2020 Media Kit

U.S. SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS PREPARED

WHAT WE DO

We register men and maintain a system that, when authorized by the President and Congress, rapidly provides personnel in a fair and equitable manner while managing an alternative service program for conscientious objectors.

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WHO WE ARE

The Selective Service System is a trusted, actively engaged National Defense partner and the sole source of conscripted talent for national security in the event of a national emergency. We are an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the U.S. Federal Government.

SELECTIVE SERVICE STAFF

DIRECTOR
DON BENTON

Don Benton brings over 30 years of public service and private sector experience to the Selective Service after serving as a Washington State Senator for 20 years. He also served in the State House of Representatives for two years.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
JOHN PRIGMORE

John Prigmore was previously a squadron commander in the Oregon Air National Guard and Director of Military Support for the Oregon Military Department. He brings 30 years of management and leadership experience in the public and private sectors and has over 29 years military service in the Reserve Component.

CHIEF OF STAFF
WADI YAKHOUR

Wadi Yakhour previously served as a Special Advisor/XO to the Director and was the former Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Yakhour is a U.S. Navy veteran.

The Selective Service System's structure consists of the National Headquarters, Data Management Center, and three Regional Headquarters, with 124 full-time employees authorized.

Additionally, there is a field structure of military reservists and more than 11,000 civilian volunteer board members. Each state, including the four U.S. territories, District of Columbia, and New York City, has a state director. These roles account for the agency's standby components, serving part-time and ready to be called into service in the event of

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

GENERAL COUNSEL
RUDY SANCHEZ

OPERATIONS
CRAIG BROWN

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
SCOTT JONES

SUPPORT SERVICES
RODERICK LAWRENCE

PUBLIC & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WADI YAKHOUR, ACTING

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JENNIFER HUGHES

REGIONAL DIRECTORS & DMC

REGION 1
THOMAS KENNEY

REGION 2
CARLOS PEREZ

REGION 3
STEVEN KETT

DATA MANAGEMENT CENTER PROGRAM MANAGER
NICOLE HARRIS

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the U.S. Federal Government. We register men and maintain a system that, when authorized by the President and Congress, rapidly provides personnel in a fair and equitable manner while managing an alternative service program for conscientious objectors. The Selective Service System is not part of the Department of Defense. We are responsible for the availability of additional personnel while the Department of Defense is responsible for acceptability in the event of a draft.

WHY WE EXIST

In the event of a national crisis where our all-volunteer armed forces needed assistance, when authorized by the President and Congress, we would quickly provide personnel. Our ability to rapidly increase our armed forces in desperate times has proven beneficial to protecting our freedom here in the United States.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE DRAFT

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the United States Constitution: "The Congress shall have power to ...raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years...." The constitutionality of the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA) has been consistently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

WHO MUST REGISTER

Virtually all men in the United States, including documented and undocumented immigrants, between the ages of 18 and 25. U.S. citizens living abroad are also subject to the registration requirement. Once a man turns 26, it is too late to register.

HOW TO REGISTER

Men 18-25 can register online with a valid SSN, by using our printable registration form, or by completing a form (SSS Form 1) at any U.S. post office, in 41 states when obtaining a driver's license, and while filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO REGISTER

Failure to register with Selective Service is a crime punishable by up to 5 years in prison and/or a $250,000 fine, however no prosecutions have occurred since the 1986. Enforcement today relies heavily on associated Federal and State incentives to maintain registration rates.

REGISTRATION INCENTIVES

Selective Service registration is necessary in order to obtain all Federal employment (state employment in 31 U.S.. States), Federal student aid (state-based financial aid in 31 states, Federally-funded job training, and Naturalization (5 year delay in citizenship proceedings without registration).

WOMEN'S REGISTRATION & THE DRAFT

Unless changed by Congress, the Federal law requires that men between the ages 18 through 25 register with the Selective Service System at sss.gov. After men turn 26, they become permanently ineligible to register with the SSS and jeopardize access to all federal jobs; many state and municipal jobs; federal student loans and grants; and job training and certification programs.

TRANSGENDER & NON-BINARY

By law, all those born male who are U.S. citizens or live in the U.S. between the ages 18 through 25 years must register, including transgender women and non-binary people who were born male.

DISABLED MEN

By law, virtually all men 18-25 who are U.S. citizens or living in the U.S. must register, including men with obvious physical and mental disabilities who believe they would not be required to serve in the military. In the event of a draft, those with disabilities would still be referred to the Department of Defense for determination of acceptability for military service. For those who are hospitalized, in hospice, or institutionalized, the Selective Service System would allow primary guardians and caregivers the ability to submit a claim, with medical documentation, on behalf of the individual.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

By law, virtually all men 18-25 who are U.S. citizens or living in the U.S. must register, including men who believe themselves to be conscientiously opposed to participating in war, and other men who believe they would not be required to serve in the military. There is no provision to register as a conscientious objector (or any other classification category). A classification program would resume only in the event of a draft. At that time, draft eligible men facing induction into the military would have the opportunity to file claims for classification as conscientious objectors, as well as other applicable deferments, postponements, or exemptions.

