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It is thought proper and necessary to have and keep a Company of Eighty Men including Officers in Arms and constantly (ranging) for some time in Frederick County to repel any party of the Enemy that may presume to come into this Province to destroy the Inhabitants or lay waste the Country; you are therefore hereby directed & enjoined instantly to convene all the Commissioned Officers of the Foot Militia under your Command and acquaint them that by their several Companies Seventy Six Men must be furnished immediately to be formed into one Company under the Command of a Major or Captain, a Lieutenant and an Ensign, which three Officers you must appoint by Lot or otherwise from all the Officers of the Foot Militia of your County, the Day that you convene them as aforesaid. That done, you shall give Orders to the several Officers to muster as soon as they possibly can, their respective Companies and therefrom to draft by Lot unless Voluntions offer themselves, such a Number of men as you shall think it reasonable and fit for each Company to furnish, to make up the Complement of Seventy Six; the Men so drafted every Captain shall send to the Place of Rendezvous under the Care of their Lieutenant or Ensign, who shall deliver the said Men to one of the three Officers by you appointed to command the said Company, of Rangers, thus to be said and take his Receipt for the said Men, which Receipt shall specify the Names of such men, when they were delivered, and from whose Company, they were drafted and shall be sent inclosed to me, by the first opportunity, and in case any private Soldiers or men, shall refuse to be drafted in manner aforesaid, or afterwards to Serve, or March to the Place of Rendezvous, and join the Company, The Captains of such men, so Refusing to be drafted or Serve, shall thereupon put in Execution the Militia Law of this Province, particularly that Clause thereof which directs, what shall be done if upon any Foreign Invasion, any Person or Persons shall upon the Command of his Captain obstinately refuse to appear and Serve in Arms and the said Captain shall then proceed to select and draft other men to make up the Number, that he may be by you required to furnish from his Company - as soon as you have appointed Officers for the Company of Rangers, you are to acquaint me with the Names that I may send them further Instructions for their Government & Conduct - you shall also advise me what Place you have appointed for their Rendezvous till they receive my final Orders, that I may if possible review them before they March, you must also make me a Return of the Arms and Ammunition in your Possession, or the Magazine of the County, that if wanted I might send up a proper Supply for this Occasion.

Given at the Council Chamber at the City of Annapolis under
my hand and Seal this third Day of July in the fifth Year of his
Lordships Dominion Annoq Domini 1755.
Wm. Sharpe

To Colonel Nathaniel Wickham of Frederick County.

Forasmuch as the safety of the Inhabitants of this Province who are threatened to be attacked by the French and their Allied Indians makes the pulling & Keeping the Militia of the Frontier Counties especially in good Order at this time of danger extremely necessary I have thought fit hereby to require and command all Militia