

# THE REGISTER FALL 2021



*Acting Director Brown and Federal Drive's Tom Temin*

## Acting Director Brown interviewed on Federal News Network's Federal Drive

Acting Director Brown recently spoke with Federal News Network's Federal Drive Tom Temin about Selective Service and the recent Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey rankings. The U.S. Selective Service System's (SSS) Best Places to Work in the Federal Government employee engagement score, measuring employee satisfaction with their jobs and organization, increased to 81.3 in 2020, a 32.6 percent increase from its 2019 score. Overall, the 2020 government-wide score is 69 out of 100. The employee engagement score is calculated by the Partnership for Public Service and Boston Consulting Group and was released last week in its 2020 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® report.

"Our staff is committed to our core mission – registration and readiness. Every day the team improves efforts to maintain and enhance systems 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," said Acting Director Craig Brown. "Likewise, Selective Service leadership is committed to supporting our team by encouraging engagement, innovation and a safe and balanced work environment." "It tells us that we are fortunate to have an engaged group of employees. During a challenging year in which this agency – like others – battled the COVID-19 pandemic, our SSS workforce remained focused, motivated and committed to excellence," continued Brown.

To listen to the full podcast or to view a transcript of Mr. Brown's interview please go to <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/defense-main/2021/08/selective-service-system-trending-up-in-annual-best-places-to-work-sweepstakes/>

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## BG (Ret.) Ruth A. Irwin Sworn in as First Female Delaware State Director

Brigadier General (Ret.) Ruth A. Irwin was sworn in on June 25, 2021, to serve as the Delaware State Director (SD) by Selective Service System Acting Director Craig T. Brown, and was nominated by Delaware Governor John Carney. This was a momentous occasion for the State of Delaware and the Agency, as SD Irwin is the first woman to serve as State Director for the State of Delaware. She will serve as the liaison between the Agency and the Governor's office representing the State of Delaware.

"With more than three decades of service with the Delaware Army National Guard, Ruth has the experience necessary to carry out the duties of the Delaware State Director for the U.S. Selective Service System," said Governor Carney. "I was pleased to nominate Ruth, and that she will be the first woman to lead this post. Thank you to Acting Director Brown for appointing Ruth as State Director, and we look forward to our continued partnership." "We are extremely pleased with the Governor's nomination of Ruth to serve as the Delaware State Director and look forward to working together," said Acting Director Brown. "Her experience will help ensure that Delaware maintains its high registration rate."



*Acting Director Brown presents SD Irwin with State Director Certificate*

SD Irwin received a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and earned two additional master's degrees from the University of Kentucky in Library and Information Sciences; and Wilmington University in Human Resources Management. General Irwin worked at Alliant Tech Systems (ATK) until 2005 when she transitioned from the Manager of Industrial Security and Human Resource Supervisor to the full-time Commander of the 31st Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team, Delaware Army National Guard. Irwin's military career has spanned more than 30 years with the Delaware Army National Guard, including a year in Afghanistan.

General Irwin retired in 2012 from the Delaware National Guard as the Director of Operations and Training.

"I am truly honored to be the first woman to serve as Delaware's State Director for the Selective Service System," SD Irwin said. "I'd also like 'the First State' to become number one in registration, local board membership and readiness programs. The Agency's readiness mission serves an important role in our national defense and registration is a key step for all men – especially should they one day seek federal benefits, such as employment or student aid."

SD Irwin resides in Bear, Delaware with her husband Peter Fedorkowicz, BG (Ret.), former Director of Logistics, Delaware Army National Guard.

## Former National Commander of the American Legion Denise Rohan Sworn in as Wisconsin's First Female State Director

Ms. Denise Rohan was sworn in as Wisconsin's Selective Service State Director (SD) by U.S. Selective Service Acting Associate Director for Operations, Thomas Kenney. Remarks were made by Brigadier General Joane K. Mathews – Wisconsin's first female general in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Ms. Rohan was nominated for this position by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and was appointed by former Selective Service Director, Donald M. Benton. She is the first woman to hold this position. The ceremony took place on July 27, 2021, at Witmer Hall in the Wisconsin Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

As State Director, SD Rohan's role will be to serve as liaison between the Selective Service System and the Governor's office. She will represent the Governor and the Selective Service regarding agency matters in Wisconsin.

"I am truly honored to serve as the Wisconsin State Director for the Selective Service System," SD Rohan said. "Its mission is critical to national security and is an important keystone to the nation's preparedness." Mr. Kenney said of SD Rohan's appointment, "We are honored to have her as our State Director – she is an outstanding leader and patriot."

