners with us in this endeavor.

Partner with us also in encouraging your cadet to take advantage of the opportunities for leadership and service offered daily at VMI. Push your cadet to listen to and engage with

the many speakers brought to post by the Center for Leadership and Ethics and participate in the Center's programming, whether through the Leadership Book Program, the Ethics Team, or any of a number of sessions and opportunities. And urge them to take their ROTC training seriously and to consider sharing their expertise in leadership with their country after graduation, whether through active duty service or a reserve or National Guard commission.

I am sensitive to the impact tuition has on our cadets and their families. We strive to keep increases to an absolute minimum. The main drivers for increases in tuition and fees this year have to do with unavoidable costs. Raises for employees whose salaries haven't yet recovered from the recession, a state-mandated increase in healthcare contributions, debt service, and the staffing and maintenance of new or expanded facilities are among many required expenses over which we have little control. Through the current successful fundraising campaign we are building greater elements of certainty and sustainability into our budget process, though the full effects of this effort may not be immediately felt. While we strive to minimize increases in tuition and fees, we are also cognizant that excellence is not without cost. Cadets and their parents commit to VMI because of its reputation for excellent academics, its reputation for character development, and its reputation as a foundation for success in later life. I am confident we are finding the right balance.

What I have been describing, and what I think will emerge as you read this newsletter, is a thriving Institute, a college that is on a solid footing both financially and in bringing together all the systems and programs that will transform your cadet into a citizen-soldier. As we embark upon this new academic year, with your support, we are prepared to inspire in your cadet a lifelong commitment to making our nation and the world a better place.

Sincerely,

J.H. Binford Peay III '62

General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent

Academics

Academics at VMI starts with the core curriculum, a central element that provides a common academic foundation on which the 14 majors rest. Cadets have the opportunity each year to broaden their academic experience through minors and concentrations offered by departments across post. Many are interdisciplinary, allowing cadets to approach a subject area from a variety of perspectives.

Encourage your cadet to look beyond his or her major for opportunities to deepen learning. Urge him or her to consider a second major or a concentration or to pursue study abroad, honors, and undergraduate research projects. Each of these areas offers challenges and pathways, allowing cadets to make their education their own.

VMI is first and foremost a college. Encourage your sons and daughters to take full advantage of this unique opportunity for a sustained, uninterrupted education across the disciplines.



Cadets participate in the Shenandoah Valley Math Modeling Challenge last September. VMI's Department of Applied Mathematics excels at finding ways for cadets to master mathematical concepts and apply them to real-world problems. The department was named the No. 8 such department in the nation in a listing published on the *USA Today* website in April, and last October it was ranked fourth in the nation by College Factual. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Academic Enrichment

Center for Leadership and Ethics

www.vmi.edu/cle

"Strategic Leadership" will be the theme for the 2016-17 academic year at the VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics.

This theme will carry through the many programs run by the Center, including the Leadership Book Program, in which cadets read and discuss books by military and civilian leaders; the Ethics Team, which travels to competitions to debate ethical issues with students at other colleges and universities; and the Leader in Residence, an individual whose distinguished career within the military or private sector exemplifies the citizen-soldier model. The leader in residence,

a position filled by a new individual each academic year, visits the VMI post in the spring.

The Center's signature event, the "Leadership Conference," will take center stage this fall, with the theme "Strategic Leadership during Global Transitions: Past, Present, Future." The seventh annual event, previously held in the spring, will take place Nov. 2-3 and will coincide with the presentation of the Byrd Award to former White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker III. Baker will present the conference's keynote address.

Other upcoming programs include:

- Oct. 4-5 – STEM education conference, themed "Mathematics: The Roots of STEM"
 - March 24-25 – Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair
 - April 4-6 – 28th annual Environment Virginia Symposium
- Parents should encourage their cadets to take part in programs sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Ethics.

VMI Center for Undergraduate Research

www.vmi.edu/juri

The VMI Center for Undergraduate Research holds workshops and informational sessions throughout the academic year with the goal of making cadets aware of the many opportunities to partner with faculty and undertake research across the academic disciplines. The Center can also provide funding for research supplies or travel.

This fall, cadets will have a new chance to present their research when the Southern Conference holds its inaugural undergraduate research event. The Southern Conference Undergraduate Research Forum will be held Oct. 28-29 at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C.



Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, the Center for Leadership and Ethics' 2016 leader in residence, shares experience with cadets in the Entrepreneurship Club, sponsored by the Department of Business and Economics. Libutti spent two weeks on post last spring as part of the annual program. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

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Closer to home, the VMI Undergraduate Research Symposium is held on post each spring, usually in mid-April. This event gives cadets a chance to present their research to the wider VMI community. Proposals for the Undergraduate Research Symposium are due in March.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute allows cadets to work alongside a faculty member in an area of dedicated study over the summer. The deadline to apply for SURI funding is February 15. Three other summer programs administered by VCUR have deadlines in mid-March. Those are the Applied and Industrial Mathematics program, the Mathematics Education Resource Center program and the VMI/Virginia Commonwealth University engineering memorandum of understanding.

Cadets are eligible to participate in undergraduate research from the time they matriculate at VMI. Fourth and 3rd class cadets are especially encouraged to pursue research projects, as these can be springboards to additional opportunities later on.

Institute Honors

www.vmi.edu/honors

The Institute Honors Program is open to cadets of all majors who seek ways to broaden and deepen their academic experience at VMI. Honors cadets explore current events in a weekly honors forum, probe complex issues in honors seminars, and join with a faculty mentor in a sustained undergraduate research experience culminating in a senior thesis.

Admission to the program is guaranteed for Institute Scholars and open by application to any other cadet with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. Continuance in the program requires maintenance of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and satisfactory conduct record. Admission to the Institute Honors program is on a rolling basis.

