The year has just started and the cadets of Detachment 875 have already achieved and experienced many exciting things.

For the first Leadership Lab of the year, Det. 875 had the privilege of hosting Medal of Honor recipient COL Walter Joseph Marm Jr. (Ret.) who received the medal for his gallantry during the Vietnam War. He came to Virginia Tech to present Cadet Sherburne with a scholarship that was co-sponsored by the Medal of Honor Foundation and the AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association). This was a highly competitive scholarship and it is a true honor to have one of our own receive it.

Throughout LLAB the conversation shifted towards the history and the importance of the Medal of Honor. There were discussions about the characteristics and attributes that many of the recipients of the medal possess.

It was a rare and exciting opportunity to have one of the 72 living Medal of Honor recipients come and visit Detachment 875.

Several cadets from the detachment also had the opportunity to travel to Langley Air Force Base to train with the Air National Guard. They went as part of Fam Flight, a program allowing cadets aspiring to be pilots flight time in jets.

Cadet D’Avella was one of the cadets that participated in the program. Upon return, he shared his experience on flying in the back seat of a T-38 and conducting practice dog fights against F-22 Raptors. This program is a wonderful opportunity for cadets to solidify their decision on flight careers within the Air Force.
As the clouds loomed over lower quad and rain fell from above, the dramatic weather could not stop Detachment 875’s Welcome Back Picnic. Spirits remained high as AFROTC Cadre welcomed everyone back from summer break. A special presentation was held for our detachment’s recent LEAD graduates. With record high scores and the most graduates ever, our detachment welcomed all of the recent grads with thunderous applause. Congratulations to all the cadets who completed their summer training!

After the ceremony, cadets were invited to indulge in pizza and soda. C/Krusiec was instrumental in organizing and executing the event. “I started planning once I got on the bus leaving LEAD on August 20th and continued until August 31st for a total of 11 days” C/Krusiec said. C/Krusiec’s dedication to working on the picnic allowed the entire Wing to participate in one of the hallmark events of the year. “Being able to eat and play with the Wing in an event that I helped plan was really special” C/Krusiec said. “I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who helped me during this busy time, especially during the start of the year.” C/Krusiec said he wouldn’t have been able to put forth such an event without the help of Cadets Leonard, Martell, Tull, Rosas and Moats as well as the numerous volunteers who helped. He also extended thanks to Kroger and Little Caesar’s for their contribution.

Following the food, Detachment 875 ended the evening in competitive fun as the squadrons played each other in epic dodgeball games. Everyone left the evening with enthusiasm for the challenges and joys the coming semester will bring.
Earlier this month, the detachment performed its annual memorial stair workout in remembrance of the terrible acts perpetrated on September 11, 2001. As the detachment gathered in Lane stadium to perform the workout, there was a solemnness in the air. As a wing, each person was to strive to reach 2,996 stairs, one for each casualty from September 9, 2001.

The wing was joined by members of the local police and fire department.

Once the run was done, the detachment watched “The Man in the Red Bandana”. A video about a man who sacrificed everything to save people he didn’t know. The video delivered a strong message about service before self, showing that the value goes beyond simply being an Air Force motto.

This day served as an inspiration and reminder of our duty—to fly, fight, and win.
The wall of fame ceremony for General Carlton D. Everhart was a moment that will never be forgotten by Detachment 875 cadets. General Everhart is the commander of Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He is a well-respected general and alumni of the VTCC, with more 3,000 flight hours. The ceremony began with a speech given by Cadet White, providing remarks about General Everhart. General Everhart then gave his own remarks about what made him so successful, and the person he is today -- “Bloom where you are planted” was the foundation for his message.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to serve my Air Force family,” General Everhart stated. He told a story about the Southwest Asia Evacuation Plan and the nurses that were determined to bring the men home.

After his speech, General Everhart was given the honor of presenting the Cadet of the Month award to three cadets and received some awards of his own, such as a VT scarf.

The Robert Femoyer Service Squadron gave General Everhart a framed photograph of one of their favorite landmarks as a special thank you. Flowers and a detachment coin were given to members of his family in attendance. This wall of fame moment will always be a part of Detachment 875.
On September 15th, Det. 875 traveled to Dayton, Ohio to participate in the Air Force Marathon. Cadets could register in a range of runs from a 5k up to a full marathon (over 26 miles). During their free time, cadets and cadre could visit the U.S. Air Force museum, which houses over 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles.

Our very own Col. Torrens participated in the full marathon, completing it in just under three hours and 26 minutes - which comes out to a 7 minute and 52 second pace per mile. Col. Torrens beat his time from over 20 years ago. Trailing behind him was C/Ragan, the only female from Det. 875 to participate in the full marathon.

In the 10k, cadets Tinker and Kassel (pictured below) wore airplanes made from cardboard. At the finish line, a commentator was overheard yelling, “Are these planes cleared for landing?”

All cadets received medals for participating. Next year’s race will be held on September 15th, 2018.