U.S. citizenship. Ms. Laura Chavez, a Selective Service employee and a Marine veteran who attended the National Press Club presentation, noted that she came to the United States from Bolivia when she was four years old. She says that joining the military helped her obtain her citizenship much faster than it normally takes. Ms. Chavez explained that she was in the Marines for only three months and her citizenship was being processed.

On the topic of registering women, Mr. Romo said, "...while the Secretary of Defense has recently opened up all military combat jobs to qualified women, there has been no change in the Military Selective Service Act to require them to register, or be subject to a future military draft. Selective Service continues to register only men, ages 18 through 25. It is important to note that women have proudly and honorably served in our volunteer force and have increased their presence from about 3% of the military volunteers during the Vietnam era to approximately 15% today. Women have shown great capabilities in all aspects of our military and can now serve in all positions they are qualified for." Director Romo and Associate Director Flahavan did not depart until all questions were answered from the standing-room-only audience.

On January 29, 2016, the National Press Club in Washington DC hosted Director Romo in its Newsmaker appearance. His presentation was covered by NBC News, National Public Radio, McClatchy News Network, Stars & Stripes, Kiplinger Newsletter, and PJ Media News, among others. He opened with the role Selective Service plays in the U.S. national security arena, its significance as a backup for the all-volunteer Armed Forces, the registration requirement for immigrants, Board Member opportunities, and the possibility of registering women in any future draft now that combat is gender neutral. Mr. Romo told the audience that an immigrant man (documented or undocumented) living in the United States, age 18 through 25, is required to register. Registration is not only the law, it helps keep immigrants eligible for federal student financial aid, government jobs, and job training programs. Failing to register for immigrants may delay them from obtaining
Director Romo, accompanied by Brian McHugh, PIA visited Mississippi and Louisiana on an extensive 12 event outreach tour. Mr. Romo’s main message was the importance of registration, ways to register and possible consequences for not registering. Mississippi State Director Walley and Louisiana State Director Bonner worked with local media outlets in scheduling many interviews for Mr. Romo. They also assisted Mr. McHugh in coordinating speaking events for the Director at local schools. Listed below are some of the highlights of these outreach efforts.

**WDAM 7 TV Interview in Moselle, MS**

**WMXI Radio Interview by Ted Tibbett in Hattiesburg, MS (Mr. Tibbett being a draftee himself in 1968)**
BATTLE OF THE BANDS IN BILOXI, MS

Director Romo was able to give a speech in front of several thousand people in attendance and was very well received, drawing several loud cheers from the crowd.
Director Romo with two members of the “Buffalo Soldiers” biker club
TUESDAY - JANUARY 19TH (BILoxi, MS)
Meeting with Magda Leleaux, Program Director of the Non-Profit organization “Migration and Refugee Center” in Biloxi, MS. The meeting went extremely well and was effective in stressing the importance of registration among males coming into the U.S. as immigrants and by doing so, ultimately aids in the process of one day obtaining U.S. Citizenship. Following the meeting with Mrs. Leleaux, they were guided to the similar Non-Profit organization “El Pueblo Immigration Legal Services”, which also provides assistance to immigrants within the Biloxi/Gulfport Area, to speak with their representatives and to urge those individuals the agency interacts with to stress registration with the SSS. http://elpueblo-ms.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=4&lang=en

**Director Romo and SD Walley with two members of the non-profit organization. El Pueblo immigration Legal Services.**

**WLOX ABC 13 TV INTERVIEW IN Biloxi, MS**
WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 20TH (BILLOXI, MS)
School Assembly at St. Martins High School. All males 17 and 18 at the high school attended the assembly.
**Meeting with Daniel Le, Branch Manager of the Non-Profit, Boat People SOS in Biloxi, MS**

Within the Biloxi/Gulfport area, there is a large Vietnamese population whose livelihood is fishing. Boat People SOS provides services to enhance the lives of those within its community. We provided Mr. Le with information about our agency and the benefits of registration. Mr. Le said he will provide handouts at the local church service that many members of the Vietnamese community attend.

**School Assembly at Ocean Springs High School in Ocean Springs, MS**

Assembly was attended by the members of the school’s JROTC program. OCHS JROTC program consists of 174 students, both male and female.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 21ST (NEW ORLEANS, LA)
WVUE FOX 8 TV Interview in New Orleans, LA
http://www.fox8live.com/clip/12155374/selective-service-system-lawrence-romo-interview

WWL RADIO INTERVIEW IN NEW ORLEANS, LA
http://media.wwl.com/a/112697444/the-think-tank-1010am-selective-service.htm?q=Romo

Garland Robinette, WWL Radio Host
Congratulations to Mr. Darren Lloyd and Ms. Laura Chavez, both recent recipients of a SSS Spot Award. Supervisors and managers may submit employees for these awards. As outlined in PPPM Chapter 451-10, the award amount is a cash award of five hundred ($500) dollars or less per instance, not to exceed one thousand ($1000) dollars per year per person. The act or service must represent specific acts, service, or contributions that are not recognized as a part of regular day to day performance. The supervisor has determined that the act is of such quality, effect or responsiveness that public recognition is warranted.