Study Abroad

www.vmi.edu/ip

The Office of International Programs provides cadets with individual advising to help them choose the program that best fits their personal, academic, and career goals. Cadets interested in study abroad are encouraged to come by the office at the beginning of the fall semester to learn more about their options.

Study-abroad programs are open to all cadets, including STEM majors, NCAA athletes, and those who hold rank in the Corps. Cadets intending to study abroad should inform their academic advisers of their plans as soon as possible to ensure that academic requirements for graduation are met.

Cadets can study abroad for a semester or a summer, as early as the summer after the 4th Class year. For a semester abroad, cadets must have a minimum grade-point average of 2.5. There is no minimum grade-point average for summer study abroad.

Important dates for study abroad:

- Spring and summer program application cycle opens: Aug. 29
- Study Abroad Fair: Thursday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the PX
- Spring program deadline: Rolling until filled
- Summer program deadline: To be announced, please watch website for details
- Scholarship deadlines: Please consult Office of International Programs, as these vary by program



Jarod Krug '16 works with teammates from Turkey and Uganda during the International Competition on the Law of Armed Conflict in San Remo, Italy, in which his team placed second. More than 70 cadets participated in study abroad programs in 17 countries during the 2015-16 academic year. – Photo courtesy of Col. Bob James.

The cost of study-abroad programs can vary greatly. However, parents should not assume that finances will prevent their son or daughter from studying abroad. All financial aid, institutional aid, and scholarships follow cadets when they go overseas. In addition, VMI offers a number of partial study-abroad scholarships.

- Pell grant recipients: Contact Lt. Col. Tiffany Cummings at 540-464-7350 or cummingsstn@vmi.edu to learn more about scholarship opportunities.
- Cadets interested in studying in Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Asia, and Eastern Europe are encouraged to contact Lt. Col. Cummings because there are scholarship opportunities especially for these regions.
- Parents should also know that for the military exchange programs VMI maintains with schools in France, Lithuania, Japan, and Germany the only additional costs are travel expenses.

Cadets interested in study abroad during the summer of 2017 should be aware that the following programs are tentatively planned for that time period: Language Abroad programs in French, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese, as well as Berlin Engineering, Math Abroad, Virginia Program at Oxford, Engineering Service Learning, History and International Studies in Central Europe, Great Battles and Leaders, and Security and Military Strategy in Taiwan.

Academic Support

Career Services

www.vmi.edu/careerservices

The VMI Office of Career Services will hold its annual Career and Internship Fair Oct. 24. The event offers opportunities for cadets to make an initial contact with numerous potential employers in a single day without leaving the VMI post. The office will assist cadets in preparing to make the most of the opportunity.

Other resources provided by the Office of Career Services include:

- Creating a four-year plan for career readiness
- KeydetConnect, a Web-based management tool for resumes and interviews
- VMI Alumni Career Mentor Network

Additional information about how to support career readiness in your son or daughter can be found at www.vmi.edu/Career_Services/Help_Your_Cadet/.

Miller Academic Center

www.vmi.edu/mac

The Miller Academic Center provides a full range of study skills programming, including group study sessions for introductory and upper-level courses. These are led by upper-class cadets with a B average or better in those courses. Another program of the Center is Project Success, designed for cadets on academic probation.

Mathematics Education Resource Center

www.vmi.edu/merc

The Mathematics Education Resource Center offers free tutoring to cadets enrolled in mathematics classes including pre-calculus, calculus, probability/statistics, matrix algebra, differential equations, and quantitative methods.

New this year will be assistance focused on helping cadets make the most of Microsoft Excel, along with additional tutoring for cadets enrolled in probability and statistics courses.

Cadets may stop by the Center's Open Math Lab whenever the Center is open.

Writing Center

www.vmi.edu/writingcenter

The Writing Center provides assistance with all stages of the writing process, from choosing a topic to polishing a final draft, and with



Thirty employers and about 450 cadets participated in the Office of Career Services' Career and Internship Fair last October. The first such event held on post in many years, the fair yielded contacts and job offers. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

projects including cover letters, resumes, lab reports, honors theses, presentations, speeches, and creative writing assignments.

Among the Center's offerings is a team of consultants specializing in digital and multimodal projects, including websites, podcasts, and videos, to assist cadets composing digital projects for classes.

Appointments are strongly encouraged, and parents should encourage cadets to sign up early.

Commissioning

Cadets are strongly encouraged to seek a commission, whether it be active duty, National Guard or Reserve, and VMI supports this goal by offering excellent preparation for all branches of the service. VMI's Army ROTC program is the largest in the country. Our Air Force ROTC is the third largest in the nation, and our Army and Navy ROTCs are the top commissioning units in the nation for those services. A number of cadets succeed in entering the very selective Navy nuclear option, for example, and VMI also has a pathway for commissioning in the Coast Guard.

Army ROTC

www.vmi.edu/army

- Largest ROTC unit on post; best opportunity to commission, with opportunities to commission after summer camp and graduation.
- Even for those not planning to commission when they matriculate, commissioning option is available as late as midway through the 2nd Class year, or later by exception.
- Many scholarships available; must maintain 2.0 grade point average to keep scholarship (3.0 in Army ROTC classes) and pass Army's physical fitness test.
- Medical waivers are available for some conditions.
- Scholarship cadets attend Cadet Initial Entry Training summer before 2nd Class year.
- All contracted cadets attend Cadet Leader Course summer before 1st Class year.
- Competitive selection for all branches of the Army depends on grade-point average, leadership skills, and standardized tests, so consistent performance in all areas is important.



Cadets in VMI's Army ROTC unit celebrated Army ROTC's 100th anniversary with a multievent Spartan race last April. In recent years, the unit has commissioned the largest number of cadets of any ROTC unit in the nation and, after the 2015-16 academic year, commissioned the highest number of Distinguished Military Graduates of any ROTC unit in the nation. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Navy/Marine Corps ROTC

www.vmi.edu/navy

- Nearly all scholarships are awarded in the 4th or 3rd class year, so early commitment to both ROTC and academics is essential.
- Rising 3rd Class cadets on four-year scholarships must attend CORTRAMID, Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen.
- Rising 2nd Class Navy-option cadets on three-year scholarships must attend CORTRAMID.

