



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

29 July 2025

Dear Class of 2029,

Congratulations on your appointment to Virginia Military Institute, Mary Baldwin University, Southern Virginia University, or Washington and Lee University! Your decision to attend one of these great institutions has opened a unique door of opportunity for you. Choosing to attend one of these universities and becoming a graduate of AFROTC Detachment 880 makes you a part of a world class organization that exemplifies "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do"—better known as the United States Air Force core values.

AFROTC enjoys a very complementary relationship with VMI and our crosstown universities, and we are looking for quality future officers who are willing to challenge themselves as leaders. We emphasize high performance in academics, physical fitness, followership, and leadership. Consider your enrollment in Air Force ROTC as a four-year long interview culminating in a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force or United States Space Force.

You may have noticed this letter is addressed to the "Class of 2029." If, however, you were already a college student and transferring to one of the above schools, or you possess enough college credit to graduate in 2028, it is IMPERATIVE you identify yourself as an early graduate upon your arrival to AFROTC Detachment 880. If you wait until AFTER the fall semester add/drop period closes, you will be locked into AFROTC's four-year program.

To begin your AFROTC application, we require you to provide the documents listed in the attachment that pertains to you upon your arrival to the Detachment. You will be expected to participate in all AFROTC-sponsored events as well as meet all requirements (e.g. academics, physical fitness, and maintaining a good moral character). Many exciting job opportunities exist for you in the Air and Space Forces, and our AFROTC cadre are eager to discuss them with you. Additionally, if you qualify, AFROTC offers scholarship opportunities that will help in paying for tuition and books.

Again, congratulations on achieving this first step toward your promising future! We look forward to assisting you in meeting your goals. If you care for more information about AFROTC Detachment 880, you may contact us at (540) 464-7354 or afrotc@vmi.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric D. Steele".

ERIC D. STEELE, Colonel, USAF
Commander, AFROTC Detachment 880

3 Attachments:

1. Required In-Processing Documents for VMI and MBU AFROTC Cadets
2. Required In-Processing Documents for SVU and W&L AFROTC Cadets
3. AFROTC In-depth Booklet