Dear Friends of the Forge,

Valley Forge Military Academy and College

is an international leadership institute providing a world class military style education focused on developing its students to achieve full intellectual, physical, moral and leadership potential.

Valley Forge Military Academy is a private, independent college preparatory school for young men in grades 7-12. Committed to growing the whole person, the Academy develops individuals to be fully prepared for the challenges and responsibilities of becoming citizen leaders.

Valley Forge Military College, known as the Military College of Pennsylvania™, is a private co-ed two-year college offering AA and ABA degrees. It is one of only four in the nation and the only school in the northeast to offer an Early Commissioning Program.

Our Mission is to develop individuals to be fully prepared for the responsibilities and challenges of being citizen leaders. We produce graduates who are strong in intellectual, physical, moral and leadership potential.

Our Vision is to be a shining beacon, calling young people from around the world to achieve their full intellectual, physical, moral and leadership potential.

Our Philosophy is to develop the whole person within an integrated academic and military environment. Our tightly structured and supervised Cadet-led community helps to inculcate a deep, enduring commitment to responsible and informed citizenship in a democratic society.

It would be easy for all of us to reflect on the challenges we are facing. It is perhaps more beneficial to be grateful for success in the face of those challenges. You have made that possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support and the confidence you have placed in us to continue providing the best military education available to the Cadets entrusted to our care. With the support of VFMAC’s friends, nearly $1.5 million was raised in 2019-2020 to expand and improve the school’s excellent programs.

Our Cadets are our lifeblood. They represent the success of The Forge and our covenant to shape their future. The 92nd Corps of Cadets returned in FY 2019 to a campus much improved thanks to your generosity.

Then in March of 2020, VFMAC was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With much uncertainty in the spring, our students, faculty, and staff shifted priorities and made a swift transition to online learning and virtual student services. Within three days of the Cadets leaving campus, VFMAC had established virtual classrooms so their education continued uninterrupted – an accomplishment made possible through the new technology and the adaptive capabilities of our educators.

With perseverance, Cadets completed their academic year and the Class of 2020 graduated – virtually but on time. Despite COVID-19, our mission remains the same. And having overcome the unforeseen, we are stronger and more confident of our vision for the future.

You are enabling our campus to meet the needs of military boarding education now and well into the future. Capital improvements in security, technology, and facilities, as well as advanced curriculum, and boarding improvements are welcomed changes here.

The Rifle Range has been refurbished, the Boodle has been renovated, Shannon Hall is air conditioning. There is a surveillance system in Mellon Hall and controlled entry to other campus buildings. Three new servers enable campus-wide virtualization providing ease in remote teaching as well as faster and more reliable service, and new classrooms and workout space has been added.

While the pandemic remains something to handle, it is not a distraction to our mission to develop every student to achieve his and her full potential. Instilling a military style education is a successful model enabling VFMAC graduates to become citizen leaders in business, education, military and government.

Vision 2020 & Beyond is our long view with an eye toward the 2028 Centennial of VFMAC. While change is necessary, the roots here run deep. Then, now, and always, we are focused on providing the very best military style education anywhere to develop future leaders of our global society.

While steeped in rich tradition, The Forge can’t operate as it has in past. As we continue to mold students with the Five Cornerstones, we are doing so in a modern and strategic manner to lead us into the future.

With your gifts we continue to look for ways to improve Cadet life and the educational experience in both The Academy and College. The staff and enrollment is right-sized enabling smaller classroom environments, improving faculty to student ratio. Remote and unused sections of the campus are being evaluated for how best to be used in the future to better enhance VFMAC.

Some of our goals for 2021 include new furniture in the barracks, improved WiFi, athletic fields, completion of a security project, among others.

We are so grateful for your ongoing engagement and support. You are the shining examples for the current Corps of Cadets and those who will follow. It is a privilege to provide this report to you and share just how your gifts are impacting Cadet life and learning.

As you live into the Five Cornerstones of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, thank you for your leadership in the world, your confidence in VFMAC, and your commitment to the future of this institution.

Sincerely,

Col. Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy and College
What Your Gifts Made Possible

Providing the highest level of military education at VFMAC exceeds the funds received from Cadet tuition. As our generous benefactors, you have enabled many advancements to the institution which directly benefit the Corps of Cadets. By strengthening the educational programs and facilities, you are girding the institution’s future.

