



Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson Chapter, AUSA  
**THE VALLEY CAMPAIGN**

2nd Quarter 2008 Issue (AUSA Operating Year)



POSTING OF THE COLORS ON OPENING DAY AT THE 2007 AUSA ANNUAL MEETING

### **CHAPTER 2007 STREAMER AWARDS**

#### **PRESIDENT'S CLUB – GOLD**

**ARMY HISTORY**

**SPECIAL AWARD**

**FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**SUPERIOR CHAPTER**

**232<sup>nd</sup> ARMY BIRTHDAY**

**STAR CHAPTER**

**MERIT CHAPTER**

**ILW HONOR ROLL**

**BEST NEWSLETTER**

**CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By COL Jimmy Cox



Carl "Buddy" Matney asked me to pinch-hit for him with this issue. Here are the significant events since our last newsletter as well as a couple of future events.

- On 29 September we conducted a General Membership Meeting at VA Tech with the Army ROTC AUSA Company as a "tailgate" event prior to the VT-UNC football game. The homecoming parade passed by our location as we dined on deli sandwiches. The cadets set up food, drinks and displays outside of Schultz Hall. There were over 50 at the event with a good representation from the cadets, as expected. The Chapter had a display table set up with AUSA publications and promotional material. (See the article in this newsletter by a former Soldier that stopped by our table.)
- Three of us from the Executive Committee (EXCOM) attended the AUSA Annual Meeting at the Washington D.C. Convention Center in October. For us, the highlight of the opening ceremony was when AUSA President GEN(R) Sullivan presented the VA Tech Corps of Cadets a Distinguished Service Award to three representatives from VA Tech in recognition of how involved the Corps was in holding the community closely during the tragedy on campus 16 April. Accepting the award were COL(R) Dave Miller, Cadet Dennis Porter and Cadet Monica Tubesing. Both cadets are in the Army ROTC. The "Stonewall" Jackson Chapter initiated the award when Carl Matney approached GEN Sullivan with the idea during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Spring Meeting. During the course of the Annual Meeting, the Chapter was presented with 11 awards including Chapter of Excellence, President's Club—Gold (\$400.00 for the Chapter based on attaining Star Chapter a minimum of 10 months), and Best Newsletter (for our Chapter size). The EXCOM members attending the Annual Meeting (Bob Ruff, Carl Matney and myself) paid for our own lodging, transportation and meal expenses due to the Chapter's meager operating budget.
- Three companies of the 1-116<sup>th</sup> Inf returned home on 9 November after serving the last year in Kosovo. The Chapter provided snack items and money to the Family Readiness Group (FRG) to help pay for other refreshment items for the families waiting for the returning soldiers. About 125 soldiers of HHC were returning to the Lynchburg Armory and about 85 soldiers of C Company to the Christiansburg Armory. A total of over 200 family members and friends met the soldiers at the two locations. The money provided was \$150.00 for the Lynchburg Armory and \$100.00 for the Christiansburg Armory. The FRG for the Lexington Armory (B Company) did not need assistance for refreshments. We will get another chance to help welcome back the 1-116<sup>th</sup> in February when there will be a more formal event for the whole battalion at one location.
- The Chapter continued to support the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Salem with a check for \$300.00 to support Operation Holiday Spirit. This is a fund for the annual Christmas celebration for the 240 residents of the VVCC. The goal is to have enough to provide gifts valued at about \$65.00 per resident. More and more of these veterans arrive at the VVCC who have no family and receive no outside support. This fund will purchase the only gifts they will receive. Volunteers visit each Veteran and ask what he/she would like for Christmas and the volunteers shop for those specific items. Christmas Eve, Santa and Mrs Claus deliver a gift box to the rooms of every resident to show them that somebody cares. If you would like to participate in this program and help the VVCC achieve their goal of \$15,000.00, you can mail a donation payable to V.V.C.C. OHS/State of VA and mail to Patti Smith, Virginia Veterans Care Center, 4550 Shenandoah Ave., Roanoke, VA 24017.
- Another Christmas tradition the Chapter supports is the Christmas decoration contest at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. We will provide \$100.00 for the prizes and normally we make up most of the judges group that makes the decision from the 20 residences.
- Coming up in February will be the official homecoming for the 1-116<sup>th</sup> Inf as I noted above. We will plan on including a General Membership Meeting as part of our efforts to welcome back these fine soldiers. The Star City Corvette Club contributed \$500.00 to our Chapter to support soldiers and their families. In addition, two individuals from the Club, who wish to remain anonymous, donated \$250.00 each for the same purpose. These folks have big hearts along with their great

cars – thanks! This money will be used to support the homecoming event. A specific date and place for the official homecoming has not been announced yet, so we will let you know the details after the New Year.