An Army veteran, SD Rohan was elected in 2017 as the first female National Commander of the two-million-member American Legion. Her theme as National Commander was "Family First" and her fund-raising project provides temporary financial assistance to disadvantaged children of veterans and training for American Legion service officers.

Prior to that, she served more than 37 years in a number of Legion positions, to include, Post 385 in Verona and Commander, Post 333 in Sun Prairie. While in Sun Prairie, she established a Sons of the American Legion Squadron and chartered a Boy Scout troop.

SD Rohan and her husband are both 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College Basic Course and have gone on to serve as Department and National American Legion College Facilitators.



*Acting Associate Director for Operations Kenney presents SD Rohan with State Director Certificate*

During her civilian career, SD Rohan served as the Assistant Bursar of Student Loans at University of Wisconsin Madison. She also serves as a civilian volunteer with the Soldier and Family Readiness Group for the Wisconsin National Guard HHD 641st TCB. SD Rohan was recognized as one of the nation's top 25 influencers making a difference for military service members, veterans, and their families by "We Are The Mighty".

Originally from Elkader, Iowa, she currently lives in Verona with her husband Mike. They have a son, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Angie, and two grandchildren.



*L to R: Michelle Cebula, R1, Jennifer McClanahan, R1, SD Denise Rohan, John Cumicek, and Acting Associate Director Thomas Kenney.*



# Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) DeWayne Wells Sworn in as the First African American Louisiana Selective Service State Director



*SD Wells is presented the State Director Certificate by Acting Director Brown*



*L to R: RD Perez, SD Wells, Former SD Bonner, Acting Director Brown*

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) DeWayne Wells was sworn in as the Louisiana Selective Service State Director (SD) by U.S. Selective Service Acting Director Craig T. Brown. He is the first African American to serve in this position. Wells was nominated by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards and appointed by Acting Director Brown. Major General Keith Waddell, the Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard presided over the ceremony. The event took place on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at the historic Jackson Barracks, Louisiana National Guard, New Orleans.

SD Wells replaces former long-time State Director Colonel (Ret.) Everett Bonner, in his role as 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 Louisiana.

"I am truly honored to serve as the Louisiana State Director for the Selective Service System," SD Wells said. "I look forward to continuing to enhance registration, local board membership and readiness programs. It's a critical mission and registration provides numerous state and federal benefits to individuals who register and to the nation." Selective Service Region II Director Carlos Perez said of SD Wells, "We are honored to have him as our State Director – he is an outstanding leader and committed to community and country."

SD Wells completed a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Southern University and A&M College. He received his bachelor's degree in political science and completed ROTC at Grambling State University. He graduated from Peabody Magnet High School. His military career spans more than 33 years, including 14 years as an Army Reserve officer assigned to the Selective Service in Louisiana, culminating in his promotion to Detachment Commander. He also served as an Army Drill Sergeant before he received his commission as an officer. In his civilian career, SD Wells is the Director of Safety & Security for East Baton Rouge Parish School System. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a Prince Hall Mason, attends church at Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge.

Originally from Alexandria, LA, he currently lives in Prairieville, LA, with his wife Erica. They have three sons, Zackery, Erik, and Kobe. Erik and Kobe are cadets at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Mr. DeWayne Wells is also a native of Louisiana, he is from Alexandria. He was commissioned as a Military Police Officer through the ROTC program at Grambling State University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. He also holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University. Mr. Wells entered the Army in January of 1987 and retired after 33 years of service. His culminating assignments include assignment to the 95th Division as a Drill Sergeant before receiving his commission as an officer. Mr. Wells is no stranger to the Selective Service System as 14 years of his military career were dedicated to serving as an Army Reserve Officer assigned in Louisiana, culminating in his promotion to Detachment Commander before retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel on August 2020. Currently in his civilian career, Mr. Wells is the Director of Safety & Security for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. SSS looks forward to having Mr. Wells serve as a liaison between the Region II HQs and the Louisiana Governor's office on agency matters.



*SD Wells with his wife Erica (center), family and friends*



## Lt. Col. (Ret.) Stephen Keim Sworn in as Montana's State Director



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Stephen M. Keim was sworn in on July 22, 2021, as the Montana Selective Service State Director (SD) by the Agency's Region III Director (RD), Steven Kett, Col. (Ret). He was nominated by Governor Greg Gianforte and appointed by Acting Selective Service Director Craig Brown.

