

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Richmond, February 7, 1863.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 16. }

I. The special measures instituted in the Circular from this office, of the 8th January, ultimo, were intended to aid, and in no wise to supersede the operation and rules of the regularly established system of conscription. Reports have been received, that officers thus sent from the army have been practically setting aside the system, decisions and exemptions established under the authority of the Commandants of Conscripts in the respective states, and are neglecting to make to those officers any returns of the conscripts gathered by them.

It is hereby ordered, that all officers acting under the authority of the Circular in question, shall refrain from interference with any conscripts already in the custody of the officers regularly on conscription duty, and shall assert no claim over them, otherwise than by estimates on the commandants for the quota to which their regiments shall be entitled, under the principle of pro rata distribution; also, that they shall respect certificates of exemptions issued by regular enrolling officers, reporting for decision of the commandants any case in which the exemption may appear to them to have been improperly granted; that in no case shall they themselves grant certificates of exemption or detail; that in all doubtful cases or cases of appeal from their decision, they shall refer to the regular enrolling officers or the commandants, and that they shall furnish to the local enrolling officers, or the Commandants of Conscripts for the state, descriptive lists of all persons within conscript ages, recruited or gathered by them.

II. The Commandants of Conscripts, in making their reports to the Bureau of Conscription, will return separately the conscripts gathered and reported to them under the system instituted by the Circular above referred to.

By order.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*