



Director Meets with Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers

On Friday, July 12, 2019 Director Benton and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers met to talk about the progress being made at the Selective Service System. The Director and Congresswoman are former colleagues having previously served together in the Washington State Legislature. The conversation was very productive and provided the Director with insights for the second half of the 116th Congress.



Michigan State Director Sworn-In

On behalf of Director Benton, Mr. T.J. Kenney, Region I Director, presided over the appointment ceremony of the new Michigan State Director Dr. Eric Fretz on June 19, 2019. Dr. Fretz was nominated by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to serve as the Michigan Director for the Selective Service System (SSS). As State Director, Dr. Fretz will provide liaison between the Selective Service System and the governor's office. He will represent the Governor

and the Selective Service Director regarding Agency matters in Michigan. Dr. Fretz is a Retired Navy LCDR. He Served with SSS from 1997 to 2009 as an RFO in Illinois, Michigan, and New York.



L to R: Ms. Christina Constant, Mr. T.J. Kenney, and Dr. Eric Fretz

Dr. Fretz earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a second Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Education from Southern Illinois University, and a dual PhD in Psychology and Education (2010) at the University of Michigan. Dr. Fretz currently lectures at the University of Michigan in the Psychology Department, the School of Education, the College of Engineering, and the Innovate Blue Entrepreneurship program. He is married and has three children.

At the ceremony, Region Director Kenney presented Ms. Christina Constant (outgoing Michigan State Director) with the Selective Service Meritorious Service Award and thanked her for her service to the agency.

The attendees included the Governor's new director of Veteran Affairs Zaneta Adams, BG Larry Schloegl, MI JFHQ ATAG, and previous and current Michigan Selective Service System alumni. In total, over 75 years of Michigan Selective Service System duty was represented in the room. Michigan has a strong SSS fraternity that stays connected to the mission.

To find out more information and news, visit our website: sss.gov

MI JFHQ Supports the SSS Mission in Force!

Michigan Joint Force Headquarters showed up in force to support the SSS appointment ceremony honoring the outgoing State Director Christina Constant and the appointment of Dr. Eric Fretz. They had about a dozen representatives supporting the event and were proud of the relationship with our Agency and confirmed support for our mission. Michigan is a standout of support in Region I and a template of what we try to create in each of our states.



L to R: Steven A. Kozera (Legislative Liaison), COL Mark Tellier (Chief of Staff), T.J. Kenney, Eric Fretz (MI SD), COL Lavetta Bennett (Director of Personnel), Brig Gen Larry Schloegl (ATAG)

New Mexico State Director Sworn-In

Col (Ret.) John Caldwell, USAF was sworn in as New Mexico's Selective Service State Director by MGEN Kenneth Nava, Adjutant General for New Mexico. Col (Ret.) Caldwell served on active duty for over 30 years as a rated flight officer. His tours included directing daily operations of an Air Force's Program Office with 500 joint service military, civilian, and



The Adjutant General for the New Mexico National Guard, Major General Kenneth A. Nava conducts the Oath of Office to COL (Ret.) John Caldwell, the State Director for New Mexico and his wife Risa Caldwell.

contractor personnel, and the Department of Defense's largest single budget. He also guided a 100-person team in providing and integrating GPS receivers for customers in US and Allied militaries and civilian agencies.

Col (Ret.) Caldwell commanded 18 aviators, managed daily flight operations of a squadron of 24 aircraft and 60 fliers. Led a 20-person Integrated Product Development Team responsible for development, production, and deployment of 462 night variants of the F-16 aircraft. He flew for 17 years in world-wide operations as a combat ready aviator in F-4 and C-130 aircrafts, including 69 combat missions. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, USAF Meritorious Service Medal (x2), Air Medal (x6), USAF Commendation Medal (x2)



John Wilber – Region III Director and Brett Williams – Operations Manager presents the State Director Certificate to COL (Ret.) John Caldwell.

