



VALLEY FORGE MILITARY
ACADEMY & COLLEGE



VISION 2023 & BEYOND



VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY & COLLEGE

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY & COLLEGE is an international leadership institute providing a world-class military style education focused on developing its Cadets to achieve full intellectual, physical, 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 only one of four in the country and only one located in the northeast to offer an Early Commissioning Program.

Our Mission is to develop individuals to be fully prepared for the responsibilities of being citizen leaders. We produce graduates who are strong in mind, body, and soul.

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 be responsible and informed citizenship in a democratic society.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FORGE,

Walking around campus over the last several months, there is evidence of considerable change. There are new walkways, new fences, new apartments, new weight rooms -- the list continues.

The change reflects the commitment and the confidence you have in Valley Forge Military Academy & College. You have committed your time, your talent and your financial resources to forward the mission of The Forge.

You have listened to the ambitious goals we have outlined as we approach the century mark of this institution. You have appropriately questioned the vision and then confidently supported it to become reality.

You have embraced the legacy of educating young men in the Academy and young men and women in the College to be our global society's leaders of the future. You have enabled the vision of this leadership team. For that we are grateful.

Over the last year, more than \$1.7 has been raised to support our mission. The capital projects have enabled new living facilities for College Cadets. Beautiful new apartments established a new level of independence befitting College Cadets. The five buildings surrounding a newly landscaped lawn created a quad-like area common on most college campuses.

A new walkway marks a cleaner and safer path from the main campus to the Quad, and a new and beautiful fence line blends with the high-end fencing in the community, around the campus and at the adjacent golf club.

The main campus benefitted from landscaping to remove overgrown garden areas, removal of dead trees, and trimming of remaining trees and shrubbery. The work has revealed some hidden monuments beneath the overgrowth.

Gifts of two automobiles have provided safe means of transportation. The gifts enabled funds raised from Giving Tuesday to purchase a van for Cadet transportation.

And the P-Company (Parent) has donated considerable financial resources and sweat equity to the refurbishment of the Kunch lot so that one of the first places seen by visitors presents the same high-level impression appropriate for an institution such as VFMAC.

Other changes align with the capital improvements. The 95th Corps of Cadets is among the finest Corps we have seen in recent years. It is one fine group of young men and young women. They reflect tightened admissions standards to select and admit only those individuals who have or are able to develop into individuals willing to embrace the Five Cornerstones which are the hallmark of a VFMAC education.

The VFMAC model of education and its near-century of success is being recognized on a global level. With the Valley Forge Academy in Doha, Qatar growing over the last year, VFMAC's visibility and success is spreading in only the most positive of ways.

VFMC had the opportunity during the summer to reaffirm its excellence providing a junior college education to Cadets in their first two years of their college education. Renewed accreditation further solidifies the role VFMC has in launching well-educated Citizen Leaders and newly minted officers in the US Army and National Guard.



Our ability to embrace a vision, make hard choices for real change, and then to work for ongoing success is possible only because of your generosity, leadership, and support.”

- Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College

Yes, there is a lot of change here at VFMAC. It is constant and it must be as we seek new levels of excellence each day. Our ability to embrace a vision, make hard choices for real change, and then to work for ongoing success is possible only because of your generosity, leadership and support. Thank you for your commitment and confidence in VFMAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart B. Helgeson".

Col Stuart B. Helgeson,
USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College





YOUR GIFTS MATTER

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College



Your generosity funds the education of deserving Cadets who would otherwise be unable to acquire such a high-level education as that provided here at VFMAC. More than \$1.7 has been raised and all of it benefits the Corps of Cadets. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to provide the best military-style education available anywhere.”

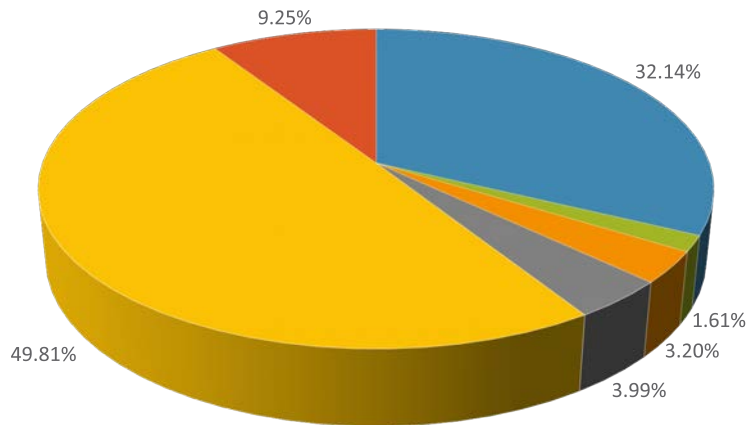
- Col Stuart B. Helgeson, USMCR (Ret)
President, Valley Forge Military Academy & College



