The Washington State Driver’s License Legislation Bill (SHB 1237) was signed on May 16, 2011. SSS Washington State Director COL Terry Oxley, worked with Representative Judy Clibborn, Chair of the House Transportation Committee and Rep. Larry Haler both of whom were prime bill sponsors, and instrumental in getting the legislation passed. The legislation will be implemented in January of 2012. We applaud their efforts and support of the SSS registration requirement!

Legislation SHB 1237 states that all male applicants for driver’s licenses, instruction permits, intermediate licenses, and identicards who are under the age of 26 must be given the opportunity to register with the SSS, the option to indicate they have already registered, or the option to decline to register. When an applicant indicates he would like to register with the SSS, the Department of Licensing (DOL) must forward his personal information to the SSS within ten days. An applicant who declines to register may not be denied a license, permit, or identicard if the applicant meets other requirements. DOL may provide SSS registration information to applicants who decline to register, if requested.

ABOVE: Pictured left to right, COL (Ret) Terry Oxley, Washington State Director, stands left next to the seated Governor Christine Gregorie as she signs SHB 1237, the Washington State driver’s license legislation bill.

LEFT: Ms. Carol Mills, Region III, presents COL Oxley with the SSS Exceptional Service Award for his efforts on Washington State DLL.
Seventy one years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as a backup system to provide manpower to the U.S. Armed Forces. Ever since, the United States Selective Service (SSS) has operated in perpetual ready mode, even during peacetime.

For 20 years, the independent Federal agency has maintained equipment from Garron Lottery Products to conduct any military draft in the future. The SSS recently commissioned a custom Titan air mix ball machine to replace Garron mixing barrels, which had stored and turned capsules containing dates or numbers.

The custom TITAN can easily mix 365 balls, correlating to the calendar year, plus another ball in the event of leap year. The equipment package also includes balls bearing the months of the year and display boards for those months.

Garron was awarded this unique contract, after an exhaustive process which included evaluation of the competing drawing machine manufacturers’ record of reliability with US Lotteries; a tour of manufacturing facilities; and thorough demonstration of the models proposed by the competitors.

Garron is very proud to continue its service to the SSS, with its TITAN model. The TITAN is currently used by 14 lotteries in the USA, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.
Plain Language Initiative

Building on his Transparency in Government and Open Government initiatives, President Obama has tasked and challenged all federal agencies and employees to provide the best service possible to the American people. A big part of that effort is ensuring that the public can easily understand what rules, regulations and guidelines actually say. To improve the way SSS speaks with the public, in writing, on the Internet and in person, we have trained the staff to be more aware of the need to write in plain language.

We are looking at Agency documents that might need to be reworded so that everyone can easily understand the message. The focus is on items that help the public request or achieve eligibility for a federal benefit. While the Military Selective Service Act does not need to be rewritten, we are looking at the Internet site as well as forms, brochures and general guidance. Soon there will be a place on the Internet, under the OPEN.Gov link, that will enable the public to tell us how well we are doing. This ongoing effort requires us all to write and speak to the public the way we normally talk – eliminate the jargon, the 25-cent words, and the acronyms.

RFO Forum

The Director held an RFO “Forum” on June 1st to provide an opportunity for new ideas and issues to be addressed. Input was solicited from all RFOs, who were represented by

Region I
LTC Harris, IN 1-3
LTC Kryszak, NY 1-9
MAJ Keegan, MA 1-MA

Region II
LTC DePiro, VA 2-22
CAPT Tschanz, FL 2-4
CWO3 Atwood, FL 2-6

Region III
MAJ Park, OK 3OK
MAJ Smith, CO 3-7
CW3 Yantzer, ND 3ND

The topics included ideas to improve the public website to help recruit new Board Members, improve Board Member training, including information in Spanish, and improving the protection of personally identifiable information. PIA has already delivered literature/posters for Spanish speaking outlets; post office officials were reminded about the importance of maintaining and displaying registration material; reminders were sent about the State Resource Volunteer program; PIA is building an email list to be able to send the Register to all RFOs, SDs, and BMs; PIA provided master organization contact lists for Mexican, Native American, African American and other influencers to the Region Directors; and work is underway by PIA to update the Internet site.

