



# The REGISTER

Fall 2012

## Director Addresses Memorial Day Ceremony

Director Romo was the guest speaker at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Hispanic Heritage Celebration. The event was held on September 25, 2012 and was sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office at the Joint Base. The annual national celebration marked the role of Hispanic Americans in all segments of life in this Nation. This year's theme was: Diversity United, Building America's Future Today.



Director Romo

The Director told the audience that "Our military is the most diverse organization in our nation's history..... you are a melting pot representation of our society, descendants of immigrants who came to the United

States to better their lives and now you proudly serve our country." Director Romo stated that it is important for him to be a good role model for young men and women, not just Hispanics but all ethnic groups. Mr. Romo said, "When we get these federal government positions such as mine, it's important that we do well so we can show that all ethnic groups can succeed." The Director was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the success of the Hispanic Heritage Month Observance.

## RCV Project Completed

Selective Service and its contractor, Advanced Information Services successfully completed the Registration Compliance and Verification Information System project in fiscal year 2012. This new registration system replaced a 1980's era mainframe application in use since the Selective Service restarted registration in 1980. The project was actually completed ahead of schedule, and the new system was brought online on September 20, 2011. FY2012 was spent bringing the system up to its full operational capability.

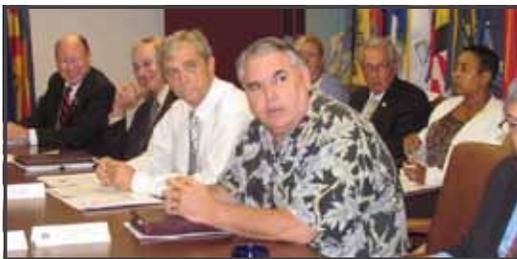


Director Romo receives plaque for his contribution

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## Agency Meets with National Guard Bureau

In August, Selective Service System hosted a meeting with the National Guard Bureau to discuss manpower issues. The working group session included staff from National Headquarters, the Regions, and the DMC. Everyone agreed that the briefing was a success. The agency and the National Guard were able to reach a mutually beneficial consensus on staffing numbers and grades.



## Board Members Gather for Florida IBMT

Florida's final Initial Board Member Training (IBMT) for FY 2012 was held at the Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC) in Hialeah, Florida on August 18, 2012.

CWO4 Scott Grzybowski and LTJG Deborah Peeples of FL Detachment 2-6 conducted the training session. Five Local Board Members and one District Appeal Board Member attended the session.



*Pictured from left to right: George Lord, Edwin Martinez, John Casey, John Bloom, Juan Gonzales, CWO4 Scott Grzybowski, LTJG Deborah Peeples. Front Center: Jason Rose (District Appeal Board Member)*

## SSS Exhibits at National Latino Family Exposition

Reserve Force Officers MAJ Bridget Johnson and LT Barbara Schenk from Nevada staffed the Selective Service booth at the 2012 National Latino Family Exposition, which was held at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas. The exposition was presented by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), a non-profit national organization focused on improving opportunities for Hispanic Americans. This event was one of the largest Hispanic expositions in the country, attracting over 5,000 Latino leaders, 200 exhibitors and thousands of attendees. According to MAJ Bridget Johnson, this venue provided a wonderful opportunity to communicate the Selective Service mission to Hispanic Americans, focusing on registering eligible young men. Staff said the booth was ideally located and well received by the attendees.



*MAJ Bridget Johnson (in blue) is speaking with two attendees at the conference*

## SSS Visits State Capitol

On July 25, 2012, Colorado State Director COL (Ret) Gary Bress, Colorado RFO MAJ Alan Smith, USAR and Region III Administrative Officer Ed Medina traveled to the Colorado State Capitol Building to pay an office visit to Romaine Pacheco. Ms. Pacheco is the Director of the Colorado Office of Boards and Commissions. As Director, Ms. Pacheco processes all SSS board nominations and submits them to the Governor for approval. Ms. Pacheco was provided a briefing on the mission of SSS, the role of the Region III Headquarters, the role of the State Detachment, the nature of the board program and how board members are recruited. The meeting was most informative and a good relationship was established. Ms. Pacheco requested that she be informed of upcoming IBMT and CT events and when board members retire so she may inform the Governor's staff.