Helping our Cadets achieve academic excellence requires us to uphold exceptionally high standards for our Academy teachers, for our College professors, for our support staff, and for all the services provided to Cadets, faculty and staff. The cost of excellence is more than tuition alone can cover.

Your gifts make it possible for many VFMAC Cadets to seek and achieve excellence. Without the generous contributions you make to VFMAC each year, they would be unable to attend here.

Collectively, we make a commitment to our Cadets and your ongoing financial support makes a very big difference to our Cadets and their families. We promise to be good stewards of your trust.



Alumni	\$552,699.53
Cadet	\$27,680.00
Facilities	\$55,000.00
In-Kind	\$68,691.36
Scholarship	\$856,759.62
Unrestricted	\$159,059.70

TOTAL: \$1,719,890.21

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Virtually all visitors to our campus comment on how beautiful it is. As the current keepers of the place, it is our responsibility to maintain the grounds and facilities to enhance the education and living quarters for our Corps of Cadets. After nearly 100 years, changes and improvements happen annually but only with your generous support.

COLLEGE WALKWAY AND FENCE

The walkway and fence line along Radnor Street Road across from the campus and in front of the newly refurbished college apartments had fallen into disrepair. While safe to walk on, the walkway was uneven and not visually appealing.



The only thing indicating a fence line had ever been in place along the walkway and Radnor Street Road were the remaining fence posts. The actual fencing no longer existed.

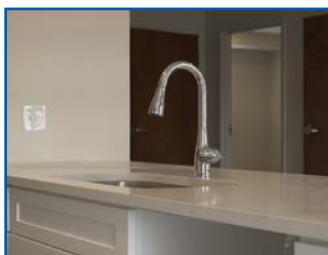
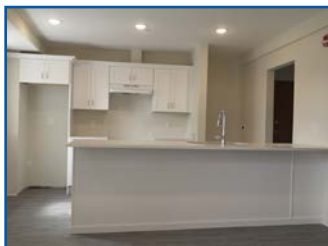
A gift of \$50,000 from Dr. William H. Martoccia, Jr., '73, 75C enabled the removal of the old walkway and installation of a new clean sidewalk along the front of the apartments. The old fence posts have been removed and new wrought iron fencing has been installed along the walkway. The new fencing matches the campus-wide fence line as well as that which surrounds the adjacent golf club.

This gift and these improvements elevate the aesthetics of this portion of the campus. We could not be more grateful for the donation that made these changes possible.

BARRACKS APARTMENTS

When families entrust their children to our care, our care extends beyond the school day. The Corps of Academy Cadets live in two barracks and are in the care of TAC officers – experienced individuals specifically engaged to Teach, Advise, and Counsel Cadets.

In an effort to augment supervision in the barracks, two residential apartments in Martin and Younghusband Halls have been refurbished thanks to a \$150,000 donation by Mr. Richard Hocker, '64. The apartments have state-of-the-art kitchens and bathrooms, spacious closets and comfortable living space. New tenants will soon occupy the apartments and provide an additional adult presence in the barracks.





FIVE CORNERSTONES

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College

Since being established in 1928, VFMAC's mission has focused on educating the whole person to develop leaders for tomorrow's global society. A VFMAC education is based on Five Cornerstones. Academic Excellence; Character Development; Physical Development; Personal Motivation; and Leadership. These Cadets exemplify the Cornerstones. Here are their stories.



A VFMAC education is based on Five Cornerstones: Academic Excellence, Character Development, Physical Development, Personal Motivation and Leadership.”

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Cadet Nicholas Wu is a 9th grade Cadet from Hinsdale, IL. Carrying five honors level courses, two math courses, and a foreign language, he maintains a 102.2 percent GPA. Cadet Wu has a hurry-up plan to load as many high school classes into his 9th and 10th grade years, to reserve 11th and 12th grades for college-level classes. The opportunity to enroll in college classes as a high school student is one of the reasons Cadet Wu chose to attend VFMA. His favorite class is history with simultaneous geometry and algebra II presenting the most challenge. Cadet Wu should have no trouble reaching his goals including attending his family legacy school, the University of Chicago.



PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Cadet Natan Abramson is an 11th grade Cadet from Villanova, PA. He is not someone who needs to be told twice to do something. That was not always the case. After coming to VFMA in 10th grade, Cadet Abramson learned to set goals, improve his grades, study hard, do his work, and seek to achieve rank among the Corps of Cadets. He now exudes personal motivation and is an example to other Cadets. His fellow Cadets are top of mind and he speaks up for the Corps' greater good. In addition to Corps responsibilities and his studies, Cadet Abramson is a member of the cross country and swim teams, and he is always working to improve his times.



LEADERSHIP

Cadet Landon Lewis, a 12th grade VFMA Cadet from Gilford, NH, has always known that he wanted to pursue a military career. As Battalion Sergeant Major to the mounted battalion, he exhibits leadership skills which will serve him well in the US Army. Cadet Lewis lives into the leadership role demonstrating characteristics of a buttoned-up Cadet – leading by example. A mentor to younger Cadets, he provides practical advice about VFMA success. Cadet Lewis has been accepted to Valley Forge Military College and will continue his education as part of the Early Commissioning Program here.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

From Mexico City, Mexico, Cadet Fernando Esteban is a 12th grade VFMA Cadet who demonstrates a strong moral character. He credits VFMA with helping him improve his own character and he wants to help others become the best Cadets they can be. His fellow Cadets rely on him to help them think through situations, especially those which may be challenging. He carries his example into the community by doing community service including cleaning up the local area around VFMA. Cadet Esteban intends to study business management at Cabrini University in the fall.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Cadet Zion Mills from Philadelphia, PA is an 11th grade Cadet who excels at sports and is a valued member of any team. He competes in varsity football, soccer, and basketball and has been selected as a soccer all-star. Awesome on any field of play, his role on the sidelines and in the barracks is equally important. As 1st Sergeant of Bravo Company, Cadet Mills makes sure he establishes relationships with everyone, especially plebes to help them obtain the essential military bearing. Cadet Mills credits the sports program and especially the coaches, who have pushed him to become a leader in sports and all facets of his life.





ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS



Valley Forge Military Academy is marching to its century milestone. Since 1928, graduates have carried the prestige of a VFMA diploma into some of the most notable colleges and universities and then onto challenging military, government and corporate professions. Being a VFMA alum reflects the caliber of the individual holding the degree.

With rigorous rules for acceptance, those offered a position in the Corps of Cadets have already shown capabilities leaning in the direction of the Five Cornerstones. At VFMA, they expand those capabilities and become the complete person they are intended to be.

The philosophy of education has remained unchanged over the last near 100 years. An education here still:

- Provides young men with the opportunity to develop their full potential.
- Fosters a love of God and country.
- Assists in developing free but disciplined members of society.
- Prepares young men for life using the “Whole Man Concept” with its emphasis on an academic, character, physical and leadership education.



While only a small percentage of graduates choose a military career, the military environment and approach to education makes a difference. With its military structure, there is emphasis on discipline, duty and responsibility to develop leadership skills and respect for authority. Further, it provides a structured setting and nourishing atmosphere to help Cadets focus on learning.

Overarching the Five Cornerstones is the fundamental cornerstone of military approach: the framework that shapes the whole person. The military model offers individualized instruction with its low student to teacher ratio. Cadets requiring additional instruction are able to receive it; for those performing at higher grades, pathways are made so they can achieve their full potential beyond chronological grade levels.

Education at VFMA goes well beyond the books. Developing tomorrow’s leaders must include character, integrity, self-discipline, strength, and confidence – the mind, body and soul of the individual.

The Five Cornerstones have thrived and have stood the test of time. Our Cadets achieve Academic Excellence, as well as Physical Development, Personal Motivation, Character Development, and Leadership.

