

# AMHERST COUNTY MILITIA BY-LAWS



*“Honoring Our Past, Defending Our Future”*



# AMHERST COUNTY MILITIA

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1: OVERVIEW

#### SECTION 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be referred to as "Amherst County Militia"; hereinafter known as "ACM".

It is our goal to restore the good name of the Militia by true and honorable conduct of our members.

#### SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

The ACM exists to actively protect and defend the unalienable Rights of all members of the community, by any and all legal means, by training to arms and by supporting like-minded individuals and groups seeking to organize for the cause of and work on behalf of liberty as defined in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia.

#### SECTION 3 - MISSION

We shall ever stand, as have our forefathers before us, to defend our Constitutional Rights and God given freedoms from those who attempt to deprive us of either.

#### SECTION 4 - PRINCIPLES

1. We are law abiding, professional and respectful citizens holding ourselves to a higher standard and demonstrating the utmost integrity.
2. We exist to protect and defend our Constitutional Rights and God given freedoms of all Virginians.
3. We believe in upholding the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and The Constitution of Virginia.
4. As did our Founding Fathers, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"



## SECTION 5 – CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I am a citizen of my State serving in the unorganized militia. I am prepared to give my life to guard and protect my homeland, our common law rights and liberties, and our way of life. This service is a duty of my citizenship.
2. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.
3. I will never forget that I am a citizen of my State, and through her, of these United States. I am responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles that made this country free. I will strive to lead an exemplary life and never, by action or statement, bring discredit to the militia, my country, or my fellow countrymen.

## SECTION 6 – OATH

I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me. So help me God.

## ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1 - TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership consists of those individuals who have qualified and have been approved for membership. Membership consists of two types:

1. Active -
  - a. Rifle Platoon Members
    - i. Regularly trained to arms
    - ii. Serve in leadership positions
    - iii. Hold voting privileges
  - b. Support Platoon Members
    - i. Not regularly trained to arms
    - ii. May attend but not participate in Rifle Platoon specific training
    - iii. Participate in activities that support ACM
    - iv. May serve on special committees
    - v. Hold group voting privileges but not on matters specifically affecting Rifle Platoons
2. Inactive -
  - a. Reserves
    - i. No voting rights
    - ii. May not serve in leadership positions



## SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. All Members and new Recruits –
  - a. Membership is open to all law abiding residents of Virginia
  - b. Must attend 6 monthly meetings, per year
  - c. Must attend 3 training events, per year
  - d. Must take the ACM Oath
2. Additional requirements for Rifle Platoon Members –
  - a. Must pass rifle marksmanship training
  - b. Must maintain physical fitness readiness standards

## SECTION 3 - MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING

1. Membership is processed by the ACM/S1 staff.
2. Upon joining each member will be provided an ACM information packet.
3. A roster must be kept up to date and will be safeguarded by the ACM/S1
  - a. Members training attendance will be logged
  - b. Members skill sets and certifications will be logged
  - c. File must be stored securely and password protected

## SECTION 4 - MEMBERSHIP TERMINATIONS

All members must act in a professional manner and be respectful of others at all times. Members will be held to a higher standard. Any member who participates in illegal or inappropriate activities, conducts themselves in any manner that negatively reflects upon the image of the ACM or attempts to subvert our Constitutional Republic form of government, as described in the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia may be considered for termination of membership.

1. Any member may voluntarily request to terminate their membership in writing to any member of the ACM Staff.
2. Any member may present a request for termination of any other member in writing to any member of the ACM Staff.
3. ACM Staff must hold a meeting to deliberate on how to proceed for the recommended termination in a timely manner based on severity of the termination request.
4. If ACM Staff decides to proceed with the request for termination, the member submitting the request for termination must present their justification in-person to the ACM Staff.
5. The member facing termination has the right to be present and to speak on his own behalf.
6. After hearing all evidence, ACM Staff shall deliberate and vote in closed session. A quorum vote by ACM Staff is required to approve the termination.



7. Members who participate in illegal activities or advocates for acts of criminal violence or terrorism, upon a conviction in a court of law, will have their membership terminated immediately. Any member who is awaiting a trial for alleged illegal activity will be placed temporary suspension pending the outcome of their trial. The degree of the suspension will be determined by ACM Staff according to the severity of the alleged illegal activity.
8. All terminations will be documented in writing to be kept on file.
9. ACM patches and insignia must be returned to ACM Staff upon termination.
10. Anyone whose ACM membership has been terminated may submit an appeal in writing to the ACM Staff to be reviewed.
11. ACM Staff must hold a meeting to review and make a determination on the appeal.

## **ARTICLE 3: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **SECTION 1 – COMMAND ROLES**

ACM uses the Army model for leadership and command staff roles and responsibilities.