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- Rising 2nd Class Navy-option cadets on four-year scholarships shadow an enlisted sailor over summer.
- Rising 2nd Class Marine Corps-option cadets attend either mountain warfare training or cruise on an amphibious ship.
- Rising 1st Class Navy-option cadets must do first class cruise (federal mandate).
- Rising 1st Class Marine Corps-option cadets must attend Officer Candidates School (federal mandate).

Air Force ROTC

www.vmi.edu/afrotc

- A minimum 2.5 grade point average is required to commission.
- Enrollment allocation, or Air Force selection, takes place during the 3rd Class year, so an early commitment to both ROTC and academics is essential.
- A STEM major is not required for all positions, but is for some, such as engineer.



Brendan Caldwell '17 goes on an orientation flight in a T-38 Talon at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va., last September. VMI's Air Force ROTC Flight Incentive Program has joined with the Soaring Club to prepare cadets for flying careers in the Air Force. The unit is the third largest Air Force ROTC in the nation. – Photo courtesy of Air Force ROTC.



VMI's Naval ROTC completes a scenario during the Fall Field Training Exercise at the VMI leadership reaction course last October. The course, which was built last year, provides a training experience similar to that available to active duty units. – VMI Photo by Stephen Hanes.

- Pilots don't have to have a STEM major, but flight time greatly increases the chances of selection, so paying for private flying lessons can be wise.
- Air Force selection takes place on national basis. To be selected, cadets need strong academics, a high level of physical fitness, and a high level of commitment.

Coast Guard

- Coast Guard Selected School Program – VMI graduates attend Officer Candidate School after graduation.
- Academic and medical standards are high.
- Applications must be made in fall of 1st Class year.
- Cadets belonging to any ROTC unit at VMI may apply.

To learn more about when Coast Guard recruiters will be visiting VMI, contact Maj. Dorothy Hayden in the Office of Career Services, haydende@vmi.edu.

Expectations for the Coming Year

As cadets enter VMI as rats and move through the class system to the 1st Class, they experience special challenges and milestones associated with each year. As parents, you should encourage your cadet to embrace the challenges and engage in the opportunities offered by each academic year. You should also urge your cadet to enter the celebrations with maturity and good judgment. If they do this, they will create a rich store of memories and a deep knowledge of how to step out into the world as leaders.

Fourth Class Year: Embrace the Challenge

Every journey, no matter how great or small, begins with a single step. At VMI, cadets take that single step on Matriculation Day when they sign the New Cadet Roster.

The step is a commitment to themselves and to their Brother Rats to accept correction, to face up to challenges, to see the job done – whether it's a long march or long hours of study – and to help those around them do the same. The Rat Line is hard; to get through, new

cadets must invest themselves in their own success and that of their Brother Rats.

Each rat is assigned a 1st Class mentor, called a "Dyke," whose job it is both to insist that his or her rat meets standards and to serve as a reference and a guide on how to get through the toughest moments. The dyke is there to help rats learn to live at the higher ethical standard that VMI's honor system demands.

In the long, hard days ahead, new cadets must focus on balancing the demands of the Rat Line with the challenges of academics and keep their focus on the finish. Help your cadet by expressing confidence that he or she can complete the task.

Third Class Year: Stay the Course

The 3rd Class year should be used to grow opportunities, which depend on the choices each cadet makes. With the structure of the Rat Line behind them, and the responsibilities and rewards of the 2nd and 1st class years far in the future, 3rd Class cadets should take



Each class year is marked by special challenges and celebrations. The Ring Figure celebration during 2nd Class year is a high mark of the cadetship. Cadets receive their rings and often feel class bonds heightened during the events, which include a ceremony, dinner, and ball. – VMI
Photo by John Robertson IV.

Second Class Year: Prepare to Lead

The 2nd Class year is one of transition, and 2nd Class cadets should explore opportunities to pursue academic interests and develop their leadership skills. While setting an example for 3rd and 4th class cadets, 2nd Class cadets should learn from the 1st Class, preparing themselves to take on leadership roles in the Corps next year.

As primary trainers of the incoming rats, this year's 2nd Class cadets have both the opportunity and the obligation to engage in mentoring relationships with members of the Rat Mass. Developing relationships with 3rd Class cadets will pay off, too, this year in celebrating Ring Figure and next year when the class will lead the Corps.

The Ring Figure celebration should be treated with civility and respect. In so doing, 2nd Class cadets honor the past and ensure a memorable day. Cadets who abuse alcohol or other substances will not only dishonor one of the Institute's most cherished traditions, but also ruin for themselves and their Brother Rats what should be a milestone celebration. Be sure to emphasize these points with your cadet.

First Class Year: Leadership and Legacy

With higher rank and greater privilege comes a commensurate increase in responsibility. As this year's 1st Class cadets mentor their rats through the dyke system, they should be continuously aware of their invaluable role in setting an example and helping rats build honor, integrity, respect, and civility. They should share their rats' satisfaction at each challenge met and counsel their rats on how to be strong when their confidence is waning. Indeed, as each 1st Class cadet takes on responsibility for a rat, he or she becomes a teacher and a leader.

Leaving a legacy should be of paramount concern to members of the 1st Class. They should go about their daily lives with the awareness that they are VMI men and women, first and foremost. As such, they have an obligation to set the example for underclass cadets and lead them well, aware, too, they will soon represent VMI in the wider world as alumni.

charge of their leadership and academic development, laying the groundwork for opportunities that will open up in their final years at the Institute.

Third Class cadets should focus on academics. There is time this year to make up lost ground if need be or to look for opportunities in research or study abroad and academic and professional clubs and societies.

