

# Progress in 1998

Greetings from Camden Military Academy. I am pleased to report that we have had an outstanding year. Our Corps of Cadets has performed in a magnificent manner and has exceeded all expectations.

Significantly, 83% of our old cadets rejoined us this year, a superlative accomplishment when the average return rate for schools of our type is 40% to 50%. A high level of retention is an important measure of CMA's programs. By February our enrollment had reached 236. Our cadets have high morale, perform well in the classroom, and adhere to good standards of behavior.

Thirty-nine seniors will graduate in May. All of them have made plans either for higher education or to enter the military service. At the end of second semester, 39 cadets had achieved Gold Stars for academic excellence by maintaining a 90 or above grade average. We have upgraded our computer facility with state of the art equipment, including 686 micro-processors with 2.0 GB hard drives. This equipment will enhance our new advanced programming offerings. We have also added several new faculty members this year in an effort to expand our academic offerings. We have increased our graduation requirements to 21 credits. This number will rise to 22 credits by 1999 and 24 by 2000. These measures will make us richer academically and will allow our graduates to remain competitive for college admission.

The renovation of our administration building, which we occupied in early December, has allowed us to consolidate all our administrative and cadet services in one location. Our recently completed swimming pool is a beauty. The bathroom facilities in Dallas Barracks have been renovated, and all cadet rooms in all barracks now have new padded chairs, as well as new mattresses and desks.

Our sports teams have continued to be highly competitive. Our young men have turned in outstanding performances this year. Bobby Dingee was selected as an All-State, All-Conference lineman. Lyn Chambers won honors as an All-State, All-County punter. James C. "Tee" Ferguson was named to the All-Conference basketball team. In wrestling, Brent Boyd set a school record for most wins in a career and Chris Austin for most wins in a season. Chris went on to become State Heavyweight Champion.

Militarily, for over twenty years our cadets have earned an Honor Unit with Distinction designation following our annual inspection. This designation is the highest honor a unit can achieve in the Junior



Reserve Officers Training Corps. Our drill team has continued to perform in an outstanding manner. Battalion Commander Kyle Hause has provided positive leadership and has served as a good role model for his fellow cadets.

We are improving and growing. Our program and facilities are steadily being upgraded; we are at full enrollment; and our reputation as an outstanding school continues to climb. The Corps of Cadets is the finest I have observed. We can all feel proud of their appearance, conduct, and efforts to do their best. We continue to attract good young men who want to be better. As an institution, we remain true to our belief in God and to our commitment to maintaining a quality faculty, insuring a safe environment for our cadets, and providing them a rigorous academic program that challenges each one of them to achieve his best.

**Colonel William K. Orris**  
**Headmaster**