HELLO RETURNING AND PLEBE PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SPONSORS:

RECOGNITION WEEKEND:
This exciting weekend is quickly approaching!

Please return your RSVP slip as soon as possible by email, snail mail, phone, fax or pony express! If you wish to be mentioned on the donor list at the event, please send donations in ASAP as well. Thank you to all who have made a donation thus far!

For donation forms, please click on this link for your convenience:
http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-parents-family/campus-recognition-weekend/?template=paf-academy

Friday – 31 Oct. –
3:30 PM – Academy Football Game – O’Hara Athletic Field
7:00-10:00 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall - Parents Fundraising Reception.
Join us for an evening of food, drink (beer, wine and soft drinks) and much fun with staff and faculty, new and veteran parents, auctions, raffle, casino and a special march performed by the Regimental Band!

Saturday – 1 Nov. -
8:30-10:15 a.m. Barracks and Optional Academy Open House in Shannon Hall. Department Chairs will be available to answer questions you might have.
- 10:30-noon - Academy and College plebe Talent Show in Price Gym
- 1:00 – College Football Game, O’Hara Athletic Field
- Noon-9:00 a.m. Sunday morning is leave with family members

Sunday – 2 Nov. -
9-10:30 a.m. Family Breakfast (RSVP form is in the packet) Mellon Hall. The breakfast is $15 per guest but cadets do not pay.
- 11-12:15 p.m. Chapel Service
- Regimental Review and Joining the Ranks Ceremony with Cadet Oath.
- Subsequent to the Regimental Review Cadet leave is authorized until no later than 9:00 p.m.

Please contact me, Lini Stevens at Lstevens@vfmac.edu with questions or if you wish to volunteer at the Parents Reception.

CATHOLIC MASS:
Sunday, 19 October, Catholic Mass will not be available to the cadets. Mrs. Piscal will share the location and schedule for the local Catholic Church which is within walking distance.
EVENT AND LEAVE ITINERARY AT A GLANCE FOR NOVEMBER, 2014:

- Ring Presentation – 8 Nov., 5:00 PM – Chapel. Family members welcome.
- Ring Dance – 8 Nov., 6:30 PM – Mellon Hall
  AcademySeniors, Sophomores, and their dates only
- Gold and Silver Star Dinner – 10 Nov., 5:00 PM - Eisenhower Hall
- Military Tattoo Performance – 21 Nov., 4:30 PM – 6:15 PM - Price Gym
- Academy Thanksgiving Leave – 21 Nov., 7:00 PM – 30 Nov., no later than 6:30 PM
- College Thanksgiving Leave – 25 Nov., after class – 30 Nov., no later than 6:30 PM

Details below.

RING CEREMONY:
On Saturday, 8 November, beginning at 5 PM in the Chapel, all cadets receiving Class Rings will be invited to have their rings presented to them in a formal, longstanding tradition at Valley Forge, the Ring Presentation Ceremony.

The program will include remarks from Dr. Sauchuk, President, an explanation of the significance of the Class Ring, and the culmination of each cadet receiving his/her ring.

The ring should be presented by someone of significance in the cadet’s life at Valley Forge. Suggested presenters include TACS, faculty members, and family members who have impacted the cadet in a positive manner over his or her enrollment at Valley Forge.

The Ring Ceremony is open to family members of the cadet who would like to attend. It will begin promptly at 5:00 PM and last for approximately one hour.

We look forward to seeing families and friends of our ring recipients at this special Ring Ceremony in the Chapel.

Cadets must submit ring presenters to the Department of Student Activities by Monday October 27th.

RING DANCE:
Immediately following the Ring Ceremony, all Academy Seniors, College Sophomores and their dates are invited to the Ring Dance at 6:30 – 10:00 PM in the Mellon Hall Ballroom.

The dance will include a formal receiving line, many various Hors d’Oeuvres, dancing with DJ, a dessert buffet, a formal cake cutting and time to spend and celebrate this special occasion with classmates and friends.

