

Report of the Liaison to the BOY Cadet/Military Affairs Committee
20 May 2024

Purpose: To provide a synopsis to the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors on current status of key factors reported to the Board of Visitors after the Cadet and Military Affairs Committee meeting on 3 May 2024, 1345-1515. Data are as of 5 April 2024.

1. Attendees:
 - a. Mr. Scot Marsh '81, BOY Member/Chairman
 - b. Mr. C. Ernest Edgar IV '87, BOY Member
 - c. Lt. Col. (Ret.) James G. Joustra '76, BOY Member
 - d. Ms. Meaghan C. Mobbs, BOY Member
 - e. Ms. Kate Todd, BOY Member
 - f. COL (Ret) Adrian T. Bogart III '81, Commandant of Cadets
 - g. LTC Harold W. Dennis, AROTC XO
 - h. Col Travis L. Homiak '94, PNS
 - i. LtCol Cary W. Wilson, APAS
 - J. Mr. Jackson Lloyd '23, Commandant's Staff
 - k. COL Stephen E. Wilson '68, VMIAA Liaison

2. Commissions: (Slide I - Commissioning FY 24 and 25 (as of 11 April 2024))
210 Officers were commissioned in the Armed Forces in FY24 and FY25 is projected at commissioning 189 Officers.

	FY24	<u>FY 25 {Projected}</u>
Army	<u>137</u> (106 AC, 31 RC/NG)	116 (109 AC, Other 7)
Navy	34	18
USMC	26	33
<u>USAF/USSF</u>	<u>13 AF</u>	<u>22 (21 AF, 1 SF)</u>
Totals	210	189

* Other: 6 AC, 1 RC/NG

3. General. VMI's "Call to Duty" program supplementing ROTC scholarships to pay for room & board continues to have a positive effect in retaining in-bound scholarship winners. Tuition and fees will increase 2.9% in 2025. Athletics funding faces a shortfall of \$ M. Tuition and fees contribute 39% of VMI's budget; Alumni Agencies contribute 27%.

4. Army ROTC. (Slide 2 - Army ROTC SY 2023-2024)
 - a. Enrollment: Currently 1,150 enrolled with 348 (30%) contracted.
 - b. Spring 2024 Training Outlook.
 - 1) SPRING FTX (05-09 APRIL 2024) at Goshen Boy Scout Res.; MSIV provide command & control; MS III Squad Training Exercise (STX) Lanes in prep for Cadet Summer Training (CST); MS I/ II Individual and Squad level tasks.
 - 2) Three (3) Control Times (24 Feb/17 Mar/29 Apr)
 - 3) Ranges (17 March; FORT BARFOOT)
 - c. Ranger Challenge Competition Dates Sandhurst at USMA 22-28 April. Ranger team won regional Ranger Challenge earlier to qualify for Sandhurst for second year in a row. VMI team placed 16th overall out of 48 teams. Additionally, a team of eight cadets

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competed in a 2-week Cambian Patrol competition of 111 teams sponsored by the British Army Pioneers 4-19 April.

d. Summer 2024 Highlights:

- 1) Projected to Commission 106 Second Lieutenants in MAY 24 (80 AD, 13 USAR, 13 NG)
 - 2) Projected to Commission three Second Lieutenants in Dec 24
 - 3) AROTC Cadre support Cadet Summer Training 2024 at FT Knox, KY; Basic Camp and Advanced Camp
 - 4) 130 MSIII / MS IV contracted Cadets to attend Advanced Camp
 - 5) 14 Cadre members to support CST (Cadet Summer Training) '24
 - 6) Project 17 Cadets to complete CAIT (Cadet Advanced Individual Training) Schools m Summer '24
 - 7) Project 26 Cadets to complete CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training), 12 Internship Programs
- e. Issues/Concerns. Large Cadre Turnover (eight personnel) in next 3-4 months, to include PMS/XO/SGM. COL Hanson, FA to become PMS, MAJ(P) Stone to become XO, and MSG Plank projected to become SGM.