Self-Assessment Checklist Project

The first-ever Self-Assessment Checklist project was conducted during April 25-29, 2011. This highly visible and very collegial project involved twenty-five evaluators using checklists to assess operational efficiency and compliance with policies and procedures. The teams provided an exit brief to each unit and the results were shared at the July All-Hands meeting. The Director presented evaluators with certificates of appreciation.

The overall project was a success and the Agency is in substantial compliance with requirements. Next year we will focus on operations at the DMC and look at the “depth of review” across programs.

The Director’s attention to this effort demonstrated the Agency’s commitment to moving together in the right direction.

Selective Service Program News –
The Selective Service System exhibited at the 2011 Annual Conference of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), held June 2011 in Washington, D.C. La Raza is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The organization boasts nearly 300 affiliated community-based organizations and reaches millions of Hispanics each year in 41 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It was founded in 1968 and is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization with headquarters in Washington, DC.

While at the conference, Selective Service System’s Deputy Director Edward T. Allard, Virginia State Director BG Flores, LTC DePiro, and LTC Brian Kim spoke to hundreds of conference attendees about the importance of young men registering with the Selective Service System. They reminded attendees that not only is registration required by federal law, but that failure to register may jeopardize eligibility for citizenship, student financial aid, and federal employment.
American GI Forum National Convention

The Selective Service System exhibited at the American GI Forum (AGIF) National Convention, in Albuquerque, NM on July 12-16, 2011. The AGIF is a Congressionally chartered veterans and civil rights organization established in 1949. With Chapters in 40 states and Puerto Rico, it is the largest Federally Chartered Hispanic Veterans organization in the United States. The AGIF supports many Hispanic organizations, such as League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), National Council of La Raza (NCLR), IMAGE, and HACER.

Mr. Lawrence Romo, Director SSS attended the convention and actively engaged with many state commanders and attendees. New Mexico State Director, COL (Ret) Mucio Yslas Jr., and RIII Program Analyst, Robert Vaccarella staffed the Selective Service System’s exhibit. Approximately 300 in-depth contacts were made during the convention.

American School Counselor Association’s National Conference

The American School Counselor Association’s national conference was held June 25-27, 2011 in Seattle, Washington. There were approximately 2000 attendees from elementary, middle and senior high schools throughout the country. Mr. Terry Oxley, State Director of Washington, LTC Timothy Walker, 3WA Detachment Commander and Ms. Carol Mills, Region III Program Analyst, staffed the Selective Service System’s exhibit and booth at the busy conference. The SSS representatives addressed the registration requirement for men ages 18 through 25, and encouraged participation in the High School Registration program with many of the attendees.
Selective Service System’s Hawaii State Director Andrew Pepper and RFOs LTC Ling and Capt. Sherwood attended the Bay Fest at Kaneohe Marine Base in Hawaii on July 15 - 17, 2011 where the Agency had a booth and an exhibit. The Bay Fest is Hawaii’s largest annual music festival with over 35,000 attending. Ling and Sherwood spoke with hundreds of young men, parents, community leaders, and peer advisers. In doing so, they communicated the role and function of the SSS and reminded them of the obligation of men ages 18-25 to register with Selective Service. High school teachers attending the event were asked to become volunteer registrars or informational conduits on their campuses. A large volume of SSS marketing material and registrations forms were available.

Young Men Registered at Bay Fest

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Army Vietnam Era Veterans

One of the last soldiers drafted in the 1970s and still on active duty announced that he will finally retire later this year. Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey J. Mellinger is one of a few Vietnam-era draftees still in the Army. Two others still serving are Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph Rigby now stationed in Kuwait, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Franklin Ernst, currently assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. CSM Mellinger recently visited Selective Service National Headquarters in Arlington, VA and shared his insights on military service and any future draft with Selective Service Director Lawrence G. Romo.

DIRECTOR ADDRESSES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Selective Service Director Lawrence G. Romo, addressed the Executive Committee at the Blue Star Mothers of America’s 69th Annual Convention in Washington, DC. The Blue Star Mothers of America, founded in 1942, is a national nonprofit organization of mothers of U.S. military troops and veterans. The group has over 225 chapters across the country and is a federally chartered Veterans Service Organization.

