## VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER) NUMBER 83)

2 April 2025

## **ROTC Program Policy**

- 1. **Purpose**: The purpose of this order is to outline requirements pertaining to ROTC program selection, participation, enrollment, separation, disenrollment, and affiliation in order to assist and inform future/current VMI cadets. ROTC program disqualification criteria is also addressed.
- 2. **Overview:** All VMI cadets must participate and/or enroll in ROTC and complete eight progressive semesters of ROTC courses to fulfill VMI graduation requirements. Beyond simply participating/enrolling in ROTC to graduate from VMI, cadets are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to leverage ROTC programs to pursue a commission in one of the branches of the military services and the US Coast Guard. That said, commissioning is not a requirement to graduate from VMI. Cadets who desire to pursue a commission should recognize that each service-specific ROTC program (i.e. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force) has unique requirements and criteria that must be met. Cadets must also recognize that commissioning opportunities are greater in some services than others.
- 3. **Contracts and Commissioning.** In order to be commissioned as an officer in the military services following graduation from VMI, cadets must first satisfy the contracting and commissioning requirements dictated by the service-specific ROTC programs and the U.S. Department of Defense.
  - A. <u>Requirements</u>: Commissioning requirements include medical considerations, as well as high standards and expectations for academics, physical fitness, leadership, and personal conduct. The general criteria to commission are:
    - 1) Remain "in good standing" while meeting VMI graduation requirements;
    - 2) Meet and maintain the service-specific ROTC minimum Grade Point Average;
    - 3) Meet all service-specific ROTC and DoD medical requirements;
    - 4) Meet service-specific ROTC height/weight and body fat requirements;
    - 5) Pass the service-specific ROTC physical fitness test(s);
    - 6) Meet eligibility requirements for a SECRET clearance;
    - 7) Successfully complete service-specific ROTC summer training programs; and
    - 8) Be a U.S. Citizen.

| A. <u>Coordinat</u> | ion. New cadets | seeking ROT | C re- |  |  |
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for First Class cadets. For this reason, upperclassmen pursuing a commission who have not been awarded an ROTC scholarship or ROTC contract by the end of the second semester, Third Class year have the following choices:

- 1) Second and First Class cadets may voluntarily change their ROTC affiliation to the Army ROTC program. See paragraph 9 for details.
- Second and First Class cadets may pursue a commission through one of the following non-ROTC programs: U.S. Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class (PLC), U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS), and the U.S. Coast Guard Direct Commission Selected School (DCSS) program.
- 3) Second and First Class cadets who are contracted with—or actively pursuing a commission through—non-ROTC programs may participate in ROTC classes and laboratories. They are prohibited from participating in ROTC physical training events, field training exercises, and control times unless they have signed a hold-harmless agreement, or have been approved to participate in ROTC training by the Professor of Naval Science. Without this approval, these non-ROTC cadets shall revert to the Commandant for training.
- B. Air Force ROTC: There are many opportunities for Third Class cadets to compete for a ROTC scholarship or a ROTC contract. ROTC contracts for Second Class cadets are provided and activated once the cadet completes field training over the summer between their Third and Second Class year. Contracts for First Class cadets are rare and require headquarters approval. Third, Second, and First Class cadets who are not on contract, do not desire an AF or USSF Commission, but DO desire to pursue an AF Civilian Career and have been selected for the DRIVE or Premiere College Internship Program (PCIP) or DOD SMART Scholarship can continue to take AFROTC classes, to include all Leadership labs, FTX, PTT, etc. These students will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Detachment Commander prior to being allowed to continue in the AFROTC Program. Any other upperclassmen not pursuing a commission will be encouraged to change their ROTC affiliation to the Army ROTC program. See paragraph 9 for details.
- C. <u>Army ROTC</u>: There are many opportunities for Third, Second, and First Class cadets to compete for an ROTC scholarship or an ROTC contract. The Army ROTC program can accept upperclassmen from the other ROTC programs who are actively pursuing a commission <u>at any time</u> prior to the end of the first semester, First Class year. See paragraph 9 for details.
- 9. **ROTC** program re-affiliation for upperclassmen not on ROTC Contract; pursuing a commission: Upperclassmen not on ROTC contract who are pursuing a commission may change service affiliation from one service-specific ROTC program to another with certain restrictions that are unique to the individual ROTC programs. Upperclassmen pursuing a commission are encouraged to re-affiliate in another ROTC program if it offers them better opportunities to commission than their current ROTC program.

- courses (LS-350/351/450/451), which are mandatory for their non-commissioning curriculum.
- B. <u>Air Force ROTC</u>: <u>Air Force ROTC</u>: Third Class cadets not on ROTC contract who do not satisfy the AFROTC requirements to remain in the program or who decide they are no longer interested in pursuing a commission shall be disenrolled from the AFROTC program and enrolled in the Army ROTC program at the end of the affected semester. From that point on, these cadets will be required to take Army ROTC classes and perform all training events in accordance with the Army ROTC program. The only exception to this policy will be those cadets who have been accepted into the DRIVE program, PCIP, or given a DOD SMART Scholarship. These cadets are pursuing an AF Civilian Career and taking AFROTC classes will be beneficial to the USAF/USSF as well as the cadet as a future USAF/USSF civilian employee. Given the same circumstances, Second and First

| A. | <u>Drugs</u> : Cadets who have a positive drug test in the urinalysis programs administered by the ROTC programs are at risk of being separated, disenrolled, and disqualified for enrollment in any of the ROTC programs. All branches of the Armed Forces are authorized to conduct urinalysis testing on cadets who are enrolled in their programs. This is a separate and distinct program from the urinalysis testing performed by VMI in accordance with General Order # 53, <i>VMI Drug Testing Policy</i> . Results of the service tests are subject to federal Privacy Act restrictions and cannot be shared with VMI state officials. However, they can be shared with the 1 (1)-2 (e)4 le3(at-6 (f)6(3(at-6 (f)6(3)4 (q(ug 1 (t)-2 (i)4)4 (f)6(3)4 ( |
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