*Major Alan Smith and Ms. Pacheco*

## Alumni of Badger Boys State Honored

On September 8, 2012, Wisconsin State Director Mr. John Cumicek was a guest of Governor Scott Walker at the Governor's mansion in Madison, WI to honor the Alumni of Badger Boys State.

Badger Boys State is a program through the Wisconsin American Legion that not only focuses on, but teaches the workings of the U.S. Government. The program is designed to teach boys that the American form of government is stronger and more vital in today's world of struggle than ever before. It teaches that the American people have no more precious possession than that great document, the Constitution, which at once safeguards and transmits to posterity those principals of the great American heritage—justice, freedom and democracy under God.



*Left to Right: Tom Duffey 1947 Badger Boy State Alum Governor Scott Walker Ray McGool 1948 Badger Boy State Alum Mr. John Cumicek SSS/WISD & 1960 Badger Boy State Alum*

Mr. Cumicek a 1960 Badger Boy alum himself spoke with the Governor about Selective Service System and its importance. Through Mr. Cumicek's affiliation with the Badger Boys State program and the American Legion, the Selective Service System and Region Headquarters have been able to promote the Agency's mission and recruit Board Members throughout the state.

## IBMT and Harley Davidson Meet!

On August 29, 2012, CW5 Mark Kelsey, former Region II RFO and now SRV for Detachment 2TX, conducted this year's final IBMT at the Harley Davidson Motorcycle dealership in Waco, Texas. Chief Kelsey has been a proud owner of a Harley since 1991. Chief Kelsey was looking for a potential Local Board Member to fill a vacancy. He visited the Harley Davidson dealership in the area where the opening existed. During his visit to the dealership, Chief Kelsey recruited salesman Steven Felan for the board position. Mr. Felan offered the dealership training room for the IBMT session he attended.

Chief Kelsey encourages all RFOs to remember that motorcycle dealerships are great places to recruit and train Local Board Members. He also stated, "The customers at a motorcycle dealership are a diverse and welcoming group who can fill vacancies AND give you a ride on their bike."



*Left to Right: Mr. Stephen Johnson, Mr. Steven Felan, and Mr. Michael Veselka*

## National Guard Association Conference

Mr. Brett Williams, Operations Manager for Region III, participated in the National Guard Association of the United States Conference which was held in Reno, Nevada on September 9-12, 2012.



*Brett Williams*

## Director Speaks at the Society of Government Meeting Professionals

Director Romo spoke at the San Antonio Alamo Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) in August, 2012. He addressed the role of ethics in government and in particular discussed his management philosophy. The Director stated: "in my day to day managerial duties I am ever mindful of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics' General Principles for Federal Employees.

Of particular interest to this audience are the following four principles which state: 'an employee shall not, ...solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the employee's agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties; employees shall protect and conserve federal property and shall not use it for other than authorized activities; employees shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption to appropriate authorities; employees shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards set forth in this part.

Whether particular circumstances create an appearance that the law or these standards have been violated shall be determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts.' As a federal employee I am also quite aware that our agency is funded by the taxpayer. I know that it's my duty to be a good steward of those funds and ensure that there is no fraud, waste or abuse of those monies."

The San Antonio Chapter is the 33rd chapter of the SGMP and was chartered in October 2011. The chapter is based in San Antonio and serves the government meeting professional members in the greater San Antonio Area. SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. SGMP has over 3,500 members and 33 chapters nationwide.

## Organization of Chinese Americans Exposition

MAJ Bridget Johnson and LT Barbara Schenk attended the 2012 Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Exposition at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. OCA is one of the largest civil rights organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. This is done mainly through education and community building. OCA has about 80 chapters across the United States. Approximately 24 of those chapters were in attendance at the exposition (around 200 people). MAJ Johnson and LT Schenk noted that many people in attendance were aware of the Selective Service registration requirement and were also interested in the Board Member application process.

## Dr. Labat Receives Award

Dr. Margaret G. Labat, State Director, Washington DC was awarded the Selective Service System's Distinguished Service Award and the agency's Honored Patriot award for her outstanding and tireless efforts in the successful pursuit of enhanced Drivers License Legislation for the District of Columbia.



