



I - 65 Flag

Rebel Underground

**Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp #443
Jasper, Alabama**

Published Monthly

January 2026

The Major John C. Hutto Camp's January Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on
Sunday 18 January 2026 at 2:00 pm



Old VMI Cemetery 1900

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS leading up to the founding of Virginia Military Institute (VMI) on Nov. 11, 1839, the Commonwealth of Virginia used an arsenal building at Lexington to store Richmond-manufactured arms in the western part of the state. Arms

included the U.S. Model 1795 and the Model 1816 muskets from Harpers Ferry Armory and Springfield Armory.

Once VMI was formed, the institution obtained rifles that were reduced scale and shortened for virtue of a student's young age. These variants would eventually be described as Cadet rifles and were purchased by many military schools.

In 1864, 257 VMI cadets marched 85 miles and fought to victory at the Battle of New Market, where 55 cadets were wounded and 10 cadets were killed. Two hundred cadets were issued Austrian Lorenz rifles, and approximately 50 cadets carried the Springfield Model 1851.

Following the Civil War, cadets have been issued service rifles, including various Springfield Cadet Model Trapdoor rifles, Kraq-Jorgensen carbines, the Model 1903 and M1 Garand. During World War II, the need for M1 Garands rose to a point that VMI turned in its M1s for the M1917 Enfield until the war's end. By 1972, the Institute exchanged the M1 Garand once again for the M14, which is still issued.

Today, cadets store their M 14s in their rooms and carry them during guard duty and parades. VMI issues the M14 for its ergonomic advantages as a parade rifle over the M 16s and M4s that have replaced it as America's standard-issue service rifle.

Cadet M 14s are functional, reliable and accurate. However, firing pins have been removed and are stored with magazines within VMI's armory until live fire familiarization and field training exercises require their use.

As an undergraduate institution, VMI is second only to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in producing commissioned officers upon graduation. Among its list of 270 general and flag officers are Gen. George C. Marshall, class of 1901; Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III, '62, VMI superintendent; Gen. John P. Jumper, '66, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force; and Gen. Darren W. McDew, '82, commander of U.S. Transportation Command.

Collectors of former cadet rifles encountering examples marked "VMI" on the stock should beware: VMI never marked or stamped its rifles.



The monument at VMI honoring cadets killed at the Battle of New Market (1864) is "Virginia Mourning Her Dead," a bronze sculpture by Moses Jacob Ezekiel, commemorating the ten cadets who died after being wounded in that battle, with their names inscribed on the base, and an annual ceremony held at the monument remembers their sacrifice, marking the only time a U.S. college's entire student body fought as a unit.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant	John McGraw
Chaplain	Larry Elliott
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Tony Pennington
Facebook	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster	Billy Kinchelow
Flag Committee Chairman	Trent Harris
Newsletter Editor	James Blackston

Website: www.huttocamp.com

Facebook - Hutto Camp

The Rebel Underground, is the official monthly publication of the Major John C. Hutto Camp #443. Articles published are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Executive Board or the Editor.

The fair use of any included copyrighted work is for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research, and is for nonprofit educational purposes only. 17 U.S. Code § 107

The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.