SD Keim replaces former State Director William D. Cooper, Montana Army National Guard Command (MTANG) Sgt. Maj. (Ret.), in his role as liaison between the Selective Service System and the Governor's office. He will represent the Governor and the Selective Service regarding agency matters in Montana.

"I am truly honored to serve as the Montana State Director for the Selective Service System," SD Keim said. "I look forward to contributing to the registration and readiness mission. The Agency provides a critical component to our national security. It's also important we remind men about the importance of registration to the country and how it provides access to numerous state and federal benefits."

"SD Keim is an outstanding individual with careers in law enforcement, community, and military service. We are enthusiastic about the Governor's recommendation." RD Kett said.

Currently, SD Keim is a member of the Montana State University Police Department where he is the Safety and Security Manager for the Museum of the Rockies – the most visited museum in the state. Prior to that, he retired from the City of Bozeman Police Department, serving as a patrolman, detective, and school resource officer. SD Keim is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel from the MTARNG, having 36 years of service. His numerous assignments include serving as Reserve Force Officer with the U.S. Selective Service, as the Provost Marshal at Fort Harrison, MT, and as a counter-narcotics advisor to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. He also served a tour in Afghanistan as a Police Training Officer.

A Montana native, he graduated from Helena High School and Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science in sociology with an emphasis in criminal justice. Keim volunteers at the Eagle Mount Horticulture Program and coaches little league baseball, basketball, and football.

## State Director Mr. Everett Bonner Retires



*Mr. Bonner and Acting Director Brown*

Mr. Everett Bonner received a proper farewell into retirement by the Louisiana National Guard Adjutant General, Major General D. Keith Waddell on August 7, 2021, after 41 years of service as a Reserve Force Officer and State Director for the Selective Service System. Mr. Bonner received the highest award given by the Selective Service System (SSS), the Distinguished Service Award with Gold Medal, from Acting SSS Director Craig Brown. MG Waddell also presented Mr. Bonner the Louisiana National Guard Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. The event took place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at the historic Jackson Barracks, Louisiana National Guard, which also hosted the appointment of Mr. DeWayne Wells as the Louisiana State Director.



Mr. Bonner is a native of New Orleans. He joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1968 and served until 2001 when he was then appointed the State Director of Louisiana from that point until present, culminating a total of 53 years of faithful service to our country. Mr. Bonner had many accomplishments during his tenure with the SSS RII, one of his most notable accomplishments was implementing the Driver's License Legislation (DLL) in Louisiana. As a result, Louisiana has maintained the second highest registration rate of 18-year-old males in the nation at 97%. Under Mr. Bonner's critical input, direct leadership and influence, every functional area (recruiting, training, and readiness) has been at or near 100% and the local boards have consistently remained at maximum strength and more than 95% of volunteer LBMs have been trained. In his civilian career, Mr. Bonner spent decades in marketing and sales for Westbank Guide Newspapers, WWL-TV, and WDSU-TV. In 2008, he started Everett Bonner Advertising where he will continue to work.

Pictured below is his wife Mrs. Kay Bonner, his two sons Everett Jr., and Chris along with their spouses Allyson and Susan and his grandchildren Everett III, Belle, Adeline; and Caroline and Christopher Jr. Mr. Bonner will be succeeded by Mr. DeWayne Wells.

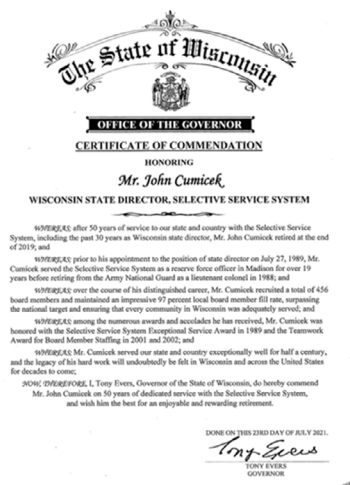


Mr. Bonner with family

## State Director John Cumicek Retires



Acting Associate Director for Operations Kenney presents award to Mr. Cumicek



Mr. John Cumicek, who served as the Wisconsin State Director for more than 30 years was presented with the Agency's Distinguished Service Award by Acting Associate Director for Operations, Thomas Kenney. Before joining Selective Service SD Cumicek, served as a Reserve Force Officer with the 3WI Detachment for 19 years before retiring from the Army National Guard as a lieutenant colonel in 1988. During his tenure at the agency, Wisconsin's Local Board member rate was 97%, the District Appeals Board was at 99%, and he successfully recruited 456 board members.

