



CONSILIO ET ANIMIS

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY, UNITED STATES ARMY
CAMERON STATION, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

SUBJECT: A COAT OF ARMS FOR THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

TO : THE SUPERINTENDENT
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

I. PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY, UNITED STATES ARMY, ON THIS DATE DOES GIVE, GRANT AND ASSIGN UNTO THE SUPERINTENDENT, AND UNTO HIS SUCCESSORS, OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, OF LEXINGTON IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, THE ARMS HEREAFTER STATED, TO WIT :

BLAZON

SHIELD : ARGENT ON A CROSS GULES A SWORD IN PALE POINT UPWARD OF THE FIRST, POMMEL AND HILT OR, SURMOUNTED BY AN ANTIQUE LAMP IN-FLAMED OF THE THIRD ; ON A CANTON SABLE A CHEVRON ROMPU OR.

CREST : BETWEEN WINGS ERECT OR A SWORD ERECT POINT UPWARD ARGENT, POMMEL AND HILT OF THE FIRST, ON POINT A GARLAND OF LAUREL VERT.

MOTTO : CONSILIO ET ANIMIS (BY WISDOM AND COURAGE)

SYMBOLISM

SINCE ITS EARLIEST DAYS THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BY THE EMBLEMATIC USE BY THE COLLEGE OF THE SEAL OF VIRGINIA. THIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH IS RETAINED IN THE FOUNDATION OF THE COAT OF ARMS, AS THE RED CROSS ON A SILVER FIELD IS TAKEN FROM THE ARMS OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA, THE ONLY COAT OF ARMS WHICH VIRGINIA HAS HAD AND THE COAT OF ARMS USED BY VIRGINIA FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS. THE UPRIGHT SWORD OF THE SHIELD SYMBOLIZES THE MILITARY TRAINING MISSION OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, AND THE LAMP IN ITS PREDOMINANT POSITION REPRESENTS THE ACADEMIC AND PRINCIPAL MISSION OF THE COLLEGE. IN THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE COAT ARE PORTRAYED HERALDICALLY THE TRADITIONAL COLORS OF VMI - RED, WHITE AND YELLOW. THE BLACK CANTON WITH ITS BROKEN GOLD CHEVRON IS AN AUGMENTATION OF HONOR; IT COMMEMORATES THE VALOROUS CHARGE OF THE CADET BATTALION ON 15 MAY 1864 AT THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET WHICH BROKE THE DARK THREAT OF UNION INVASION OF THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.

THE WINGED SWORD AND GARLAND OF THE CREST, ALLUDING TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS UPHOLDING PEACE, DEPICT THE POSITION OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE IN LEADERSHIP WITHIN OUR NATION DURING BOTH PEACE AND WAR.