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Digital Copyright Compliance Policy

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 includes specific statements requiring colleges and universities to comply with digital copyright laws, and requires VMI to provide the following information:

Federal Copyright Laws

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under Title 17 of the United States Code. These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the context of file sharing, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without permission or legal authority constitutes an infringement.

Anyone found guilty of civil copyright infringement may be legally liable to pay damages between $750 and $30,000 per infringed work. Willful infringement is considered a criminal offense and the court may find cause to award statutory damages up to $150,000. Civil courts may assess court costs and attorneys' fees.

Technology-Based Deterrents

VMI uses packet shaping technology to limit the effectiveness of peer-to-peer file transfer networks for the illegal access and transfer of copyrighted material. Deep packet inspection of all traffic is performed by the IT Department and illegal use of copyrighted material will be blocked. Other detection methodologies may be deployed to protect copyrighted material.

Copyright Violation Notice

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) regularly monitors traffic on the Internet and peer-to-peer networks in order to detect illegal uploading, downloading, and other copyright law violations. When a VMI cadet, faculty or staff violates one or more of these laws, the RIAA or MPAA contacts the Institute. VMI is then notified of the assertion for potential litigation against the alleged offender. VMI's Chief of Staff will be made aware of the allegations, and the IT department will cooperate with the investigation.

VMI considers copyright violations very seriously, and will cooperate with the RIAA and/or the MPAA in order to protect itself from potential liability. Punitive steps may result in the loss of network access or other disciplinary action. Fines or court fees will be the responsibility of the user.

Remember: Downloading, copying or sharing material (such as music, movies, games, or applications) without permission from the copyright holder is against federal law and in violation of VMI's Acceptable Use of VMI Information Systems Policy (http://www.vmi.edu/AppropriateUse).

Helpful Links
United States Code, Title 17
http://www.copyright.gov/title17/

US Copyright Office FAQ
http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq

MPAA: Copyright and Protecting Creativity
http://www.mpaa.org/why-copyright-matters/
http://www.mpaa.org/protecting-creativity/

Where to Watch: Legal movie and TV access outlets
http://www.wheretowatch.org/

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

James P. Inman
Colonel, US Army (Ret.)
Chief of Staff

DIST: E, Cadets
OPR: IT