

MISSOURI MILITIA BY-LAWS

Motto: "Service before Self"

I – PURPOSE: To explain the mission, structure, and rules of membership for the MISSOURI MILITIA, a volunteer organization. We are not an extension of the US military, we are the MISSOURI MILITIA. Per the 2nd Amendment, a well regulated Militia ("well regulated" means to TRAIN).

II – ETHICS: Members are encouraged to always present a positive image and lead exemplary lives. The actions of one member may jeopardize the legitimacy of the entire organization, their unit, as well as negatively impact other members across the state. We must remain vigilant and police ourselves. We do not tolerate any racism, sexism, or criminal behavior. Although the MISSOURI MILITIA does not support any specific political party or candidate, its members are free to express their individual political preferences. While no particular religious creed, doctrine or ideology is advocated by the MISSOURI MILITIA, its members are free to follow their individual beliefs.

III – MISSION: We are here for our communities, and our fellow citizens, across the state. When required, the MISSOURI MILITIA defends the Constitutions of both the State of Missouri and the United States of America, as well as protects the citizens of Missouri from all enemies, foreign and domestic. The MISSOURI MILITIA also aids state, county and local authorities when needed. In order to provide all such necessary aid and assistance when required, the MISSOURI MILITIA routinely prepares and practices for emergencies. Further, each unit strives to perform community outreach as a group, once per year, participating in food drives, blood drives, and other civic events.

IV – MEMBERSHIP: Our organization is open to any person that desires to join us in full standing, retains good moral character, and meets ALL of the requirements listed below. Any member that fails to comply with the following conditions is subject to immediate expulsion from their unit by their commanding officer and permanent loss of their membership in the MISSOURI MILITIA:

- ✓ (The member) must NOT be a fugitive from justice;
- ✓ must NOT be an illegal resident or alien;
- ✓ has NEVER been a convicted felon;
- ✓ must NOT be a user of any unlawful drugs;
- ✓ has NEVER been adjudicated mentally defective;
- ✓ has NEVER been employed as an undercover special agent, an informant, nor was or currently is an agent provocateur;
- ✓ has reached the age of 18; or, upon turning 17, has received consent to participate in the MISSOURI MILITIA as an adult, by gaining the signatures of parents (or legal guardians) on a permission form and a waiver of liability;
- ✓ has attained a valid concealed carry weapon (CCW) permit; or, a background check performed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol; or, completed a 90 day probation period and received unanimous consent by the members of their respective unit;
- ✓ must be a citizen of the United States of America;
- ✓ and, must be a citizen and lawful resident of the State of Missouri.

All recruits are expected to attend a minimum of three musters before an offer of membership may be extended. The unit will then take a Vote on admitting the recruit to the unit. (*The 3 meeting rule can be waived in special cases, i.e. for Doctors, Nurses*) The minimum age accepted is 17 per (10 USC311). It's highly recommended to get a parent or legal guardian to sign the Waiver of Liability. There is no maximum age limit, so all recruits wishing to serve may do so to their full ability. Additionally, all members will have either a CCW, or a background check, prior to carrying a firearm to any MISSOURI MILITIA sponsored event or participating in any training incorporating firearms. Further, US military veterans may begin their membership at the rank they last held while serving. To be considered, US military veterans must demonstrate discharge papers - a form DD 214 or NGB 22 - to their unit commander for vetting.

All members are to acquire and maintain a battle dress uniform in M81 Woodland camouflage. This uniform includes dog tags, black, brown, coyote, green or the Air Force service boots, and a patrol cap (in M81 Woodland camouflage) as cover. The member's proper rank, last name and MISSOURI MILITIA are to be proudly displayed. Each member is also encouraged to acquire and maintain at least two serviceable uniforms (in M81 Woodland camouflage) for training, but these need only display the member's last name and MISSOURI MILITIA.

A member may resign from their unit for any reason at any time, but should make the unit commander aware of their decision as soon as possible. Material assets that are in possession of the resigning member, but belong to the unit, should be returned to the unit as soon as possible. Any financial assets given to a unit as part of membership will be retained by the unit. Membership can be revoked when 2/3 of the unit has voted to remove a member or the member has been expelled by the unit commander.

