

Rats become full-fledged cadets only through commitment, rigorous physical training and strict adherence to the honor code!

SMY
Books

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VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

RATLINE 2010

America's Future Leaders

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USA
\$20.10
Canada
\$24.10

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DEDICATION

To the *Virginia Military Institute* - VMI - and its continuing mission to produce educated leaders for all walks of life long after most of us are gone.

To *Ratline 2010 - the rat mass* - enduring as one the physical, mental, and emotional rigors necessary to survive *Resurrection* and *Breakout*.

To *Cadet Alex Taylor* - co-author of *Ratline 2010: America's Future Leaders*, and *member of Ratline 2010 - and his quest to become a leader*.

To *former Rats*, from *Marshall '01, Eliason '46, Peay '62, Menas '07* and beyond, and their *contributions to society* while adhering to the principles of *duty, honor, country*.

To *future Rats*, those dedicated young men and women who desire to join the *Rat Mass* on their way to *Resurrection, Breakout*, and *the fulfillment of dreams of their own*.

PREFACE



General Peay, a combat veteran of the 101st Airborne Division, talks to VMI cadets during the summer of 2009 at the Fort Lewis, WA, Leadership Development & Assessment Course. LDAC, a month-long field training exercise, is part of the Army Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) taught at VMI, and a necessary component of an Army commission.

The VMI Ratline — the demanding, mentally and physically stressful system for first year cadets is the foundation upon which the four- year VMI journey is built. It is a rite of passage through which every cadet must navigate. Its successful completion joins young men and women in a common bond for the remainder of their cadetships and throughout life. In the process which molds a VMI cadet, only the Institute's revered Honor System is held on a higher plateau by our alumni body.

J.H.Binford Peay III '62
General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent

FORWARD

What has V.M.I. meant to me?

It has given me a heritage and a sense of purpose that I know I would never have otherwise had. It taught me very early the consequences of both good and bad behavior and, as we all know, we have had no choice but to come down on the good side.

Thanks to V.M.I., I have been accepted and respected without question wherever I have gone. It taught me perseverance although it took the *Institute* almost six years to do that. I learned how to fall without breaking, to recognize defeat as a temporary state and how to come back. It taught me to respect the beliefs of others just so long as I do not have to accept them as my own. It also taught me to fight with my last ounce of courage against those who would try to possess the minds of others to their own purposes. It taught me to trust people and to refuse to deal with those who betray that trust.

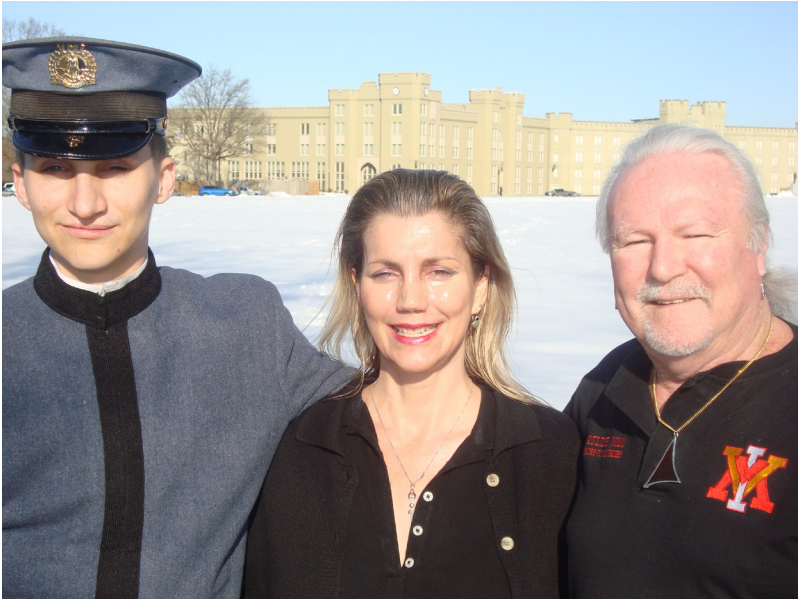
And V.M.I. gave me a life-long memory of attending alumni chapter meetings in Leesburg and announcing my name and class long after hearing from the distinguished gentleman across the table, "*Marshall, G. C., aught-one.*"

Lastly, and most important, V.M.I. gave me *Brother Rats* and roommates. I have roomed with doctors, lawyers, state senators, a U. S. Congressman, a "fly-boy" fighter pilot with 8 Air Medals, a code-breaker for the National Security Agency, a judge and numerous CEO's.

Add to that the pleasure of seeing my first roommate, *Jim Price*, on TV telling Wall Street Weekers how to invest their money and watching my last roommate, NASA's *Red Hayes*, greeting our astronauts returning from space as they stepped from their capsules.

How much of life's enrichment can anybody get from a little school deep in the Virginia hills? Just about all that there is.

W. A. "Bill" ELLASON
VMI '46



Steve & Tracy Yedinak, of Newport News, VA recently celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary on 24 September, 2009 in Whitefish, MT while attending a Band of Brothers Reunion. Yedinak, a retired Army officer, served 26 years in the *Special Forces* and Airborne Infantry, including two Vietnam tours, and five years with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. As a young *Green Beret*, he worked secret missions catalogued in his book *Hard to Forget: An American with the Mobile Guerrilla Force in Vietnam*, released by Random House in 1998. As contributing author, **Mrs. Yedinak** surveyed parents of VMI rats to learn what worked best while supporting their son or daughter during the *rigors* of the six-month **Ratline**. **Alexander Taylor '10**, commissioning 15 May, 2010 in the **United States Army**, graduating 16 May in **Civil Engineering**, free to pursue dreams of his own. **Taylor**, his *brother rats*, and *VMI's distinguished alumni*, share a rare glimpse of the **Institute**, and what it's like to live their lives under VMI's revered *Honor Code* on the way to *Resurrection* and *Breakout* and status as full-fledged cadets. Brotherhood, sacrifice, and redemption.