He was actively involved with the Badger Boys State program through the Wisconsin American Legion. The program teaches young men leadership skills while learning about our system of government. Through Mr. Cumicek's affiliation with the Badger Boys State program and the American Legion, he was able to promote Selective Service's registration requirement and recruit Board Members throughout the state.

Governor of Wisconsin Tony Evers bestowed to Mr. Cumicek a Certificate of Commendation honoring him for his 50 years of public service to his state and country. The SSS family thanks him for his service and wishes him much happiness in his retirement.



# Employee Awards

Congratulations to all the employees who received awards during FY21 Q3 and Q4 for their superior performance and contributions to Selective Service. A list of the award recipients is shown below. If you would like to learn more about the agency's Awards Program please see PPPM Chapter 451 Recognition and Incentive Award Program.

## Quarter Three

**Employee of the Quarter Award:** Jennifer McClanahan

### Group Awards:

Sabrina Cunningham  
Joan Greene  
Trevor Barlow  
Ruben Chavez  
Larry Dyson  
Betty Galauskas  
Patrick Henning  
Cynthia James  
Francisco Morales  
Scott Overbey  
Veronica Quinette  
Glenn Rapanos  
Flora Terrazas  
Desja Fagins  
Caleigh Weichbrodt

### Individual Awards:

Michelle Cebula  
Edward Medina  
Lisa Scheele  
Matthew Tittmann  
Kyle Wisher  
Jennifer Burke  
Jacob Daniels  
Marcus Fitzjarrell  
Karan Fraley  
James Gerber  
Jennifer Hughes  
Cheryl James  
Lemorris Lennon  
Tara Mahoney  
Ian McNa  
Bernard Washington  
Betty Lou Wingo  
Kyle Wisher

## HONORARY AWARDS FOR Q3 AND Q4:

### Q3 Distinguished Service Award with Gold Medal

Everett Bonner RII (State Director-LA)  
John Cumicek RI (State Director-WI)

### Q3 Exceptional Service Award with Silver Medal

Francis Gonzales RIII (State Director-NV)  
Amy Ramirez RI

### Q3 Meritorious Service Award with Bronze Medal

John Caldwell RIII (State Director-NM)

### Q4 Meritorious Service Award with Bronze Medal

James Didanto OP - RI  
Joan Green OP - RIII

## Quarter Four

**Employee of the Year:** Perry Chaplin

**Employee of the Year runner up:** Jennifer Burke

**Employee of the Quarter Award:** Elizabeth Peschock

### Group Awards:

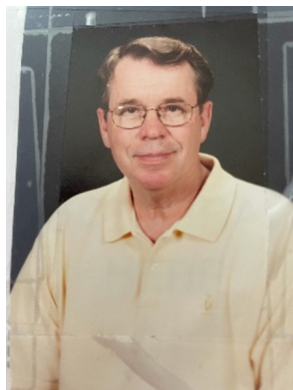
Veronica Quinette  
Laura Chavez  
Albina Collingham  
Yudidian Georges  
Kathy Green  
Cynthia James  
Pamela Miller  
Daisy Santiago  
Brett Williams  
Betty Lou Wingo  
Qing Yang  
Robert Grinton  
Pamela Miller  
Kimberly Nichols  
Rhonda Robinson  
Felicia Hall  
Tanise Waiters  
Donna Woods  
Jonathan Kimball  
Renee Miller  
Charles Plummer

### Individual Awards:

Charles Kinsey  
Richard Ogniewski  
Michael Skovranko  
Tara Mahoney  
Flora Terrazas  
Jeramie D'Orta  
Catherine McLain  
Maurice Turner  
Trevor Barlow  
Bernard Ben-Carew  
Robert Broze  
Thomas Devine  
Angela Gayden  
Scott Jones  
Micheal Migliara  
Carlos Perez  
Daisy Santiago  
Gail Simmons  
Ali Tilave  
Cane Toussaint  
Nhu Yu  
Alex Yuen  
Tahreem Choudhary  
Albina Collingham  
Nicole Harris  
Tara Mahoney  
Qing Yang  
Steven Valdez



## Region I Volunteer Spotlight



*Mr. Richard Monroe*

Mr. Richard Monroe, a Selective Service Local Board Member from Fenton, MI, is a vital asset to Region I. In addition to volunteering as a local board member, he is also an active volunteer for the Great Lakes National Cemetery, the Marine Corps League, Toys for Tots, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. Mr. Monroe is a Marine Veteran who served during the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1970. Thank you Mr. Monroe for your service to our Nation and for helping all those through your many volunteer activities.



