



# Commandant's Update Board of Visitors

- Accomplishments
- Focus
- Hell Week
- Old Corps
- Expectations

**Never Settle for Ordinary**

Easy not found here. Earn your Way.



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A photograph of a large, multi-story building with a crenellated roofline, likely a university building, with a parking lot full of cars in front of it. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm glow and a rainbow visible in the sky.

# MATRICULATION WEEK 2023

<https://youtu.be/ssC0vebcxs0>

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AY 23-24 emphasis

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# Commandant and Staff

## MISSION

The Commandant and the Commandant's Staff are Leader-Mentors who *teach, coach, and mentor* the VMI Corps of Cadets, and *guide and direct* the co-curriculum system or VMI System.

## VISION

*Prepare the next generation of Leaders of Character* for leadership roles in industry, public life, military service, careers in the intelligence services and diplomatic corps.



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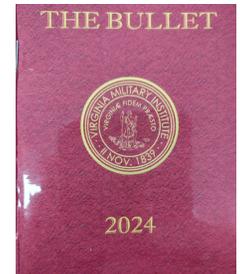
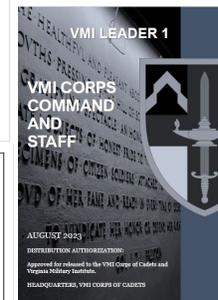
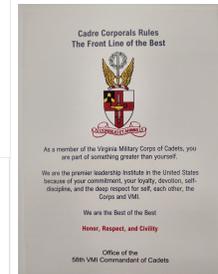
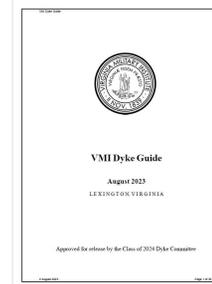
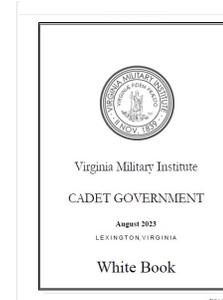
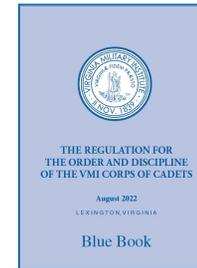
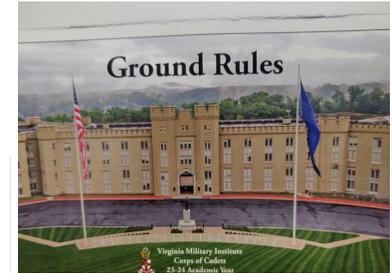
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# Accomplishments

- Talent Management; bringing forward the right leadership team
- Updated the Rainbow Books; Blue Book and White Book
- Rat Bible from the First Class
- Conducted Formal Cadre and Cadet Government Training; Cadre Corporal Rules, Ground Rules and VMI Command and Staff Manual
- Cadre Week success, Hell Week success
- Corps return briefs focus on "Code of a Cadet", and "VMI Values"
- Corps leading/running the Corps
- Continue to professionalize the Corps
- Leader - Mentor

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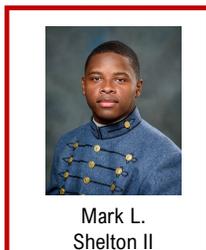




# Regimental and Battalion Leaders

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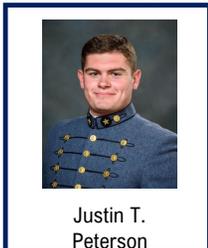
**RCO**