V – OATH: All recruits will take the following oath upon starting their membership in the MISSOURI MILITIA:

"I, (recruit states their full name), do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the State of Missouri and the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the lawful orders of the officers appointed over me; I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Militia of the State of Missouri upon which I am about to enter, so help me God."

VI – ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Within the state of Missouri, there are nine brigade areas of operation. The MISSOURI MILITIA works from the bottom up. Without members, there will be no fire teams; without fire teams, there will be no squads; without squads, there will be no platoons, and so on. The structural elements of the MISSOURI MILITIA are described below in ascending order:

1. The primary element of the MISSOURI MILITIA is a fire team; typically consisting of between three and five members. Fire teams are generally led by a Corporal and assisted by a PFC.
2. Squads typically consist of between two and four fire teams. Squads are generally led by a Sergeant and assisted by a Corporal.

3. Platoons typically consist of between two and five squads, but may be restructured depending on unit need. Platoons are generally led by a First or Second Lieutenant and assisted by a Sergeant First Class or Staff Sgt.
4. Companies typically consist of between three to five platoons and a headquarters (HQ). Companies are generally commanded by a Captain and assisted by a 1st Sergeant. A First or Second Lieutenant may also serve as executive officer.
5. Battalions typically consist of between three to six companies and an HQ. Battalions are generally commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and assisted by a Battalion Sergeant Major. A Major may also serve as executive officer.
6. Brigades typically consist of three to five battalions, an HQ and attached support units. Brigades are generally commanded by a Colonel and assisted by a Brigade Sergeant Major. A Lieutenant Colonel (or Major) may also serve as executive officer.

Members are assigned to fire teams, squads, and platoons by the leadership of their company. These assignments may be determined by aspects such as the current disposition and needs of the unit, as well as the geographic location or physical condition of the member. However, factors such as the race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or political leaning of the member, have no place in the MISSOURI MILITIA, and none are taken into consideration for assignments.

Until we reach the numbers to be actual Battalions or Brigades in strength, we will operate as independent Companies under a centralized command, or as the State CO deems necessary.

Each new member coming into a unit, having no prior rank, starts as a Trooper. In time, as knowledge and skills are attained, a member of the MISSOURI MILITIA can rise through the lower ranks via promotion. These lower ranks are shown below in ascending order and are comparable to enlisted ranks of the US Army and US Marine Corps:

All ranks above Trooper must demonstrate the Skills for that rank as outlined in the US Army/ or USMC soldiers-manual-of-common-tasks-warrior-skills.

1. TROOPER – No insignia is worn on the member's uniform; equal to enlisted rank of Private (E1); verbally addressed as *Trooper* (last name); when necessary, rank abbreviation for written correspondence is TRP.
2. PRIVATE – Insignia is one chevron, and no rocker below; equal to enlisted rank of Private (E2); addressed as *Private*; abbreviation is PVT.
3. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS – One chevron, one rocker below, with an empty field between the chevron and rocker; equal to enlisted rank of Private First Class (E3); addressed as *Private*; abbreviation is PFC.
4. CORPORAL – Two chevrons, and no rocker below; equal to enlisted rank of Corporal (E4); addressed as *Corporal*; abbreviation is CPL; first rank as a junior non-commissioned officer (NCO). There is also the Specialist (E4) rank for those people who are specialized in certain fields, Combat Medic, (Ham) Radio Operator for the unit.
5. SERGEANT – Three chevrons, and no rocker below; (E5); addressed as *Sergeant*; abbreviation is SGT.
6. STAFF SERGEANT – Three chevrons, one rocker below, with an empty field between; (E6); addressed as *Staff* or *Staff Sergeant*; abbreviation is SSG.
7. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS – Three chevrons, two rockers, with an empty field between; (E7); addressed as *Sergeant*; abbreviation is SFC; first rank as a senior NCO.