The 3rd Class year is also an ideal time to plan for a Corps leadership position in their 2nd Class year, through rank, cadre, equity committee, or Honor Court participation.

Throughout the year, 3rd Class cadets must live in the awareness that they are the immediate standard-bearers for the 4th Class. Rats will model their behavior on their observations of the upper classes, so maintaining the highest standard of conduct at all times is a vital responsibility. Support your cadet by encouraging him or her to embrace opportunities during this year of focus.

Fitness and Wellness

New and Renovated Facilities

Overview

The 2016-17 academic year will mark a high point for fitness at VMI, as the \$120 million Corps Physical Training Facilities projects near completion and new buildings come online to support cadets in reaching their fitness goals.

Cormack Hall has already opened as a new home for the Department of Physical Education and NCAA wrestling, while Cocke Hall will open this summer as a venue for strength training, aerobic fitness, and Corps activities including individual fitness and hops – formal and informal dances.

The Institute's newest building, the Indoor Training Facility, is expected to open this fall, housing a world-class hydraulic track, high ropes course, endurance course, and climbing wall. This building will

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Cadets work out in the weight room in the recently renovated Cormack Hall. Cormack re-opened for use during the 2015-16 academic year, offering additional fitness facilities to the Corps of Cadets, as well as labs and offices for the Department of Physical Education. The labs are key to the exercise science minor, offered jointly by the PE and biology departments. – VMI
Photo by John Robertson IV.



VMI's club boxing team takes on Maryland in a match in the recently renovated Cormack Hall. The team placed first in the 2015 USIBA nationals and third in 2016, with several cadets winning individual titles in both years. VMI will host the USIBA nationals in Cormack Hall in March 2017. About two-thirds of the Corps pursues fitness and character development through competitive athletics offered by club and NCAA sports. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

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also provide an additional facility for Breakout activities and Corps military training in inclement weather.

With the addition of these buildings, cadets will have access to outstanding indoor facilities, making training accessible year-round.

VMI Fitness Test Prep

Cadets will find training for the required VMI Fitness Test much easier as Cocke Hall reopens after a yearlong renovation. Among the many offerings of the refurbished building will be a new weight room and cardio rooms, all with state-of-the-art equipment. Cocke Hall has also retained its elevated indoor track, so cadets can run in all weather in a facility close to barracks. Extended hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day will give cadets maximum flexibility in planning their training times.

Club Sports

The approximately 450 cadets who participate in club sports at VMI will find their ability to train enhanced by the new facilities.

Members of the club powerlifting team will find a new, dedicated weight room in Cocke Hall, with equipment specifically chosen for their sport. The club basketball team will use Cocke Hall, as will the club volleyball team, which had to be suspended due to lack of facilities in the 2015-16 academic year.

Physical Education Department

Among the recent upgrades to Cormack Hall are a weight room that will serve physical education classes and all of the NCAA sports teams except football, which has its own training facility in Clarkson-McKenna Hall. Now the permanent home of the Department

of Physical Education, Cormack Hall also contains lab space for the department's exercise science minor and will be the setting for a new karate class to be offered this fall.

Changes to NCAA

Cadets not participating in NCAA athletics will find the space crunch for facilities greatly eased this fall as NCAA teams move to new homes. The wrestling team is settled in Cormack Hall, with space for tournaments and seating for 750 spectators. The track team will be housed at the new Indoor Training Facility, the centerpiece of which is a six-lane, 200-meter hydraulic track. The building will also contain facilities for field events such as pole vaulting, shot put, and high jump.

Mental Health

The Center for Cadet Counseling stands ready to assist cadets, providing free, confidential counseling for those experiencing personal or interpersonal stress. In addition, cadet peer educators, supervised by counseling staff, assist their peers with topics relating to health and wellness. Also, last year Maj. Heather Ghosheh took charge of the cadet health and wellness program, with a health fair planned for this fall.



Physical fitness is an integral part of a cadet's training and a life skill learned through training times built into each cadet's weekly schedule. – VMI Photo by John Robertson IV.

Prevention and Preparedness

Working Together for Safety

As we follow news accounts of violence in public places including colleges and universities and sexual misconduct at schools across the country, we are reminded that we all bear a responsibility for our own safety and that of those around us. Each member of the VMI community is charged with doing everything possible to prevent threats to safety and well-being, and the Institute and every member of the community must also be prepared to respond appropriately when things do go wrong.

That preparedness extends across the Institute with broad faculty and staff representation on the Violence Prevention Committee, which is always on the lookout, and a Threat Assessment Team at ready to determine the appropriate response whenever something unusual or suspicious occurs. Cadet, faculty, and staff training programs address terrorism awareness, information technology security awareness, and violence prevention.

The VMI Police are on duty 24 hours a day and are present whenever VMI events encourage people to gather together on post or at other VMI facilities. Their vigilance extends to the Internet, which is monitored continuously for threats. In recent years, extended security measures have added better outdoor lighting, traffic patterns limiting vehicle access to barracks, and restriction of after-hours access to all buildings.

These measures serve to increase security for all cadets.



Garrett Manarin '17, VMI Emergency Medical Services Agency cadet in charge, presents Col. Bill Wanovich '87, commandant of cadets, with the Virginia Medical Services Agency license certifying VMI EMS as a non-transport first response unit in basic life support. Cadet EMTs are assigned to each company, support Corps fitness and military exercises, and are first on the scene for incidents on the VMI post. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Cadets marching guard now carry radios, improving their ability to make immediate reports if they observe unusual or suspicious activity. – VMI Photo by John Robertson IV.

Security in Barracks

www.vmi.edu/G063

Post security increased another level during the past academic year, when closed circuit cameras were installed in barracks and the cadet guard was issued radios to report unusual or suspicious activity. With the cameras in place, the officer in charge, a member of the commandant's office staff, can see the courtyards and the stoops, but cannot see into any cadet rooms and cannot save or replay the video. The cameras are a law enforcement and security tool only. Their purpose is to enhance the ability of the cadet guard team and the officer in charge to be aware of and report unusual or suspicious activity and to provide a record, should a violation of the law occur. Footage can be requested only under certain conditions and following specific procedures outlined in General Order 63.

