VIRGINIA MILITARY INSITUTE
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ROTC Enrollment Policy

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to outline the current enrollment policy for the individual ROTC programs at VMI. With the current service drawdowns and individual service requirements to participate in ROTC programs, the requirements to enroll and continue enrollment in a particular service must be fully understood. Additionally, cadet physical training time and service field training events as outlined in the Cadet Daily Schedule, to include FTXs and ROTC-controlled training time, are impacted. This policy also addresses longstanding policy that cadets who are ineligible to participate in any ROTC program and thus cannot meet graduation requirements will have their cadetships terminated.

2. **Overview:** These rules supplement general requirements to graduate and commission at VMI. In order to fulfill graduation requirements, all cadets must complete eight semesters of ROTC courses and participate in those programs. Commissioning in a branch of the Armed Forces upon graduation from VMI is strongly encouraged but remains optional. The tenets of this policy will depend upon whether the cadet is a matriculating Rat or an upperclassman. The applicable policies for those two groups are as detailed below.

3. **ROTC Selection for Matriculating Rats**: Each Rat must select a particular ROTC program which is verified on Matriculation Day.

(a) <u>ROTC Scholarship New Cadets</u>: Matriculating Rats holding service ROTC scholarships will continue to be enrolled in the ROTC branch in which they hold a scholarship. They will take classes in their branch and perform all ROTC training and physical training with their ROTC branch.

(b) <u>Non-ROTC Scholarship New Cadets Desiring a Commission</u>: Matriculating Rats who do not hold a service scholarship and who desire to commission may select any ROTC branch at VMI (Army, Navy/Marine, or Air Force). Their desire to commission will be verified on Matriculation Day during matriculation processing and shortly thereafter when meeting with the respective ROTC staffs. Beyond their desire to commission, there is a secondary requirement that they meet individual service requirements for participation in their programs. Those requirements are outlined below. They will take classes in their branch and perform all ROTC training and physical training with their ROTC branch.

(c) <u>Non-ROTC Scholarship New Cadets Not Desiring a Commission</u>: Matriculating Rats who do not have an interest in pursuing a commission will be enrolled on Matriculation Day with Army ROTC. They will not be permitted to enroll in Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps programs at or following Matriculation Day. They will take classes in Army ROTC and perform all ROTC training and physical training with Army ROTC during their New Cadet Year.

(d) New Cadets Who Subsequently Desire to Commission or Change Branches: During the New Cadet Year, if a non-commissioning New Cadet in AROTC decides that he or she wants to pursue a commission, they are encouraged to speak to the appropriate ROTC staff to seek enrollment. They are not limited to Army ROTC and may seek enrollment with the Air Force or Navy/Marine programs. Admission to those programs is not guaranteed and is up to the individual services. Similarly, a New Cadet in a commissioning track program in one service who desires to commission in another branch of the service may seek enrollment in another ROTC. Admission is likewise not guaranteed.

4. **General ROTC Enrollment Requirements AFROTC and NROTC**: In order to qualify for entry as a Matriculating Rat into the Air Force or Navy/Marines, the following general requirements must be met:

(a) Air Force: In order to enroll in AFROTC at VMI, a matriculating cadet must meet the following criteria:

1. Express a desire to seek a commission and enroll in the General Military Course. This enrollment will take place following matriculation. Note: Enrollment in the General Military Course does not contractually obligate the cadet to commission and serve in the Air Force. It reflects their desire at the present time to pursue a commission and engage in all AFROTC activities at VMI;

2. Be in compliance with height/weight/body fat requirements, and be physically fit; and

3. Agree to pursue a DOD physical and meet medical requirements.

(b) Navy/Marines: In order to enroll in NROTC (Navy or Marines) at VMI, a matriculating cadet must meet the following criteria:

1. Express a desire to seek a commission and enroll in the College Program (Basic), unless the cadet is already enrolled in another Navy or Marine Officer Candidate Program. This enrollment will take place following Matriculation. Note: Enrollment in the College Program does not contractually obligate the cadet to commission and serve in the Navy or Marines; and

2. Be in compliance with height/weight and body fat requirements and be physically fit; and

3. Agree to pursue a DOD physical and meet all medical requirements. In addition those desiring a commission must be free of performance enhancing drugs/medication for one year.

5. **ROTC Disenrollment During the New Cadet Year**: There may be circumstances where a Rat enrolled in the Air Force or Navy/Marines is required to be disenrolled. This occurs largely

after the end of the first semester during the New Cadet Year, but may occur at other times as well. Common reasons for disenrollment include academic deficiencies in the ROTC course, other academic deficiencies such as minimum GPAs, medical disqualifications, and failure to satisfactorily complete physical training requirements. In those cases, those New Cadets have the following options:

(a) If they desire to commission in another service, that cadet may seek enrollment in that other service program; or

(b) If they do not desire to commission in any branch of the service following their disenrollment from the Air Force or Navy/Marine programs, they will remain in those ROTC programs for academic classes only. They will report to the Commandant for all physical training and duties during ROTC-controlled training times.