1. Commanding Officer (CO) - The CO has overall responsibility for the militia and directing operations and those under his command.
2. Executive Officer (XO) - The XO is second in command, executing the CO's orders and overseeing day-to-day operations of the militia.
3. Command Sergeant Major (CSM) - Advises the CO on enlisted matters; sets standards and enforces policies, regulations, and directives; ensures the CO's intent, vision, and execution of the mission are carried out.
4. Platoon Leader - Platoon leaders are the managers of their assigned militia members, and are responsible for the day-to-day tasks the platoon must accomplish. Platoon leaders must design a plan for carrying out instructions, delegate tasks to platoon sergeants, squad leaders or individuals, and follow up to ensure those tasks are completed.
5. Platoon Sergeant - The Platoon Sergeant is second-in-command of the platoon. Assists and advises the platoon leader in handling daily tasking's to the squad leaders.
6. Squad Leader - The Squad Leader is the tactical center of the team and responsible for carrying out the mission tasks assigned by the platoon leader. Responsible for reporting up the chain of command, overseeing the maintenance of his squad's weapons and equipment, and tactically deploying his squad during missions and patrols.



## SECTION 2 - COMMAND STAFF ROLES

1. Personnel (S1) - The Personnel Section supervises personnel and administration duties. This department functions as the essential administrative liaison between members and leadership.
2. Intelligence (S2) - The Intelligence Section is responsible for collecting and analyzing intelligence information about an adversary to determine what they are doing, or might do, to prevent the accomplishment of the adversary's mission. Other S2 duties include intelligence oversight and may include control of maps and geographical information systems and data.
3. Operations (S3) - The Operations Section plans and coordinates operations and all things necessary to enable the formation to operate and accomplish its mission. All aspects of sustaining the unit's operations, planning future operations, and additional planning fall under the responsibility of operations. The S3 is the primary adviser to leadership for civilian-to-military and military-to-civilian impact of the mission/operation within their Area of Operations (AO) or Area of Interest (AOI).
4. Logistics (S4) - The Logistics Section is responsible for managing the wide scope of materiel, transport, facilities, services and medical/health support:
  - a. Design, development, acquisition, storage, distribution, maintenance, evacuation, and disposition of materiel
  - b. Transport of personnel and materiel
  - c. Acquisition or construction, maintenance, operation, and disposition of facilities
  - d. Acquisition or furnishing of services
  - e. Medical and health service support
5. Communications (S6) – The Communications Section coordinates and manages all communications during operations as well as troubleshooting and maintenance. Responsible for all electronic systems within the militia.
6. Training (S7) - The Training Section will manage and organize training activities in close coordination with Operations (S3).
7. Finance (S8) - The Finance Section manages all financial aspects and handles funds for the militia.
8. Civil Affairs (S9) - Civil affairs are the activities that establish, maintain, influence, or exploit relations between the militia and the local government, civilian organizations and authorities, and the civilian populace in their area of operations in order to facilitate operations and achieve mission objectives.



### SECTION 3 - COLLATERAL DUTY ROLES:

1. Public Affairs Officer (PAO) - Primary responsibilities are to assess the public affairs situation, advise leadership on public affairs issues, assist them in making well-informed decisions, and translate those decisions to the public.
2. Legal Advisor - Provides legal counsel, ethics opinions, and advice to leadership and militia members on all legal matters.
3. Chaplain - The Chaplain's responsibilities include performing religious rites, conducting worship services, providing confidential counseling and advising commanders on religious, spiritual and moral matters.

### SECTION 4 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

1. ACM Staff may form and dissolve temporary Special Committees as needed.
2. Members of Special Committees and subcommittees are appointed for specific projects and do not serve a specific term, but volunteer at will.

### SECTION 5 - TERMS OF OFFICE

1. Elected members of the ACM Staff shall serve for a term of one (1) year commencing immediately upon completion of tabulating votes cast.
2. In the event a member of the ACM Staff is unable to complete their term, is removed from their role, or resigns, a temporary officer or member shall be selected by the ACM Staff from the Active Membership to serve the remainder of the term.



## **ARTICLE 4: ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION 1 – ELECTIONS and VOTING**

1. Voting and election privileges are limited to Active Members.
2. Elections will be held for the Commander and Platoon Leader positions.
  - a. The Commander will appoint Command Staff positions.
  - b. The Platoon leader will appoint a Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leaders.
3. All eligible and qualified candidates must submit their application in writing no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. In the event there are no eligible and qualified candidates for a leadership position, the member currently serving in the leadership position may be reaffirmed for another term by a majority vote.
4. Elections will be conducted no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> by an appointed election committee.
5. Each candidate may speak on their merits for the leadership position.
6. Each member must vote in-person; no proxy voting is allowed.
7. Votes shall be cast by an undisclosed paper ballot.
8. A candidate is deemed to have won by a simple majority of votes cast.

## **ARTICLE 5: BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

### **SECTION 1 - SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

1. Any Active Member may present a request for an amendment to the By-Laws in writing to any member of the ACM Staff or may make a motion for, have it seconded and put to a 2/3 majority vote of active members for approval during an ACM meeting.
2. ACM Staff will meet to evaluate the By-Law amendment request.
3. A By-Law amendment is approved by a majority vote of ACM Staff.
4. ACM Staff will notify ACM Members of their decision.





## **ARTICLE 6: DISSOLUTION OF THE ACM**

1. The ACM may be dissolved at any time by recommendation of the ACM Staff and approved in writing by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the ACM, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the assets of the ACM shall be distributed to any member, but after payment of all lawful debts of the ACM, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization or organizations to be selected by the ACM Staff.
2. A designated individual shall be appointed by the ACM Staff and will maintain a copy of the current and complete By-Laws with all requisite ACM documents including complete minutes of ACM meetings.