- We also plan to have a General Membership Meeting as part of the Massing of the Colors ceremony at the New Life Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church in Roanoke at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, 17 February. This ceremony is sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars, Roanoke Chapter. Some of our members will provide support for the ceremony and the Chapter's colors will be included in the massing. We urge all of you to attend this colorful and moving ceremony including over 50 color guards from military, civic, veteran, ROTC/JROTC and other organizations. Following the ceremony, we would like for those who wish to gather for a very brief meeting and dinner at a local restaurant (to be selected later).

Well that's it for now folks. I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2008.

Jim Cox  
Chapter Treasurer

## ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS



VA Tech Corps Distinguished Service Award



Carl Matney, Chapter President (center) receiving 2007 President Awards from AUSA President Gen (R) Sullivan (right) and Nicholas Chabraja (left)



Carl Matney (center) receiving 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Awards from TC Freeman, Region President (left) and LTG Clyde Vaughn, Director, ARNG (right)



## VT TAILGATE PARTY and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The Virginia Tech homecoming football game on 29 September was the centerpiece for our chapter membership meeting and a joint tailgate party with the Army ROTC department. It was a beautiful day starting with the homecoming parade with the Cadet Corps bands, plus a B-2 bomber flyover – an awesome sight! The Chapter had a display of AUSA informational and promotional items that attracted quite a bit of attention, including Thomas Trotto of Broad Run, VA, who is a VT Army ROTC graduate and served as the Commander of the AUSA Cadet Chapter at VT in 1984 (see his email below). The Army ROTC department had a display that included a Humvee and a table with information on the activities and training of Army ROTC cadets. During lunch, chapter officers met with members in attendance for informal discussions of chapter events and future plans. The day was capped by a solid win of 17 to 10 by VT over North Carolina.

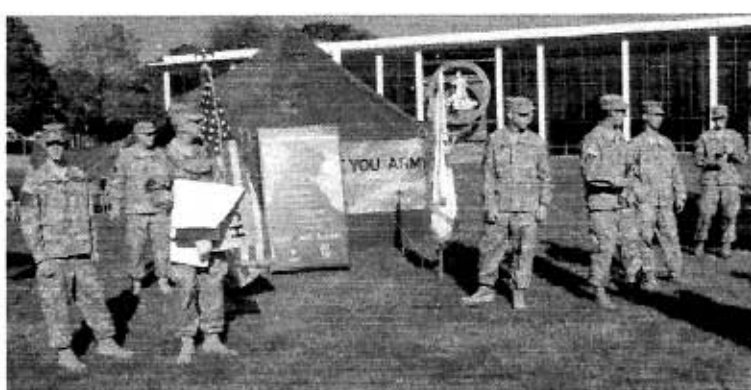
After the event, Chapter officer CSM Bob Hodge received the following email from one attendee:

**CSM Hodge,**

*It was nice meeting you this weekend at the AUSA booth. I am glad to see the AUSA is active and well there at the VT campus. I strive to advocate for the Army whenever I can. I believe we all have a responsibility to do so. Many people young and old alike do not have any real exposure to our military and the US Army in particular. So everyone we can touch relaying positive experiences helps. Most of my time was in the reserves, but I believe all my experiences in the US Army, National Guard and Army Reserve made me a stronger person, and taught me lessons that I still carry with me decades later. I am a federal agent working in Washington, D.C. Not a day goes by that I do not rely on the traits instilled in me by the Army, such as strength, honor and courage. I am attaching a scanned page of my senior class yearbook from 1984 at Virginia Tech. The 23 years have aged me a bit but you can see the reference of my service as the AUSA Cadet Chapter Commander in 1984 [Ed note: Mr Trotto attached a copy of his graduation yearbook photo and caption].*