*Lt Col Galsterer*

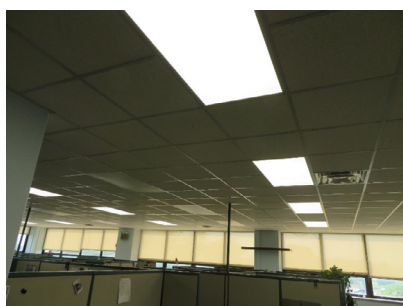
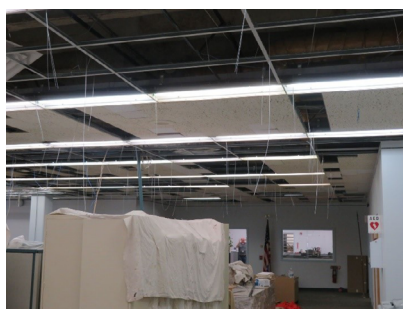
Lt Col Galsterer is one of our exemplary Resource Service Members for Michigan. He is responsible for training and managing over 200 Local Board Members for Region I. Lt Col Galsterer has a notable 90% board member validation rate with 100% mission readiness for Michigan. He partnered with the American Legion and Boys State to boost Selective Service registration awareness in his community. We thank Lt Col Galsterer for his service to our Nation and to the Selective Service System.



## DMC Office Renovation



The Data Management Center (DMC) in Great Lakes, IL has undergone a much needed renovation of all office and administrative spaces. The overhaul included replacing approximately 18,150 sq. ft. of drop ceiling tiles, 23 new ceiling fans, 275 (2x4) LED flat panel fixtures, Light-Dimming capabilities for a maximum of 125 fixtures, 15,000 sq. ft. of two coats of paint, drywall repair, caulk and patch as needed. This project was scheduled in four phases from June through August 2021.



## Region III Football Fan

Mr. Steven Valdez, Region III has been a diehard Broncos football fan his whole life! Every year, the Valdez family looks forward to football season. They especially like going to the games and cheering for their favorite team from the stands. After the Broncos Super Bowl 50 win, Steven surprised his family and took them to a signing event where they met players from the older championship Bronco's teams and got their autographs. His most memorable part of the event was getting his prized Super Bowl XXXII football signed by Back to Back Super Bowl Champion Bronco's wide receivers Ed McCaffery and Rod Smith.



Left to right: Steven's niece, nephew, daughter (holding the football), Steven and Ed McCaffery

## Regional Social Media Program

Within the past decade, social media has increased significantly; in 2005, 5% of adults living in the United States reportedly engaged on social media platforms. Today, that number has drastically risen to nearly 70%. With social media's rising influence among users, it's important the Selective Service remain involved online, providing an opportunity for local civic engagement and registration awareness.

The Digital Affairs Team recently launched the Regional Social Media Program, designed to connect Agency key players to Regional specific media platforms. This initiative will encourage networking among volunteers, employees, RSMs, and State Directors to facilitate registration awareness within communities. All members of the Selective Service family have an opportunity to contribute to the Regional Social Media Program and can submit content related to Regional specific outreach efforts.

**If you are on social media, be sure to like, follow, and share your Region's Facebook page linked below.**

**Region I - Selective Service System | Facebook**

**Region II - Selective Service System | Facebook**

**Region III - Selective Service System | Facebook**

**To submit stories, photos, narratives, or any other forms of content, please contact your regional POC listed below.**

Region I, Michelle Cebula – [Michelle.Cebula@sss.gov](mailto:Michelle.Cebula@sss.gov)

Region II, Charles Kinsey – [Charles.Kinsey@sss.gov](mailto:Charles.Kinsey@sss.gov)

Region III, Kathy Green – [Kathy.Green@sss.gov](mailto:Kathy.Green@sss.gov)

## Social Media Shout Out

The Digital Affairs Team would like to make a shout out to Ms. Michelle Cebula for the innovative and engaging short form content provided for the Region I Facebook page! Thank you, Ms. Cebula, and thank you to all the Regional POC's for your great submissions!

## Selective Service System Teacher's Guide

The Digital Affairs Team developed a Teacher's Guide Lesson Plan to increase registration awareness among high school students across the nation. The guide provides supplementary lesson plans to share with educators as a resource for high school students to learn the history of the Selective Service System, and to elaborate on the opportunities provided to young men when registering with the Selective Service. Each lesson includes a 10-minute script summarizing the main points and questions for discussion, making it easy for instructors to add to new or existing lesson plans. The DAT also created a complementary PowerPoint presentation for each lesson which can be downloaded on our website.