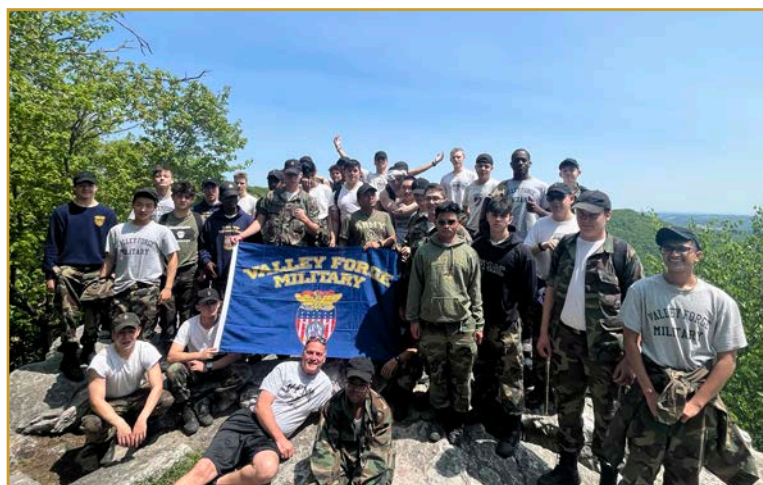


While traditions remain, VFMA is reaching in new directions. International experiential learning expeditions brought Cadets to Costa Rica and Quebec, Canada. An effort to seek grants has resulted in PA Department of Education funding to replace interior and exterior doors at Shannon Hall. VFMA has been approved to establish a JROTC program on campus for the 2023-2024 school year. Cadets continue to play a visible and vital role in the community around the campus.



Extensive community service initiatives enable Cadets to engage with the Veterans Administration Hospital, the Wayne Business District, and Radnor Parks and Recreation. And a tribute to the institution as a whole 10 VFMA Cadets from the Class of 2023 have applied and been accepted to Valley Forge Military College.

Corps by corps and year by year, what we do here is making a difference. It shows and it matters in the lives of the Cadets and the greater global community.





ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS



I am a better person for being here and have learned leadership is not about being the better man but helping to make those around you better.”

- Cadet Nathan Nantasai '23

THE CORY STEIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The late Cory Stein exemplified the extraordinary. It is in his name that his father, Mr. Ken Stein, established the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarships for Cadets who have the potential to become extraordinary young men. Currently, 13 Cadets are recipients of the Cory Stein Memorial Scholarships.

Mr. Stein is the administrator of the scholarship. The scholarships are available to any VFMA plebes and Cadets in grades 9-12 who demonstrate good academics and citizenship, who desire leadership roles within the Corps of Cadets, and have financial need. The scholarships enable those to attend VFMA whose families cannot afford to fully pay for attendance at the Academy.

HOCKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Richard Hocker, '64 established the Ethel Mae Hocker Foundation Scholarship in the name of his mother. Recognizing the value of a VFMA education, Mrs. Hocker took a job as a telephone operator, to earn the funds necessary for her son to attend. This Foundation's scholarships provide funding for five Cadets to attend the Academy.

In addition, an annual recurring grant to VFMA extends the benefits of the scholarships to the Academy's overall operations.

YOCUM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Yocum Scholarships are part of a perpetual trust. The annual gifts benefit 49 Cadets. Eligible candidates are those who demonstrate financial need aligned with academic standing and show an overall commitment to a VFMA education.

While every Cadet has a story, here are some of those describing how the scholarships have benefitted them.

NATHAN NANTASAI

When Cadet Nathan Nantasai arrived at VFMA in 11th grade, he knew his grades were not good and that he should and could be a better person, especially with the level of respect he showed toward his Mother. As a member of the 2023 graduating class, Cadet Nantasai has come a long way. With a GPA of 97.5, he has earned college level credits in three subjects and is preparing to enter Valley Forge Military College majoring in Cybersecurity.

“Being at VFMA literally enabled me to forge my future,” he said. “I am so

grateful that someone saw potential in me that was worth investing in. Saying thank you is not nearly enough.”

Cadet Nantasai says attending VFMA has changed him. “I have grown here and grown up here. I am no longer disrespectful to my Mother or others. I threw away my old life and have become someone better,” he said.

Cadet Nantasai intends to serve in the US Army and find a way to provide opportunities to others just like those provided to him. “I am a better

person for being here and have learned leadership is not about being the better man but helping to make those around you better.”

JEREMIAH FIGUEROA

Unlike most 9th graders, Cadet Jeremiah Figueroa wanted a military boarding high school experience to prepare him for college.

“I wanted to become more independent, learn how to be a leader, and make the right decisions,” he said. “Other schools would not have provided the same opportunities for my future as VFMA.”