Among the Improvements are:

• Elimination of all long-term debt
• Regained ownership of the on-campus apartments for our College Cadets
• Completion of many independent campus-wide improvements made possible by the The Alumni Voice (TAV) Regiment
• Awarding of a $50,000 Hearst Grant to strengthen our STEM program
• Establishing summer educational trips to Normandy, France & London, UK planned for Summer 2021
• Entering a partnership to open the Valley Forge Academy Qatar in Qatar, UAE
• Contracting with the U.S. Army Cadet Command to host ROTC Basic and Advanced Camps on our campus
• Reinstitution of the Legacy Giving Program, dormant for more than 15 years
• Creation of an eSports Team
• Implementation of security in Shannon Hall and Mellon Hall made possible by a PDE Safe School Grant & Security fundraiser
• Installation of air conditioning in Shannon Hall
• Opening of on-time and in-person classes for both the Academy and College amidst a pandemic

“Thank you for your ongoing support and the confidence you have placed in us to continue providing the best military education available to the Cadets entrusted to our care. With the support of VFMAC’s friends, nearly $1.5 million was raised in 2019-2020 to expand and improve the school’s excellent programs.”

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Distribution of Fundraising Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>$14,450.00</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of income:
- Scholarships 35%
- Unrestricted 10%
- Facilities & Maintenance 5%
- Cadet Life 2%
- Miscellaneous 1%
- Academy 1%
- College 1%
- Other 2%

Vision, 2020, and Beyond
The technical upgrades and overhaul of the facility have a direct and positive impact on the Cadets’ morale.

Paul M. Lea IV, M.S., Ph.D. ’87, ’89C
Dean of the Academy

TECHNOLOGY

Efficient and effective technology is the linchpin to education at VFMAC. Advancements made before the pandemic enabled a seamless adjustment to online learning.

With your gifts, the Boodle underwent a complete rewiring installation of new cabling to support Cadet entertainment and additional security. The technical upgrades and overhaul of the facility have a direct and positive impact on the Cadets’ morale.

Q1, formerly the home of the president, was repurposed from a residence to office space and an entertainment venue. This allows the premier facility to welcome candidates for admission and provide a social place for faculty, parents, and alumni functions. In collaboration with Dell to develop a newly designed virtual server, the campus has been fully virtualized.

Outdated physical servers have been replaced with three state-of-the-art servers enabling more reliable and faster service across the campus. These changes resulted in cost savings by consuming less space and energy while eliminating the need for external housing.

The campus audio network is currently being refreshed allowing campus-wide communication in barracks, classrooms and all out-buildings.

A new campus printer vendor enables cloud based printing allowing for Cadets and faculty to print from their own devices as well as reduce environmental impact and paper use by monitoring printer use.

SECURITY

Shannon Hall, the education building for the Academy, has been air conditioned, improving the learning environment for Cadets. The improved environment enables Cadets to remain in complete uniform while learning in comfort during the hotter summer months. Further, behavior has improved and without the discomfort, Cadets’ attention is more alert and learning has improved.

New and more comfortable benches in Shannon Hall provide a gathering place for Cadets prior to and in between classes. The older benches have been refreshed and are now in the Guidance office and Lee Hall.

New cardkey security access doors provide added security for the Shannon Hall academic building offering greater assurances of safety to parents and Cadets. Both Shannon and Mellon Halls now house new surveillance systems, further improving security. Upgrades are underway at the McMaster Center and phase two security upgrades will continue campus-wide.

SECURITIES

Boodle

Cadets need a place to unwind and relax. The overhaul of the Boodle has been well received by Cadets who are now enjoying new gaming tables, large and high definition televisions, and improved and faster WiFi.

ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

“We are fortunate to have such support from our donors. When they entrust us with a gift, we want them to know every initiative must be linked to one or more of the Five Cornerstones,” said Paul M. Lea IV, M.S., Ph.D. ’87, ’89C, Dean of the Academy. “If we can’t match expenditures with at least one Cornerstone, the project or program is categorized as a wish and not a need to have. We are responsible to our donors and spend their contributions as they would want us to.”

Experiential learning is as impactful as lessons taught in a classroom. With a generous annual gift to the History department, Cadets have been able to travel to the Gettysburg National Military Park for the past three years. In appreciation, the teachers and students share their experiences with the donor.

Through significant annual gifts, specifically for the Arts at VFMAC, the Academy has been able to present two plays (South Pacific & Guys & Dolls) with students performing, building sets, and learning about lighting and all aspects of performance art.

