

THE REGISTER SUMMER 2021



ACTING DIRECTOR CRAIG T. BROWN

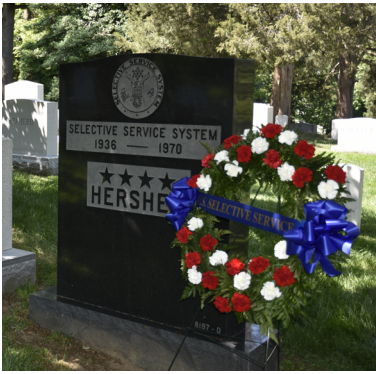
Celebrating Selective Service's 104th Anniversary And Honoring General Lewis Blaine Hershey

On May 18th, 2021, the Selective Service Acting Director Craig Brown laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Selective Service and to honor General Lewis Blaine Hershey, who served as the longest Selective Service Director through eras of conflict and peacetime.

The day also marked another historic event that took place over a century ago. President Woodrow Wilson signed the original Selective Service Act into law which marks the beginning of the Selective Service System as we now know it. As Acting Director Brown noted, "the two, General Hershey and SSS are forever tied together. He helped clarify the vision to provide our nation with the most prompt, fair and equitable draft possible that still serves as the basis of our mission today and continues to be a key component of our nation's national security." Acting Director Brown went on to explain that almost eighty years ago when Col. Lewis Hershey was about to become General Hershey and Director of Selective Service, General George Marshall is quoted as saying "I think with all my heart, that Selective Service is necessary to the maintenance of a true democracy." Fast forward to the present when the National Commission for Military, National and Public Service stated in their report last year "...to demonstrate America's resolve to international allies and adversaries, the Nation needs the Selective Service System to remain a viable U.S. national security institution." The Agency continues the mission and promise to uphold its sacred pledge of integrity and continually strengthen our national security partnership with the Armed Services.

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In closing Acting Director Brown said, “Our Selective Service System has been an important part of our nation’s security for over a century. We were relevant then, and we are relevant now, whatever changes may come. The work we all do is important, and helps ensure the safety and security of the country, and rests on the legacy of this man, and this place. Never forget that.”

Watch the Wreath Laying Ceremony at <https://youtu.be/llxfyayC-Z0>

Learn more about Selective Service and our history at <https://www.sss.gov/history-and-records/>, and view our Historical Timeline at <https://www.sss.gov/history-and-records/timeline/>.



Director Benton Bids Farewell



Mr. Donald M. Benton’s term as the 13th Director of the Selective Service System ended in January, 2021. Over the last four years Director Benton, while working closely with Deputy Director John Prigmore, Chief of Staff Wadi Yakhour, and the Selective Service staff, initiated many new policies and programs that contributed to increasing the agency’s registration rates and improved readiness. Under Director Benton’s tutelage, the agency developed a robust registration awareness social media and advertising campaign. SSS deployed a new website with improved 508 compliance. He created the Speakers’ Bureau program made up of volunteers who make presentations and inform the public about the registration requirement.

Selective Service now offers many registration options, including online registration; paper registration forms; and registration through the Interactive Voice Response system at our bilingual Call Center. Many improvements have been made to our IT infrastructure to modernize and enhance storage, network stability and client-server speed performance. Additionally, Selective Service made noteworthy gains in establishing a National partnership with Federal and State Agencies to place conscientious objectors into the Alternative Service Employment Network. Staff reached out to dozens of Federal and State agencies, and peace churches resulting in several new Memorandum of Understandings.

The Director held one final virtual All Hands Meeting with all employees before he departed. He expressed his gratitude to everyone for their hard work, dedication, achievements and accomplishments all of which have made a positive impact on Selective Service. He said “I am very proud of the contributions that the men and women of Selective Service, our Reserve Service Members, and over 11,000 unpaid volunteer board members have made to the agency and our nation. I encourage everyone to continue to do their part in ensuring that the Selective Service System continues to successfully accomplish our mission.” We wish Director Benton much happiness and success in the future.



Mr. Craig T. Brown Named Acting Director Selective Service System



Mr. Craig T. Brown, SES, was named Acting Director for Selective Service System in January 2021. He joined the agency as the Associate Director for Operations in 2018. In that position he is responsible for plans, policy, and operations supporting registration, data management, and training functions for the Agency. He has oversight of the National Headquarters Operations staff, the Data Management Center, and three Regional headquarters throughout the United States which consist of Civil Servants, Reserve Force Officers, and over 10,000 volunteers.