VFMA has taught him discipline and the Five Cornerstones provide guidance to pull ahead and push through, and to be ready for life’s challenges. “VFMA is challenging in all the right sort of ways,” he said. “It requires discipline and I have learned that here.”

Cadet Figueroa is thankful for the financial support he has received. “Saying thank you is not enough. The best way for me to pay it forward is to become a success and not let down those who supported my education,” he said. After four years at VFMA, Cadet Figueroa is more than ready to attend Penn State University – Abington where he will study accounting.



“No other school would provide the chances for success like VFMA has. If someone has the opportunity to come here, he should,” he said.

JAVIER GONZALEZ

Growing up in Mexico, Cadet Javier Gonzalez listened to Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, ’46, his late grandfather and his stories about how VFMA made him into the man he became.

That was enough for Javier to want to complete his final two years of high school at VFMA. And now his story mirrors that of his grandfather’s. “It changed my life. I am a whole different person,” he said.

Cadet Gonzalez credits VFMA with improving his grades, level of physical fitness, and time management and leadership skills. He has earned the salutatorian spot, graduating second in the Class of 2023.

He is also the captain of the soccer team, the Rifle Club’s Sergeant at Arms, vice president of Student Council, a member of the National Honors Society, commander of Alpha Company, a member of the International Club and a kicker on the football team.

Cadet Gonzalez knows his scholarship is what has made all of this possible. “This scholarship has impacted my whole life. Always, every day, I will apply what I learned here to everything I do, and I can’t say thank you enough for what it has done for me,” he said.

Cadet Gonzalez will return to Mexico to study at Tecnologico de Monterrey.



VLADYSLAV BIBLYI

Cadet Vladyslav Biblyi was studying computer science at a post-secondary school in his home country of Ukraine when war came. Learning of a company which places students at US military schools, he tested and interviewed, and was accepted to VFMA.

“While I wanted to study in the US, I had not planned to do so at a military school,” he said. “It was clear that VFMA was a great place to study and continue my education.” The scholarship enabled him to do so. “Being selected for this scholarship has lightened the financial burden and allowed me to focus on learning,” he said.

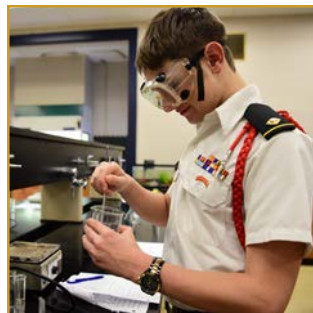
Cadet Biblyi had already incorporated elements of the Five Cornerstones into his life. An accomplished student, he was accustomed to academic excellence and physical fitness was part of his routine from childhood with Tae Kwon Do and kickboxing. But he knew there was more to challenge him.

“When I came here, I needed to reconsider life as I knew it and become part of a different family with others from all parts of the world,” he said. “I have become more disciplined, am developing my leadership skills, and learning to work as a member of a team.”

He knows he has a role to play in making the world better. “I want to help others and give back to the larger global community,” he said. “One day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals – just as this scholarship has helped me achieve mine.” Cadet Biblyi will graduate with the Class of 2023 and will attend Valley Forge Military College.

CADET LIFE

at Valley Forge Military Academy & College







COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

Established in 1935, seven years after VFMA, VFMC continues to educate future leaders. A number of distinctions set VFMC apart from other schools. Among them is the ability to continue to attract top-tier faculty as instructors to the Corps of Cadets. VFMC is a school benefiting from the Pennsylvania Military Academy Assistance Program (PMAAP): a bill establishing 10 new scholarships for residents of Pennsylvania to become commissioned officers in the Pennsylvania National Guard at VFMC.

With the diligent help and hard work of Senator Bob Mensch '56C and Col Stuart B. Helgeson, Senator Mensch was able to get the Bill passed before his retirement. Recruitment will occur this year for fall 2024.

In the last few years, VFMC has elevated its admissions standards to require higher levels of academic achievement among those it accepts. Nonetheless, VFMC achieved its recruiting goals for fall 2022. And for the first time since 2020, VFMC welcomed a winter plebe class in January 2023. In the last year, the school has earned reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

As one of only four schools in the nation and the only one located in the northeast, VFMC offers an Early Commissioning Program to those choosing to serve in the US Army or National Guard.