8. FIRST SERGEANT – Three chevrons, three rockers, with a hollow diamond on the field between; (E8); addressed as *First Sergeant*; abbreviation is 1SG; this position and title belongs to the Senior NCO in each company.
9. MASTER SERGEANT – Three chevrons, three rockers, with an empty field between; equal to enlisted rank of 1SG Sergeant (E8); addressed as *Master Sergeant*; abbreviation is MSG; a senior NCO's who is not the Companies 1st Sgt.
10. SERGEANT MAJOR – Three chevrons, three rockers, with a large, solid 5 pointed star on the field between; (E9); addressed as *Sergeant Major*; abbreviation is BSM; is for the senior NCO serving a battalion or brigade; appointed by that units Commanding Officer.
11. STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR – Three chevrons, three rockers, with a small, solid 5 pointed star centered between a pair of olive branches on the field between; equal to enlisted rank of Sergeant Major (E9); addressed as *Sergeant Major or CSM*; abbreviation is CSM; bestowed on one senior NCO serving the MISSOURI MILITIA; appointed by the State Commander.

A Corporal or Specialist enters the cadre of non-commissioned officers (NCOs). The senior NCOs for platoons, companies, battalions and brigades, are selected by their commander and confirmed by their unit in a manner of their choosing. Members are promoted one rank at a time and may NOT be promoted more than once in the same calendar year, unless extreme and unusual conditions dictate.

Acting or Appointed Positions: Militia Members temporarily acting or appointed to fill those roles needed by the unit, such as an E5 acting as E6 or E7 acting as a First Sergeant, but who do not formally have the rank nor the required skills for that rank, must work diligently to acquire the level of expertise necessary for the position they hold.

VII – ELECTED LEADERSHIP: Members may be chosen by election to command companies, battalions, brigades, and the MISSOURI MILITIA in full. With these positions of elected leadership, members become officers, holding upper rank. As with lower rank, members are generally promoted one rank at a time and may NOT be promoted more than once in the same calendar year, unless extreme and unusual conditions dictate otherwise.

At the annual state meeting, the officers and senior NCOs from all units in attendance may hold an election for the State Commander of the MISSOURI MILITIA in a manner of their choosing. This position holds the upper rank of Colonel and must already be a member of the MISSOURI MILITIA. When necessary, the officers and senior NCOs from all units across the state, may convene to recall the State Commander by a 2/3 vote.

The State Commander appoints the State Executive Officer of the MISSOURI MILITIA. The officers and senior NCOs, from all units across the state, confirm this appointment by a 2/3 vote. The State XO holds the upper rank of Lieutenant Colonel (unless otherwise instructed by the State Commander) and must already be a member of the MISSOURI MILITIA. If necessary, the officers and senior NCOs may also recall the State Executive Officer by a 2/3 vote. The State Commander and State Executive Officer must be members of different brigades.

The State Commander also appoints the State Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of the MISSOURI MILITIA. The officers and senior NCOs, from all units across the state, confirm this appointment by a 2/3 vote. The State CSM must already be a member of the MISSOURI MILITIA. The State Commander and the State CSM should be members of different brigades.

The State Commander, the State XO and the State CSM comprise the core of the state headquarters of the MISSOURI MILITIA, also known as the State Command Team. The State Command Team may appoint a staff to assist them as needed. Confirmation of the staff appointments to the State Command Team is not required. If the Governor of the State of Missouri Calls out the Missouri Militia all rules of the UCMJ will apply to all members.

The State Command Team also selects the commanding and executive officers for all battalions and brigades, as needed. The battalion and brigade leadership appointments are confirmed by a 2/3 vote of officers and senior NCOs, from all units across the state. All battalion and brigade commanders may create and staff their unit headquarters, as well as select a senior NCO to assist them, in a manner of their choosing, when necessary. Confirmation of the staff appointments to battalion and brigade headquarters is not required.

Leadership positions at the company, platoon, and squad level are to be appointed and filled by the members that comprise those units, with votes taken to confirm their appointments, in a manner chosen by the unit. Those elected to Company Commander positions are subject to review and approval by the State Command Team. Any headquarters created and staffed at the company level will be done in a manner agreed to by the members of that company.

