

in the National Guard of the United States and of the State of Maryland upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.”

17. All officers shall be appointed and commissioned by the Governor and shall not be recognized as such under any of the provisions of this Act unless they shall have been selected from the following classes and shall have taken and subscribed to the oath of office prescribed in the preceding section of this Act; officers or enlisted men of the National Guard; officers, active or retired, reserve officers, and former officers of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps; enlisted men and former enlisted men of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps who have received an honorable discharge therefrom, graduates of the United States Military and Naval Academies; and graduates of schools, colleges, universities and officers' training camps, where they have received military instruction under the supervision of an officer of the Regular Army who certified their fitness for appointment as commissioned officers; and for the technical branches or Staff Corps and departments, such other civilians as may be specially qualified for duty therein. Provided that, before such appointment, officers shall be recommended as follows: Commanding officers of units comprising a brigade by the brigade commander; all other officers by the commanding officers of the respective units or chiefs of their respective staff corps or departments. A general officer and a colonel at the time of appointment must be an officer in the National Guard of the State of a grade of field officer, or have been in active service in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps or National Guard with a higher grade than captain. A lieutenant-colonel or major of the line at the time of appointment must have had active service as an officer for two years in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or National Guard. Provided further, that staff officers, including officers of the Pay, Inspection, Subsistence, and Medical Departments, shall have had previous military experience and shall hold their positions until they shall have reached the age of sixty-four years, unless retired prior to that time by reason of resignation, disability or for cause to be determined by a court-martial legally convened for that purpose, and that vacancies among said officers shall be filled by appointment from the officers of the militia of the State of Maryland.

18. Officers shall take rank from the date of their commissions and in such manner as provided by the Regulations of