*Dr. Labat, Region Director Tom White and Associate Director Richard Flahavan*



*Director Romo and Dr. Labat*

## Major Alan Smith Receives Award

RFO MAJ Alan W. Smith, USAR was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal during a ceremony at Region III Headquarters on September 8, 2012. Major Smith has maintained Local Board Member strength at 85 percent or better and District Appeal Boards at 80 percent with minimal inoperable boards. As a result of Major Smith's diligent recruiting practices, only quality individuals were recommended to fill vacancies. Major Smith ensures Board Member race and national origin are consistent with the demographics provided by NHQ. He also maintains a professional relationship while providing outstanding mentoring to his Board Members. Through his recruiting efforts, Major Smith has assisted his Detachment in maintaining an 87% participation rate for high school Registrars, which is consistent with the National goal. He has demonstrated outstanding competence in the execution of the Agency's plans, policies and operational programs. He consistently took on extra duties and responsibilities in order to achieve mission success. His wife Kesty, son Josh and daughter Alisun were also present to witness the event.



*Kesty Smith pinning award on Major Smith.*



*Right to Left: Capt Joe Skufca, USAFR, CO 3-7 RFO, COL (Ret) Paul S. Baldwin, former CO State Director, MAJ Alan Smith, USAR, CO 3-7 RFO, CDR Rick Gerkin, USNR, Co 3-7 Commander.*

## COL Robert E. Teberg Receives Legion of Merit

COL Robert E. Teberg recently retired with 30 years of distinguished service to the United States Army Reserve with a ceremony and luncheon at the Region I Headquarters where he was presented The Legion of Merit for his exceptional service to the Agency and country. He began his career as a RFO with the Selective Service System in 1992 as a captain assigned to the Chicago Detachment. He held every position within the detachment rising through the ranks to Executive Officer and ultimately Detachment Commander where he commanded the detachment in fulfilling its mission for the Agency. COL Teberg was appointed as the Deputy Director of Region I Headquarters where he filled a vital role in supporting Reserve Officers within the Region as the Officer Efficiency Report rater for Detachment Commanders. He also provided invaluable experience and knowledge as the lead instructor for New Officers and State Directors during their Phase II training once they were appointed to the Selective Service System. He spearheaded many special projects and critical support roles for the Region Director during his service with the Agency

and was a major contributor to how the Region has evolved over the years. His professionalism, knowledge and expertise will be missed by all who worked with him and we thank him for his service and friendship.



*Region Director Tom White and COL Teberg*



## In Memorium

On August 26, 2012, the Selective Service System lost a very good friend and longtime employee, Ms. Marie C. Jones. Marie was one of the agency's longest serving employees, having started as a GS-2 Clerk Typist on October 30, 1967. During her tenure with Selective Service she held several positions including: clerk typist, clerical assistant, secretary, plans technician, plans specialist, and finally, program analyst. In her last position in the agency, Marie served in the Registration section of the Preparedness Division as a Program Analyst. She had primary responsibility for the agency Lottery and Postal Registration programs. The post office forms and post office visit forms in use today were mostly designed by Marie. One of the many highlights of Marie's career was when she was detailed to the White House communications office during the Ford Administration. While there she was given a flight on Air Force One! Marie was known for her tenacity when it came to finishing an assignment as well as her in-depth knowledge of agency history and policies, but she had a way of brightening up a room with her smile. She leaves a daughter, Enjolai, as well as many loving siblings, nephews, and nieces. Thank you, Marie, for your service to the agency and for being a part of our lives.



## New Chief of Staff Joins SSS

Please join us in welcoming Selective Service System's Chief of Staff, Mr. Joel C. Spangenberg. The Chief of Staff comes to Selective Service from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to his service in President Obama's administration, Mr. Spangenberg was Deputy Staff Director to Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

A native of Kirkland, Washington, Mr. Spangenberg graduated with Distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, where he earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Additionally, he has a Master's degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University and a Master's degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Spangenberg is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy



*Joel Spangenberg*

Achievement Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Humanitarian Service Medal.

The Director said that Mr. Spangenberg brings valuable knowledge and experience to the agency and is a welcome addition to the SSS family.