**Mr. Darren Lloyd**

Mr. Darren Lloyd, Preparedness Division Manager, Operations Directorate was presented the award approved by Director Romo for noteworthy activities well beyond his normal duties. The Deputy Director, Mr. Allard noted, “following the departure of the Associate Director of Operations, on June 26, 2015, Mr. Lloyd has been my go-to person for everything related to Operations on an almost daily basis and in addition to his activities in his current position description, has done an outstanding job”. In addition to his ongoing support of the Operations Directorate, Mr. Lloyd represented SSS at the District of Columbia Veterans Affairs Advisory Board and conceived, developed and delivered a presentation. A member of the Board contacted the Director and praised Mr. Lloyd for his presentation and volunteered to assist SSS with Driver’s License Registration in Washington D.C. as a result of Mr. Lloyd’s efforts.

**Ms. Laura Chavez**

Ms. Laura Chavez, Support Services Assistant, Logistics Office, Financial Management was presented her award approved by Director Romo for activities that she performed beyond her administrative support functions during the 4th quarter of FY2015. Ms. Chavez processed, relocated, shipped and transported laptops within two working days back to multiple vendors’ return departments. According to CFO Mr. Roderick Hubbard, “this involved the boxing, labeling, return, tracking and receipt of 59 laptop computers. This would normally be a joint Logistics/IT project. However, Ms. Chavez single-handedly executed the entire process”.
Selective Service employees attended the African American/Black History Month Celebration at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) in Arlington, VA on February 11, 2016. The theme of the event was “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memory” with entertainment provided by the U.S. Army Blues. As is true of all JBM-HH cultural events, the event was educational, informative, entertaining and meaningful. Selective Service is very appreciative of the staff at JBM-HH for always inviting us to participate in all of their cultural awareness program observances. Prior celebrations that SSS attended at JBM-HH were in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Women’s History Month and Holocaust Remembrance Day.
Selective Service System exhibited at the annual National Immigrant Integration Coalition (NIIC) conference in Brooklyn, NY on December 13-15, 2015. There were approximately 1,300 attendees. The attendees were comprised of community leaders, members of non-profits, members of non-governmental organizations, pro bono legal services, faith based organizations, educational institutions, students, and policy makers convening to discuss immigration issues affecting the United States. Major Wilem Wong, USAR-OIC, Lieutenant Ed Stull, USNR, and Lieutenant Paul Ko, ARNG (NY) staffed the exhibit for SSS. In addition to answering questions and discussing registration with participants, SSS also had many inquiries about becoming a board member. Many board member applications were given out to interested individuals from AL, CO, FL, MA, MD, NY (upstate/downstate), and NE.

Major Wilem Wong, USAR and Lieutenant Ed Stull, USNR staffing the SSS’ table/exhibit booth at the 8th Annual National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC) in Brooklyn, NY. (Photo taken by Lieutenant Paul Ko, ARNG)

Attendees at the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus on Immigration Integration: Rising Communities, Stronger Voices was given an impromptu speech by Presidential candidate Martin O’Malley during the middle of the session. Major Wilem Wong, USAR was a few feet away from the former Governor of Maryland. (Photo taken by NYIC/AJJC – on their twitter page)
RFO Glenn Seidel Honored

“The Hero of the Night Award” was presented to Chief Glenn Seidel USAR at the Buffalo Bandits game at the First Niagara Center, Buffalo NY on 02/06/16. The Buffalo Bandits professional indoor box lacrosse team select a local veteran to be recognized at every home game. Chief Seidel is a RFO assigned to Selective Service System Detachment 1NY. Congratulations Chief Seidel!

Cultural Heritage Preservation

Selective Service’s Region I NY 1-8 (Newburgh, NY) detachment US Army Reserve officer, MAJ Wilem co-authored with Mr. Marc A. Abramiuk, a renowned archaeologist and social anthropologist, the article, “Cultural Heritage Preservation and Its Role for Paving the Way Toward Peace,” that was published in the Small Wars Journal and in Inside Homeland Security, December 2015 online edition. The article was inspired by the movie, “Monuments Men”.