Graduates of the ECP commission as 2nd Lieutenants at graduation from VFMC – a full two years sooner than those in ROTC programs at four-year schools. VFMC Cadets stand out among all military junior colleges with its ROTC Ranger team finishing first among all military junior colleges in the Ranger Challenge. With an Associate degree, ECP Cadets serve as platoon leaders in reserve units while completing their Bachelor degrees at another college or university.

The majority of VFMC Cadets are enrolled in the ECP; others are Citizen Leaders. They partake in the same disciplined schedule as the ECP Cadets and will graduate with an Associate degree, going on to complete their Bachelor degree at a four-year school; they will not pursue a military career.

The unique model of Citizen Leaders learning side by side with ECP Cadets continues to be successful. “The Five Cornerstones are life lessons imbued in all Cadets, regardless of their military or non-military intentions” said Robert F. Smith, Ph.D., M.Ed., provost of VFMC. “Leaders, both military and citizen, are what we develop here and the VFMC education is evident throughout their lives long after graduating from here.”



Leaders, both military and citizen, are what we develop here and the VFMC education is evident throughout their lives.”

- Robert F. Smith, Ph.D., M.Ed.
Provost, Valley Forge Military College





After completing their Associate degree, Cadets go on to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US, as well as the service academies including the United States Military Academy at West Point. The majority of VFMC graduates earn acceptance to their first-choice follow-on school. Among them are Villanova University, Penn State University, Syracuse University, Widener University, Temple University, Liberty University, Florida Tech, Mississippi State University, among others.

While here, College Cadets can now enjoy apartment living thanks to generous donations which enabled renovation and upgrading to apartments and the grounds surrounding them. The new Quad area also has a new sidewalk and new fencing. This provides more independent living for College Cadets and offers a living experience much like those in non-military schools.

Other donations greatly benefit VFMC. The funds support ongoing experiential learning and enable Cadets to travel on Staff Rides, the visiting of historical and significant sites, covering travel costs, and museum entrance fees.

VFMC hosts an annual Women's Leadership Summit during Women's History month in March. The program invites guests from other regional schools and notable speakers to discuss advancement of women in our society. Twenty-two percent of VFMC Cadets are women.

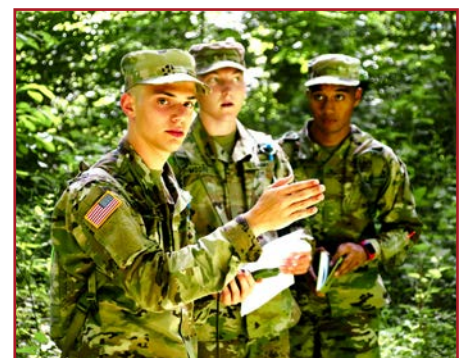
In 2023, VFMC began what is intended to be an annual National Security Symposium. High level panelists and keynote speakers share insights and understandings about global security matters and disaster planning and response. The symposium is an extension of the Security Studies and Cybersecurity majors and Emergency Management certificate.

The H.R. McMaster Center for Security Studies is named for VFMAC graduate Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster '80 and '17HC US Army retired. LTG McMaster served as the 26th National Security Advisor from 2017-2018. Generous donor support to the HR McMaster Center for Security Studies enable renown speakers to visit VFMC as part of the McMaster Speaker series.

Donations to the school enable purchase of goods and equipment intended to further enhance the Cadets' education. All Cadets, those in ECP and Citizen Leaders, benefit from instruction about weaponry and the proper and safe use of weapons.

The Rifle Club practices on a range located on campus and is open to all Cadets interested in the sport. A generous donation to the club has enabled the purchase of ammunition further enhancing the reality of shooting and weaponry education.

The 86th graduating class of VFMC and all those who come after are benefitting from the gracious gifts of VFMAC donors. These gifts are linked directly to the lifelong success of VFMC graduates.





COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



“

I have gained valuable skills and confidence that I could not have received elsewhere.”

- Cadet Kelsi Sweeder

As VFMC Cadets continue their education at follow-on schools, they benefit from scholarships that offset those costs. STEM-oriented majors (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are popular at VFMC and Cadets benefit not only from the advanced study here but STEM category scholarships available to them.

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) offers scholarships to those who will continue STEM-oriented majors. As an organization, SAME cultivates Cadet engagement in an effort to inspire, encourage and enable youth to pursue STEM careers with the intention of developing a technical capacity that the US needs to remain globally competitive.

TWO GRADUATING CADETS ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF SAME SCHOLARSHIPS.