To download and share the Teacher's Guide visit: <https://www.sss.gov/educators/>.

**Please consider sharing the Teacher's Guide with educators in your community.**





## Anne M. Basa, DMC

Ms. Anne M. Basa was hired as the Administrative Officer for the DMC and is responsible for the supervision of the Administrative Section at the Data Management Center. Before joining the Agency, she served for over 23 years in the U.S. Army and National Guard until retiring in June 2016. She spent her time in various enlisted and officer staff and supervisory assignments. Ms. Basa deployed to Iraq in October 2009 with the 3d Infantry Division while serving as a Medical Service Corps Officer. Ms. Basa resides in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and is the mother of two children Troy 17 and Devin 15.



## Crystal "Chris" Cornelious, DMC

Ms. Cornelious has recently joined the DMC's Call Center as a Contact Representative. Her main role is to assist customers with any questions regarding registration. Prior to joining the Agency, she worked for the VA Hospital in the Choice Program where she provided customer service to service members and their families. Ms. Cornelious resides in North Chicago, IL.



## Crystal Davis, DMC

Ms. Crystal Davis is a new member of the Call Center staff. She was hired as a Contact Representative in July 2021. Her main responsibility is to provide assistance to customers and answer their questions about registration. Before joining SSS, she worked for over 19 years at the Department of Defense under NSA as a Personnel Security Specialist. She is a current widow of a Vietnam Veteran. Ms. Davis resides in Waukegan, IL. She has one son, two stepsons, four step-grandchildren, and three step-great grandchildren.

## Brent Down Departs DMC

Mr. Brent Downs joined the SSS-DMC in August 2014 as the Supervisory Management Analyst & Deputy Director. He served in this position until January 2018, when he transitioned and became DMC Computer Support Branch Manager, Registration Systems and Analysis Division, before resigning his position in May 2021.



In both capacities, Mr. Downs provided leadership with planning and directing DMC work force activities and Personnel Programs, program management, recommended and coordinate legacy programs, and conduct management studies and analytical assessments to identify and resolve critical data collection, analysis, and reporting. To that end, those that worked directly with Mr. Downs would say he is a drum major who uses short drumbeats to communicate to employees but with questions – lots of them to guide and direct employees.

Mr. Downs' unique communications, leadership mentoring style and professionalism towards everyone made him both accessible and approachable as a sounding board for everything. He was responsible for several equipment upgrades in all branches at the DMC while overseeing and accomplishing all registration and registration related automated processing. His knowledge and expertise of registration policies and processes were invaluable in accomplishing the registration mission. To this end, Mr. Downs has consistently performed superbly during his tenure at the DMC!

Mr. Downs has spent his career serving our Nation on active duty for four years in the U.S. Air Force Academy, Active Duty AF from 2004 to 2008, and 10-11 years of civilian federal employment – A combined 19/20 years of federal service! He is a dedicated team member with a wonderful attitude who has always willingly helped SSS and others to seek and achieve higher heights and great results. His IT background and impeccable work ethic have had a positive impact on Selective Service in general and employees in particular. The Selective Service family thanks him for his service and dedication and wish him much happiness in his new endeavors. We will miss him!

## Joan Greene Departs Region II and Joins Region III



Ms. Greene has been a valued member of the Region II team and has been integral to the Region's success. She will be moving herself and her family from Georgia to Colorado as she has been promoted to the new Region III Admin Officer. She will join the ranks of Gary Martz and Mike Skovranko (Sko) in managing our Reserve Service Members, keeping the Region's budget and will continue to share her enthusiasm, passion and knowledge with the Agency. For over 16 years, Joan has been an exemplary employee who has served as Secretary, Management Services Assistant (MSA), Registration Program Analyst, and Board Program Analyst for Region II, and as a mentor to Region II new employees. Ms. Greene led the way in digitizing the Admin section in 2016 and later the Board Program in 2019, the later action proved to be fortuitous given that the agency moved to 100% telework during COVID.

## Biaji Angelene Hawkins, DMC



Ms. Hawkins joined the Selective Service System recently as a Contact Representative for the Call Center at the DMC. One of her main responsibilities is to assist customers with questions regarding registration. Ms. Hawkins is a "new" employee with the Call Center, however she previously worked for two years as a DMC Contractor for the Mail Center Branch. Before joining the Agency, she worked for the Chipotle restaurant as a General Manager. Ms. Hawkins resides in Waukegan, IL.