(The rank of those in leadership should be appropriate for that unit's size. This does not stop a unit from electing a Captain as Company Commander, just remember that all Chiefs and no Indians is foolish, and drives away potential recruits, especially prior service members.) As needed the Rank of Warrant Officer will be awarded for positions requiring specialized skills like nurses and senior support positions.

Each member elected to lead as an officer in a unit, having no prior rank, starts as a Second Lieutenant. In time, as greater responsibilities and skills are attained in the MISSOURI MILITIA, the member can rise through the upper ranks via promotion. These upper ranks are shown below in ascending order and are comparable to the officer ranks of the US Air Force, US Army and US Marine Corps:

1. SECOND LIEUTENANT – Insignia is one gold bar worn on the officer's uniform; equal to company grade officer rank of Second Lieutenant (O1); verbally addressed as *Lieutenant* (last name); when necessary, rank abbreviation for written correspondence is 2LT.
2. FIRST LIEUTENANT – One silver bar; equal to company grade officer rank of First Lieutenant (O2); addressed as *Lieutenant*; abbreviation is 1LT.
3. CAPTAIN – Two separate, identical silver bars in parallel; equal to company grade officer rank of Captain (O3); addressed as *Captain*; abbreviation is CPT.
4. MAJOR – One gold oak leaf; equal to field grade officer rank of Major (O4); addressed as *Major*; abbreviation is MAJ.

5. LIEUTENANT COLONEL – One silver oak leaf; equal to field grade officer rank of Lieutenant Colonel (O5); addressed as *Colonel*; abbreviation is LTC.
6. COLONEL – One silver eagle bearing a shield on its chest, wings spread wide, with both an olive branch and several arrows clasped in its talons; equal to field grade officer rank of Colonel (O6); addressed as *Colonel*; abbreviation is COL.

Elected officers who were not in the Military, are eligible to wear the traditional militia insignia - a crossed saber and rifle - on their collar. Prior Service members will wear the insignia of the Branch they were in.

Pin-on rank should not be worn in the field.

All members elected to lead as an officer assume a position of trust with numerous responsibilities. Elected officers need to return the faith placed with them by serving their unit with integrity, fidelity and a strong sense of duty. Elected officers may be removed from their position for unsatisfactory performance when 2/3 of their unit has put forth a written petition calling for a recall and a new election. An officer may also voluntarily resign from their position, but should make the unit aware of the decision, so that a replacement to fill the post can be determined as soon as possible.

Company Commanders remain accountable to the State Commander, and may be placed on probation and/or disciplined, up to and including removal from command, for failure to follow the By-Laws, negligence, non-performance or dereliction of duty, acting as an Agent Provocateur and other offenses as determined by the State Commander.

VIII – UNIT PROCEDURES: On a regular basis, all units are to comply with the mandated items below, and are encouraged to follow those items being elective in nature:

1. All units are to open their musters with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Each unit will train monthly, 8 hours minimum. It is highly recommended that all units will train twice monthly for not less than 6 hours each training session, whether in class, in the field or a combination of both. If units decide to do a two day training session, it should last a full 24 hours. Such as meeting up Friday at 2000 hours and finishing no earlier than 2000 hours Saturday. Each unit should select at least one member as a trainer (preferably an NCO) to follow guidelines established by the unit commander, and as required by the Missouri Militia State Commander. Units may opt to train together at any time, and special permission or approval for joint training is unnecessary.
3. After Action Report: After each training session each unit will complete an AAR and submit it to the State Commander NLT 4 days following. It is recommended that the responsibility to write the AAR be assigned on a rotating basis so that all involved get a chance to complete one. It should be short, compact and to the point. An After Action Report (AAR) is used to debrief a training event and understand what took place, why it happened the way it did, and how to improve on it. It can highlight areas of strength or concern in training and for team building. A one page report is preferred.
4. All units will submit at yearly training schedule NLT the last day of January for that year to the State Commander. If changes are made in the date, time or location of the training, the unit will notify the State Commander NLT 7 (seven) days before the event. Exceptions are allowed for injuries, deaths, natural disasters and such.