MAJ Wilem
Region III Headquarters officially moved to its new location on Buckley Air Force Base and was open for business on December 14, 2015. Region III staff showed tremendous amounts of teamwork to ensure that the transition from a spacious 6600 square foot space in Stapleton Plaza to a modest 650 square foot space at Buckley Air Force Base went smoothly. Region III staff shed lots of blood, sweat, and tears to make the move happen, but in the end they stood victorious, took a deep breath, and said “We did it; we’re finished!” Thanks to all of our State Directors, Reserve Force Officers, and the many other Region III partners who were patient with us as we made the transition; we could not have done it without you.
Retiree Comes Back as Volunteer

Ms. Carol Mills retired from Region III Headquarters in Denver, CO as a Senior Program Analyst on July 3, 2015. After completing her Federal career with the Agency, she moved to Washington State at the end of July, to begin the next chapter of her life. In August, she was notified by the Region Headquarters that the Washington State Director volunteer position was vacant. She applied for the position and was recommended by the Washington Governor, the Honorable Jay Inslee. Her appointment date became effective November 1, 2015. She is finding the position challenging/rewarding and welcomes the opportunity to give back.

Congratulations to LTC (Dr) Tonja Ochonma

LTC Tonja Ochonma was selected as the Detachment Commander for 3 California and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 15, 2015. LTC Ochonma has a bachelor’s degree in social work, a master’s degree in education and most recently, a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership. She received her doctorate on July 22, 2015 from Trident University International after completing her dissertation titled, “Military Veterans and Academic Achievement: An Analysis of the Factors Influencing Post-Secondary Academic Achievement and Academic Load in Military Veterans.”

LTC Ochonma is a full-time civil service employee with Department of Defense, US Army Wounded Warrior Program. She serves as a Soldier Family Management Specialist, caring for the most severely injured, wounded and ill veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. She is very active in her community, volunteering with the Forgotten Soldier. Congratulations LTC Ochonma.
Ms. Elizabeth Kim was recently hired as an accountant in the Financial Management Directorate. Prior to joining Selective Service Elizabeth was with the Internal Revenue Service. She earned a Bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, has a Master’s Degree from Emory University and a Master in Accountancy degree from Drake University.

In her current position with SSS, Elizabeth will process invoices; maintain adequate internal control over transaction processing; posts journal vouchers; IPAC transactions; and reconcile the fund balance with treasury. Elizabeth is happy to be at Selective Service and is looking forward to her new duties and responsibilities. Welcome Elizabeth!
**MATTHEW BOGDAN, IT**

Mr. Matthew Bogdan has recently joined the IT staff at Selective Service as an IT Specialist. Prior to coming to SSS, Matthew worked in the private sector as a web and graphic designer. When he graduated from college with a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Information Systems he was selected to intern at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). After his internship, he was hired in the Statistics of Income division of the IRS as an IT Specialist. In this position, Matthew built on his experiences and gained valuable database and programming skills while being responsible for programming data entry systems.

Matthew and his wife, Mandy, married in 2011. They have high-energy two-year-old twin sons. In his spare time Matthew enjoys doing home improvements and spending time with his family going to playgrounds and hiking (any physical activities to burning energy of the twins!) He also fronts a band, Bad Apples, as lead vocalist and guitarist, where they play pop songs from Aretha Franklin and Bruno Mars, rock songs of AC/DC, classic rock of The Beatles and Tom Petty, and even some hip-hop tunes.

He is looking forward to contributing toward fulfilling the agency’s mission with the skills that he possesses. Matthew is also looking forward to building on his skill set using the cutting edge technology of the agency. We welcome him to the SSS team!

---

**THOMAS DEVINE, OPS**

Mr. Thomas Devine joined the Selective Service System in January 2016. He is serving as a Registration Program Analyst within the Preparedness Division at National Headquarters.

Prior to joining the Agency, Thomas worked as Project Management Lead for Jacob’s Advanced Systems Group where he was responsible for leading and supervising a team of professionals to provide project management oversight in support of the Secure Operational Network Infrastructure Capability Branch, Marine Corps Systems Command. He is also a 20 year veteran (retired) of the United States Marine Corps where he served as an Intelligence Analyst. During his time in the Marine Corps, Thomas served tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Outside of work, Thomas’ interests include spending time with his family and barbequing every weekend. He currently resides in Stafford, VA. Welcome to the SSS Team!
**Tarlon Stewart, HR, Departs**