We are asking parents to donate baked goods for the Ring Dance dessert buffet. At the last Ring Dance and Winter Ball, this was a huge hit with the cadets and their guests. There is nothing like homemade desserts to make them feel loved! If you wish to donate something such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. please contact Mrs. Theresa Piscal at TPiscal@vfmac.edu. No nuts or peanut butter please! Thank you!

Academy Seniors and College Sophomores are encouraged to invite dates to this event. All dates under the age of 18 require parental permission to attend.

A photographer will be available in the Sara Crawford Room in Mellon Hall for formal portraits. Overnight leave will be granted at the discretion of the Commandant.
Questions about the Ring Ceremony and Ring Dance can be directed to the Director of Student Activities; Mrs. Lauren Wochok at lwochok@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1262.

**GOLD AND SILVER STAR DINNER:**
A special dinner to recognize cadets for achieving academic excellence will be held on Monday, November 10 at 6:30 PM in Eisenhower Hall. If your son or daughter has earned a Gold or Silver Star, which will be revealed closer to the date of November 10, you will receive an e-invitation to the dinner. More information will be forthcoming.

**MILITARY TATTOO:**
This year's Military Tattoo performance will be on Friday, November 21 at 4:30 PM in Price Gym. All are welcome free of charge!

What is a Military Tattoo?

Webster's Dictionary describes a modern Military Tattoo Performance as “A military evolution of spectacular character performed to the accompaniment of music.” It is a time-honored tradition that was used to call military members back to base through various musical tools. Today we use the Military Tattoo to showcase the many talents of our youth and their mastery of music, precision and entertainment.

VF's Military Tattoo will present performances from the Regimental Band, Field Music and Choir, the VFMA&C Drill Team and more. Why not come and see for yourself and bring your family and friends!

Parking will be permitted on the Parade Field through gate E2 on Eagle Road. Following the performance, parents may take their Academy cadets on Thanksgiving Leave. College Cadets do not begin Leave until the following Tuesday, 25 November. Please see the Thanksgiving Leave policies below.

**THANKSGIVING LEAVE:**
**Academy Leave** begins no earlier than 7:00 PM following the conclusion of the Tattoo Performance, 21 November, 2014. There will be a shuttle bus to the Philadelphia International Airport leaving VF following the performance at 7:00 PM and also the next morning on Saturday, 23 November at 7:00 AM for the Academy cadets. Return time is no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 30 November 2014.
**College Leave** begins no earlier than after last class on Tuesday, 25 November, 2014. There will be a shuttle bus to the Philadelphia International Airport leaving VF at 5:00 PM for the College cadets. Return time is no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 30 November, 2014.

- No early or extended Leave requests will be granted.
- Cadets who make travel arrangements outside of these Leave periods are subject to disciplinary action.
- Please check with your cadet’s TAC Officer to find out exactly when he or she may leave before making travel arrangements.

If making airline reservations, please allow for at least a 45 minute ride to the Airport.

Because cadets return at various times there will be no shuttle bus returning to VF. Cadets have 2 options to find transportation back to VF:
- They can easily find a taxi outside of the baggage claim area to find transportation back to VF. If you would like to reserve a taxi for your cadet, please see the list in the Parents Hand Book on page 46.
- Cadets also have the option of getting a train from the airport to 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and from there get the Septa Rail Line Paoli/Thorndale to Wayne. It is a short walk from the Wayne Station to VF.

**If your cadet is an unaccompanied minor (15 for train and 14 for airlines) you must have your cadet’s travel information (departure and return information) to the TAC, not later than 30 October 2014 to allow staff time to arrange accompaniment for your cadet. If you wait until too close to the departure or arrival date, there is no guarantee of staff availability.**

**Parents of International Cadets:**
We strongly suggest that you schedule airline flights to and from the Philadelphia International Airport which is just a 45 minute drive to Valley Forge. Travel time from New York or New Jersey Airports will take another 3 hours on the road for your cadet.