All cadets, whether on guard duty or not, are expected to be aware of their surroundings and report unusual or suspicious activity.

Weapons

www.vmi.edu/G025

State law prohibits possession, carrying, or storage of any weapon by any person, except a police officer, in any building on post and at any event held on post. This restriction applies to cadets (except where authorized by the Cadet Weapons Policy), parents, faculty, staff, and the public.

Cadets may not bring personal weapons onto VMI property unless they are current members of the Skeet or Marksmanship clubs and have the appropriate permit. Other exceptions to this policy are very rare. Cadets who wish to bring a privately owned weapon to VMI for

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Loudspeakers atop Preston Library and other buildings are part of VMI's emergency notification system. In an emergency, the whole VMI community is notified immediately via loudspeaker, email, text, and voice-over-IP phone alert. An alert is also posted to the VMI website. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

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official business must submit a permit to the superintendent through the Commandant's Office.

Alcohol and Drug Use

www.vmi.edu/GO02

www.vmi.edu/GO53

Underage drinking is illegal, and drinking to excess is dangerous.

VMI condones neither. The Institute needs the support of parents in discouraging cadets from engaging in these behaviors. Parents are urged not to make local dwellings available to cadets as locations for parties or to make alcohol available to underage cadets or to any cadet in violation of Institute regulations. This includes tailgating, where alcohol is prohibited for everyone.

Though strict rules, stiff penalties, and constant briefings deter most cadets from serious alcohol incidents both on and off post, parents should remind cadets of the risks associated with infractions of these rules.

Disciplinary actions following a first violation, either on or off post, include several months of confinement, many hours of marching, demerits, and conduct probation. A second alcohol-related offense will normally draw a suspension, and a third offense, a dismissal. Depending on the seriousness of any offense, VMI reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a cadet. Cadets who violate these policies also receive a substance abuse assessment, education, and referral if needed.

VMI maintains a zero-tolerance stance in regard to the illegal use of drugs. The use of

illegal drugs and the illegal use of prescription medications by cadets will result in automatic dismissal.

General Order Number 53, Policy on Prohibiting Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia, authorizes VMI to randomly test cadets, on a periodic basis, for the presence of illegal drugs and controlled substances.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention

www.vmi.edu/GO02

www.vmi.edu/GO16

VMI takes a proactive stance on preventing sexual misconduct, emphasizing safe choices, responsible behavior, and concern for the welfare of others. Because alcohol is involved in 80 percent of sexual assaults that occur on college campuses, parents should urge their cadets to take Institute training and policies regarding alcohol seriously.

All new cadets must complete the online "Alcohol Wise" training before matriculation, and all cadets receive additional information on alcohol abuse and sexual assault prevention throughout their cadetship.

VMI works closely with Project Horizon, a local organization whose purpose is to reduce dating, domestic and sexual violence. In fact, last year the Institute signed a memorandum of understanding with Project Horizon, ensuring that its resources are available to cadets, faculty, and staff and that all are informed of its services.

VMI's policies concerning alcohol abuse and sexual misconduct are outlined in General Orders 2 and 16 and apply to cadets and employees, on and off post. Outside the judicial system, the maximum penalty for cadet violations of either policy is dismissal from the Institute. New cadets and their parents should familiarize themselves with both orders prior to matriculation.



A representative of Project Horizon visits Crozet Hall in February to provide information about establishing and maintaining healthy and respectful relationships. A close partnership with Project Horizon is part of an overall Cadet Health and Wellness Program established last year by the Office of Cadet Counseling. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Civility and Standards

Blue Book (VMI Cadet Regulations)

The Blue Book contains the rules and regulations that govern a cadet's daily life, from matriculation to graduation. Cadet knowledge and understanding of "status" – right place, right time, right uniform, doing the right thing – is a constant and continuous point of emphasis. Cadets are bound by honor to know when they are or are not in an "All Right" status and when to place themselves on report.

Dating

VMI's military-based regimental system operating in the close quarters of barracks dictates the need to be clear about fraternization within the Corps.

No cadet may date another cadet within his or her chain of command.

Since the focus of the 4th Class year is training, all dating within the Corps is prohibited during the 4th Class year.



New cadets learn the VMI system quickly, studying the Cadet Bible as rats and reciting parts of it from memory. – VMI Photo by John Robertson IV.



Regulations are essential to the military lifestyle of the Corps of Cadets, to an orderly barracks, to safety in training, and to ethical living at VMI. From the Honor Code to the Blue Book to the Cadet Handbook, cadets are continuously educated on honorable and ethical living and on discipline as a path to achievement in all areas of life. – VMI Photo by John Robertson IV.

Use of Social Media

www.vmi.edu/ITApproUse

Parents and cadets must think together about wise use of social media and the Internet. For both, social media can be the source of misinformation and rumor. Because of this, the Institute discourages parents from following and participating with class social media accounts not sponsored by the Institute. Instead, parents are urged to look to the Parents Council and its Facebook page for accurate information.

Cadets must be wary of careless use of social media, which is treated very differently from face-to-face conversation and is constantly monitored by law enforcement. If a post to any social media site, such as Yik Yak or Twitter, is perceived as threatening, the consequences can be serious for the cadet who made the post. Though cadets may believe they are posting anonymously, the source of the post can usually be discovered and the post could lead to legal action or dismissal from the Institute.

Parents should remind their cadets that social media sites are checked by employers to screen applicants for hire and by the federal government for security clearances. Careless

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posts now could be used as the basis to deny a cadet employment or the security clearance needed for employment in the future.

Motor Vehicle Use for Cadets

VMI restricts most cadet use of automobiles, and the Institute expects consistent and continued parental support for these policies.