Mr. Tarlon A. Stewart, Human Resources Specialist, has departed Selective Service to accept a position with the Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service (DCPAS). He was with the Agency from April 26, 2010 through February 5, 2016 while serving both military and civilian personnel. Tarlon primarily worked with assigned and attached reserve force officers (RFOs) for all branches of service. He ensured all annual training orders, along with military awards, were prepared and processed in time to meet New Officer State Director’s Training dates, State Director’s conferences, and Agency’s exhibits across the United States. His organizational awareness allowed him to interact successfully with parent services, RFOs, military recruiters, the three Selective Service regional headquarters, state directors, and many other customers. Tarlon advised and monitored up to 175 RFOs throughout the 50 states and territories, greatly aiding the agency in meeting its mission. He also provided excellent customer service to all employees; and had a role in updating the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manuals. Tarlon trained other HR staff on personnel security and military personnel issues. He worked well under pressure and met short deadlines from customers. His strong commitment in providing guidance and personnel services to the Regions, the Data Management Center, and State Directors will be missed. The Director presented Tarlon the Meritorious Service Award (Bronze) in recognition of outstanding service. We wish him all the best with all his future endeavors. The SSS family will miss him.

**Steven Woodland, HR**

Mr. Steven Woodland has joined the Selective Service System’s Human Resource office as a Human Resource Specialist (Military). Steven was previously employed at Veterans Affairs working as a legal assistant. He retired from the Air Force after 24 years of service. Steven held positions of responsibility in managing military personnel careers. He holds a Master’s degree in Human Resources from Keller Graduate School of Management in Arlington, Virginia. In his new position some of Steven’s new responsibilities will include supporting 175 Reserve Force Officers (RFOs) from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard with coordinating staffing, compliance, regulatory requirements, submitting, reviewing and processing annual training orders. He enjoys most sports and spending time with his wife, two kids, family and friends. Steven is a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi and has lived in the Maryland area for the past four years. Welcome to the SSS family!
Lakisher Wright, HR

Ms. Lakisher Wright has recently joined the Selective Service family as a Human Resource Specialist (Military). Prior to coming to SSS she was employed at DOD USMC as a HR Assistant. She also spent some time at The National Science Foundation as a program assistant. She worked alongside many scientists and conducted panels where members of the science community decided what scientific projects to fund.

Lakisher was born in Georgetown, SC. After high school she joined the United States Marine Corps and attended boot camp at Parris Island, SC. She spent 8 years active duty as a Marine. She has earned a Bachelor’s degree in Social Psychology and a Masters in Human Resources Management and Human Resources Organizational Development. In her current position, Lakisher will be supporting 175 Reserve Officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard with coordinating staffing, compliance, regulatory requirements, submitting, reviewing and processing annual training orders. She will also be supporting civilian HR as well.

She is married with 6 children, and enjoys being with her family. She spends her free time baking and decorating cakes and making gift baskets. Welcome to the SSS team Lakisher!
Ms. Susan Cappo, who was the DMC Manager for the last 10 years, retired from federal service in January 2016. Sue was one of the remaining original employees who helped open the DMC in August 1981. During her tenure she helped develop the registration and compliance programs, implemented automation functions, and focused on practical solutions to national challenges.

In her 34 years of services within the DMC she’s led, supported or witnessed the following changes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Then</th>
<th>Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of paper based registrations</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of registrations</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with Driver’s License Legislation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of DMC Employees</td>
<td>~140 (max)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of inbound phone lines</td>
<td>5 (physical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Processing Power (operations/second)</td>
<td>8 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average price for an employees’ computer</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Presidents served under: 5
Number of Selective Service System Directors: 12
Number of previous DMC Managers: 4
Number of original DMC employees remaining after Sue’s Retirement: 2
Number of active DMC employees who were born after 1981: a few!

The projects she led and her accomplishments are too numerous to list, however the impact of her dedication shaped DMC and agency operations. Everyone will miss her leadership, expertise, motivation and desire to improve others within the organization. At her retirement party she was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest honor the Selective Service can bestow upon an individual.

In retirement, Sue looks forward to migrating south to warmer weather and wonderful beaches. Her new chapter in life will enable her to spend more time traveling with her husband and visiting her two grown children. We will miss Sue and wish her well!
Thomas Birchmeyer, Region I

Mr. Thomas Birchmeyer joined the Region I Headquarters in January 2016 as the Program Assistant. His experience includes working for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Syracuse, New York and as a Security Assistant with the Police Department. Thomas served in the United States Army for over eight years with the Military Police.

As the Program Assistant for Region I, his responsibilities include a wide variety of administrative program support functions. He will be responsible for updating and maintaining current information for Board Members, processing travel claims for Board Members, initial processing of incoming and outgoing mail in the Region, and maintaining the Region’s library.

