

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, June 12, 1756,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.

WILLIAMSBURG June 12th. 1756

SIR

I have read over Yr. Memo. & observe therein; I cannot advise how the Virga: Regmt will be compleated if the Draughts from the Militia do not answer that End, but must here observe, if the Officers had perform'd their Engagements the Regmt wou'd have been in good Order, their Neglect & Breach of Promise is a great Loss to the Country.

The Scheme of forming the Regmt into two Battalions is very agreeable if compleated to a proper Number, but till I know the true Number of the Men, that must be for some time laid aside, at present the Officers are very near as great a Charge to the Country as the Men; when the Regmt is compleated to 1500 Men I do think the Scheme very proper, & when the Companies are compleated to 100 Men each, an Addition of Field Officers & two Lieuts I think will be very necessary. The building the Forts in proper Places must be left to You, as You know the Situation of the Country, so fix them in Places most convenient & necessary for our Protection; and the Form of the Fort must be agreeable to the Situation of the Ground, & the Distance from each must be from Yr. own Judgement; I am of Opinion 100 Men should be appointed to each Fort, & a Detachmt. of 50 or sixty from each to way-lay & watch the Enemy's coming over the Mount. at proper Places to attack them will answer better than hunting for them, as they are so well acquainted with the Woods

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they will always disappoint any such Attempts; whereas if they are surprized in their March it's probable it may be of more Service; in that Case the Detachmts from the Fort must be under strict Orders when to return, & if possible to have a proper Communication from one Fort to the other—Tools must be supplied if possible they can be purchased, the Sorts & Quantity You can best determine.

Till I have an effective return of each Company I cannot tell the Number, or the Deficiency of the Officers in compleating their Companies, which is Your Duty to animadvert on.

As we must remain on the Defensive I think there is no occasion to compleat the Troop, but that they do Duty on Foot, unless You hereafter see an absolute Necessity for them, in that Case, the Numbers to be as formerly. You must be a better Judge than I am who may be proper to act as Comissary if Mr. Walker declines longer serving.

I shall be very glad if you can prevail on the Rangers to incorporate with Your Regmt, in that Case You know they will be included in the Number of 1500.

It's comonly in the Kings Armies a contingent Charge on the Regmt for taking up Deserters & always with the Colonel to order therein.

It will be of much Service if You can enlist any of the Draughts, & if they will voluntarily enter into the Service will help to compleat the Number propos'd; I think they are not entitled to the two Pistoles unless they continue longer than December, You probably may prevail with them for a longer Time, enquire of the Speaker if he thinks they should have the two Pistoles for the Time limited by the Act—When You are in a Body the ordering them to the Allegany Mounts. as Kings Forces is proper & may be necessary on occasion, as I conceive these Mounts. are in the Limit of the Government tho' not settled—Fort Cumberland is a King's Fort & built chiefly at the Charge of the Colony, therefore properly under our direction till a Governor is appointed.

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It's absolutely necessary to detain a sufficient quantity of Stores now at Fort Cumberland which You may do by my Command & Orders.

The Militia return'd to the different Counties shou'd be draughted tho' part of them are now out on Duty.

These are my Thoughts on Your different Queries, but as it is impossible to be explicit on every Point, & as many Things may occur that cannot be directed, Your own Judgement must be Your Guide, as a great deal is left to Your own good Sense & Conduct. Pray God protect You and annimate You with Knowledge for his Service, & that of the King's & the Country, is the sincere Desire of

Sir Your most hble Servt. ROBT. DINWIDDIE