Underclass cadets are not authorized to operate motor vehicles in Rockbridge County during the academic year. Second and 3rd Class cadets who are active members of drilling Reserve or National Guard units outside of Rockbridge County, however, may request permission to store a car in VMI-designated parking areas for the sole purpose of attending drill.

First Class cadets must register their vehicles upon returning for the start of the fall semester, and each will be provided a designated location for parking. Parking spaces will be provided on post for nearly half of the 1st Class vehicles. Parking spaces for the remaining vehicles will be provided at a remote parking area. The goal is to provide at least one permanent parking space on post for each 1st Class room.

Parents are reminded that parking fines and penalties for unauthorized vehicles or non-registered cadet vehicles are strictly enforced.

Also strictly enforced will be the 15-mile-per-hour postwide speed limit.

Requirements to Graduate

www.vmi.edu/GO66

Cadets are responsible for meeting all degree and graduation requirements. In order to receive their diplomas, cadets must have a conduct record that is satisfactory to the superintendent, be confirmed by the Academic Board, complete all course and grade-point average requirements, and have been in residence at VMI for at least three years (six semesters).

If you are concerned that your 1st Class cadet may not meet degree requirements in time to graduate May 16, you and your cadet should be aware of the "10-hour rule."

Cadets in good disciplinary standing who are within 10 credit hours of completing degree requirements, with a cumulative and major GPA of at least 2.0, may complete the remaining hours at another college and transfer the credits to VMI. These cadets will



VMI Police stand ready 24 hours a day and are present at events on post. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

not receive their diplomas until after their graduation requirements have been met.

Cadets in good disciplinary standing who are within six credit hours of completing degree requirements may submit an appeal to the Committee on Academic Appeals, which will consider the appeal if there are demonstrated extenuating circumstances, and if the cadet is a full-time student at VMI in the semester preceding graduation, with a 2.0 or above cumulative and major GPA.

If the committee grants the appeal, the cadet will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony May 16 but will not receive a degree until sometime after requirements have been met. Please note that the appeal will be granted only under the most extenuating circumstances.

Return on Investment

"You get out of college what you put into it" may seem like a trite phrase, but for cadets it is a phrase with more depth than exists for students at most other colleges.

Cadets who embrace the rigors of a VMI education and earn a diploma gain the standing that comes from an institutional reputation that is increasingly recognized nationally. That can translate into prestigious and profitable careers.

Here is how VMI was ranked during the 2015-16 academic year:

- The Brookings Institution recognized VMI as No. 14 in the nation out of 6,500 accredited institutions of higher education for added earnings value.
- VMI ranked behind only UVA among public Virginia schools in listings of best

college value by the website Smart Asset and *Money* magazine.

- *U.S. News & World Report* put VMI in fourth place among public liberal arts colleges nationally; *Money* magazine ranked it as No. 48 of all colleges and universities in the nation; and *Forbes* magazine ranked it in the top quartile of colleges and universities nationally.
- *USA Today* recognized the Department of Applied Mathematics as the No. 8 such program in the nation.
- In general, 98 percent of graduates are employed or accepted into graduate school by Oct. 31 of the year they graduated.

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VMINews.tumblr.com



youtube.com/VMIWeb

flickr.com/VMIPhotos

Important Information

Parents Council

www.vmi.edu/ParentsCouncil

The Parents Council is a source of accurate information, and parents are encouraged to bring their questions to the members of the council and follow the council's Facebook page for updates. Members of the council are selected from parents of cadets in the upper three classes.

Parents Council contacts include:

- Co-Presidents: Ray and Michelle Lancaster, ray.lancaster11@gmail.com
- Co-Vice Presidents: John and Donna Pernot, djman3@verizon.net

The Parents Council Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentsCouncil.VMI/>, is a closed group, so parents should send a request to join and be sure to check their Facebook messages since the Parents Council will confirm that requestors are parents of current cadets before adding them to the group.

We discourage parents from following and participating with class social media accounts not sponsored by the Institute.

Accounting Convenience

Parents and cadets may view VMI bills and make payments online. For parent access, cadets must register their parents as authorized bill payers through their cadet Post View accounts.

Keydet Cash

Using their VMI ID cards, cadets can make purchases in the VMI PX, bookstore, and laundry, as well as at all post vending machines with card readers. Since the card works like a bank debit card, cadets can enjoy the convenience of going cashless by carrying just one card.

This system is administered by Aramark. Funds can be deposited online to a cadet's account and will be available instantly through the ID card. Card information is available online, so cadets can view the current account balance and parents and others may view account information or add funds with permission of the card holder. Unused Keydet Cash carries over from year to year until graduation.

Visit vmi.campusdish.com/ or call 540-464-7374 to sign up for or learn more about the VMI ID Card Keydet Cash program.

VMI News

www.vmi.edu/institutereport

VMI's Office of Communications and Marketing publishes news and event information as the academic year progresses.

Visit the VMI the newsfeed on the VMI home page, www.vmi.edu, to read the latest headlines. Subscribe online to the Institute Report for features on cadet and faculty activities, and, to find about the newest stories and see photos and video, follow VMI on social media: Facebook – [facebook.com/vmi1839](https://www.facebook.com/vmi1839); Twitter – @vminews, @vmilife; Instagram – [Virginia_military_institute](https://www.instagram.com/virginia_military_institute); Tumblr – [VMINews.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/vminews); YouTube – www.youtube.com/c/VmiEdu.

VMI Website

www.vmi.edu/cadet-life/families

VMI's website underwent a redesign in recent months that will make it easier to find important information. Parents should visit the Families landing page to find links to information on events, visiting VMI, health and safety, Corps life, and finances. The page also offers instructions for sending packages, cards, and letters to your cadet and an opportunity to provide feedback on the quality and usability of the new site.