## Sergio Huerta, DMC



Mr. Huerta is a new member of the SSS team and was recently hired as a Systems Analysis IT Specialist at the DMC. In his new role, he will serve as the System Administrator and on-site expert for Windows servers, operating systems, server processes, desktop computers and specialized systems supporting DMC operations. Before joining the Agency, he worked for the US Postal Service for over twenty years. Mr. Huerta has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and is close to completing an Associate Degree in IT Networking. Mr. Huerta lives in Milwaukee, WI with his wife and two daughters.

## Sabrina Mey, DMC



Ms. Mey is a new member of the DMC's Mail Center Branch. As a Mail Processing Assistant she joins a team that processes and produces approximately 3.4 million pieces of registrants' inbound and outbound mail. With the ECM system, Sabrina will assist in scanning and performing quality assurance of customer data for SSS. Before joining the Agency, she worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers for 11 years as a mail clerk. Ms. Mey attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and earned a degree in Sports Management. Ms. Mey resides in Gurnee, IL with her husband and two sons, ages 7 and 4.

## Angela Ranae Poole, DMC



Ms. Poole recently joined the Selective Service System as a Contact Representative for the DMCs Call Center. One of her main responsibilities is to assist customers and answer their questions regarding registration. Prior to joining the Agency, she worked for a Chemical Fertilizing company for over 18 years. Ms. Poole lives in Evanston, IL.



## From Draftee to Local Board Member By Ernest Guthrie

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*Ernest Guthrie during the Vietnam War*

Does anyone truly remember who their Board Members were and where they currently are? Mr. Ernest Guthrie from Lincolnton, Georgia most certainly does. Mr. Guthrie recalls the time he was drafted during the Vietnam War. His story is interesting having gone through the draft first hand and years later, volunteering to serve as an uncompensated Local Board Member himself. Mr. Guthrie says,

"I graduated from high school in May of 1967 during the height of The Vietnam War. This is a very small town where everyone knows each other and a lot of us are related. There were only 31 males in my class and everyone was scrambling to avoid the draft by joining the Reserves, National Guard or a branch of the service that would prevent them from serving in combat in Vietnam. Some were able to get college or technical school deferments hoping the war would end before completion. A few failed the physical which eliminated them from serving. I never will forget one of my buddies that went for his physical with me failed because he had flat feet. When we got on the bus to come home I made him take off his shoes so we could compare our feet. I couldn't see any difference in mine and his! As it turned out I was the only one from my class to get drafted and/or to serve in combat in Vietnam. I decided to take my chances not doing anything to avoid the draft. In August of 1967 two young men from here were killed in Vietnam within three days of each other, then in 1968 two others from here were killed. I knew them all and it was weighing heavily on me as I continued to take my chances waiting it out hoping the war would end. In September of 1969 I was finally drafted and eventually ended up as an infantry soldier in Vietnam. This was all before the draft lottery started. A lady was over the draft board here at the time and she begged my mother to forgive her. She is still alive and well living in an assisted living home near here. I lived in hell for a year in the jungles and mountains of Vietnam, but have no regrets and I would do it again for my country. I believe it was a big mistake when they ended the draft and I wouldn't have a problem with my grandsons being required to serve today. It made a man out of me! I hosted The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (The Wall That Heals) here for four days in April of 2018. It was incredible with thousands attending and ten guys I served with and hadn't seen since 1970 spending the week here."

*Mr. Guthrie became a Region II Local Board Member for Lincoln County, GA in November 2020. We thank him for his dedication and service to the Nation and for his continued support for our Veterans and the SSS mission.*

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## Registration 1980 - A Review

Posted in the Selective Service Monthly Newsletter, September 1980

On January 23rd, as part of his State of the Union message, President Carter called for a resumption of registration with Selective Service. While the President had the authority to resume registration, the Selective Service budget would not support the additional cost and a request for funds was sent to the Congress. Along with a request for authority to include women in the registration process.

The following months saw a nation-wide debate on the merits of registration. A debate which included also such issues as the "viability" of the All-Volunteer Force, the role of women in the military service, and a general look at U.S. military capability.

The Issue of registration was fully debated in the Congress, and the funding request was passed 219-180 in the House, and 58 -34 in the Senate. Because of a minor difference in the House and Senate versions of the bill, a revote was required in the House, where the margin was increased to 234-168. The Congress declined to grant authority for the inclusion of women.