In his spare time, Thomas enjoys watching sports and doing home improvement projects. He has three sons, Kevin, Sean and Brandon. Welcome Thomas to the SSS team!

Kelli Godfrey, Region II

Mrs. Kelli Godfrey was recently hired as a Program Assistant with Region II. She was born at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and spent years traveling, moving around as an “Army brat.” She graduated high school in Alabama and attended Jacksonville State University where she earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree. She married her husband, who was already in the Army, and continued her life of continuous moves. During her time as a military spouse, she earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of New England. Her husband retired from the Army in May 2015 and they, along with their (now) 13 year old daughter, relocated from Fort Hood, Texas to Acworth, Georgia. Prior to her position with Selective Service, Kelli served as a victim advocate with the Sexual Assault/Harassment Program with the Army. Kelli’s upcoming goal is to visit the 12 states that she has not been to within the next five years to be able to say she has been to all 50 states. We are happy that Kelli has joined our SSS family.
Region II Administrative Officer leaves SSS

Region II bids farewell to an extraordinary family member. Mr. Ryan W. Stewart has accepted a new position as a Management and Program Analyst at the Defense Logistics Agency in Anniston, Alabama. Ryan joined the Agency as the Region II Administrative Officer in February 2014.

During his stay, he has efficiently automated many Region II tracking systems, as well as flawlessly maintaining the Region’s budget and procurement records. His thorough knowledge of military administrative functions has significantly contributed to all administrative tasks and functions to near perfection. He was a quality staff member who will be difficult to match. Region Director, Mr. Carlos Perez, presented Mr. Stewart with the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his outstanding service and extraordinary support to the SSS. He was also presented the SSS Eagle.

The SSS Family offers a heartfelt congratulations and best of wishes in his future endeavors. He will be greatly missed. Hoorah Marine!!

Region Director Perez and Mr. Stewart
Kathy A. Green, Region III

Kathy Green was promoted to Program Analyst in August, 2015. She is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer from the Naval Reserve Program with four years active duty. Mrs. Green has twenty-three years federal service working for Department of Defense, Department of Commerce and now Selective Service. She moved to Colorado in 1989 with her husband Scott. They have two children, Rachel and Trevor, whose interests include horseback riding and baseball. Congratulations Kathy!

Velma L. Kidwell, Region III

Mrs. Vel Kidwell has been promoted to Program Analyst for Region III. She is a Vietnam era veteran raised in the Midwest. Vel returned to the workforce in 2011, after taking a hiatus to raise her granddaughter.

She is excited to begin this new journey in her career. Congratulations Vel!
Edward W. Medina, Region III

Mr. Ed Medina joined the staff in the summer of 2010 as a Program Analyst and in July 2012 was promoted into the Admin Officer position. He accepted the position of Senior Program Analyst in the fall of 2015. He is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer with twenty-two years of service, seventeen years of which was spent in Naval Reserve Recruiting. He held positions as a Recruiter and Recruiter-In-Charge in Tucson, Arizona, Recruiter-In-Charge in Great Lakes, Illinois, and as a Zone Supervisor in Moreno Valley, California. While on Staff at Naval Reserve Recruiting Area West in Aurora, Colorado held the positions of Leads & Advertising Supervisor, Senior Trainer and Assistant Chief Recruiter.

He has held a variety of positions including Warehouse Manager, Internet Car Sales, Assistant Director of Admissions at DeVry University and most recently as a civilian employee with the Department of the Air Force. He and his wife Trish have four children and four grandchildren.

Ed accepted the position of Senior Program Analyst in August of 2015 after serving as the Region III Administrative Officer for 3 years. Congratulations Ed!

Maryann Rangel, Region III

Ms. Maryann Rangel spent 4 years on active duty for the US Air Force as an Information Manager serving in Incirlik Air Base, Turkey and Hill Air Force Base, Utah. After honorable discharge, she went to school for Dental Assisting and worked for a local dentist for four years prior to coming back as a federal employee.

Maryann accepted a federal civil service position with the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center where she worked in a myriad of positions ranging from a call center technician, a human resources assistant for the Judge Advocate office, an assignments manager and finally closing out her tenure as a retirements technician. She went on to further her career as the Executive Secretary for the 460th Medical Group Commander and finished her tenure with the Department of the Air Force working as the Unit Program Coordinator for the 460th Security Forces Squadron.

Maryann served as the Region III Management Services Assistant for the Selective Service System since January 2013. During her tenure her greatest accomplishment was reducing the Region's inventory of 15 years’ worth of antiquated items and successfully moving the Region Headquarters from the Denver location to the new Buckley AFB location. She has accepted the position of Administrative Officer for Region 3. Congratulations Maryann!