*It was a pleasure and honor to speak with you, SGM Ruff and COL Lofgren. God bless and keep up the good work.*

**Thomas L. Trotto**  
Broad Run, VA



## Daddy's Home !



*It was an extra special Veteran's Day for the Blevins family as the Montgomery County contingent of the 116th Infantry Regiment has returned on Friday, 9 Nov 07, after 15 months in Kosovo. CPT Blevins was deployed in July of 2006 and his family is overjoyed to see him safe in their arms at last.*

*For more then a year soldiers under the command of CPT Blevins have been tasked to patrol the Serbian areas of the Province of Kosovo. The 116th Regiment was a part of a multinational task force deployed to keep the peace between the majority Albanian's and the minority Serbian peoples. "Mainly we patrolled the minority Serb areas...trying to keep the peace there," said Blevins.*

*This was CPT Blevin's first deployment and he was quick to say that the people of Albania and Kosovo were*

*very good to them. "They loved us there..the Albanians especially...the Serbians not quite as much as the Albanians but they were still good to us." CPT Blevins expects to be deployed again "I think it's just a matter of time" he said.*

*For now he is just glad to be home and be with his family.*

[Editor's Notes: The chapter supported two of the returning contingents of the 116th Infantry Regiment; C Company in Christiansburg and HHC in Lynchburg. A various array of individual snack cakes were supplied and delivered by chapter Executive Committee members to the waiting families at both National Guard armories prior to the arrival of the troops. Approximately 125 flag waving relatives and friends greeted the two Christiansburg buses as they arrived with full police escort.]

### **GOLDEN CORRAL/VETERANS DAY**

**By Chapter Secretary  
SGM Bob Ruff**

Each year I manage to pay a visit to a Golden Corral on or around Veterans Day to not only receive a free meal, but to meet and talk to many veterans, most of whom I have never met before. This year on 12 Nov, I was fortunate to have COL Dave Lofgren, Chapter VP, as my dinner buddy. The Golden Corral does this every year during the Veterans Day time frame, giving veterans a chance to meet one another, dine together and tell their own "war stories". We were treated with dignity and the greatest respect from the employees and staff. Dave and I were honored to sit near veteran residents from the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VCC) and chat with some of them. They were bused in by the great people that work at the VCC. All you wanted to eat and best of all, it was FREE. I heartedly commend Golden Corral for their patriotism each year in honoring our country's veterans. God Bless them.

**OUR SINCERE THANKS TO MR. BARRY COX AND THE STAFF OF ESI FOR THE COURTESY PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER!**



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson Chapter**  
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November 2007

To the Soldiers of the 116th Inf Regiment, 29th Inf Div:

WELCOME HOME and WELL DONE! Task Force Red Dragon has done a magnificent job this past year in Kosovo, a designated combat zone. You were instrumental in keeping the peace in this last disputed region of the now defunct communist Yugoslavia. As was noted at your departure, things could become tense at any time as you kept the peace between the Kosovo Muslim Albanians and the Serbs following their brutal fighting and reports of "ethnic cleansing." You have given them another year to work out a solution which may result in an independent Kosovo. You have written a new chapter to be added to the long and gallant history of the 116th Infantry.

Let me say, on behalf of all the members of the "Stonewall" Jackson Chapter of the AUSA, it is good to have you back home with your loved ones. We thank God for your safe return and hope the world situation improves so you never have to go in harms way again.

Carl B. Matney, Jr.  
LTC, USAR (Ret)  
President



## CHIEF OF STAFF: ARMY TOO THIN

*[Editor's Note: This article is taken from AUSA "Legislative News" and is reprinted due to its extreme importance]*



In his first hearing as the Army's Chief of Staff, GEN George Casey told the House Armed Services Committee last week that the Army is stretched so thin by the war in Iraq that it cannot adequately respond to another conflict.

The Army is "out of balance" and "the current demand for our forces exceeds the sustainable supply. We are consumed with meeting the demands of the current fight and are unable to provide ready forces as rapidly as necessary for other potential contingencies," said GEN Casey.

GEN Casey personally requested the hearing – a move military analysts said underscores his growing concern about the Army. His testimony clearly signaled to lawmakers that the costs of ongoing military operations is rising and if U.S. forces in Iraq are not significantly reduced soon, the Army will need far more resources and money to ensure it is prepared to handle future

security threats.

