

Constitution of the **National Society of Pershing** **Rifles**

As proposed by the National Legislative Body and adopted by majority vote of the units of the Society, on or before 5 April, 1997. (The following document shall take precedence over all previous documents of its kind however they represent the ideals of National Society of Pershing Rifles established in prior Constitutions.)

PREAMBLE

- We, the members of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, in order to encourage, preserve, and develop the highest ideals of the military profession as exemplified by the life of the General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing, founder and patron of this organization, and in order to provide appropriate recognition of the high degrees of professionalism coupled with responsible citizenship of the United States among the students of the Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps, Universities, Colleges, and Senior Service Military Academies, and in order to fulfill the need of uniting these students through common bonds of activity, respect, and brotherhood, do hereby establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

- **Section 1.**
This organization shall be known as the National Society of Pershing Rifles.
- **Section 2.**
The colors of this organization shall be blue and white; the flower shall be the white rose.

ARTICLE II

- **Section 1.**
This organization shall consist of the National Headquarters situated at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, the several Regiments, and of such college level units within each Regiment as possess a charter issued by the National Headquarters.
- **Section 2.**
All chartered units of the Society shall be entitled to initiate new members into the Society. A charter shall obligate such unit to enforce this Constitution and to abide by all laws, directions and Standard Operational Procedures of the Society. Each chartered unit shall be entitled to one vote at all assemblies and to one vote upon all Constitutional proposals issued by the National Legislative Body. The National Commander shall decide whether a Pershing Rifles unit shall remain in existence if the ROTC is disbanded or support is terminated at that school.
- **Section 3.**
The executive power of the National Headquarters may be enforced upon lower units by fines or the suspension of the charter. National Headquarters shall notify all Company Commanders when disciplinary action is recommended. Reasons and justifications for the action with such rebuttal as the accused may desire to submit will be sent to the Company Commanders. Within one week, the Company Commanders shall send to National Headquarters written approval or

disapproval of the action recommended. Any disciplinary action must be approved by two-thirds of the Company Commanders.

Section 4.

A Regiment may be organized upon the consent of two-thirds of all chartered units within those Regiments directly affected and upon approval of the National Commander.

ARTICLE III

- **Section 1.**

There shall be three classes of membership in the Society.

- **ACTIVE.**
- Active membership shall be open to any individual enrolled in any college, university, or Senior Service Military Academy, sponsoring an active Pershing Rifles unit. All candidates should possess outstanding leadership characteristics and conform to the highest ideals of the National Society, and must complete a pledge program controlled by a chartered unit of the Society. These pledge programs shall meet no specific criteria, however it shall be strictly prohibited from incorporating any form of physical, mental, or other types of hazing, and will be in definite support of individual state laws concerning physical or mental abuse, of any person. These criteria having been met, the individual obtains active status in both the charter unit and the National Society. Upon being duly initiated in formal ceremony prescribed by National Headquarters, an active member in good standing shall be eligible to introduce motions from the floor, to speak in regard to any question, to make nominations of

office, and to vote on any question within the ranks of any chartered unit. The same will be true for each active member with the exceptions of nominations for office and voting, at all National Conventions or assemblies.

- **ALUMNI.**
- Alumni members are those former active members with two or more years of service whose active membership was terminated for other than disciplinary reasons. Active members with less than two years of service who resign for cause may, at the discretion of their charter unit commander, be granted alumni status. Alumni members may resume active status upon obtaining approval of the local unit commander.
- **HONORARY.**
- Honorary members may be initiated into Pershing Rifles by various chartered units upon approval of the National Commander. Honorary members may not hold office or vote.

ARTICLE IV

- **Section 1.**
Specifications of design and regulations for the wearing or displaying of all official National insignia may not be changed except by action of the National Legislative Body. The National Commander has the power to grant reasonable deviations in the wearing of insignia if local conditions necessitate such action.**Section 2.**
Awards and decorations will be presented to outstanding Pershing Rifles chartered units and members. Specifications for such awards and decorations will be set by the National Commander. National Headquarters shall also standardize all Pershing Rifles rank insignia.**Section 3.**

Each chartered unit has the right to rescind the National and unit membership of any person in that chartered unit as ultimate disciplinary action. Such persons may not subsequently wear any Pershing Rifles insignia. This action will be taken only after approval of the National Commander. Each chartered unit may also establish methods of enforcing lesser disciplinary action on its active members by temporary denial of the right to use such additional insignia as deemed advisable and as is consistent with local service policy.**Section 4.**

Alumni members who are still cadets and midshipman may wear such Pershing Rifles insignia as is authorized by their local Pershing Rifles Unit.