5. Every Missouri Militia Company is expected to have each of its members obtain proficiency in: or a sound working knowledge of Skills, if they are not able to perform these tasks.
 - small unit basic infantry tactics
 - battlefield first aid
 - land navigation with compass and map
6. In addition, each company commander will maintain quarterly reports on
 - frequency of unit training. Minimum expectations for each month, certifying all members are contacted with Co HQ. That unit and state information has been received. To maintain an attendance roster of unit members at scheduled unit activities, and attendance of unit members at statewide training exercises.
 - member's rank, age, proficiency and attendance. Include any mitigating information (illness, work, family, etc)
7. And any additional information the company commander deems relevant.
8. Each unit may establish a fund to be used for the accumulation of shared material and financial assets. Both a record of the fund and a list of unit assets are to be regularly maintained.
9. The sole voice of each unit is to be the commander or, when necessary, a delegate tasked by the commander.
10. All necessary disciplinary actions are to be determined and initiated by the responsible unit commander. All members are expected to carry themselves in an ethical and lawful manner at all times, particularly on private property or when representing the MISSOURI MILITIA in view of the general public. All members conducting or engaging in an illegal activity are subject to arrest and prosecution, as well as immediate expulsion from their unit.
11. All training musters are to operate with the safety of all unit members taking top priority. Each training muster should include a risk assessment with all necessary preventative measures being taken to reduce injury to attendees.
12. All members must sign a Waiver of Liability prior to any training in the field. These waivers are to be maintained by the member's unit or the unit in charge of the activity.
13. At least one state leadership meeting is to be held on an annual basis. Typically the state meeting is an open forum, but subsequent staff sessions may be held as needed. All unit leaders are expected to be present and, except for recruits, all other members are welcome to attend. The State Commander generally presides, but may delegate this role to another member in attendance. The presiding member runs the meeting and casts all votes to break ties.
 - (1) Brigade gatherings are encouraged to take place on an annual basis, either as a meeting to conduct business or as a social gathering, with all unit members attending. Subsequent staff sessions to be held as needed.
14. When emergencies arise, the State Commander and unit commanders consider and weigh all requests for assistance from state, county and other local authorities. Depending on the scope and impact of the emergency, individual volunteers and entire units may be required to render aid and assistance.
15. Any potential unit, not currently part of the MISSOURI MILITIA, and desiring to be a part of the MM, is subject to a 90 day period of probation. Leaders, from established

units that share the same brigade operational area as the potential unit, are to send at least one officer and one NCO to a muster of the potential unit. The officer and NCO are to observe and evaluate the muster activities they witness, then generate and deliver a report of their observation to the State Commander. (If things look good but your gut feeling says something isn't right, let the State Commander know ASAP, and another evaluation will be done.) Upon completion of each of the following steps: successful completion of the probationary period; the potential unit formally adopts our By-Laws; all potential unit members have taken their oaths; and the State Command Team has agreed to the admission of the potential unit by a 2/3 vote; the potential unit shall be assigned a numeric unit designation and accepted into the MISSOURI MILITIA, with all rights and privileges that other comparable units already share.

Every unit of the MISSOURI MILITIA, as well as its membership, is expected to follow and uphold these By-Laws. Every unit is encouraged to develop their own policies and procedures, with the understanding that such documents agree and may not conflict with the principles and requirements established by these By-Laws.

IX – AMENDING THE BY-LAWS: From time to time, members may submit amendments for these By-Laws to the State Commander. The State Commander then determines which amendments are to be presented for adoption at a state meeting. The amendments brought forward for adoption are discussed and considered by those members present. The amendments being considered may be voted on separately, or to save time, grouped as a slate. Each unit casts one vote per amendment or slate. When an amendment, or slate, has received a 2/3 vote in favor of adoption, the amendment, or slate, shall take effect immediately and be added to the end of these By-Laws in numeric order of approval.

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THE MILITIA 'Forged in a fire lit long ago, stand next to me, you'll never stand alone.'

Revised – January 11, 2023