Former New Mexico State Director Honored

During the swearing-in and award presentation ceremony at the New Mexico National Guard Headquarters in Santa Fe, NM on June 21, 2019 John Wilber – Region III Director and Brett Williams – Operations Manager presents The Selective Service System Gold award to Mrs. Michelle Ortiz – for the late Brigadier General (brevet) Ezequiel "Zeke" Ortiz, State Director for New Mexico for his service to the Agency from 2014 to 2018.



Oregon State Director Addresses Oregon Boys State

CSM Mike Kalberg, Oregon State Director, (pictured below, center) addressed a crowd of 50 young men at the Oregon Boys State conference sponsored by the American Legion on June 20, 2019. He referred to these young men as the future leaders of America and said they were truly inspiring.



Region III RFO Receives Award

Major Juan Villaseñor-Partida (pictured below, left) from CA 3-4 was presented a Joint Service Commendation Medal for his retirement from LTC Richard Gurr (pictured below, right).



Idaho TAG and Idaho State Director Briefing

It has been decades since The Adjutant General (TAG) of each state also served as the State Director of Selective Service. On May 13, 2019, Idaho State Director Michael Moser conducted a SSS Awareness Briefing for Idaho TAG MG Michael J. Garshak. The briefing was an opportunity to highlight our joint SSS mission with our Guard partners and the RFO's important role in recruiting, training, and maintaining ongoing communication with board members and high school registrars.



L to R: MG Michael J. Garshak, Idaho TAG and Michael Moser, Idaho State Director

SSS Exhibits at NASRO

Mrs. Sabrina Cunningham, Region II and Mr. Jacob Daniels, NHQ staffed the Selective Service System's exhibit at the National Association of School Resource Officers



L to R: Mr. Dwayne Clark School Resource Officer in Gibson County, Mrs. Sabrina Cunningham, Program Analyst, Region II, and Mr. Clifford Hudson, School Resource Officer, and Tennessee Board Member

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SSS Exhibits at NASRO (Continued)

School Safety Annual Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN from June 23-25, 2019. They were able to inform many of the School Resource Officers from throughout the United States about registration and provided information that could be passed on to school administrators to increase registration awareness in high schools.



School Resource Officers with Mr. Jacob Daniels, NHQ (far right)

DMC Employee of the Quarter Awards

Bernard Washington



Nicole Harris, Manager Data Management Center (DMC) presented Bernard Washington, DMC Contact Representative, with the DMC Employee of the Quarter Award for October –

December 2018 for his strong work ethic, positive attitude with colleagues, the public, and all of those who request help from the SSS national call center. Bernard is very knowledgeable about Selective Service and our mission. His knowledge has helped him in responding to hundreds of public inquiries. Additionally, he's become very proficient in the rules and procedures of his branch and is always looking for ways to increase productivity and reduce backlog as well as providing suggestions to management to enhance the work processes of the branch. Congratulations Bernard!

Andy Gonzalez



Data Management Center Manager Nicole Harris presented Andy Gonzalez, Lead Research Assistant, with the DMC Employee of the Quarter Award for January – March 2019 based on his exceptional dedication to his job. He continuously steps up to attend meetings or work on any project presented to him. Andy has been the go-to-person for Congressional and OPM inquiries for the quarter, using his experience and knowledge of RCV and RI/R Branch procedures to provide the requested information accurately and in a timely manner. He's been instrumental in training and mentoring new employees. Andy is always willing to volunteer to help with extra duties, suggests improvements to help the agency, and shares his knowledge of RI/R branch procedures to assist in process improvements across the entire DMC. Congratulations Andy!

Dr. Miranda Chung-Rowe, OPs

Dr. Chung-Rowe joined the Operations Directorate as an Operations Research Analyst on April 15, 2019. Her primary responsibilities will be analyzing registration data and identifying process improvements and making recommendations. Welcome Miranda!



Mr. Kenneth Montgomery, OPs

The Operations Directorate welcomed Mr. Kenneth Montgomery as the Alternative Service Program Manager on June 10, 2019. He is looking forward to coordinating and establishing employer network relationships with government agencies, corporations, non-profit organizations and peace churches. Welcome to the team Ken!



Contributors

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