## Dan Amon Retires

Dan Amon retired after nine years with the Selective Service System. He worked as a Public Affairs Specialist in the Public & Intergovernmental Affairs (PIA) Directorate. Dan, who has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism and a Masters of Arts Degree in American Studies had many PIA responsibilities including responding to Congressional inquiries and Congressional testimony, writing speeches for SSS leadership, articles for national publications, position papers, briefing materials, news releases and materials for print and electronic media. Prior to joining SSS Dan worked for fifteen as a press secretary on Capitol Hill and was on Congressman Jerry Solomon's staff for twelve years.

His other positions included Communications Director of the House Rules Committee; Communication Director of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee; and Communications Director of the President's Task on Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. Dan



*Dan Amon*

has many hobbies and outside interests to occupy his time now that he is retired. He enjoys reading, playing classical guitar and has started a garden. Dan also has plans to revive his art skills by auditing courses at a nearby community college. Dan and his wife, Mary Beth have three grown sons. We wish Dan and his family continued health and happiness for all the years to come.

## Carlo Verdino Retires

Mr. Carlo Verdino, Associate Director of Financial Management and Chief Financial Officer retired after 30+ years of federal service. Carlo was also the agency's EEO Director and Inspector General Liaison. Carlo joined the SSS team in May, 1997. While at Selective Service, he served over seven Directors and Acting Directors and held a variety of responsible positions. During his tenure at the agency Carlo tirelessly performed two critical jobs simultaneously, Budget Officer and Comptroller. He is the only staff member to have ever held such challenging positions at the same time.

Carlo, who has a Master's of Business Administration Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree, implemented a single integrated accounting system for the agency which has proven vital to its financial operations. Carlo had developed and maintained a great rapport and relationship with our OMB examiner and with GAO liaisons. These relationships have proved invaluable over the years. Deputy Director Allard presented Carlo the Eagle Award and the Selective Service System Citation for Peerless Contributions to the Agency. Carlo and his



*Carlo Verdino*

wife will be dividing their time between their homes in Italy and in Virginia. We wish him and his family continued health and happiness and all the best in his well-deserved retirement.



*Carlo Verdino and Deputy Director Allard*

## Elena Augustine Joins SSS

Elena Augustine is a new member of the National Headquarters Operations/Alternative Service division. Elena comes to us from Counterpart International, an international development agency in the Washington, DC area. She also spent over two years in the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan working at a youth HIV/AIDS education nonprofit. Elena has a Bachelor of Art's degree in Political Science and English from Bucknell University and a Master's of Arts degree in International Nonprofit Administration from the University of Denver. Elena was born in DC but thanks to her Foreign Service family was raised in Bulgaria, Belgium, Germany, Russia, and Austria. In her free time she likes to read historical fiction, see live music, experiment in the kitchen, and find fun and quirky things to do in the city. In her new position as Program Analyst Elena will provide support to and conduct outreach for the Alternative Service Program and contribute to new training development.



*Elena Augustine*

## Matthew Bombella Joins Team

Matthew Bombella has joined the staff of the National Headquarters Operations/Alternative Service division. Matthew has a Master's of Science degree from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He comes to SSS from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Appeals Management Center in Washington DC. Before coming to the nation's capital, Matthew worked at the John Deere Company, located in Waterloo, IA. Additionally, he served a three year tour in Fort Carson, CO as a Combat Engineer. He was an in-service transfer to the Iowa Army National Guard where he spent 6 years including one tour in Iraq leading a Route Clearance/Counter I.E.D team. Matthew's hobbies include attending the Washington Capital's hockey games, fishing. Welcome Matthew!



## IT Division's Laiqun Mao

Laiqun Mao has joined the Information Technology Division at Selective Service. He comes to us from Armedia LLC where he was the senior software developer that implemented a content management system for the Federal Investigation System at the Office of Personnel Management. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with two Master degrees, one in Computer Science and one in Computer Engineering. He started working as a Software Engineer with the company called BDM, an IT company with 900 consultants,



which became part of TRW and then Northrop Grumman. After that, Laiqun worked for Luminant Worldwide Corp. as a Senior Specialist in Software Engineering where he developed enterprise solutions for commercials such as Sony, RJR. From there he went on to Noblestar Inc. as Senior Consultant, and built several Web Applications such as an education site for IBM, Dynamic Microsite for a cosmetic company, a wireless application for a communication company, on-line admission system used by more than 300 universities, etc. After that, he worked for a health care company where he lead a team to develop the first complete and user-friendly Software As a Service (SaaS) solution in dentistry. He and his wife Hong and their two sons Daniel and Darin live in Virginia. He was born in the central part of the China and came to United States in 1992 and became US citizen in 2006. Welcome Laiqun.

