



Pretty, Blue-Eyed Pat Miller
... receives first coed commission at VPI

Old Army's Gone All Over, VPI Gives First Coed Bars

By BILL REED
Battalion News Editor

A pretty, blue-eyed coed cadet at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., has established two "firsts" for the Corps of Cadets during her four-year college career.

Miss Patricia Ann Miller of Richmond, Va., will be wearing the first size 14 uniform in VPI's military history, and will also be the first girl ever to be commissioned a second lieutenant at a Tech graduation. She will receive her gold bars at the commissioning ceremony June 6.

Pat, a 21-year-old, 5-7 senior, became famous as a freshman, causing quite a stir in the ROTC Department when she requested military science along with her other courses.

The Virginia Tech, VPI's student newspaper, wrote:

"Fitting her into the classroom program was no problem, but there was considerable question as to whether Pat would don trousers to go to drill, or whether the whole Cadet Corps would wear skirts. The problem was solved very nicely by allowing Pat to miss the drill phase of the course entirely."

Upon graduation Pat will come to Texas. She will enter the Army Medical Specialists Corps, one of three branches which gives direct

commissions. She will eventually become an Army dietitian after a year of dietetic internship at Fort Sam Houston, where she will take her basic officer's training.

Military life is nothing new to the pretty blonde cadet. Her father, Lt. Col. Raymond O. Miller, a '39 graduate of VPI, is a regular Army man from way back. Pat will be joining the ranks of a long chain of military relatives.

She has lived on countless military posts in 45 states and 3 foreign countries. Just to show how much she has moved around during her father's career, she recalls changing schools six times while in the first grade.

"I have been in the Army all my life and didn't want to leave it," Pat said.

She chose Tech for two reasons: Its military aplomb and its courses in home economics. Being an authority on parade ground activities, she believes the Tech Corps "is one of the finest in the country."

Her classmates in the Tech woman's dorm don't rib her about her career.

"As a matter of fact, they're all excited about it—I'm very proud of my classmates," she said.

Col. Edgar H. Thompson Jr., professor of military science and

tactics at Tech, believes Pat will make an exceptionally good officer.

"She likes what she has picked for a career," he stated.

The colonel isn't sure just how Pat's commission will be presented. "But we will not give her a commission via the back door," he assured.

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C. E. Tishler, Chairman
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