IMMIGRANTS

Men 18-25 must register within 30 days of arriving in the U.S. This includes documented and undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, asylum seekers, refugees, and men in the U.S. on an expired visa. The few individuals who are exempt from this requirement are those on current non-immigrant visas such as an F or M category visa (student visas).

FOR ALL OTHER INQUIRIES, CONTACT NHQ

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Phone: (703) 605-4100
Email: publicaffairs@sss.gov

BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION IS THE GOAL

Selective Service's mission is to register virtually all men residing in the United States. If a draft is ever needed, the process must be fair, and that fairness depends on having all eligible men register. In the event of a draft, for every man who fails to register, another man would be required to take his place in service to his country.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Men born after December 31, 1959, who aren't registered with Selective Service will not qualify for federal student loans or grant programs unless they are registered. This includes Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Direct Stafford Loans/Plus Loans, National Direct Student Loans, and College Work Study.

CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) makes registration with Selective Service a condition for U.S. citizenship if the man first arrived in the U.S. before his 26th birthday.

FEDERAL JOB TRAINING

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (formerly the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)) offers programs that can train men seeking vocational employment or enhancing their career. This program is only open to those men who register with Selective Service. Only men born after December 31, 1959, are required to show proof of registration.

FEDERAL JOBS

A man must be registered to be eligible for jobs in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and the U.S. Postal Service. Proof of registration is required only for men born after December 31, 1959.

PENALTIES

Failure to register is a felony punishable by a fine of up to $250,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment. Also, a person who knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to fail to comply with the registration requirement is subject to the same penalties. In addition to potential criminal repercussions, failure to register may make a man permanently ineligible for certain benefits. Some States have created additional consequences for men who fail to register.

Unless a man provides proof that he is exempt from the registration requirement, his failure to register will result in referral to the Department of Justice for possible investigation and prosecution.*

*The last prosecution by the Department of Justice for failing to register with the Selective Service was in 1983.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1 DRAFT AUTHORIZATION

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

A national emergency, exceeding the Department of Defense's capability to recruit and retain its total force strength, requires Congress to amend the Military Selective Service Act to authorize the President to induct personnel into the Armed Forces.

2 ACTIVATION

OF SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Selective Service activates and orders all personnel to report for duty. Reserve Force Officers, along with selected military retirees, begin to open Area Offices to accept registrant claims. Local, District Appeal, and National Board members are be notified to report for refresher training.

3 THE LOTTERY

RANDOM SELECTION OF MEN

A publicly attended, nationally televised and live-streamed lottery is conducted. The lottery, a random drawing of birthdays and numbers, establishes the order in which individuals receive orders to report for induction. The first to receive induction orders are those whose 20th birthday falls during the year of the lottery. If required, additional lotteries are conducted for those 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 19, and finally 18.5 years-old.

When the all-volunteer force was established, it was not intended to stand alone in a time of national emergency. If, by law, it is determined that a return to the draft is required, the Selective Service System would be responsible for supplying manpower to fill vacancies that could not be filled through voluntary enlistments.

Selective Service System expansion would also be a significant part of the activation process. Reserve Forces Officers would be called to active duty to establish State Headquarters and Area Offices at predetermined locations, while approximately 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards would be activated throughout the nation, staffed by 11,000 volunteers.

4 ORDERS TO REPORT TO MEPS

FIT-FOR-SERVICE EVALUATION

Induction notices are sent and registrants may now make claims if desired for a postponement, deferment or exemption. Inductees report to a local Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for induction. At MEPS, registrants are given a physical, mental, and moral evaluation to determine whether they are fit for military service. Once notified of the results of the evaluation, a registrant will either be inducted into military service or sent home.

5 ACTIVATION

OF LOCAL & DISTRICT APPEALS BOARDS

Local and Appeal Boards begin to process registrant claims for classification as conscientious objectors, dependency hardships, ministerial and ministerial student deferments, and appeals.

6 INDUCTION

FIRST DRAFTEES

According to current Department of Defense (DoD) requirements, Selective Service must deliver the first inductees to the military within 193 days from the onset of a crisis and the law being updated to authorize a draft.

SELECTIVE SERVICE QUOTES

Donald Trump
President of the United States
2017

"The Nation must be ever mindful of the unpredictable global security environment that requires an effective and efficient means to provide manpower to the national security community, including military and non-military support in a national emergency. Historically, the Nation has maintained Selective Service registration to provide a hedge against the catastrophe not yet anticipated. Registration is a means to sustain preparedness, while also reminding youth that public service is a valued part of United States citizenship."

