VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 52) 16 October 2026

Hazing Policy

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish clearly and unequivocally that VMI does not tolerate hazing and to ensure that cadets are not subjected to any type of hazing at any time. It is the responsibility of everyone in the VMI community to encourage an environment of learning that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of our community.

   Hazing is an unproductive and hazardous activity that is incongruous with the values expected of a VMI cadet or VMI employee and has no place at VMI, either on or off post. Hazing is injurious both to the individuals involved and to VMI.

2. **Policy:** 'Hazing' means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a cadet(s) or to inflict bodily injury on a cadet(s), in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, or student body; regardless of whether the cadet(s) so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity. See Appendix A (Va. Code Sec. 18.2-56). Hazing by any cadet or employee of the Institute will not be tolerated.

3. **Applicability:** This policy applies to all persons and groups associated with VMI, including, but not limited to, cadets, faculty, administrators, coaches, staff, athletic teams, club sports, and other organizations and encompasses all acts of hazing that occur on or off post.

   This policy is not intended to prohibit the following conduct:

   a. Customary athletic events, contests, or competitions that are sponsored by VMI or the organized and supervised practices associated with such events; or
   b. Any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, extracurricular program, or military training program, as approved by the Institute.

4. **Reporting:** Hazing complaints or any witness report/information regarding a hazing incident will be reported to the Commandant, the Inspector General, or any Institute Official, and may be reported anonymously as instructed through the VMI Police and VMI Inspector General websites. All incidents of reported hazing will be forwarded immediately to the Chief of Staff who will determine the appropriate office to conduct an investigation, if warranted. The Chief of Staff is charged with ensuring compliance with this policy.

5. **Disciplinary Action**
   Hazing is prohibited by law and Institute policy. Any individual or organization found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include a

sanction up to and including dismissal for cadets and termination of employment for faculty, administrators, coaches, and staff.

6. **Retaliation**
It shall be a violation of this policy for an individual or organization to retaliate against a cadet or other person for reporting a suspected incident of hazing or cooperating in any investigation or disciplinary proceeding regarding an incident of hazing. Any individual or organization found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include a sanction up to and including dismissal for cadets and termination of employment for faculty, administrators, coaches, and staff.

7. **Definitions:**
   a. Administrator: The superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant superintendent, institute official, director of a program or campus office, or designee of one of the aforementioned individuals.
   b. Organization: Military unit, athletic team, association, corporation, order, society, Corps, cooperative, club, or other similar group, whose members primarily are cadets, and which is officially recognized by the Institute.
   c. Staff: Any person employed directly by or retained through a contract with the Institute, including a coach or supervisor of an organization, professor, or intern.
   d. Cadet: Any person who is enrolled in or matriculating into the Institute, registered or in attendance in a program operated by the Institute, or who has been accepted for admission into any program operated by the Institute.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Travis Homiak
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
Chief of Staff

DIST: E, Cadets
OPR: COS

Appendix A

CODE OF VIRGINIA

§ 18.2-56. Hazing unlawful; civil and criminal liability; duty of school, etc., officials; penalty.

It shall be unlawful to haze so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college, or university.

Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants.

The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall, upon satisfactory proof of the guilt of any student hazing another student, sanction and discipline such student in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures. The institution's policies and procedures shall provide for expulsions or other appropriate discipline based on the facts and circumstances of each case and shall be consistent with the model policies established by the Department of Education or the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, as applicable. The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall report hazing which causes bodily injury to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which such school, college or university is, who shall take such action as he deems appropriate.

For the purposes of this section, “hazing” means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily injury on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

(Code 1950, § 18.1-71; 1960, c. 358; 1975, cc. 14, 15; 2003, cc. 62, 67; 2014, c. 627.)