KELSI SWEEDER

Cadet Kelsi Sweeder will graduate from VFMC with an Associate of Science degree in Engineering. From Somers Point, NJ, she will head south with her degree and a SAME scholarship to continue her education at Mississippi State University, majoring in civil engineering.

Concurrent with her studies at MSU, Cadet Sweeder will serve in the Mississippi National Guard as an Armor Platoon Leader.

Ultimately, she intends to enter active duty after obtaining her Bachelor's degree and plans to use her civil engineering training in service to the country. "I am grateful for this SAME scholarship as it enables me to continue my education

and achieve my goals to become a civil engineer," said Cadet Sweeder. "The funds from this scholarship offset the costs of attending MSU."

Looking forward, Cadet Sweeder acknowledges her experience at VFMC has prepared her well for the next few years and her career beyond that.

"VFMAC has taught me the importance and characteristics of a leader. I have gained valuable skills and confidence that I could not have received elsewhere," she said.

LUI JAY LAGASCA

From El Paso, Texas, Cadet Lui Jay Lagasca will graduate from VFMC with an Associate of Science degree in Engineering. His follow-on school is Norwich University, The Military College of Vermont. He will pursue a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering.

Having earned a SAME scholarship, Cadet Lagasca will invest the funds in his ongoing education at Norwich and in the military. "The scholarship means a lot as it shows my competence and understanding in the field of engineering is noted and that those with experience in the field see my potential," said Cadet Lagasca. "It shows a trust that I will meet their expectations in providing support and infrastructure in communities in our developing world."

Cadet Lagasca says the challenges of a VFMC education have prepared him well. "VFMC has given me resiliency to the unexpected and the will to adapt to sudden changes," he said. Long term in his career, Cadet Lagasca plans to work at the Pentagon.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LIEUTENANT GENERAL H.R. MCMASTER US ARMY (Ret) '80, '17C (Honorary)

VFMAC has a legacy of leaders – graduates of both VFMA and VFMC who have gone on to do great things in military service, business, education, and government. Among them is Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster '80, '17C (honorary).

After graduating from VFMA, Lt. Gen. McMaster attended the US Military Academy at West Point and served in the US Army, retiring after 34 years in 2018. During his career, Lt. Gen. McMaster commanded troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, earning a Silver Star for his leadership as commanding officer during a battle known as the Battle of 73 Easting. Outnumbered, Lt. Gen. McMaster's lead tank and nine others in his command destroyed 28 Iraqi tanks in fewer than 23 minutes, suffering no losses. The encounter is heavily studied and the subject of a variety of books.

Lt. Gen. McMaster served as the 25th assistant to the president for the Department of National Security Affairs and currently is the Fouad and Michelle Ajami Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, the Bernard and Susan Liautaud Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute, and lecturer at Stanford University's School of Business. He is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Arizona State University. He earned a Ph.D. in military history from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and is the author of several books, essays, articles, and book reviews on leadership, history, and the future of warfare.

In a conversation with Lt. Gen. McMaster, he said the foundation he received at VFMA was instrumental in all which came after. "I learned invaluable lessons at VFMA that shaped my career and life afterwards, especially those lessons involving leadership," he said. **Of the Five Cornerstones which are the basis of all learning at VFMA, he said they still hold true for him today. Personal Motivation is one that helped him see you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.**

"VFMA showed me how to set goals and then stretch beyond them to meet those challenges," he said. "It helps Cadets see how they can be the author of their future."

On a military style education, he said the discipline makes a difference. He said, "Without it, you can just go through the motions as compared to making the most out of life and contributing as much as you can to fellow citizens and all of humanity."

Leadership, he said, stands apart. "All of the Cornerstones cross over one another but if any one was to stand out, it would be leadership. Building leaders is something VFMAC does better than any other military school."



**Building leaders
is something
VFMAC does
better than any
other military
school."**

- Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster
US Army (Ret) '80, '17C (Honorary)



METHODS OF GIVING

VFMAC's benefactors always have the institution top of mind. Their gifts, large and small, come in a variety of ways. Each is welcome, put to good use and always is for the benefit of our Cadets. We are so grateful for the care and vision with which these gifts are shared. Here are some of the ways to give.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

This occasion is a premier event and draws alumni from across the decades. After a shotgun start, foursomes take to the links for a game to benefit Cadets. In addition to the playing fees, named sponsors and silent auction giveaways serve to make the Golf Classic one of the most important fundraisers VFMAC does.