However, if you already have made your reservations to New York or New Jersey airports, please see below:

If your cadet is traveling back and forth from Newark, NJ, LaGuardia or JFK International Airports, New York City, NJ, Super Trans Philly Shuttle Transportation provides transportation for $65. Please go to: [http://supertranspa.com/jfkandnewarkairport.aspx](http://supertranspa.com/jfkandnewarkairport.aspx) or call 215-333-1441 or Priority Shuttle at: [http://www.priorityshuttle.com/](http://www.priorityshuttle.com/)
If you have questions concerning travel, please email Col. Ken Seitz, Adjutant: KSeitz@vfmac.edu.

**THE COMMANDANT RECOGNIZES:**
1. **Plebe Julian Bodnar**, C Co. for his actions while on a train with intoxicated Eagles’ fans and an individual who was out of control and threatening other passengers. Plebe Bodnar was able to de-escalate the situation by getting the individual off the train. Of note - there were numerous adults, including SEPTA workers who did nothing to gain control of the situation. Clearly Cadet
Bodnar demonstrated the hard right decision while knowing his own personal safety may have been in jeopardy. We call this courage, compassion and good decision making, all the character attributes we are trying to instill in all cadets and look for in leaders. When you see him on campus, congratulate him for his courageous actions and receiving the Valley Forge Presidential Star.


3. Congratulations to the elected Academy Student Council:
   a. President: Cadet Niall Gallagher
   b. Vice President: Cadet Jianrui Li
   c. Secretary: Cadet Mouhammed Camara
   d. Treasurer: Cadet Patrick Horsky

7. D Troop hosting and participating in the Horsemanship (IHSA) program.

ATHLETICS RECAP:
College Football lost in a tough match, 28 – 31 at West Point. VF is now 3 – 2

Saturday Academy Soccer hit the road and suffered a tough loss, 0-1 to Perkiomen School. VFMA is now 3 -13 overall and 1 -8 B.A.L Conference.

VFMC Cross-Country Placed 15th out of 21 teams at the Jack St Clair Memorial run. 
**Cadet Michael Meachum** ran a personal best 33:54
Congratulations!

Wrapping up the weekend, VFMC Volleyball hosted a tri-match vs Bucks county and Delco County. Our ladies fought hard but fell to both schools 3 – 0, 3 – 0 overall, 2 – 17 NJCAA Reg 19 D-3 2 – 15.

Thursday Academy Soccer started us off with a home match vs. Conference foe, Lower Moreland with a tough loss 5 – 1.

Women’s Volleyball wrapped up the evening stepping up to Div. 2 Del Tech. With a win in the first set, 25 -21 Del tech was surprised with the great improvement in VFMC’s performance and the matches were very competitive from there on…25-27, 25-21, 25-23. Unfortunately we lost 3-1.

Friday started with a win for Academy Football over Strawberry Mansion 20 -12 to improve to 4-2 overall 3 – 1 in the B.A.L Conference.

College Football followed up with our yearly rivalry vs West Point JV.

CLASS TRIP FOR ELL AND LTC FLOOD’S FINE ARTS APPRECIATION CADETS:
Last Tuesday, 30 VFMA cadets from LTC Flood’s Fine Arts Appreciation and ELL classes learned about art and nature while touring the Brandywine River Museum and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The day began with a guided tour and lecture about the three generations of Wyeth’s, whose paintings are represented at the museum. All three tour guides were extremely impressed with our cadets’ interest and attention to the discussion about these artists. Special commendation goes to **Cadet Daniel Watkins** whose comments about one particular Andrew Wyeth painting was so insightful that the museum educator asked permission to include Cadet Watkins’ observations in his
future lectures.