In keeping with VFMAC’s STEM education focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), a Maker Space is in development to enable hands-on curriculum teaching and building of robotics and other engineering projects, in part, by a grant received from the Hearst Foundation. Augmenting the STEM program, completion of a McGraw-Hill online learning package on Anatomy, Physiology, Marine Biology and Physical Science has been fully integrated into in-person learning. Gifts provided fish tanks, tank accessories, and fish to the Marine Biology segment.

A new Life Skills curriculum has been added to include leadership, military customs and etiquette, interpersonal skills, cooking, DIY instruction, personal finance, first aid & CPR, among others to help Cadets develop day-to-day know-how.

“One-third of our successful Cadets have come from schools where they were determined to be unable to succeed,” said Dr. Lea, Dean of the Academy. “What they really needed was the smaller classroom environment and individual instruction like that here at VFMAC. The support of our donors enables us to help all students reach even beyond their full potential.”
ESPORTS
With face to face competition curtailed by COVID-19, the new VFMAC esports Program provides a highly requested varsity competitive activity that may be done safely in the absence of conventional school sports. With a generous donation, VFMAC acquired six custom desktops and gaming computers, and created an esports arena for Cadets. Using popular videogames such as Fortnite, Madden NFL 21, NBA 2K, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, and more, our Cadets compete nationally as an official school team in the High School Esports League against other high school and middle school esports teams.

More than just video games, the team members receive coaching and are taught teamwork and problem solving strategies, relevant skills in technology, and time management skills. Team performance in the first-ever Fall season was strong with one Cadet earning a spot in the Fortnite national competition, and another two placing in the top 15 percent nationally in their respective games.

Not to be dismissed as just video games, esports has a direct connection to military education, and with more than 130 colleges in the U.S. now offering Collegiate-level esports programs, there are scholarship and recruitment opportunities available for top performing esports athletes. In addition, video gaming parallels the military movement to remote action and cyber combat. The U.S. Army is now competing in esports today.

BEYOND ESPORTS
Cadets’ interest in sports today has evolved beyond football and baseball. There is greater interest in overall physical fitness. In response, VFMA has established clubs for power lifting, rifle, drill team, and competitive intramurals like basketball and floor hockey that will change with the season.

IN GENERAL
With support from P(arent) Company and restricted donations, specific course projects and instructional supplies plus Senior Cadet lunches and morale-boosting Cadet Snack Bags are welcomed and beneficial.

SCHOLARSHIPS
While the value of a VFMAC military education is immeasurable, the tuition may be outside the comfort level for some Cadet families. Through the generosity of VFMAC benefactors, including businesses which take advantage of tax credits, tuition supplements are available to some Cadets with financial need. The gifts have a direct and life-long impact.

A current United States Military Academy at West Point Cadet came to VFMAC as a mid-year Cadet in his junior year. He credits the scholarship and VFMA education for preparing him for the United States Military Academy at West Point and helping him drive his life goals to serve the U.S.

“West Point was a dream that would have never happened had I not attended VFMAC.”

- Aleksandre Jolia

Several cadets are benefiting from the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarships, intended to encourage development of the extraordinary, like the extraordinary man whose memory the scholarships honor, they are available to academically able students in grades 9-11, who demonstrate good citizenship, desire leadership roles, and have financial need.

“Cory Stein Memorial Scholarships are awarded to enable admission for well-qualified VFMA candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend. It is a pleasure to see the impact of a VFMA education on these recipients.”

- Ken Stein (Father of the late Cory Stein)
APARTMENTS
Fiber optic cable was installed in the re-acquired apartments to enable wireless access, house a new campus safety office and provide additional residential space for college students.

TECHNOLOGY
A strong faculty network and strong IT support made the switch to online learning possible so that Cadets could graduate on time, despite the disruption caused by COVID-19.

CYBERSECURITY
With enhanced facilities, VFMC has earned the distinction as the only junior college in the U.S. to offer an undergraduate certificate in cybersecurity certified in excellence by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security. With the National Guard aiming to have all troops trained in cybersecurity within the next few years, VFMC’s facilities can support that training.

ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CENTER
An indoor physical performance center with turf provides an all-weather, all-season training facility for ROTC Cadets. Improved teaching facilities, athletic fields and the obstacle course contribute to physical readiness for all Cadets.

LIBRARY RESOURCES
An upgrade to the library computer lab, book collection, study space, and overall library facilities provided for improved learning for College Cadets.