Left to Right: SSS Deputy Director Allard, CSM Mellinger, and SSS Director Romo
Texas State Director Claude Hempel presented the Selective Service System’s Gold Medal and Distinguished Service Award to Texas State Representative Dan Flynn. Rep. Flynn co-sponsored legislation which amended current Texas legislation from optional to automatically registering men ages 18 through 25 when they obtain a Texas drivers license or ID card. This legislation is scheduled to take affect on September 1, 2011 and will greatly enhance registration compliance in the state.

The Joint Service Commendation Medal was awarded to LTC Nicholas Sachleben IV, Arizona Detachment Commander. LTC Sachleben was a very capable Detachment Commander. He is an extremely exceptional individual and always willing to help wherever needed. LTC Sachleben retired this month and Region III wanted to share this with NHQ for the Newsletter.
The Selective Service System’s Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Mr. Wayne A. Gregson on July 8, 2011 for his outstanding 20-year service as a board member in California. Mr. Gregson served since April 25, 1991, in Area Office 8, Local Board 28 within Placer County. The award was presented to Mr. Gregson by MAJ Tonja Ochonma (RFO, CA 3-6 Detachment) at the Capitol Building in Sacramento.

MAJ Drew Techner, RFO in Region I presented Rev. Terry Oakman, National Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, the Selective Service System’s Certificate of Appreciation to thank him for his input with local community representation on local boards in Philadelphia. MAJ Techner met with church members and explained the Board Member Program and as a result, more than a dozen church members volunteered to serve.

Maj. Gen. John W. Libby, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Maine State Rep. Jarrod Crockett of Bethel recently received the Selective Service System’s Honored Patriot award for their efforts with the drivers license legislation for the State of Maine. MG Libby was bestowed the award for his unwavering support in the passage of the legislation. Rep. Crockett was able to gain strong bipartisan support for the legislation, which ensured its successful adoption. The men were presented the awards by COL Averill Black, retired SSS State Director, during a ceremony on August 6, 2011 in Augusta, ME.

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As in previous years, the Selective Service System again exhibited at the Joint Service Open House/Air Show at Andrews Air Force Base, the largest event hosted by Joint Base Andrews each year. The opening ceremony celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. The show provided an excellent opportunity for the Selective Service System to show its support for our nation’s military and to demonstrate our long standing commitment to the Andrews Air Show.

2011 Joint Service Open House/Air Show
State Directors –

Former North Carolina State Director Colonel (Ret) Donald L. Shaw announced his retirement effective June 3, 2011. Mr. Shaw was appointed State Director on May 22, 1996. He was presented with the SSS Exceptional Service Award by Region II Director Keith Scragg. In his civilian employment, Mr. Shaw holds the position of Professor of Journalism at the University of North Carolina and also serves as a Journalist and a volunteer on the City Appearance Commission. Good Luck and best wishes to Mr. Shaw!

Colonel (Ret.) Paul S. Baldwin, State Director of Colorado, retired in June, 2011. COL Baldwin had 28 years of service with Selective Service System. Prior to his tenure with the Agency he served 35 years in the Army and Army National Guard. In retirement COL. Baldwin continues to be actively involved in many civic and professional service organizations.

Colonel (Ret.) Donald L. Hiatte, State Director of Missouri, retired with almost 32 years of service from Selective Service System on July 29, 2011. Prior to his tenure with the Agency he served 36 years in the US Army. Mr. Hiatte has been a significant fixture in the Agency and one of the most engaged state directors this Agency has ever had.
Mr. Edward Nakano, State Director of Hawaii was awarded the Selective Service System’s Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the nation and to the Selective Service System. Mr. Nakano served as state director from 1996 to 2009. His many contributions continue to have a positive impact on Selective Service and the Agency’s mission success. Due to illness, Mr. Nakano was unable to accept his award. Mr. Nakano’s wife, Mrs. Betty Nakano and family accepted on his behalf.

Colonel (Ret.) Michael F. Valdez, State Director of Oregon Retired August 1, 2011 after three years of service with Selective Service System. Prior to his tenure with the Agency he served 34 years in the Army and Marine Corps. Mr. Valdez is a Vietnam Veteran and a member of a number of civic and professional service organizations.
Special Thanks to:
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Thomas White
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Email Articles and photos to BettyLou.Wingo@sss.gov

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