Prior to joining the Selective Service, Brown was a DOD contractor supporting joint Army and Navy programs in various capacities for more than 20 years. Notably, he led a group assisting with strategic systems programs for Navy submarine ballistic missile modernization and protection programs. Earlier in his career, Brown ran programs to develop medical countermeasures for biological weapons and to decommission and dispose of Russian ballistic submarines, missiles and bombers.

Mr. Brown has served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves for more than 27 years in various leadership positions on both active duty and reserves. He has held five commands in the Reserves, to include one while deployed to Kuwait. Mr. Brown has a BS in nuclear engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an MBA from Strayer University.

Mr. Scott W. Jones Named Acting Chief of Staff



Mr. Scott W. Jones, has been named the Acting Chief of Staff and concurrently is the Agency's Chief Information Officer. Mr. Jones joined the agency in October, 2016. Mr. Jones is a seasoned professional with over thirty years experience in the Information Technology field including Federal Information Security operations and policy, governance, budgeting, contracting, and conventional and agile project management. Prior to joining Selective Service, Mr. Jones was Chief, Information Services in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Mr. Jones is a 30 year veteran in the Department of Defense and a Senior Cyber Operations leader in the Air Force. Over his career he has earned and maintains the following certifications: Certified Information Systems Security professional (CISSP), Project Management Professional (PMP), Chief Information Officer (CIO) Certificate from the National Defense University (NDU), the Air Force Cyber Space 400 Certificate, and National Security and Strategic Studies Certificate from the Naval War College.

Mr. Jones holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

T.J. Kenney Named Acting Associate Director for Operations



Region I Director T.J. Kenney is serving as Acting Associate Director for Operations. Mr. Kenney joined SSS as the Region I Director in October of 2013. He is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel with over 25 years of service. His assignments included: Chief of Operations, Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX; Deputy Group Commander, Western Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes Naval Training Center, North Chicago, IL.

He earned his bachelor degree at the United States Air Force Academy and an MBA from the University of Southern New Hampshire. He is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School.

The Selective Service Museum



Last year, former Director Benton established an agency museum at the National Headquarters' Offices in the name of General Hershey, the longest serving Director of Selective Service. Director Benton asked Ms. Gail Simmons and Mr. Blaine Character to spearhead the project. All agency staff were encouraged to look through their offices, files, closets, and storage areas for any items that could be included in the museum. In addition to items located at the agency, many artifacts were returned to the agency that SSS had previously loaned to Trine University in Indiana. These items were from General Hershey's tenure as Director of Selective Service. General Hershey was an alumnus of Tri-State College which was later became Trine University and was a member of the college's Board of Trustees.

The first item that you'll see when entering the agency's museum is the grand mahogany desk used by General Hershey while Director of Selective Service. Sitting on the desk is a Calvary Saber which formerly belonged to Major General Enoch H. Crowder, Provost Marshall General of the Army 1917-1919. General Crowder is most noted for implementing and administering the United States Selective Service Act of 1917, an act which drafted thousands of American men into military service during World War I. It was later presented to General Hershey by John Evans (Crowder friend and Associate) on May 27, 1965. The desk of Major General Crowder that he used from 1917-19 is also on display in the museum.

Among other artifacts displayed include a lottery capsule tumbler and lottery capsules used in the early 1970s; local board ledgers; photos; proclamations; register ledgers of arriving and departing army officials from early 1940s; and many more items. It is an excellent opportunity for employees and guests to learn about the history of Selective Service and the important role the agency has played in our Nation.



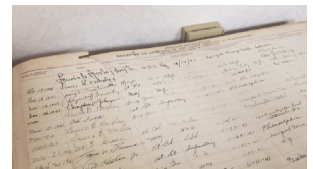
Blaine Character and Gail Simmons in the General Hershey Museum



Lottery capsule tumbler machine



World War II lottery drawing using the lottery capsule tumbler machine.



Register of military officers arriving in or departing from Washington, DC 1040's.



General Hershey's desk while Director of SSS.



The desk of Major General Crowder that he used from 1917-19 is also on display in the SSS Museum.



SSS Ranked #2 in Biggest Improvements in 2020



Each year the Office of Personnel Management administers the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) by the Partnership for Public Service. The FEVS measures employee engagement and satisfaction across the Federal government and based on the survey results ranks the “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government.” In the 2020 FEVS, for the second year in a row, Selective Service System improved in all areas, including how well we care for our employees.

Across all agencies with at least 100 employees, Selective Service System ranked #2 in biggest improvements with employee satisfaction compared to 2019, increasing a total of 19 points. SSS has accomplished major recognized improvements in recent years as a result of the team effort put forth by all employees. Thank you to all of the employees for your part in making Selective Service System one of the best places to work in the federal government!

