



VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE

Recruiter Training (BLC)



VDF Recruiter Training (BLC)

The VDF is authorized by the Code of Virginia, Title 44. Military and Emergency Laws.

§ 44-1. Composition of militia.

The militia of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall consist of all able-bodied residents of the Commonwealth who are citizens of the United States and all other able-bodied persons resident in the Commonwealth who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, who are at least 16 years of age and, except as hereinafter provided, not more than 55 years of age. The militia shall be divided into three classes: the National Guard, which includes the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard; the Virginia Defense Force; and the unorganized militia.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force



The Virginia Defense Force with a targeted membership of at least 1,200 shall be organized within and subject to the control of the Department of Military Affairs.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force



When called to state active duty, the mission of the Virginia Defense Force shall be to

- (i) provide for an adequately trained organized reserve militia to assume control of Virginia National Guard facilities and to secure any federal and state property left in place in the event of the mobilization of the Virginia National Guard,
- (ii) assist in the mobilization of the Virginia National Guard,
- (iii) support the Virginia National Guard in providing family assistance to military dependents within the Commonwealth in the event of the mobilization of the Virginia National Guard, and
- (iv) provide a military force to respond to the call of the Governor in those circumstances described in § 44-75.1.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force



Nothing in this article shall be construed as authorizing the Virginia Defense Force or any part thereof to be called, ordered or in any manner drafted by federal authorities into the military service of the United States. However, no person by reason of his enlistment or appointment in the Virginia Defense Force shall be exempted from military service under any law of the United States.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force



Members of the Virginia Defense Force may serve in either of the following duty statuses:

1. "Training duty," which is the normal service and training performed by the Virginia Defense Force in order to be prepared for state active duty, and which includes but is not limited to organization, administration, recruiting, maintenance of equipment, armory drills, annual duty training, and training exercises.
2. "State active duty," which is the performance of actual military service for the Commonwealth when called by the Governor or his designee to active duty in service of the Commonwealth in accordance with Article 7 (§ 44-75.1 et seq.).

"Military duty" and "military service," as used in this title, shall include the activities of the members of the Virginia Defense Force while in training duty and state active duty status.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force

§ 44-54.6. Members, appointment and enlistment.



The age limitations of § 44-1 to the contrary notwithstanding, the Virginia Defense Force shall consist of:

1. Such volunteers who of their own volition agree to service in conformity with regulations prescribed by the Adjutant General who are
 - (i) residents of the Commonwealth or any contiguous state,
 - (ii) at least 16, provided that any volunteer under the age of 18 shall have the written consent of at least one parent or guardian, and
 - (iii) less than 65 years of age may join the Virginia Defense Force, except that the Adjutant General may, on a case-by-case basis, authorize volunteer members of the Virginia Defense Force to be accessed or retained beyond the age of 65 to the age of 75.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force

§ 44-54.6. Members, appointment and enlistment.



2. Such persons of the unorganized militia who may be drafted to fill the force structure of the Virginia Defense Force or who may be ordered out for active duty until released from such service.

The officers of the Virginia Defense Force shall be appointed by the Governor in conformity with regulations prescribed by the Adjutant General.

Enlisted members shall be enlisted and retained in conformity with regulations prescribed by the Adjutant General.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force

§ 44-54.9. Uniform; rank in precedence; command.



The Virginia Defense Force shall be uniformed and shall conform to standards of dress and appearance in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Adjutant General. The uniform and insignia of the Virginia Defense Force shall include distinctive devices identifying it as a state defense force and distinguishing it from the National Guard or the armed forces of the United States. The wearing of permanent military decorations awarded in the service of the armed forces of the United States or in the national guards of the several states is authorized.

The grade structure of the Virginia Defense Force, to the extent practicable, shall be the same as that prescribed for the Army National Guard.



Article 4.2. Virginia Defense Force

§ 44-54.10. Discipline.



All members of the Virginia Defense Force on training duty or state active duty shall be subject to military discipline. Infractions of military discipline by members of the Virginia Defense Force on training duty or state active duty shall be punishable under the provisions of §§ 44-40 and 44-40.01.



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



Eligibility requirements for membership in the VDF:

- Legal Resident of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia
- A valid Social Security number
- Age 16 to 65 (Minors require written consent of parent or legal guardian)
- Physical ability to perform in any assigned billet
- No felony convictions
- Good moral character
- Height-Weight Requirements for Recruitment into the VDF



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



Are members of the Virginia Defense Force armed?

The Code of Virginia states that “members of the Virginia State Defense Force shall not be armed with firearms during the performance of training duty or state active duty, except under circumstances and in instances authorized by the Governor.”

(§ 44.54.12)



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



Are members of the Virginia Defense Force paid?

Members receive pay only while on active duty authorized by the Governor. Pay rates are based on the U.S. Department of Defense's military pay scale and member's rank. Members are not paid for monthly drills or annual field training exercises.



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



How long are enlistments in the Virginia Defense Force?

Membership in the Virginia Defense Force is voluntary and members may request discharge at any time.



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



How are ranks assigned to new members of the Virginia Defense Force?

- New members of the Virginia Defense Force with prior federal service may enter the force at the same grade held in federal service, provided a billet of matching grade is vacant at time of appointment or enlistment.
- New members without prior federal service shall be **enlisted**.
- New members with certain professional occupations (doctors, lawyers, nurses and pilots) may join the force as commissioned officers if assigned to a billet matching their civilian occupations.
- New members who are graduates of a Senior Military College like VMI and Virginia Tech may join the force as commissioned officers.
- Enlistment and commissioning programs are subject to change. Applicants should contact a VDF recruiter for more information.



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



Are members of the Virginia Defense Force required to wear uniforms?

The Code of Virginia requires the force to be uniformed, conforming to standards of dress and appearance prescribed by the Adjutant General of Virginia. The uniform for the Virginia Defense Force is a version of the United States Army Combat Uniform (ACU) which conforms to state specific requirements contained in National Guard Bureau Regulation 10-4. (§ 44.54.9)



Applying Title 44 to VDF Recruiting



Is my job protected if I am ordered to state active duty with the Virginia Defense Force?

The Code of Virginia provides employment protections for members of the Virginia Defense Force and the Virginia National Guard. (§ 44.93)



What is the VDF like after joining?



- New members will be assigned to a billet based on their qualifications this could include a Signal Battalion, Liaison Battalion, Cyber Battalion or a position on a staff.
- New members should expect to drill one Saturday a month with their unit and/or up to two weekends per year.
- New members will be expected to complete required training separate from drills on a variety of subjects including military and emergency management topics.



Testing



The test is online. Use the below link to take the test:

[Recruiting Test](#)

You are required to get a score of 100% and can take the test as many times as you need to.