

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, June 22, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 86. }

Whereas, there have been a number of applications to this department for authority to raise companies for local defence and special service, and for instructions as to the method by which such organizations may be made and the privileges they may claim, the department has adopted the following regulations on the subject :

I. Companies, battalions and regiments composed of persons not within the age of conscription (18 and 40), will be accepted as volunteers throughout the Confederacy, under the act of August 21st, 1861 (No. 229), for local defence and special service.

II. The organization of corps for local defence must conform to that prescribed for companies, battalions and regiments of the provisional army. The minimum number for a company of infantry of 64 rank and file, and for cavalry 60. Battalions must consist of not less than five companies, and regiments of ten. Artillery is not desirable. Members of cavalry companies must furnish their own horses, but will receive forty cents per day for their use while in actual service.

III. The muster roll of all such organizations shall specify that the said organizations are raised under this act, and subject to these regulations, and contain a description of the volunteer as to age, residence and date of enlistment, and the term of enlistment for the war.

IV. Such organizations will not be considered as in actual service, for the purpose of receiving pay or subsistence, except when called for by the President.

V. They will not be called for until a necessity arises for service. They shall not be required to go beyond the limits of the State to which they belong.

VI. They are expected to serve when called out, only so long as the emergency exists, and then to return to their ordinary pursuits until again called.

VII. Arms and equipments, when not possessed by the members, will, to the extent necessary to supply, be furnished by the Confederate States.

VIII. Should any of them be captured, they shall be claimed as prisoners of war, and all the protection of the government will be extended to them.

IX. Field officers of battalions and regiments to be organized, will be appointed by the President, in accordance with the act aforesaid. Company officers may be elected by the companies, or appointed, as the members may consent.

X. That these organizations will be preferred to and exempt their members from any call of militia.

XI. The commandant of any military post of the Confederate States, the sheriff of any county, or the colonel commanding any militia regiment, or the judge or justice of any county or other court, may certify and return the muster rolls, which must be sent to the Adjutant and Inspector General's office at Richmond, for acceptance.

XII. In the event of a call by the President, under the law of conscription, on all between the ages of 40 and 45, those in said organizations subject to such call will be liable to discharge or transfer.

For the information and guidance of those desirous of volunteering for local defence, the law of August 21st, 1861, is hereto appended.

An Act to provide for Local Defence and Special Service.

"SEC. 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That the President be and he is hereby authorized to accept the services of volunteers of such kind and in such proportion as he may deem expedient, to serve for such time as he may prescribe, for the defence of exposed places or localities, or such special service as he may deem expedient.

SEC. 2. And such forces shall be mustered into the service of the Confederate States for the local defence or special service aforesaid, the muster roll setting forth distinctly the services to be performed; and the said volunteers shall not be considered in actual service, until thereunto specially ordered by the President; and they shall be entitled to pay or subsistence only for such time as they may be on duty under the orders of the President, or by his direction.

SEC. 3. Such volunteer forces, when so accepted and ordered into service, shall be organized in accordance with and subject to all the provisions of the act entitled an act to provide for the public defence, approved March 6th, 1861, and may be attached to such divisions, brigades, regi-

ments or battalions as the President may direct; and when not organized into battalions or regiments before being mustered into service, the President shall appoint the field officers of the battalions or regiments, when organized as such by him." [Approved August 21st, 1861.]

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.