For more information on the survey results please go to following link: <https://www.govexec.com/management/2021/04/agencies-saw-biggest-gains-employee-satisfaction-2020-and-few-saw-losses/173650/>



Selective Service Wins Advertising Award



Uncle Sam PSA



Stronger America PSA



Barbershop PSA

The U.S. Selective Service System (SSS) was recently recognized by the Web Marketing Association, Inc. (WMA) as winner of the Internet Advertising Competition (IAC) award for Best Government Online Video campaign, Best of Show Online Video campaign for its public service announcements (PSAs).

The SSS Awareness Campaign was developed to inform men 18 through 25 about the registration requirement. It includes three English PSAs – Uncle Sam, Stronger America, and Barbershop – and one Spanish PSA, designed to reach out to the nation’s young men and their influencers, informing them of their registration requirement and the crucial role Selective Service plays in our national defense. Registration enhances readiness, fulfills a civic duty, and is linked to benefits and opportunities contingent upon compliance with federal law.

“These PSAs are highly entertaining and informative,” said Acting SSS Director Craig Brown. “My teenagers and their friends loved them.” The campaign was conceptualized by former agency Chief of Staff Wadi Yakhour and developed and produced by Reingold, Inc., of Alexandria, Va., under the direction of Christopher G. Cowen.

The WMA is an independent organization founded with the purpose of evaluating and recognizing the standard of excellence on the World Wide Web. Each year it sponsors the IAC competition. IAC judges represent all aspects of advertising and the internet and have an in-depth understanding of the current state of art in advertising, design, and technology. They represent some of the nation’s largest corporations, to include Google, McCann Interactive, IBM Interactive, and Mastercard. This year’s IAC winners in other categories include Monster Beverage Corporation, AT&T, Geico and UPS. To view these award winning ads go to <https://www.sss.gov/news-and-media/>



SSS FY20-21 Employee Awards

Congratulations to all the employees that the agency has recognized in recent months for their outstanding job performance and positive contributions to Selective Service. Francisco Morales, DMC was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for FY21 (Q1); Caleigh Weichbrodt, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs was named Employee of the Quarter for FY21(Q2); and Patrick Henning, DMC selected as the Runner Up Employee of the Quarter for FY21(Q2).

In FY20 Jeramie D’Orta, Operations Directorate was named Employee of the Year. The recipients of the Employee of the Quarter awards for FY20 were Jeramie D’Orta, Operations Directorate (Q1); Renee Miller, IT Directorate (Q2); Jennifer Burke, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (Q3); and Nhu “Iris” Yu, DMC (Q4).

Additionally, the agency presented awards to the following employees during FY21 Quarter 2: Thomas Birchmeyer, Jennifer Burke, Tahreem Choudhary, Jacob Daniels, Brent Downs, Desja Fagins, Marcus Fitzjarrell, Robert Foley, Yudidian Georges, Patrick Henning, Tara Mahoney, Gary Martz, Steve Panich, Michael Skovranko, Matthew Tittmann, Caleigh Weichbrodt, and Betty Lou Wingo.

To learn more about the agency’s Awards Program please see PPPM Chapter 451 Recognition and Incentive Award Program.



STAR Team

The Supporting Transformation and Results (STAR) Team was created to increase employee engagement, encourage a positive work environment, and build an efficient and effective workforce where employees trust, respect and collaborate with each other.

The STAR Team is comprised of non-supervisory employees who meet regularly to discuss and vet employee suggestions that are then forwarded to the Director for approval/disapproval.

Over twenty suggestions have been approved and implemented by senior leadership all of which have had a positive impact on the agency. If you have a suggestion that you believe will enhance and improve morale, culture and processes at Selective Service please submit it to your STAR Team representative or email starteam@sss.gov.

The Agency’s Digital Campaign

With the end of the school year many high school students and graduates prepare to enter the workforce or begin thinking about what they will study in the fall. With this timing in mind, our team created a campaign based on the benefit of Federal jobs to educate our demographic on employment opportunities in the federal government that intersect with their interests. Through our research, we found that Gen-Z is interested in travel and exploring other cultures, pursuing a career that allows them to be creative and express themselves, and they’re perhaps the most environmentally conscious generation to date.

With this in mind, three ads were developed to highlight careers in the Federal government that speak to those interests. You can view our ads at <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu9NF4lwBLrDjktExNtt71NuhomEbv7JM> and our PSAs at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKgmsfQFLZc&list=PLu9NF4lwBLrA2-zP6fy6TJfh0IAE-fZj->



Work Abroad



Creative



Environment

SSS Symbolizes Obligation To Insure Survival

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Many historic writings of esteemed leaders continue to be relevant today. The following article was written by General Hershey more than half a century ago and is still applicable to Selective Service and our mission.