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
2017

"Every administration since 1980 has made the conscious decision to maintain national registration for Selective Service as the tool through which Congress and the President would provide additonal manpower to the Armed Forces - an insurance policy - should future threats spark requirements for forces in excess of those available to the all-volunteer force. The Military Selective Service System guarantees the certain and timely fulfillment of military manpower requirements in a national emergency."

Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
2013

"...National interests are served by the Selective Service System. Registration provides a hedge against a catastrophe we do not yet anticipate. The Selective Service System is a means to sustain this legacy by reminding our youth that public service is a valid part of American Citizenship."

Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense
2013

"...There continues to be national necessities for continuation of the SSS. ...Registration provides the structure for mobilization... SSS registration allows the Services to allocate enough recruiting resources to man the current force... The simple act of registration by every male within 6 months of his 18th birthday may be the only time that young males have to make a positive action relating to the concept of national service. ...The mere existence of SSS and the registration requirement serves as a symbol to the world of our Nation's resolve and preparedness."

Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
2011

"On the Selective Service ...My view is that we ought to maintain the registration aspect because, particularly as we go through these budget cuts, particularly as we go into the future, if we face one of those surprises, if we face one of those crises that suddenly occurs, we've got to have some mechanism in place in order to be able to respond. ...I think we always have to be ready for that possible contingency in the future if we suddenly had to face an unexpected event."

Senator John Warner
Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
2004

"I was in the Department of Defense at the time the Secretary and others decided to end the draft, but I have strongly supported the legislation through my several years here in the Senate to have standby authority and other things in place should the occasion ever arise for that. I think it is important for the young men of this country to be conscious of an obligation that goes along with service."

Bill Clinton
Former U.S. President
1994

[The SSS and] "registration provides a hedge against unforeseen threats and a relatively low-cost 'insurance policy' against our underestimating the maximum level of threat we expect our Armed Forces to face."

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

COLD WAR

1947 -1949

The Selective Service Training and Service Act expired in 1947. Only a year later, at President Truman's request, new peacetime draft legislation was passed to supplement voluntary recruiting.
Total # inducted: 30,129

KOREAN WAR

1950 -1953

President Truman authorizes the Armed Forces to use the draft if necessary during the Korean crisis. The Selective Service provided 27% of the men in uniform during the Korean War. As a result of the Physicians and Dentists Draft Act, 7,054 physicians and 3,799 dentists are delivered by Selective Service to the Armed Forces. Less than 50 of them were actually inducted.
Total # inducted: 1,529,539

VIETNAM WAR

1950 -1975

In the 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. presence in Vietnam expanded with increasing intensity. The Selective Service encountered protest about unfair deferments fueled by an anti-war sentiment. The Selective Service provided 20% of men in uniform during the Vietnam War.
Total # inducted: 1,857,304

DEEP STANDBY

1976 -1980

Registration was suspended in early 1975 and the Selective Service System entered into a "deep standby" position. In late 1979, a series of revival efforts began in an effort to upgrade the Selective Service System's capability for rapid mobilization in an emergency. In the summer of 1980 the registration requirement was resumed.

Today

Today, men are required to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday through our website or at U.S. post offices or diplomatic offices. The United States of America is protected by our all-volunteer military. There is no conscription at this time.

The last man inducted entered the Army on June 30, 1973.

Learn more about the historical changes in the Operations, methods of Registration, Classification, Sources of Manpower, and Selection and Induction throughout our country's history at sss.gov/history-and-records/timeline/.

WORLD WAR I

1914 -1918

The first national conscription system comes into being in 1917. Congress passes a draft law based on "the liability to military service of all male citizens." The law authorized a draft of men between the ages of 21 and 31. A new classification system gave the newly created local boards a set of guidelines to determine which men should be drafted.
Total # inducted: 2,810,296

EARLY AMERICA

Prior to 1861

Each state maintained its own militia, with limited Federal direction guidance or regulation. All able bodied men of military age (18-45) would enroll with very lax requirements. Citizen's willingness to serve was given priority over liability.

WORLD WAR II

1939 -1945

On September 16, 1940, the Selective Service Training and Service Act (the nation's first peacetime draft law) was signed. By the end of the war, over 45 million men between the ages of 18 and 64 had been registered. 15 million of the men who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII, approximately 66% were inducted.
Total # inducted: 10,110,104

CIVIL WAR

1861 -1865

The War department was put in charge of executing the draft. All military groups were instructed to visit homes in search of eligible males. The Enrollment Act of 1863 involuntarily called men to service. Quotas were established by districts, but rarely were filled. At this time there was no organized selection process put into place.

THANK YOU

FROM THE

U.S. SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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