In 2022, more than \$74,000 was raised. Riley, Riper, Hollin and Colagreco was the Naming sponsor with a gift of \$20,000. With donations of \$10,000 each, Title sponsors included VFMAC's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John English and Heartland Consulting, Conrad Muhly and Terra Technical Services, Inc., and Arthur J. Gallagher & Company.

While weather postponed the 2023 event, our benefactors have stepped up again to make the Golf Classic a success. VFMAC's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John English and Heartland Consulting is the Naming sponsor this year, with a donation of \$25,000. The Title sponsors, with donations of \$10,000 each are Conrad Muhly and Terra Technical Services, Inc., and the NFP Group. While no one can yet promise sunny weather, there is great confidence in the ongoing generosity of our supporters.

GIVING TUESDAY

Traditionally held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday at VFMAC is an opportunity for benefactors to direct contributions to a specific need. For Giving Tuesday 2022, the goal was to secure funding for new transport.

The giving was started with a generous \$25,000 gift from Philip Fayer, '96.

For too long, VFMAC had maintained campus vehicles beyond their expected use. While safe to operate, the mileage and condition of the vehicles were inconsistent with VFMAC's buttoned up image.

With extreme generosity, Judith M. Krupnick (sic) and Cherry Hill Volvo donated two vehicles to VFMAC. One, a Volvo XC 90 SUV is used for staff travel to recruitment programs, speaking engagements, extended education programs, among other requirements. The other, a Volvo XC 60, is used by the Health Center for Cadets to transport to and from their various appointments. Both vehicles have low mileage,





and provide safe and beautiful transportation, and include warranties and maintenance. These gifts, valued at \$99,000, assure safe and reliable transportation for years to come.

With the gifts of the vehicles, funds received during Giving Tuesday were used to purchase an eight passenger Ford Transit Connect van to transport Cadets to off-campus events, activities, transport the Color Guard, sports competitions, among other happenings.



These extremely generous gifts of two vehicles and the kick-off donation and additional financial gifts from Giving Tuesday improved transportation here at VFMAC for Cadets and staff.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a lesser known manner of giving but has had substantial impact for VFMAC. It enables businesses to fulfill their state tax obligations by redirecting the amount they would have paid to the state to a 501C3 entity of their choice.

The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) enables eligible students in low-achieving school districts to apply for a scholarship to attend another public or nonpublic school.

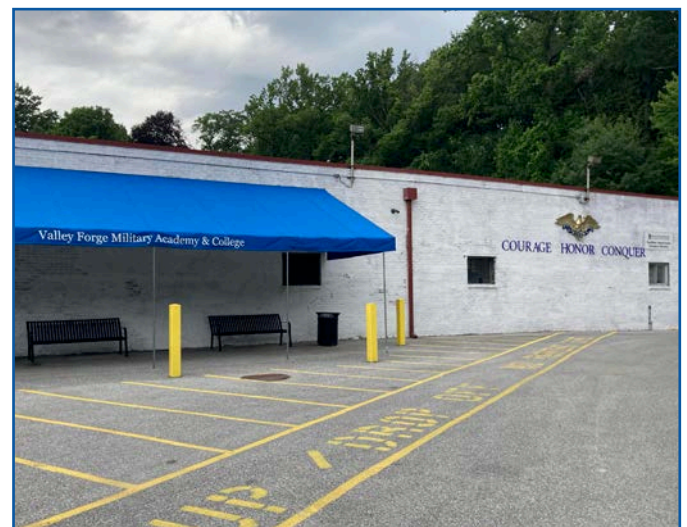
As a 501C3, VFMAC received \$254,980 in EITC/OSTC contributions during the last year.

KUNCL LOT

The Kuncl Lot and area around it are the first places many people see as they enter campus. It is heavily used by parents as they pick up and drop off their Cadets after leave. P-Company (Parent) has stepped forward with a plan to enhance what is the front door of the VFMAC Campus.

Their efforts include cleaning and white-washing the building and installing Courage Honor Conquer. A donation of more than \$7,000 by Dean Laskaris enabled purchase of a new awning over the platform and other improvements for the Kuncl Lot.

P-Company's in-kind efforts along with the funds for the new awning have improved exponentially the entrance to the campus. We are so grateful.



We are so grateful for the care and vision with which these gifts are shared.”



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