MCMASTER CENTER
Year one of a two year grant enabled completion of the McMaster Center, providing classroom space for national security and cybersecurity education. Common areas have become a place for socialization and collaboration on class work.

ENGINEERING PROGRAM
VFMC is one of only two military junior colleges to offer an engineering program, and the only one to require upper level math and engineering coursework. With financial support from donors, the program benefitted from new lab materials and classroom support materials for Introduction to Engineering, Calculus 3, and Statics.

GENERAL LABORATORIES
Both physics and biology labs benefited from supplies for advanced hands on learning. Two College Cadets have received scholarships from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers.

“With support, we can maintain and expand our facilities to lead in military education.”
- Robert F. Smith, Ph.D., MEd., Provost, Valley Forge Military College

AMONG THE COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS MADE POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS DONATIONS:

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS
As the Military College of Pennsylvania*, VFMC bears distinction as the only Early Commissioning Program in the northeast United States. Graduating with an Associate’s degree, the men and women are commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army Reserve or National Guard, and serve as platoon leaders in reserve units while completing their Bachelor’s degree at another college or university.

“The rigors of developing military leadership skills in tandem with pursuing a degree requires extreme mental discipline and strong physical development,” said Robert F. Smith, Ph.D., MEd., provost, Valley Forge Military College. “The support of VFMC’s donors enable us to maintain the highest standards in education and training, equipping our graduates to face all of life’s challenges in and out of the military.”

Top level classroom facilities, laboratories and fitness areas contribute to the success VFMC graduates experience – much of which is made possible by contributions of donors.

“Our job is to prepare our graduates to move on to other colleges and universities to complete their degrees and also serve as platoon leaders in Army Reserve and National Guard units,” said Dr. Smith. “With support, we can maintain and expand our facilities to lead in military education.”

*Valley Forge Military College
Since its founding in 1928, VFMAC’s mission has focused on educating the whole person with an intent on developing citizens to lead society in the future. It has done so by focusing on its Five Cornerstones.

LEADERSHIP
Cadets learn how to lead by first learning how to follow. The Corps is led by upperclassmen who exemplify individual and corporate responsibility to develop the confidence in each one’s abilities to become future citizen leaders.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Cadets receive the best education possible. Honors and advanced level curriculums along with STEM programs combine with the challenges of critical thinking enable them to navigate and lead as they advance their education.

Character Development
Events occurring while on campus caused him to reach deep for personal motivation. “Everyone on campus was challenged by some sad turns of events and many of us, myself included, had to evaluate why we were at VFMC. While we might have wanted to walk away, most of us recognized that individual and corporate motivation could pull us through—and it did.” Malak acknowledges he has VFMC on a pedestal. “My two years at the College is the essence of who I have become. It is not a regular college experience and as a result, I set high standards for myself.”

Personal Motivation
After graduating from VFMC, Malak went on to Northern Connecticut University and graduated with a B.S. in Corporate Marketing, Criminology and Sociology, while continuing his service in the U.S. Army. The challenging events at VFMC became the catalyst for his first job after graduating. Malak was a behavioral therapist for students ages K-12. “We worked with students’ cognitive impairments and behavioral traits to eliminate certain behaviors before they became problematic.” Shortly thereafter, Malak parlayed his Military Police experience into a position with corporate security. Now 25, Malak is responsible for all North American corporate security for international cosmetics giant, L’Oreal USA Corporation. “It is hard, even for me to believe I have been able to do so much in 25 years,” Malak said.

I credit VFMC for making me who I am. Without VFMC, I would have never accomplished so much.”
- Marco Malak ’15C

Physical Development

“Leadership environment demands something more—the something more I knew I wanted.”
- Marco Malak ’15C

“I credit VFMC for making me who I am. Without VFMC, I would have never accomplished so much.”
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Malak attended VFMC from 2013-2015 and recalls the pressure he felt as a student. “This is a demanding place where expectations are high,” he said.

What made excellence achievable was the commitment the classmates had to one another. “Everyone wanted to excel and we worked with each other as a team—nobody succeeded unless we all succeeded. Being here was the start of being something more than just myself,” Malak added.

Reflecting on the Five Cornerstones, Malak says each one together has made him who he has become. “Wearing the uniform symbolizes being responsible for those around us,” he said. “Holding a title of Cadet is a responsibility and it developed in me the highest degree of character.”

