

## **Potential Interview Questions for VaDF Personnel**

### **1. What is the mission of the Virginia Defense Force?**

- We are an all-volunteer force that works specifically to assist local and state public agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia whenever and wherever help is needed.
- We assist the Virginia National Guard in performing state missions as specified by the Governor of Virginia and the Adjutant General, such as crowd and traffic control, communications, and triage.
  - State and local emergencies and disasters (hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, blizzards, civil disturbances (riots), traffic control, and other required support within communities.

### **2. What is the difference between the Virginia Defense Force and the Virginia National Guard?**

- The Virginia National Guard can be federalized at any time and called up for active duty.
- The Virginia Defense Force members do not leave the Commonwealth. Duties keep the personnel in the Commonwealth to help in times of state disasters or when the lives and property of fellow citizens are threatened.
- The Virginia Defense Force is Virginian's Taking Care of Virginians in the local communities.

### **3. What are the age requirements for membership in the Virginia Defense Force?**

- The minimum age is 16, with parental consent required for ages 16-17.
- The maximum age is 64, however, the Commander may, on a case-by-case basis authorize an extension to age 75.

### **4. What is the commitment once a person becomes a member of the Virginia Defense Force?**

- There is no firm commitment. Members can stay as long as they desire up to their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, (75<sup>th</sup> if authorized by VaDF Commander).
- Members are encouraged to attend the monthly, one-day, drill per month at a location of their choice. The monthly drills are normally held at a Virginia National Guard Armory near where they live. The drill is normally held on a Saturday.
- Members are also encouraged to attend the one three-day Field Training Exercise, (FTX), that is held in October of each year at Fort Pickett, VA. This is the time when all units of the Virginia Defense Force come together to train for a three-day weekend. Actual simulations of emergencies are used for training purposes.

**5. Do the Virginia Defense Force members get paid?**

- Regular monthly drills and FTXs are born at the member's expense.
- Virginia Defense Force members are paid when called for state duty by the Governor.
- The Virginia Defense Force members are volunteers who give of their time and talents just like our local volunteer rescue squad and fire department members do. They are all "*Virginian's Taking Care of Virginians*".

**6. What would I as a Virginian get out of the Virginia Defense Force?**

- Members of the Virginia Defense Force have the opportunity to follow a satisfying path of service, learn new skills and exercise leadership in working closely with neighbors at the local and state levels.
- It is a satisfying opportunity to meet new people, share your knowledge and skills, learn new skills, and exercise leadership in working closely with neighbors at the local and state levels.
- It is a satisfying opportunity to meet new people, share your knowledge and skills, learn new skills and most of all give back to the community where you live and work.

**7. What educational and training opportunities are offered within the Virginia Defense Force?**

- The Virginia Defense Force offers basic orientation training, appraisal of individual skills, operations and leadership training, military drill and ceremony, radio operator training, Emergency Management Training, search and rescue, navigation training and on the job training in various fields.
  - Training is offered at the Armory where the monthly drill is held and in the field at the one FTX.
  - The training is great for high school students who are 16 and 17 years old and for college students looking to put actual experience on their resumes.

**8. What kind of specialties are offered by the Virginia Defense Force?**

- There are positions in legal, finance, military police, aviation (pilots), doctors, nurses, chaplains, journalists, administrative personnel, operators, cooks, supply personnel, radio operators, and many other areas. Many recruits are already skilled in these positions and will not require additional training except in basic military subjects.
- The Virginia Defense Force is comprised of members with exceptional backgrounds and experience as well as those who want the opportunity to learn new skills and gain invaluable work experience.

**9. How many units are there in the Virginia Defense Force and where are they located?**

- The [Division Headquarters](#) is located in Richmond, Virginia at the National Guard Armory on Dove Street.
- There are three operational brigades:
  - a. [Lafayette Brigade](#), located in the Virginia Beach Area
  - b. [Black Horse Brigade](#), located in northern Virginia
  - c. High Lander Brigade, located in western Virginia
  - d. One training Brigade, located in Richmond
  - e. [Aviation Brigade](#), located at Fort Pickett, Blackstone, VA
- Each brigade has units throughout the Commonwealth to include cities and towns such as Roanoke, Suffolk, Bowling Green, Warrenton, Manassas, Rocky Mount, Lynchburg, Abington, Staunton, Winchester, Charlottesville, and Blackstone to name a few locations.
- There are a total of 38 units throughout the State of Virginia located with VAARNG (Virginia Army National Guard) units in armories within our communities.

**10. What is the strength of the Virginia Defense Force and what was the level of volunteer service provided to the Commonwealth during 2006?**

- We have a total of 600 plus members as of 14 April 2007.
- The volunteer service contributed by members in 2006 was over 8.6K man-days.
- Thus far, this year, the trend is for the Virginia Defense Force to exceed the past year's man-days for volunteer service to the State of Virginia.

**11. How can our citizens, readers, or listeners learn more about the Virginia Defense Force?**

- They can learn more about the Virginia Defense Force by going to the Division website [www.virginiadefenseforce.org](http://www.virginiadefenseforce.org) ; contact by email at [vasdf@verizon.net](mailto:vasdf@verizon.net), or call the Division Headquarters in Richmond at (804) 228-7018 or (866) 791-9164.