Mark L.  
Shelton II

**Chief of  
Staff**

**1BN CO**



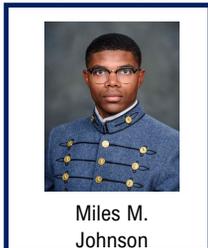
Justin T.  
Peterson

**2BN CO**



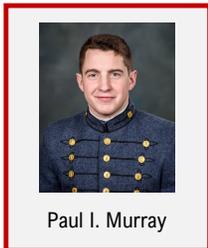
Madison L.  
Cappellano

**3BN CO**



Miles M.  
Johnson

**RXO**



Paul I. Murray

**RS1**



Ella M. Flickinger

**RS2**



Virginia G.  
Townsend

**RS3**



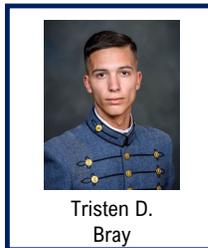
Bryson A. Minear

**1BN XO**



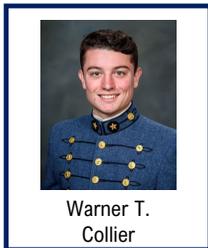
Connor M.  
Carroll

**2BN XO**



Tristen D.  
Bray

**3BN XO**



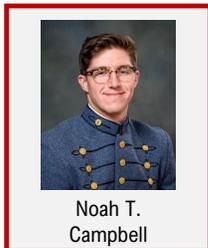
Warner T.  
Collier

**RS4**



Emma M.  
Funkhouser

**RS5**



Noah T.  
Campbell

**RS6**



Jacob R.  
Johnston

**RS7**



Philip L. Frey

**RS9**



Carter W. Hugate

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## AY 23-24 Focus

### Good Order and Discipline Trends

- **Illegal Drugs.** Concerns that Marijuana is decriminalized but a violation of VMI regulations. Cautious of overflow onto Post.
- **Cohabitation in Barracks/Sex on Post.** Engaging in proscribed sexual activity or cohabitation is conduct unbecoming a Cadet and inconsistent with VMI values.
- **Alcohol Usage on Post.** Introducing, possessing, or consuming on Post is a breach of regulation and leads to greater problems.
- **Contact Time.** More contact time by and within the Corps. Varied groups, club sports, and NCAA doing common activities together.

### Expectations

- **Build VMI Spirit and Pride.** Increase a Cadet's and the Corps' pride in being part of VMI and the Corps.
- **Code of a Cadet.** Followed and adherence to the Code of Cadet achieves the required Cadet conduct.
- **Off-Post.** Conduct should be within the rules and enforced by Cadets.
- **By the Book.** Cadet leadership and Cadets adhere to the updated Blue Book, White Book, Dyke Guide, other Rainbow Books and the professional development guides.



WATCH: VMI Rat Line begins with intense training



## VMI RAT LINE BEGINS WITH INTENSE TRAINING

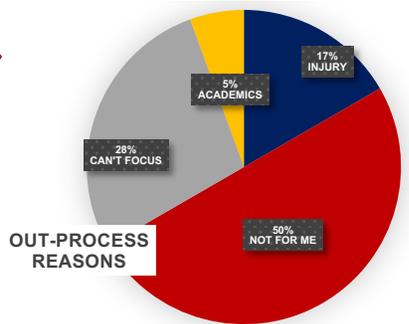
<https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2023/08/23/watch-vmi-rat-line-begins-with-intense-training/>



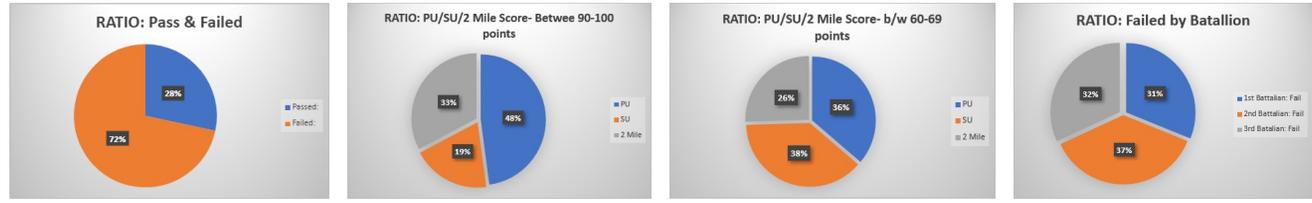
# Hell Week Metrics

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## Performance



**Physical Fitness.** 116 Rats (28%) passed and 293 Rats (72%) failed. Push-ups 45% failed, Sit-ups 69% failed, and 2 Mile Run 70% failed.