By Lt. Gen Lewis B. Hershey
Director, Selective Service System (1941-1970)
Posted in the Selective Service System Monthly Bulletin, Volume X, Number 7, July 1960

The members of the Selective Service System are familiar with the responsibility of furnishing men to the Armed Forces by the induction process. They know that their activities furnish one of the main incentives to those who initially enlist in the Armed Forces, regular and reserve. The use of deferment as a means of protecting the national health, safety, and interest, in the field of science, in engineering, and in education, is also a function which the members of Selective Service System are accustomed to perform.

There is an area in which the Selective Service System makes an unusual contribution to the survival of this Government which is seldom noted and never evaluated. This is the area of giving awareness to the registrants of their obligation to insure the survival of this Nation.

It is probably true that the necessity to perform service to insure the survival of this Nation in an emergency will be placed upon many, many citizens who do not at the present time realize that such obligation could be in their future. It is true that the law under which the Selective Service System operates is one in which the obligations are stated, and are provided more positively, and more specifically than are the general obligations of the citizen to contribute to the survival of his Nation.

It is true that some forms of government the obligations are positive, definite, continuous, and the failure to live up to these obligations results in the severest of punishments. We do not believe that this form of notification of our citizenry is the kind we should have in a self-governing community.

The fact remains that if the government is with the consent of the governed then the governed must continually be alert to the size and nature of the obligations of citizenship. Unless this is done there can be no continuation of self-governing communities.

So a contribution of no small proportion is made by the Selective Service System through the necessity of keeping our young male citizens continually alert to the possibility that service may be required of them and that this service has no terminal measurement if the emergency be great enough.

The abstract nature of the position which the Selective Service System occupies makes it most difficult to determine the results of the influence upon our citizenry of the formal obligation which begins with registration and will continue until 35 years of age. The need for appreciation of the obligations of citizenship are most evident. The very nature of our existence tends to make us seek our privileges and we are prone to want to forget our obligations except in time of great stress. The nature of our role makes it dangerous to wait for emergencies before we exert our influence by recognizing, or remaining continually prepared to assume and effectively discharge, our obligations. In fact, the logic of believing our citizens will respond in emergencies would force us to have frequent emergencies in order to command the services of our citizenry.

In the world of cold war our citizenry must learn how to respond that there be no emergencies rather than respond when they occur. The Selective Service System by its nature symbolizes this responsibility. In this respect, among governmental agencies, it stands too much alone.



General Hershey

Terry R. Wiley Retires, DMC



Terry R. Wiley, an IT Specialist in the DMC's Computer Support Branch, retired on April 30, 2021. Terry has spent his career serving our Nation with over forty years of U.S. Air Force military service and civilian federal employment combined. He is a dedicated team member with a wonderful attitude who is always willing to help others. Terry voluntarily delayed his retirement twice to provide IT assistance when needed to the DMC during this past year. His IT skills and his work ethic have had a positive impact on Selective Service. He is looking forward to retirement and this new chapter of his life. Terry will have plenty of time to do what he enjoys when he's not working...traveling and writing. We wish him much happiness in his retirement and with all his future endeavors. He will be missed.

John Miller Retires, DMC



John Miller retired on May 31, 2021. John started at the Selective Service System on August 16, 2009 as a Contact Representative at the Data Management Center. He has been an outstanding addition to the DMC team for over twelve years and an excellent Contact Representative. During his time at SSS, John was a dedicated employee who always provided excellent customer service. John is passionate about his work and the agency's mission. He enjoyed helping everyone, especially veterans. His customer service efforts greatly benefited the agency and the overall success of the Call Center Branch. John, a Vietnam War draftee, served on active duty in the US Army from August 19, 1966 to August 15, 1973. We thank you for your service and time with us. Best wishes for his well-deserved retirement!

Luella Mae Roberson Departs, DMC



Luella Mae Roberson departed the Selective Service System in April, 2021. She joined Selective Service as a Contact Representative in 2019. Luella has been an outstanding addition to the DMC team and provided high quality customer service for the call center. Her interpersonal skills were terrific and her contribution was noteworthy. We will miss Luella and wish her much happiness and continued success.

Melanie Felton Departs, DMC

Melanie Felton joined the Mail Center Branch as a Mail Processing Assistant at the DMC last year. In that position, she was responsible for processing inbound and outbound mail. Additionally her responsibilities included printing, inserting and scanning thousands of letters. During her time at SSS, Melanie became a well-respected DMC team member. This month Melanie and her family transferred to the east coast. We will miss her and wish her all the best! (No photo available)

Contributors



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