ARTICLE V

- **Section 1.**

The Society shall be under the control of the National Commander who shall be custodian of the official seal, who shall choose and maintain a National Headquarters staff capable of adequately carrying out the business of the National Society, and who shall possess such other authority as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures of the Society.**Section 2.**

Each National Commander shall have term of office which shall begin with his election and end with the following election. At his discretion prior to the National Spring Convention, the retiring National Commander shall meet in conference with the National Headquarters faculty advisor and the PAS, PMS, or PNS of the University of Nebraska to select a nominee from the National Headquarters staff to be his successor. All qualifications for the National Commanders elections may be suspended for one year by a two-thirds majority vote of the Company Commanders at the Spring

Convention. The nominee shall be confirmed by two-thirds vote of the Company Commanders, after they have interviewed each National Headquarters staff member present at the assembly. The electing body may also consider the evaluations of nominees offered by advisors, cadre, or professors of Military Science as is appropriate. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

Section 3.
Each Headquarters shall be staffed by officers with maximum rank as follows:

- **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**
- National Commander--Major General or Rear Admiral (Navy)
- Deputy Commander--Brigadier General or Commodore (Navy)
- Chief of Staff--Colonel or Captain (Navy)
- Adjutant (G-1)--Colonel or Captain (Navy)
- **COMPANY (SQUADRON) HEADQUARTERS**
- Company (Squadron) Commander--Captain or Lieutenant (Navy)
- Each Headquarters shall have as many other officers and noncommissioned officers as it deems necessary and advisable. Preference for Commissioned rank shall be given to the most experienced members of the unit.
- **Section 4.**
All commanding officers must be actives in good standing and regularly enrolled students of the institution where the Headquarters are located. Exceptions in case shall be made by the next higher Headquarters and only in cases such as Cross enrollment students. These Commanders must not be Commissioned United States Military Officers on Active

Duty.

ARTICLE VI

- **Section 1.**

The National Commander and Company Commanders shall comprise the National Legislative Body. The National Legislative Body shall meet in the spring of each year at a location to be determined at each spring convention on year prior to the convention in question. Special sessions of the National Legislative Body may be called by any member of National Staff and/or the National Advisor. A two-thirds majority of the active companies, as defined by the National Commander, shall be required to constitute a quorum of the National Legislative Body. A majority of quorum will be required to complete any action before the body. The National Legislative Body will have the constitutional authority to vote on decisions affecting the society with exceptions concerning constitutional matters, and those financial matters other than in the operation of the National Headquarters. In the fall of each year the Company Commanders will meet with the National Commander at Lincoln, Nebraska, or the surrounding area to constitute the Commander's Call. The purpose of the Commander's Call will be to discuss policies and operations that will concern the coming year. These should be reflected by decisions made in the prior spring convention. Unit commanders are urged to attend any Pershing Rifles convention and/or Commander's Call. However, voting will be restricted to the National Legislative Body. Discussion topics for spring convention will be sent into National Headquarters with accord to the due date calendar. National Headquarters will publish these discussion topics so that Company votes may be taken. **Section 2.**

In case of the absence of any voting member of the National Legislative Body the vote normally assigned to the aforementioned officer can only be delegated if done so in writing and approved by the National Legislative Body. The delegate must appear with written authority from the delegate who is being represented. **Section 3.**

Meetings of the National Legislative Body shall be conducted using Roberts Rules of Order as a guide.

