

# Enlightened Leadership

Two years ago Colonel Eric Boland became the third headmaster of Camden Military Academy during a difficult transitional period. He succeeded Headmaster Emeritus Colonel Lanning P. Risher and Colonel William K. Orris. In only two years he has revitalized the Academy with firm, insightful leadership that springs from his youthful energy and twenty-three years of dedicated service to our school. He is ideally suited to lead Camden Military Academy.

Colonel Boland began his teaching career at Conway High School in 1979 after graduating from the University of South Carolina with a degree in philosophy. While coaching football, basketball, and track, he also served as a graduate assistant in the philosophy department at Coastal Carolina University. In 1980 he became head coach at Pee Dee Academy in Marion, SC. He continued his successful rise in the coaching ranks by becoming athletic director and head basketball coach at Marlboro County High School in 1981. In the same year he returned to USC, where earned his master's degree in education in 1982. Then he began his long tenure at CMA. In his first year he was head basketball coach and assistant football coach. In his second, he was athletic director while coaching both sports. In the years that followed, he compiled an enviable record, winning 15 out of 20 conference titles in basketball and 12 out of 20 in football. Even now he is continuing his education and anticipates his doctorate in Christian Counseling in June of this year.

Long before he became headmaster, Colonel Boland had duties that extended beyond coaching. In addition to scheduling all sports events, he scheduled most student activities on and off campus. Moreover, he has been a role model that hundreds of young men could emulate with confidence. He has earned the respect of the student body and his colleagues by treating them with respect. Before assum-

ing his present duties, he served as adviser and assistant headmaster to his predecessor, Colonel Orris.

Although he has been at his post for only two years, Colonel Boland has already implemented improvements that will serve the Academy well for years to come. His responsible leadership has inspired confidence from the Board of Trustees and benefactors who have contributed to our school. Under Colonel Boland's direction, the new classroom building has been completed; groundbreaking for a chapel will occur in three months; all sidewalks have been paved, and parking lots behind the library and the gym have been surfaced. The library and the Carlisle house have been renovated; the baseball field has been fenced and has a new scoreboard; pictures in the dining hall have been reframed and redesigned; new signs have been put up on all the buildings and at other locations; and a meditation circle has been built in front of the library.

He has also conceived and implemented a new schedule that makes more constructive use of every hour in the day. Changing the times for drill, physical training, and classes has created a far more harmonious interaction of the many academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities that comprise the daily life of CMA cadets.

All these additions have elevated the quality of life at Camden Military Academy, but beyond the physical improvements Colonel Boland's spirited leadership and dedication to the Academy create a disciplined yet pleasant environment in which all students have an opportunity to learn from a talented and caring faculty and staff.

Enrollment now stands at the Academy's full capacity of 302 cadets, with a substantial waiting list. Under Colonel Boland's leadership, CMA continues to attract students from all over the United States and many parts of the world. The quality of the student body, the faculty, and staff has never been higher. The reputation of Camden

Military Academy as one of the outstanding military secondary schools in the United States continues to grow.

For his many contributions to the Academy in the present and over the years, for his dedication to the care and education of young men, and for his able and insightful leadership, we the Cadet Corps of Camden Military Academy respectfully dedicate the 2005 edition of *Excalibur* to Colonel Eric Boland.