2027	HELL WEEK AY	#	CO	%
19-Aug	DAILY TALLY	491		
1	19-Aug	490	A	6%
4	20-Aug	486	B	11%
2	21-Aug	484	C	11%
4	22-Aug	480	D	6%
0	23-Aug	480	E	11%
1	24-Aug	479	F	11%
1	25-Aug	478	G	0%
3	26-Aug	475	H	17%
1	27-Aug	474	I	6%
1	28-Aug	473		
18	2001-2027	491	BD	22%
3.7%		18		100%



**Attrition.** Reasons for attrition vary, some are for adjusting from an uncompressed schedule in High School and being online, to Barracks life and a structured schedule. Other reasons are; instability, parental pressure, wanted a part-time ROTC experience, father opposed, and the military not the right path.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Matriculation Date	18-Aug	17-Aug	16-Aug	14-Aug	20-Aug	17-Aug	16-Aug	22-Aug	20-Aug	19-Aug	18-Aug	23-Aug	22-Aug	21-Aug	20-Aug	18-Aug	17-Aug	23-Aug	22-Aug	20-Aug	19-Aug	18-Aug	17-Aug	14-15 Aug	21-Aug	20-Aug	19-Aug
# Matriculated	458	442	430	400	434	411	436	421	437	442	465	447	488	501	509	509	502	500	495	506	506	519	515	522	496	373	491
Total	28	30	24	29	40	29	25	26	35	28	26	20	22	28	25	22	32	14	20	21	23	18	28	13	36	9	18
%	6.1%	6.8%	5.6%	7.3%	9.2%	7.1%	5.7%	6.2%	8.0%	6.3%	5.6%	4.5%	4.5%	5.6%	4.9%	4.3%	6.4%	2.8%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%	3.5%	5.4%	2.5%	7.3%	2.4%	3.7%

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# Wellness

## QUESTIONNAIRE

I am confident in my ability to succeed in the Rat Line tomorrow.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- slightly disagree
- slightly agree
- agree
- strongly agree

I am confident in my ability to physically succeed in the Rat Line tomorrow.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- slightly disagree
- slightly agree
- agree
- strongly agree

I am confident in my ability to mentally succeed in the Rat Line tomorrow.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- slightly disagree
- slightly agree
- agree
- strongly agree

It is important to me to succeed in the Rat Line.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- slightly disagree
- slightly agree
- agree
- strongly agree

I feel connected to my Brother Rats.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- slightly disagree
- slightly agree
- agree
- strongly agree

Please give a short answer to the questions below:

What was a challenge you overcame today?

What is one small change you can make to grow in confidence tomorrow?