6. **ROTC Enrollment and Participation for Upperclassmen**: Continued enrollment and full participation in ROTC activities (i.e. field training exercises, ROTC-control time training, and physical training time) are dependent upon whether or not the upperclassman is on a commissioning track and contracted with one of the services.

(a) Upperclassmen on Commissioning Track and Contracted With a Service: All upperclassmen who desire to commission and who continue to meet commissioning requirements will continue to take academic classes and participate in all ROTC training and physical training activities with their respective services. Note: Those cadets who are Nuclear Power Officer Candidates and Platoon Leader Course members must sign “hold harmless agreements in order to participate in ROTC training and physical activities since they are not yet formally contracted in those programs.

(b) Upperclassmen Not Desiring to Commission: Most upperclassmen who do not desire to commission will already be in AROTC. Exceptions will be New Cadets in the Air Force or Navy/Marines who during the New Cadet Year become disqualified and remain in those branches for academic classes only. Specific categories are as detailed below:

(1) AROTC Third Classmen Not Desiring to Commission: Will continue to take AROTC academic classes and will participate in AROTC training and will perform physical training with AROTC.

(2) AFROTC and Navy/Marine ROTC Third Classmen Not Commissioning: Any Third Classmen in those ROTC branches who becomes non-commissionable will remain in those units for academic classes only. They will revert to the Commandant for physical training time and other specified corps duties during ROTC-control times. Common reasons for becoming non-commissionable include changing their mind and not desiring a commission, medical, or academic deficiencies. Note: Non-commissioning Third Classmen in AFROTC will be excused from attending AS 213 and 214 labs (one hour, no

credit) which are dedicated to preparing cadets for AFROTC summer camp following the Third Class year.

(3) Second and First Classmen Not Desiring a Commission: Will continue in their respective ROTC program for academic classes only. They will not participate in ROTC training programs and will not perform physical training with ROTC. They will revert to the Commandant for that training.

7. **Commissioning Requirements:** Beyond simply enrolling in an ROTC program to meet VMI graduation requirements, cadets who desire to commission in one of the branches of the Armed Forces should recognize each service has specific criteria that must be met to receive a commission. Cadets must also recognize that commissioning opportunities are greater in some services than the others. When deciding upon which branch of service to seek a commission, each prospective cadet desiring to commission should consult with the service ROTC units here at VMI. General requirements to commission in all of the service ROTC programs at VMI involve the factors mentioned below. Again, cadets should consult with the specific ROTC staff for further details or visit the VMI and service websites for further information on commissioning. The general criteria are:

a. Graduate from VMI in good standing;

b. Maintain a qualifying Grade Point Average for graduation and commissioning (minimum 2.5 in some services);

c. Meet DOD Medical requirements;

d. Meet service height/weight and body fat requirements;

e. Pass the service Physical Fitness Training Test;

f. Be eligible for a Secret Clearance (Note: prior criminal convictions and illicit drug use are considerations); and

g. Successfully complete service summer training programs

8. **Disenrollment from ROTC**: Cadets disenrolled from one ROTC branch must still meet graduation requirements in order to continue their cadetship. They must enroll in another ROTC branch if disenrolled from their current branch. Such transfers to other ROTC branches are dependent upon the rules, policies, and procedures by the individual services. Admission to those departments in order to continue to remain in good standing as a cadet is at the discretion of those departments. In some circumstances, cadets may be barred from participation from one ROTC branch based upon reasons that would render them inadmissible in the other two branches. In those cases, cadets cannot meet academic requirements. They would be expected therefore to

resign their cadetships or will be disenrolled from the Institute. Specific instances are detailed below.

(a) Incidents of Specific Misconduct: While enrolled in an ROTC branch, individual service rules and standards of behavior are also applicable to cadets in addition to those rules contained in the Blue Book. Cadets committing significant misconduct on or off Post can be disenrolled from one branch and subsequently denied admission by the other ROTC branches.

(b) Drug Use: Cadets who have a positive drug test in the urinalysis programs administered by the ROTC branches are at risk of being disenrolled from one branch and not admitted by the others. All branches of the Armed Forces are authorized to conduct urinalysis testing on those cadets enrolled in their program and seeking to commission. This is a separate and distinct program from the urinalysis testing performed by VMI in accordance with General Order # 53, *VMI Drug Testing Policy*. Results of the service tests are subject to federal Privacy Act restrictions and cannot be shared with VMI state officials. They can be shared with the leadership of other ROTC departments as they are federal employees.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

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