## New Staff at Region I

Rhonda Robinson is the newest member of the Region I staff but not new to the Selective Service System. Rhonda started her career with the Agency in 2000 as a Contact Representative in the Research and Information branch of the Data Management Center. She worked in that capacity serving the public until 2007 when she then went to work for the Training Support Center at Great Lakes Navy Base tracking Naval personnel as they completed their military occupational specialty training. Rhonda says she looks forward to being back with the Agency in a new capacity as Region I's Management Service Assistant and the challenges that come with it. She is excited to be working at the Region and seeing how a different part of the Agency

operates compared to the Data Management Center. In her free time, Rhonda enjoys spending time with her friends and family, especially her new granddaughter. She also enjoys various outdoor activities and having cookouts with her friends and family.



## Region III Welcomes Ed Medina

Region III welcomed Mr. Ed Medina, the new Administrative Officer. The staff all agree that he is a pleasure to work with and are looking forward to working with him.



*Ed Medina*

## Region III RFO Retires

Region III Washington State RFO Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Mosley's retirement/award ceremony was Saturday, September 8, 2012. Among those in attendance were CWO4 Mosley and his wife Marie, RFO CDR Meeks and MG Gary Magonigle (Asst Adjutant General, Air).



*Commander Meeks and John Mosley*



*With MG Gary Magonigle, CWO4 Mosley, Mrs. Marie Mosley.*

# Family Discovers WWI Draft Registration Card

**As written by Rodney and John Williams  
(Dad and Uncle of Brett Williams, R III  
Operations Manager)**

Brett Williams, Region III Operations Officer, has recently learned some very interesting information regarding his Grandfather's association with the Selective Service System. In researching their family's history, Mr. William's Dad, Rodney Williams, and Uncle John Williams, provided him the following background:

With just one click, our family tree search revealed that our Dad had registered with the Selective Service during WWI. Many years ago, Dad told my sisters, Kathleen and Sharon, that "He was too young to serve in the First World War and too old for the second." Now, 19 years after his death, we have learned that his age was a factor, but not the primary reason.



The Selective Service Act that was passed on May 18, 1917, required all men between the ages of 21 and 31 to register with the Selective Service on June 5, 1917. Our Dad, Edward Williams, was born in New Orleans on March 1, 1900, and was only 17 at that time. We also learned that there were two additional registrations, the

second on June 5, 1918, registered those who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917, and the third, the one on September 12, 1918 for men 18 through 45. We then discovered that my Dad's brother 20; his uncle 36; and my wife's Grandfather 37 also registered on that same day in New Orleans.

The information on the registration card was very informative and interesting to read. It included the order and serial numbers assigned by the Selective Service System...full name, date and place of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, where employed and personal description, and signature.

We believe our Dad was not called because the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, just two months after his registration. I was unable to find any records of my Dad registering for WWII.

My Dad worked in the paint department and was named to the honor roll by Higgins, Inc., for not missing a day's work during WWII. Mr. Andrew Higgins, shown here with my brother Eddie, built the world famous landing craft and PT boats. My two oldest brothers, Eddie and Clinton, joined the Navy in 1942, and served aboard the USS St. Lo CVE-63 and the USS Altamaha CVE-18.

On the home-front, our family contributed by collecting scrap metal, rubber, nylon and other items that were needed in the production of war materials.

I guess we were a Navy family during the Cold War. My Brother, Rodney, served aboard the USS Forrestal CVA-59 and the USS Randolph CVA-15, and I was stationed at NAS Whiting Field and the Naval Air Station New Orleans.

Remember, your family's military history is just one click away.

*Images continued on next page...*



## Contributors

### Special Thanks to:

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