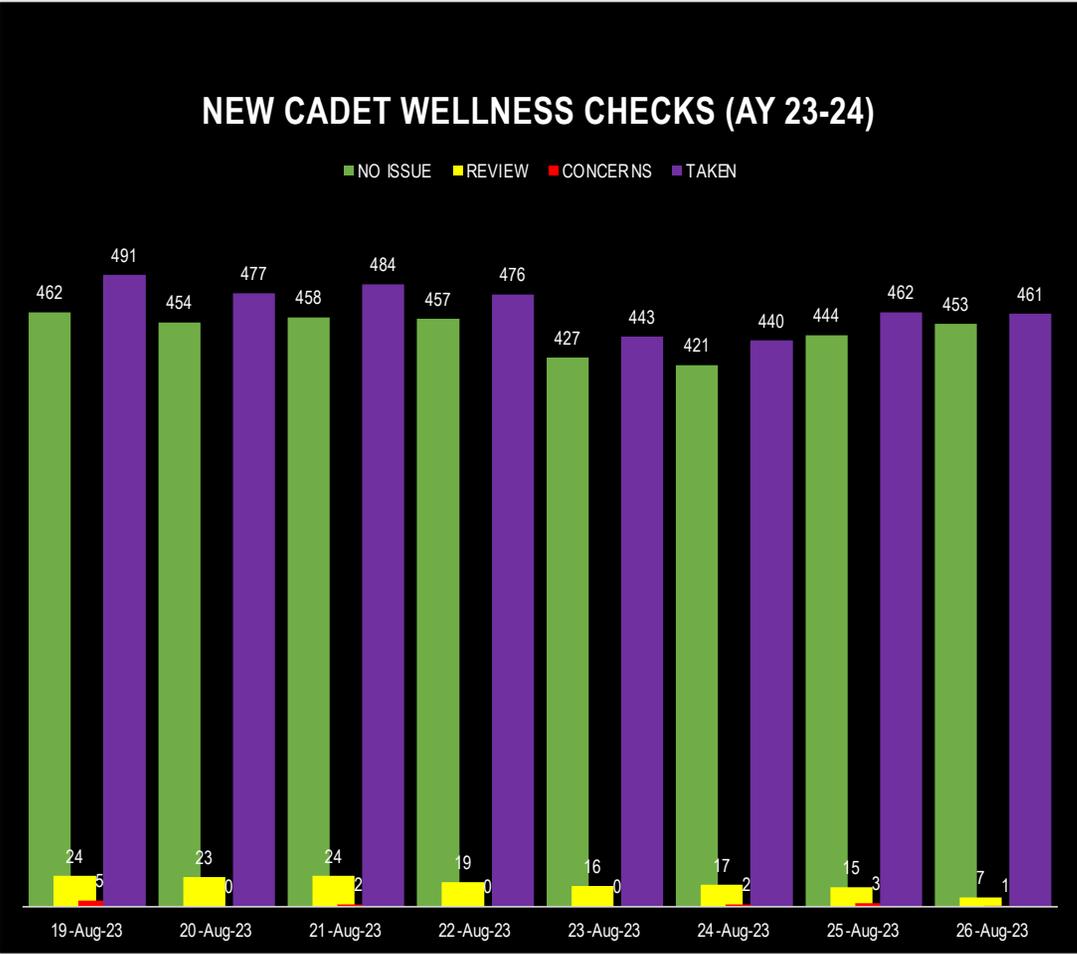
What is one thing you can do to support your Brother Rats tomorrow?

What motivated you to succeed at VMI today?

If there's anything else you want the Institute to know about your training, please share it here.

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# Cadre and Hell Week Assessment

Overall assessment is that the nine core objectives of Cadre Week and Hell Week were obtained.

The Cadre was successfully trained and conducted Hell Week to standard. All initial entry training requirements were trained, but more practice in drill and ceremonies and physical fitness is required. The retention mission was met. Retention goal was 95%, actual retention obtained was 96.3%. No major incidents occurred. Press coverage was favorable, as well as social media. The intensity level was well moderated. Reasons for success based on COMSTAFF change of focus to Leader-Mentors, selecting the right Command teams, emphasis on the Battalion Command level, formal training blocks of instruction, and the adoption by the COMSTAFF and Corps to be more professional, i.e. formal training, use of official VMI terms and military terminology, professional interactions, adopting the trainer mentality, use of command presence and command voice, and defining the tasks, initiative by Cadet leaders to have NCAA teams conduct more military activities, and meeting the standards under the conditions given.

Criteria (KEY TASKS)	Obtained				Marginal			Not Obtained			Remarks
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Cadre trained and validated	10			7							
Ground Rules emplaced			8			5					No violations, however - Classes need training
Matriculation Day Activities	10	9									
Reception of Rats			8	7							Slow down by Cadre in getting Rats to Barber shop/rooms not in order
Initial Entry Training			8	7							Drill and Ceremonies / Physical conditioning could use more time
Initial QMD issue	10	10									
Dyke relationship established	10	9									
RDC established						5	4				
	40		16	7		5					SCORE IS 68/80 = 85%   AY 22-23 74%

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Welcome to VMI



<https://youtu.be/r-ZTm2onhXU?feature=shared>



# Discussion

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Build VMI Spirit and Pride  
Next great VMI Class  
Follow the Books  
Lead the Rules  
Firm, but Fair  
Off-Post