Marco Malak ’15C knew he wanted something more from college than others might. Having enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17, Malak served as a Military Police Officer in Niantic, CT. When it was time to select a college, the Military College of Pennsylvania™ (VFMC) was the right place.
PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Through teamwork, organizational pride, and setting and achieving personal goals, VFMA Cadets learn to instill individual and collective excellence in academic and personal goals.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Integrity, honesty, and service are attributes of the highest of moral constitution. At VFMA, Cadets learn the value of those characteristics from leadership and from one another.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Fitness and a lifetime of physical wellness are essential for a Cadet to manage whatever is in his future. "There is a brotherhood among the Corps of Cadets and I am proud to be a part of it," Faltas says. "The life skills taught here have made me better able to manage the stress in my future."

Reflecting on himself before and after VFMA, Faltas says he is a completely different person. "Before VFMA, I did things my own way and expected others to do things my way, too," he says. "But after coming to VFMA, I have learned there are better ways to be. I know that getting things done means understanding the needs of others and being considerate of others around me."

Faltas embraces the Five Cornerstones which life and education at VFMA is based. He says the hardest one to acquire may not be the most important. For him, Character Development is the most important. "Without that, there's no way you can develop academic excellence, personal motivation, physical development, and leadership without the right character, without being the best you can be," said Faltas. "There is no least important Cornerstone, he added. "Each one is essential to get you where you want to go in life."

My experience here at VFMA will help me achieve that as it has instilled in me academic discipline, problem-solving skills, and human relations skills to lead," said Faltas. "I have had a great experience here from the brotherhood among the Corps of Cadets and all that the school provides and demands from us."

When Cadet Samy Faltas ‘21 came to VFMA in 7th grade, he did not want to be here. Leaving behind friends, family, and a known way of life for the unknown was daunting. Now a senior and soon to graduate, Faltas says he is glad he came.

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Ironically, the hardest Cornerstone for Faltas is also the easiest. "Hands down, Personal Motivation is the hardest. Sometimes I lack the strength to get motivated when the alternatives like relaxing or sleeping are so much more appealing," he said. "But it's also the easiest because without the personal motivation, it is impossible to live out all the other Cornerstones – and that is not acceptable to me or here at VFMA."

With eyes toward the future, Faltas’ goals include finishing strong at VFMA and entering a college offering a fine architecture program. From there, Faltas says he wants to be as successful as he can be in his life. "My experience here at VFMA will help me achieve that as it has instilled in me academic discipline, problem-solving skills, and human relations skills to lead," said Faltas. "I have had a great experience here from the brotherhood among the Corps of Cadets and all that the school provides and demands from us."

For Ethan Brewer ‘21, it started with structure. Or in his case, a lack of structure. In the traditional classrooms of public school, Brewer wasn’t finding the parameters he needed to help him learn who he was, how he could be better, and ultimately figure out what his life path and career plan might look like. All that changed when he arrived at VFMA in 2017.

"Here there is structure," Brewer said. "Structure for each individual and structure for what we are as a Corps of Cadets. And with that structure comes trust in each Cadet’s ability to have responsibilities and to learn from failure."

Brewer says he has learned from plenty of mistakes but one which stands out has been key as he develops his leadership capabilities. "When I came here, I just would yell until something got done but all that did was cause people to tune out and lose respect and enthusiasm along the way. I know there is a better way."

He credits the military model with Cadet leadership as the key for collaboration and unity. "Having learned the structure of military leadership, Brewer says, "with a consistent and disciplined routine. Our successful routine here is very easily implemented during the daily early morning physical training for all Cadets. The 0600 wake up doesn't allow much room to slip back into sleep."

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In 2028, VFMAC will celebrate its Centennial. It is to be a celebration of 100 years of educating those who become the country’s and the world’s finest leaders.

When VFMAC began in the early days of the 20th century, its intent was to provide the finest military-style education available in the U.S. Since then, it has graduated many thousands of Cadets who have gone on to some of the most prestigious colleges, universities, and military academies in the country.

At the Military College of Pennsylvania, thousands of college students have earned officer status through the Early Commissioning Program alongside of their Associate’s degree. On completing their Bachelor’s degree at a four year institution, they become the country’s and the world’s finest leaders.

Much like everything in the world, education today is different than it was when VFMAC was founded. What remains unchanged is the commitment to provide the finest education in a military model to instill those in our care with tools they need to lead the nation and the world.

Your generosity continues to make that possible. We look forward to celebrating this 100 year milestone with you.

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