West Point and VMI, here they come!

Two THS grads head to military schools

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Trinity High School 2016 graduate Mary English has been accepted for admission to the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.

About 50 percent of the 1,257-member class of 2020 at West Point were high school seniors, with the remainder comprised of active duty enlisted soldiers, students who have completed at least one year of college and students from the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. English is one of only 216 women admitted.

English, who plans to major in systems and decision sciences with a focus on either project or logistics management, was incredulous when she heard she had been accepted.

“The first thing that I did was email my admission counselor to verify that I had actually gotten in and that it had not been a mistake,” she said. “I feel that West Point is a good fit for me because I like the order and discipline that the school has as a whole passes for me. West Point also has a multitude of opportunities for students like study abroad and different summer opportunities like Air Assault Training, Airborne School and Combat Diver’s Course.”

Notable graduates of the U.S. Army college founded in 1802 include Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower, 18 presidents, 74 Medal of Honor recipients, 70 Rhodes Scholars and three Heisman Trophy winners.

Trinity High School JROTC Instructor Col. Michael Humphrey said it’s a tremendous honor not only for the Air Force Junior ROTC program, but for Trinity High School to have one of their own accepted to the corps at West Point.

“The military and prestigious history of West Point and the officers the Academy has graduated into the service of our nation speaks for itself,” he said. “The Academy accepts approximately 1,100 students in their corps of cadets every year. When you consider the total number of high schools in the United States along with the stringent standards that the Academy rightly requires of its cadets, you can easily see not only how difficult it is to gain admission, but what a privilege it is. In addition, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point provides one of the finest educations in the world.”

During the year she was in the Trinity High School JROTC unit, English earned the Daughter of the American Revolution Award (2016), the Outstanding Cadet ribbon, the Achievement ribbon, the Co-Curricular Activities Leadership ribbon, the Beta Death March Memorial Hike Ribbon, and others. English served the Corps of Cadets as the Inspector General and the Judge Advocate General.

She is the daughter of Kathleen (Cal) and Franklin (Butch) English of Archdale.

“When West Point started sending her letters, and then sending me letters, after she stopped laughing at the idea of her going into the military, she stopped and thought about the benefits, decided she was going to do it and she made it happen,” said her mom. “She didn’t have the best grades, isn’t an athlete, she’s not in student council, but she researched and did everything she could to make herself look good through clubs, leadership activities, ROTC and volunteer work, got the support of her teachers and pulled it all together. She did this on her own, from becoming a Girls State Delegate, to getting her vaccines.”

Also serving time as a cadet of the Trinity High School JROTC unit, Morgan Davis has received academic and athletic scholarships to the prestigious Virginia Military Institute. She is the daughter of Keith and Debbie Davis of Archdale.

As a senior Davis served as Cadet Corps Commander. Under her leadership the Corps was recognized during the two years Morgan Davis was in JROTC, she received two national awards, including the American Legion National ROTC Scholastic Medal and the Daughters of the American Revolution Award, both in 2016, with the Distinguished Unit Award. During the two years she was in JROTC, she received two national awards, including the American Legion National ROTC Scholastic Medal and the Daughters of the American Revolution Award, both in 2016.

As a swimmer, Davis made Trinity High School athletic history as the first female swimmer in the school to qualify for not only state playoffs but also nationals. Placing in top 8 at states, she broke every record in every stroke in 2012-2013. She was 2A-PAC Conference Female Swimmer of the Year in 2013-2014 and 2015-2016. She was also a member of the National Beta Club and National Society of High School Scholars.

In 2015, she was selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security, Davis, who aspires toward a career in national security, will attend VMI to seek advanced degrees in an area of criminal justice (national security, intelligence analysis, etc.) and international or military affairs.

Submitted photos