5. Naval ROTC. (Slide 3 - NROTC SY 2023-2024)

- a. Enrollment: Currently 262 midshipmen enrolled. Change of option from Navy to Marine curtailed beginning Spring 2024 due to Navy personnel requirements.
- b. NROTC ranking compared with other NROTC units is outstanding-see slide.
- c. Spring Training Synopsis.
 - 1) Navy: 83 at Smith Mountain Lake for small boat piloting, firefighting, and recovering disabled boats. 20 at Naval Station Norfolk to tour LPD, LHD, DDG, CG, SSN, & CVN.
 - 2) Marines: (140) at Col Sadler (VMI '66) Farm for Day/Night Land Navigation and small Unit Leadership Evaluations.
- d. Spring 2024 Highlights.
 - 1) Navy SWO (17) Ship Selection Feb 28-29
 - 2) Nuke Power Program 15 selected (VMI quota was 11) 12 x Submarine; 3 x Surface NUPOC; and 8 MIDN passed interviews with 7 scheduled for 16 & 18APR
 - 3) 14 rising 1/C MIDN to 1/C Cruise
 - 4) 31 rising 1/C MIDN to OCS (25 NROTC scholarships; 6 PLC/OCC
 - 5) Sideload Scholarships: ~20 USN applications submitted for Summer Board; 18 of 18 USMC submissions approved by Spring Board (IO x 4/C, 5 x 3/C, and 2 x 2/C
- e. Issues & Challenges.
 - 1) Route 11 Bike lane/KH parking
 - 2) Personnel Turnover this Summer: Military: 1 x Col, 1 x Maj (USMC) (Out of 4 Marines). 2 x LTs (USN) (Out of 7 Sailors). Civilian: 1 x Exec Asst (Retiring). 2 x Human Resources Asst (Retiring)
 - 3) Staff manning being reduced 55%.

6. Air Force ROTC. (Slide 4 - AFROTC AY 2023-2024)

- a. Enrollment: Currently 133 enrolled. Detachment is seventh largest in AFROTC. No cadets pursuing commission in USSF.
- b. Upcoming Summer Events.

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- 1) Preparing 13 seniors for commissioning in May and July
 - 2) IO cadets attended AFA National Convention and Conference (funded by AFROTC).
 - c. Upcoming Fall Events.
 - 1) Preparing 13 seniors for commissioning in 2024
 - 2) Prepare AS200s for Field Training this summer
 - 3) Change in strategy for trainees
 - 4) Detachment Cadre turnover (27% - 3 people); First USSF Capt coming to Detachment Staff
 - 5) VMI Days during Spring FTX; other Dets/Universities invited to partner with us and VMI for LRC exposure
 - 6) AFSPECWAR Southeast Hub Training: 72 cadets from IO schools to participate
 - d. Issues/Concerns.
 - 1) Continuation of "Call to Duty" Scholarships
 - 2) Delay in AFROTC AFSC, Base of Preference, Rated Board Results to align with USAFA
 - 3) AF Delay in reviewing Medical waivers for AS200s to compete for POC Selection Process (PSP)
 - 4) Lack of funding for AFROTC Scholarships; potentially zero In-College Scholarship Funding
 - 5) All Cadets must be contracted and obtain CAC Cards prior to attending Field Training (logistical challenge)
7. Cadet Activities: (Slide 5 - Second Semester Update)
- COL Bogart updated the committee on the following subjects/issues.
- a. The rising First Class is well prepared to assume its leadership of the Corps. The Class President is an Army veteran and served in the Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR). The Historian is also a veteran and served in the 75th Ranger Regiment.
 - b. The VMI U360 APP is now operational and provides on-line status checks.
 - c. The briefing included the topics:
 - 1) Achievements and areas to improve
 - 2) The five "Rainbow Books"
 - 3) The three Leader Series publications
 - 4) Five manuals on Standard Operating Procedures
 - 5) Lead the Future Intent
 - 6) Commandant's Intent
 - 7) VMI Cadet Leader Development Model

Respectfully submitted,

COL Stephen E. Wilson '68 (USA Ret)
Liaison to the BOV Cadet/Military Affairs Committee