GEN Casey and Army Secretary Pete Geren, who also appeared, said units now deployed to combat zones are highly trained and outfitted with proper equipment. Their concern rests with the units returning from Iraq or those preparing to deploy without all of the necessary equipment. Additionally, stocks of equipment positioned worldwide are low because of the war. Replenishing these stockpiles "will give us back our strategic flexibility," GEN Casey said.

Another major concern is the 15-month deployment schedule soldiers now face which only allows them 12 months or less at home before deploying again. GEN Casey said that the cycle allows for "insufficient recovery time."

He touched on the Army Reserve and Army National Guard – the nation's backup forces in the event of a major conflict. He said they "are performing an operational role for which they were neither originally designed nor resourced."

Added to the mix is the incredible toll the soldiers' families face. GEN Casey said in his written testimony, "We recognize the strain on Families, are aware that Families play an important role in maintaining the readiness of our all-volunteer force, and must therefore insure that their quality of life is commensurate with their quality of service."

The Pentagon's current system can not sufficiently support the troops or their families, GEN Casey said. Given enough resources, he predicted it would take at least three or four years to restore the Army to full strength.

*"If all that Americans want is security they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads. But if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government."*

General Dwight D Eisenhower

## What the corps did over the summer:

BY MAJ. GEN. JERROLD P. ALLEN

### *Cadets and their training*

Members of the corps of cadets participated in exciting and challenging training opportunities around the world during summer break.

Traveling to Argentina for a two-week cultural immersion sponsored by the Olmsted Foundation were Cadet Regimental Commander Mike Raines and cadets Megan Vance, Jennifer Henszey, David Mendonsa, and Robert Read. While in Argentina, these cadets saw various areas of the country, spent two days with an Argentine family on a ranch, made a day trip to Uruguay, visited the Argentine Naval War College, met with the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy, and performed a community service project in an elder care facility.

Among the individual service branches, Navy ROTC cadets traditionally have the most exciting travel opportunities. For example, immediately following her Olmsted Foundation experience in Argentina, Henszey flew to Australia to join the USS Juneau, a navy amphibious transport. Krista Beernink flew an F-18 sortie from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, experiencing the thrill of catapult launches and arrested landings. Benjamin Knott was one of just two cadets chosen from a nationwide pool of more than 1,000 to intern at the innovation and experimentation laboratory at Joint Forces Command Headquarters in Norfolk, Va. It was no surprise that Benjamin was selected for this coveted slot: he has a perfect 4.0 QCA after three years in mechanical engineering. Additionally, 10 Marine ROTC members went to Quantico, Va., for Officer Candidate School, passing the grueling course with flying colors.

Many Air Force cadets attended

field training at various Air Force bases, with five earning Distinguished Graduate recognition by finishing in the top 10 percent: Jonathan Bonilla, Nolan Faulkner, Stephan Frye, Purvis Gaddis, and Bryant Tomlin.

For the second consecutive year, Army ROTC cadets performed superbly at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Wash. Thirty-one percent of our cadets earned the top rating, "excellent." Comparatively, the "excellent" ratings for the other senior military colleges were 25 percent for North Georgia, 21 percent for the Citadel, 19 percent for VMI, 15 percent for Norwich, and 15 percent for Texas A&M.

Our cadets also had the highest physical-fitness-test average and the highest scores in land navigation. Nineteen percent of our cadets earned the coveted RECONDO award—which rewards cadets who get the highest ranking in nine areas of performance—compared to 7 percent from the Citadel, 4 percent from VMI, and 3 percent from Texas A&M. Among the top performers were Kip Beach, who was first in his unit of 55 cadets from across the nation, and Katherine Haimann, who won

the Pathfinder Award for the fastest land-navigation completion time. Additionally, at the Army ROTC leadership course, Andrew Rosado won the Bold Leader Award as the best in his unit of 255 cadets.

Our cadets have achieved excellence and demonstrated the *Ut Prosim* spirit while training to serve as leaders of the future for the commonwealth and the nation. They make us proud.

*Maj. Gen. Jerrold P. Allen is commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.*



VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS

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