



Best Alive! Newsletter



VMI LEAD Preparation Day

Cadet Ragan

Whether you know it as Field Training, or you're beginning to understand it as Leadership Evaluation And Development (LEAD), the challenge set before many AS200s/250s is no easy task. Thankfully, Det 875 works hard to ensure that cadets are prepared to succeed through arguably the most important milestone on their road to commissioning. When Cadet Matt Mumbach took a break from Field Training Preparation (FTP), Cadet Mike D'Avella took the GMC to the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) for a Saturday well spent.

Three buses departed from Virginia Tech at 0545 on the 25th of March. Inside, cadre, POC, and GMC anticipated the hectic arrival to VMI. The GMC were organized into flights combined with cadets from detachments all over Virginia to take on the simulated LEAD environment. POC also worked with cadets from other detachments to coordinate the event as well as oversee the training, acting as Cadet Training Assistants (CTAs). The cadre observed the training to assess performance, and more importantly, morale.

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Photography Credits

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Throughout the day, the GMC put their LEAD prep to the test. Cadets marched from station to station throughout VMI's campus leading and helping each other throughout each problem. The first half of the day consisted of Group Leadership Projects (GLPs), Leadership Reaction Course, O-course challenges, and even an introduction to weapon safety. Cadets even got a taste for both dining facility procedures and VMI's mess hall. The rest of the day included dorm maintenance, interviews to test CTO interactions and LEAD knowledge, ORIs, and drill evaluation. To top off the motivational day of training, cadets performed a Wing formation run right before heading home.

This eventful training day gave cadets a great insight on what to expect from LEAD and what to focus on to be better prepared. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the coordination, focus, and leadership from Cadet D'Avella. He worked with VMI to ensure that our cadets would get the most out of the training. Utilizing opportunities like this one shows how there's "Excellence In All We Do" at Det 875.



Arnold Air Society Tap

Cadet Fulgenzi

As many Corps and ROTC organizations finished their tapping processes, Arnold Air Society (AAS) welcomed seven new members. The tapping process ran five days a week for three weeks. Candidates participated in GLPs, PT, marching, and briefs. They also had to take a national test based on Arnold Air Society knowledge. A major part of the tapping process was organized by the candidates. One of their tasks was networking with an organization to setup a service project. "They volunteered at St. Jude Catholic Church painting, cleaning, and doing yard work," said Cadet Fallon Fulgenzi, the Deputy Squadron Commander for the Virginia Tech AAS Squadron,

the Thomas C. Richards Squadron.

Arnold Air Society has a long history at Virginia Tech, but went dormant for the past four years. Last year, a few cadets banded together to help start up the organization again. The new squadron has since hit the ground running and were well prepared to induct seven new members to the society. With the founding seniors leaving at the end of the year, the new tap class will be eligible to fill roles such as Finance Officer, Tap Officer, and Service Officer. They will continue to help the nationally recognized Air Force ROTC program dedicate its time to benefit the community, as well as participate in the national convention. "A large part of the Arnold Air Society is networking at the national convention in Florida, where we have the opportunity to gain experience from other units, and Air Force officials," said Cadet Brandon Tull, who served as the tap coordinator for the first tapping process in over four years. "We would also like to create a position that leaves a cadet in charge of organizing Detachment 875 Arnold Air Society's trip to the national convention," added Cadet Tull. AAS hopes to be more involved in networking as well as community outreach in the name of service.



Cadet Highlight: Julie Demyanovich

Cadet Huffman

This year, Cadet Julie Demyanovich, an AS 100 from Squadron 6, will be leading the Civil Air Patrol's 2017 Virginia Wing Encampment as the Cadet Training Wing Commander. Encampment is a basic training-style camp similar to New Cadet Week that aims to develop leadership and serve as a career exploratory program for cadets aged 12-18. Cadet Demyanovich will be overseeing and commanding all training operations for at least 230 students. Training is conducted over a week-long period in early July, but she will be working days beforehand to ensure all events run smoothly. Directly under her leadership position are 99 cadre members. In addition to line cadre, who directly train cadets, many work in operations and support, which includes management of dining services, public affairs, leadership development, and character development. Including 2017 Encamp-

ment, Cadet Demyanovich will have participated in this program for five years since she first attended in 2011.



When asked about the most rewarding part of Encampment, she said "[It's] having the opportunity to volunteer with such an outstanding group of people that are as excited and passionate as I am. I have the privilege to work with them and provide students opportunities to experience something that changed my life forever. Getting to see the faces of the students, cadre, and parents at graduation is one of the most humbling and gratifying experiences I've ever encountered." This year, Cadet Demyanovich is excited about some changes she plans on implementing. This includes creating an environment where students are pushed past their boundaries through different tools of intensity. It also includes, as she puts it, "going deeper into providing that meaningful feedback to others that will benefit their leadership training and development." Good luck! The Detachment looks forward to hearing about it next semester.





Motivating the Wing

Cadet Freeman

On March 14th, Det 875 had a very motivational morale day. The goal of this Leadership Lab was to build and maintain a high level of morale throughout the wing. This was achieved by pitting Operations Group and Mission Support Group against one another to see who would reign supreme. The intense dodgeball games that ensued, tested the strength and wits of all squadrons. The operation was organized by Cadet John Gogal and achieved its overall mission. The friendly competition boosted moral and sharpened the Wing's athletic ability. Operations Group

won in the end, however, Mission Support Group gave a valiant effort and barely lost. The scores were only different by two points and left Mission Support Group hungry for further competition. The event was a huge success and similar events may follow in the future to keep the morale of the Wing high. As Cadet AJ Vogel, the Wing Commander said, "One of the things that our wing has going for us, is its high level of morale." Det 875 plans on keeping this morale high throughout the semester and for many years to come.