Our next stop was Longwood Gardens for lunch and a tour of the Conservatory and grounds. Our cadets were frequently stopped by visitors and asked about their uniforms and where they went to school. Our young men were terrific ambassadors for VFMA, giving all queries polite and thoughtful answers. Beautiful weather capped off the great day!

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Theresa Piscal, wife of our Commandant of Cadets, who was an invaluable help as chaperone to the group!

**CHAPEL, PARADE AND OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE:**

All services, Chapel Parades on the Main Area, and Regimental Reviews on the Parade Field are open to the public. Chapel begins at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Religion specific services will be held at various locations at VFMA&C simultaneously unless otherwise noted. Chapel Parades and Regimental Reviews occur directly following the Chapel Services when the Corps is set.
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**EMERGENCY INFORMATION ALWAYS AVAILABLE:**
A voice and text emergency notification system is available for parents and guardians of our cadets. You may sign up by submitting the form found on the Emergency Information page on the website, link provided below. Messages are primarily text based, and therefore you should submit a cell phone number that can receive text messages. You will be subject to any fees or limits set by your cell phone provider for text messages and minutes used, based on your current contract conditions. International texts are not obtainable at this time.

In the event of any emergencies, we encourage you to access the VFMA&C Emergency Info page: [http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-emergency-information/](http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-emergency-information/) which is updated regularly as needed.

**POINSETTIAS AVAILABLE FOR ORDER:**
If you wish to order poinsettias, please contact Captain Hale at 610-989-1506 or Ghale@vfmac.edu.

**3RD ANNUAL VFMA&C CHAPEL MISSIONS TRIP, JAMAICA:**
Chaplain, Captain Hale will be leading a team of 12 cadets on the 3rd annual Chapel Missions Trip to Jamaica during the Academy Spring Break (18 March – 6 April, 2015.) If your cadet is interested in participating in this exciting trip, please contact Captain Hale at 610-989-1506 or GHale@vfmac.edu

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Valley Forge Military Academy Foundation when you shop at AmazonSmile. Just click on this link to see how: [http://smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

And, did you know that Target is on track to give $1 billion for education by the end of 2015. Talk about extra credit! Use the REDcard, and Target will donate 1% of your REDcard purchases made at Target and Target.com to help the eligible K-12

2014-2015 CROSSED SABRES YEARBOOK ADS FOR SALE:
Purchase a yearbook ad for your business or a special message to your graduating Cadet!
Please contact CPT Irvan at jirvan@vfmac.edu or call him at 610-989-1417.
Deadline for final ads will be 3 February 2015.

PARENTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
For your information please see the PA BOD below:
Jaycary@verizon.net 610-918-0568

Parena and Eoin Mooney, Vice Chairs of the Parents Association, 2014-2015
Parena1970@gmail.com 302-897-7714

Bill and Nancy Minich, Secretary/Treasure of the Parents Association, 2014-2015
nminich@comcast.net 609-504-1154

TAC CONTACT INFORMATION:
Lafayette Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1273 or LHTAC@vfmac.edu
Younghusband Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1270 or YHTAC@vfmac.edu
Von Steuben Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1248 or VSTAC@vfmac.edu
Rose and Hocker Halls, the contact number is 610-989-1286 or HHTAC@vfmac.edu
Martin Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1280 or MHTAC@vfmac.edu

Please look in your Parents Handbook on Page 52-53 for additional contact information

HOTEL INFORMATION:
Please check the previous Parents Newsletters on www.vfmac.edu, click on Academy or College photo, click on Parents and Family, click on Newsletters for all current issues.

YOUR PLEBE/CADET IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY?
Just call the Cadet Store a few days ahead of the great event at 610-989-1542 or 1540 to place a cake or cookie cake order if you wish.

NEED COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS:
If you are looking for official or unofficial transcripts, please go to:
www.getmytranscripts.com
If you are looking for enrollment verification, please go to:
www.studentclearing.org.

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