VMI Photos

www.flickr.com/VMIPhotos

Photographs of events on post in the coming academic year will be available for free download at VMI's new official flickr page, www.flickr.com/VMIPhotos. Look there for photos of major events, including Matriculation Week, Ring Figure, Breakout, and Graduation Week.



The Parents Council feeds and assists matriculating cadets and their families. The Council is a source of accurate information for parents throughout the four years their sons and daughters are at VMI, and the Parents Council tent is a fixture at tailgating. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Game Day

Tailgaters

www.vmi.edu/gameday

Game day tailgating is one of VMI's most memorable traditions. Tailgaters must use the Jordan's Point entrance and, in good weather, may park on the Parade Ground. The fee to park on the Parade Ground is \$10.

Parking opens for tailgating at 7:30 a.m. A parade by the Corps of Cadets is held at 10:30 a.m. Following a full Corps march-on ceremony at Foster Stadium, the game typically begins at 1:30 pm.

An on-post shuttle service runs continuously from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the football game, shuttles will be positioned at Cameron Hall to transport spectators from the stadium back to the Parade Ground area.

Parking

Parking along North Main Street is quite limited due to ongoing construction of the Corps Physical Training Facilities. Off-post parking is available at the city's Roy Smith Parking Lot near the courthouse at 134 S. Randolph St. (GPS Coordinates: 37.7834309,



The entire Corps of Cadets attends each home football game, cheering for Brother Rats out on the field. Each VMI touchdown is greeted by a blast of the cannon Little John. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

-79.4423729000001). Shuttle service will run continuously between the parking lot and Cameron Hall beginning at 9 a.m.

Free parking is also available on city streets. The two-hour time limit does not apply on weekends. No parking is allowed on Diamond and Randolph streets as spaces on those streets are for residents and violators will be ticketed.

Alcohol is not permitted at tailgate parties or outside receptions, nor is it permitted in the football stadium. These prohibitions arise from state law as well as VMI regulations.

Other items not permitted in Foster Stadium include coolers, backpacks, and weapons.

Cadets with full class privileges may use the "Visit with Family" or the "Dine by Invitation" permit to be excused from post after football games and to miss Supper Roll Call formation.

Rats must return by 10 p.m. on Saturday. Upper-class cadets must return by Taps, 1 a.m.



Parents and cadets enjoy tailgating, featuring a parade and a football game, each October during Parents Weekend. Alcohol is prohibited at the event, which is only the second time rats will see their parents after Matriculation. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Critical Events 2016-17

Please have your cadet let you know the time of his or her "Completion of Academic Duties." No exceptions will be made to release dates and times.

Sept. 3-4 – New Cadet Oath Ceremony

Rats will be authorized to take the "Visit/Dine by Invitation" permit beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, and may remain off post until 10 p.m. Rats must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister 23 years of age or older, full-time member of the VMI faculty or staff, or parent of another cadet.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4, Gen. Peay will administer the Cadet Oath to the rat class at the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield in New Market, Va. At completion of a picnic (noon), the rats will relocate to the town of New Market for a 2 p.m. parade down Main Street. They will return by bus to VMI by 5 p.m. and may use the "Visit with Family" permit to leave post until 10 p.m. Rats may miss Supper Roll Call formation but must be off post and in uniform.

Oct. 7-9 – Parents Weekend

Parents may attend classes and the parade on Friday, Oct. 7; the Parents Weekend permit ends on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 8:30 p.m. Restrictions are lifted only for cadets and rats who are in the company of an authorized adult, i.e., parent or guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister 23 years of age or older, full-time member of the VMI faculty or staff, or parent of another cadet. Cadets and rats signed out on the "Parents Weekend" permit may leave the county but are not authorized to spend the night off post and must observe the following schedule: Friday, Oct. 7 – return by midnight; Saturday, Oct. 8 – Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) at 7 a.m., parade at 10:30 a.m., football game march-down and football game at 1 p.m., and return by 1 a.m.; Sunday, Oct. 9 – cadets are released from quarters at 7 a.m. Status check is at 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 18-27 – Thanksgiving Furlough

Thanksgiving furlough will begin at the completion of academic duty Friday, Nov. 18, and end at 10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27.

Dec. 2-3 – Ring Figure

The Class of 2018 will begin its Ring Figure celebration on Friday, Dec. 2, with a parade, to be followed by a class-only supper. The Saturday afternoon Ring Presentation Ceremony is open to the public. The Ring Figure Ball is Saturday evening and is restricted to cadets and their dates. Parents should be aware that any serious alcohol offense during the week of Ring Figure forfeits a cadet's participation in Ring Figure activities, including the ring presentation. Parental support for this policy is needed, as inappropriate alcohol use can cause cadets to miss out on this milestone of their cadetship. Please help with this!

Dec. 20-Jan. 15 – Christmas Furlough

Christmas furlough begins at the completion of academic duty Tuesday, Dec. 20, and ends at 10 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15.

March 10-19 – Spring Furlough

Spring furlough begins at completion of academic duty Friday, March 10, and ends Sunday, March 19, at 10 p.m.

April 14-16 – Easter Break

Easter break begins at completion of academic duty Friday, April 14, and ends Sunday, April 16, at 10 p.m.

May 14-16 – Commencement Week

At VMI, the completion of final exams does not mark the end of the academic year but rather the start of Commencement Week activities. During this period, many required events and practices are scheduled for cadets of all four classes.

