TO: New Virginia Tech Women Students

FROM: Dean of Admissions and Commandant of Cadets

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a significant change in University policy concerning participation in the Corps of Cadets which took place after you were accepted for admission.

The University Board of Visitors has approved the admission of women into ROTC and the establishment of a Women's Corps of Cadets beginning with Fall Quarter, 1973. We hope you will read carefully the information contained in this letter and the enclosed brochure, and let us know promptly if you are interested in taking advantage of these new opportunities available to you.

The action of the University Board of Visitors is consistent with the changes occurring in all of the Armed Forces where a broad range of occupational specialties is being opened to women, and the numbers of women employed in leadership positions are expanding rapidly. The Air Force has accepted women in ROTC for the past five years and nationwide enrolls approximately 1,500. The Army initiated its ROTC program in 1972 when it opened the doors to women at ten colleges. As of this date, the Army has yet to decide on further expansion; but we are optimistic a favorable decision will be made soon. In the meantime, the Virginia Tech offering is limited to the Air Force program.

The ROTC programs at Virginia Tech are optional electives which consist of a basic course for the first two years and an advanced or professional officer course the third and fourth years. Advanced course students are required to attend a four-week summer training program at a military installation before receiving their commissions as second lieutenants. There is also a two-year program offered primarily for transfer students. This latter program requires attendance at a six-week summer course before the beginning of the junior year in lieu of the two-year basic instruction.

Students enrolled in ROTC receive approximately $660 over four years to cover the cost of required clothing; and in addition, those in the advanced
course receive a tax free allowance of $100 per month. Scholarships of three and two years duration which pay tuition and University fees plus $100 per month are also available, and a significant number of Tech students have been awarded these. The enclosed brochure gives you more detail about Air Force ROTC for women and the opportunities for women in the Air Force.

At Virginia Tech ROTC students are required to be members of the Corps of Cadets. The Corps has been an important part of Tech since its beginning in 1872 and remains so today. The introduction of a women's corps is unique for we know of no other college or university where such a program exists.

As one would expect, the women's corps is not yet precisely defined. It will be a part of the men's corps - patterned after it, yet different; and, of course, not completely integral. The women cadets will live together in a block of rooms in Monteith Hall on the upper quadrangle adjacent to the men's cadet dormitories and, like the men, will have their own leaders responsible for implementing the policies and procedures which the women's group will in large measure develop under the supervision of the Commandant of Cadets. The Commandant's Office has as an assistant a woman Air Force captain to work directly with the group.

Also, like the men cadets, the women will wear distinctive clothing. Few of these items will be designed and decided upon until after the corps becomes a reality, and its members have an opportunity to participate in the decisions.

Starting a women's corps presents many challenges and offers unusual opportunities for its members to develop leadership and executive ability in the processes of planning, developing, and supervising corps operations. If you wish to take advantage of these opportunities and the Air Force ROTC program, please complete the enclosed data sheet and return it to the Dean of Admissions no later than June 15, 1973. If you desire additional information on ROTC, use the form which is a part of the brochure.