ARTICLE VII

- **Section 1.**

The National Legislative Body shall be the supreme and only legislature for the entire National Organization of Pershing Rifles. Its legislative power shall be second only to the Constitution of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. All legislation of the National Legislative Body shall be in accord with the provision of this Constitution and its amendments. All actions of the National Headquarters, Pershing Rifles, the assemblies of chartered unit commanders meetings shall be in accord with this constitution and the provisions of the National Legislative Body. National Headquarters shall have the authority and express duty to carry out all policies deemed advisable by the National Legislative Body and/or this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

- **Section 1.**

Only the National Legislative Body shall have the power to assess the chartered units of Pershing Rifles for the purpose of government of the National Organization. Assessment shall be proportional to the number of active members in the chartered unit at the time of assessment. There shall be no

assessment which is not necessary to maintain the normal functions of Pershing Rifles.**Section 2.**

The National Headquarters shall compile detailed financial report each year. This report shall be published by National Headquarters and sent out to each chartered unit within the society.**Section 3.**

The fiscal year shall begin on 1 October and shall end on 30 September of each year.**Section 4.**

Portions or all of the National Headquarters finance report may be discussed from the floor of any convention for clarification by the National Finance Officer.

ARTICLE IX

- **Section 1.**

Each headquarters shall be governed by this Constitution and all National Conventions. Chartered unit's by-laws shall not conflict with this Constitution or legislation of the National Legislative Body.**Section 2.**

Any organization which is in accordance with this Constitution, the statutes of the Legislative Body and which has complied with all requirements deemed necessary by National Headquarters, may, upon approval of the National Commander, be installed as a chartered unit of Pershing Rifles.

ARTICLE X

- **Section 1.**

Any chartered unit of Legislative Body may submit a proposed amendment to this Constitution. Any such amendment shall be submitted to National Headquarters. One copy of said amendment will then be mailed to every chartered unit in the National Organization by National

Headquarters. Each chartered unit in the Organization shall within one month of receipt of the proposed amendment reply to National Headquarters stating their chartered unit's vote on the proposed amendment. Two-thirds of the active members of each unit must be present when the final vote on the proposed amendment is taken. Failure to take action on a proposed amendment shall render any chartered unit subject to disciplinary action as per article II, Section 3 of the Constitution.**Section 2.**

Two thirds of all Companies in the Society must vote affirmatively for a Legislative Body to propose an amendment. If two-thirds of all chartered units approve a proposed amendment it shall become a part of this Constitution.**Section 3.**

The final interpretation of this Constitution shall be that of the National Legislative Body. When the National Legislative Body is not in session, National Headquarters shall have the power to interpret this Constitution. This interpretation power is subordinate to the National Legislative Body.**Section 4.**

Upon approval of two-thirds of the chartered units in the National Society of Pershing Rifles, this Constitution shall become effective and supersede all previous Constitutions. (Constitution was approved by two-thirds of the chartered units.)

ARTICLE XI

- **Section 1.**
Upon two-thirds vote of the active members of any chartered unit, the unit advisor will be requested to appoint a board of Pershing Rifles Officers to investigate and make recommendations on impeachment charges. The recommendations of this board shall be final, subject to approval by the unit advisor. A copy of the proceedings will

be sent to National Headquarters through channels.**Section 2.**
The National Commander may be removed by a simple majority vote of the Legislative Body.

ARTICLE XII

- **Section 1.**
Dissolution of the National Society of Pershing Rifles shall be carried out as is detailed in the National Standard Operating Procedures.

ARTICLE XIII

- **Section 1.**
- Membership Eligibility
 - This organization does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of a person's age, race, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation, creed, handicap or place of residence.
 - A student organization shall consist of at least five currently enrolled student members. Non-students will be allowed to participate in any student organization activity, but will not be a voting member, or an elected or appointed officer of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. A non-student is someone who is not currently enrolled at the University of location
- **Section 2.**
- Methods of selecting members

- Students
- To be initiated, a pledge must have at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 grade scale. A pledge must also pass a pledge test with a satisfactory grade, and pass a vote of the active chapter unanimously.
- Non-students
- To be initiated, a pledge must write one-hundred page report, single spaced with one inched margins, of the times and life of General John J. Pershing. A pledge must also pass a pledge test with a satisfactory grade, and pass a vote of the active chapter unanimously.
- **Section 3.**
- **Methods of Revoking Membership**
 - Any pledge or active, who willfully misses three meetings in a semester and who offers no previous legitimate excuse, will be dropped from the roster of the Unit. He/She is not entitled to wear any of the symbols of Pershing Rifles.