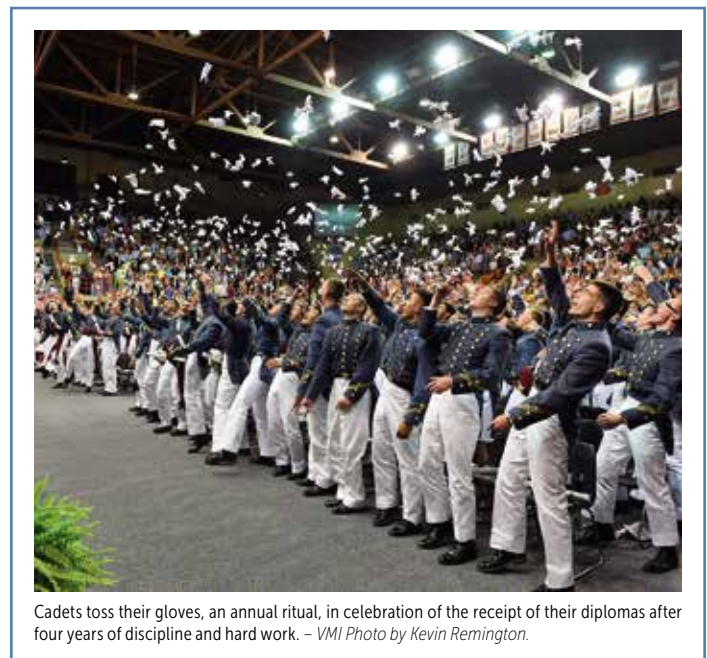
The mandatory 4th Class Field Training Exercise will take place Thursday through Saturday, May 11-13.

For the upper three classes, ceremony and parade rehearsals begin May 12 in preparation for the Institute Awards and Graduation Parade Sunday, May 14; commissioning ceremonies and New Market Parade Monday, May 15; and graduation Tuesday, May 16.

Summer Furlough

Summer furlough begins at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony May 16. VMI policy prohibits departures prior to graduation except in the case of family emergencies and graduations of immediate family members. Medical appointments and surgeries must be scheduled after May 16. Cadets seeking internships and summer jobs must not accept positions requiring a start earlier than May 16.

Furlough protocol: Cadets and families must schedule travel times, family events, and medical appointments to avoid conflicts with Corps requirements and responsibilities. Please take these requirements and responsibilities into account when making plans and take particular care to build in adequate travel time to meet VMI's departure and arrival requirements. Cadets may not depart VMI until their scheduled classes are completed. Note that cadets' individual exam schedules may vary; talk to your cadet before scheduling end-of-semester travel.



Cadets toss their gloves, an annual ritual, in celebration of the receipt of their diplomas after four years of discipline and hard work. – VMI Photo by Kevin Remington.



Critical dates

2016-17

www.vmi.edu/calendar

Matriculation Day	Aug. 20
Old Corps returns	10 p.m. Aug. 28
Classes begin	Aug. 30
New Cadet Oath Ceremony	Sept. 4
Parents Weekend	Oct. 7-8
Homecoming Weekend	Oct. 28-29
Thanksgiving Furlough	CAD Nov. 18 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27
Ring Figure	Dec. 2-3
Exams	Dec. 15-20
December Commissioning Ceremony	Dec. 19
December Graduation	Dec. 20
Christmas Furlough begins	CAD Dec. 20

Christmas Furlough ends	10 p.m. Jan. 15
Classes begin	Jan. 17
Spring Furlough	CAD March 10 to 10 p.m. March 19
Easter Break	CAD April 14 to 10 p.m. April 16
Exam Period	May 6-11
Institute Awards & Graduation Parade	May 14
Commissioning & New Market Ceremonies	May 15
Commencement	May 16

Tentative Dates for 2017-18

Matriculation Day	Aug. 19
Old Corps returns	Aug. 27
Classes begin	Aug. 29
New Cadet Oath Ceremony	Sept. 3

Ring Figure	Nov. 16-17
Thanksgiving Furlough	CAD Nov. 21 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27
Exams	Dec. 11-15
December Commissioning	Dec. 14
December Graduation	Dec. 15
Christmas Furlough begins	CAD Dec. 15 to 10 p.m. Jan. 15
Classes begin	Jan. 17
Spring Furlough	CAD March 9 to 10 p.m. March 18
Easter Break	CAD March 30 to 10 p.m. April 2
Exam Period	May 7-11
Institute Awards & Graduation Parade	May 14
Commissioning & New Market Ceremonies	May 15
Commencement	May 16

*CAD = Completion of Academic Duties

Important Contacts

540 area code

Contact a Cadet (Visitor Center)464-7306

Academic Information

Dean of the Faculty	.464-7212
Academic Advising	.464-7741
Registrar	.464-7213
Summer Session Office	.464-7319

General Information

Admissions Office	.464-7211
Athletic Ticket Office	.464-7266
Visitor Center	.464-7306
VMI Bookstore	.464-7637
VMI Museum	.464-7334

Cadet Support

Guard Room	.464-7294
Athletic Advising	.464-7722
Chaplain's Office	.464-7390

Infirmery	.464-7218
Cadet Counseling	.464-7667
Financial Aid	.464-7208
Information Technology	.464-7341
Anonymous Reporting	.464-7702
Inspector General/Title IX	.464-7072
Office of Career Services	.464-7560
Postal Services	.464-7745
The Bomb (VMI yearbook)	.464-7245
The Cadet (VMI cadet newspaper)	.464-7242
Writing Center	.464-7045

Administrative Offices

Chief of Staff	.464-7104
Commandant's Office	.464-7313
Dean of the Faculty	.464-7212
Deputy Commandant & Officer-in-Charge	.464-7314
Office of the Superintendent	.464-7311
Sergeant Major, Corps of Cadets	.464-7706

Student Accounting	.464-7217
VMI Police (non-emergency)	.464-7017

ROTC Programs

U.S. Air Force	.464-7354
U.S. Army	.464-7351
U.S. Navy/Marine Corps	.464-7275

Parents Council

Ray and Michelle Lancasterray.lancaster11@gmail.com

To mail a package:

Cadet (followed by name)
450 Burma Road
Virginia Military Institute
VMI Box (followed by box number)
Lexington, VA 24450-0304

To mail cards and letters:

Cadet (followed by name)
Virginia Military Institute
VMI Box (followed by box number)
Lexington, VA 24450-0304

Keep this information – tear at perforation →

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