

VIPMOAA MEMBERS INVITED!

Members are invited to represent VIPMOAA in the 2012 end of the year Annual Award programs at the ROTC and JROTC schools supported by us. At these programs, we and MOAA recognize the top cadets at 11 JROTC units and 3 ROTC units as selected by the unit's PM&S- using MOAA criteria. The awards programs are normally scheduled between the end of March and the beginning of June. If you want to participate in this gratifying promotion of young leadership, please contact either Boyd Nix (E-mail: nixb1@cox.net or cell: 846-6357) or Norm Merski (E-mail: merski1@cox.net) on/before 15 March 2012. *Norm Merski, COL, USA (Ret)*



L to R 2nd LTs: Brittany Pitts, Robert Kearney IV, Rajae Jones, Demarkis Boone, Lauri Blair & Glynn Alexander.

Boyd Nix, Col (ret) USAF and Norm Merski Col (ret) USA also represented VIPMOAA. Beaming with these new Lieutenants, were their parents, friends, or loved ones who assisted as they pinned the new 2nd Lt bars on their shoulders - Excellent program at both schools! *Photo & article by Norm Merski, COL, USA (Ret)*

MID-YEAR ROTC COMMISSIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012.

It was a pleasure for VIPMOAA members to attend mid-year commissioning programs at Hampton University and The College of William & Mary. A total of 7 young graduates were inducted into the Officers Corps – all Army. Hampton U. ROTC under the leadership of PM&S, LTC Kenneth Smedley, commissioned 6 new officers on 16 December, while the College of William & Mary ROTC under the leadership of PM&S, LTC Barbara Streater, commissioned 1 new officer.

Presenting the commissioning awards (2LT bars w/certificate) was Blair Smith LTC (ret) USA at Hampton U. while at The College of William & Mary was Fred Malvin, CDR (ret) USN. Both presenters were also graduates of these schools respectively.

VIPMOAA'S CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS CAMPAIGN

Thanks to two of our ROTC units and St Olaf's church, VIPMOAA has added another 50+ cell phones collected for VIPMOAA's successful CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIER'S Campaign. Cadets Hannah Ugarte and Barbara Walker from The College of William & Mary ROTC organized a collection effort on campus and collected 34 old cell phones. Major Wallace from Hampton University added another 10 phones; and St. Olaf's 8. We thank all the ROTC/JROTC schools as well as St. Olaf's for actively participating. The ROTC/JROTC units overall collection total for the campaign was over 100 cell phones. As the campaign ends on 31 January 2012, VIPMOAA under active leadership of our President, Frank Duckett, VIPMOAA will have collected an overall campaign total of approximately 700 as of the beginning of January. Great finish, as VIPMOAA is one of the top chapters, nationwide!

Norm Merski, COL, USA (Ret)



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