While the debate was underway, Selective Service proceeded with the development of detailed plans for registration, and took care of those long-lead-time items which could be accommodated within existing budget authority. A major share of the planning burden was shared with the U.S. Postal Service, which had earlier agreed to undertake the actual registration process as an agent for the Selective Service. The Postal Service was ideally suited for this task – 34,500 outlets located in virtually every community in the United States - with a superbly developed communications and transportation network and a high degree of experience in handling similar transactions (such as the annual Alien Registration) for other government agencies.

Much of the early planning effort centered on such items as design, printing and distribution of forms: for example, how many registration forms should be sent to each post office, and in what manner should additional supplies be made available? (The "formula for initial distribution of forms was based on daily mail-delivery workload for each post office, and each post office was sent a 300% supply of the estimated need: re-supply was available on an over-night basis through the 284 postal Management Sectional Offices.) Other planning items included the design of a public affairs program, arrangements for keypunching of completed forms (handled by IRS employees at six selected Internal Revenue Service regional offices) and design of computer software for the registration program, error correction, issuing letters of confirmation, and development of a basic public affairs program.

However, until final Congressional authorization had been obtained, some significant lead-time items could not be undertaken. These Included actual distribution of the forms, and production and distribution of public affairs materials for use in the print and broadcast media.

President Carter signed the authorizing legislation on June 27, and in a public ceremony attended by representatives of both houses of the Congress, leaders of various organizations which had worked in support of registration, and key Selective Service officials, the President signed the Proclamation which set the registration periods. On that occasion, the President reiterated his position in support of the All-Volunteer Force and in opposition to a peace-time draft. Registration itself, he affirmed, would improve the nation's overall capability to respond in an emergency, and as such was an important step in strengthening our national defense.

In the meantime, individuals and organizations opposed to a resumption of peacetime registration had mounted a well-organized campaign. With a nation-wide coalition of some 400 chapters, the opposition sponsored 'teach-ins,' panel discussions, letter-writing campaigns, gave media interviews, met with members of the Congress; during registration itself, after a first-day program of "demonstrations," they tried to have at least one representative posted at most post offices to discuss the issues with prospective registrants. In almost all cases, the activities of the opposition were carried on in legally proper fashion; the sum total of the effort was to increase the depth and intensity of the debate, both in the Congress and in the news media, actually resulting in increased understanding of the issues and a wider awareness among the registrant age population.

Three days before registration was scheduled to begin, a three-judge Federal Court in Philadelphia handed down a decision on a case which had been pending since 1971 - a case which challenged the Constitutionality of a males-only draft (and, therefore, of a males-only registration as well). The Court declared that Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act, which specified that males had an obligation to register when called upon to do so and did not place a similar obligation upon females, was, in fact, unconstitutional.

For about 24 hours, that decision placed registration in limbo - until Supreme Court Justice Brennan granted a government request for a stay of the ruling, to permit registration to proceed on schedule with the issue to later be considered by the Supreme Court. Because of the national security implications, Justice Brennan acknowledged that the potential harm to the nation was greater than any probable harm to a male registrant. He also affirmed that the law was in full force and effect.

Registration itself went off remarkably well. Selective Service sent 11 teams of observers into the field to monitor operations and report back on such aspects as availability of forms (there were plenty), impact of demonstrations (nil), and publicity in the local area. (If there were many men born in 1960 and 1961 who had not been fully aware that registration was about to begin, the banner headlines and top-of-the-news bulletins, extending over the 72 hours before registration, should have helped focus their attention.)



Initial media reports characterized the turn-out as "light," based on the absence of lines of registrants at the postal windows. Such characterizations reflected a misunderstanding of the registration plan: turn-out was supposed to be light at any given post office on any given day, to avoid lines and minimize interference with other transactions. In fact, on average - with 34,500 registration sites, about 3.88 million potential registrants and 12 days in which to register - the number showing up at any post office on any day would have been about nine ... slightly more than one per hour.

Media also attempted to develop local data on registration, and some reports showed apparent low turnout, based on estimates of local population. Those reports clearly illustrated the difficulty in trying to match registration figures (obtained from local Postmasters) against population. An individual could register at any post office, anywhere, whether on vacation, at a summer job, or away at school; further, local population data in many areas, based upon the 1970 Census, may not accurately reflect the 1980 population. The only valid match would be on a national basis: overall registration figures compared with the total potential registrant population.

And that comparison, as of 22 August, shows that 3,593,197 registrations had been received against a base of 3,880,000 - 93%, and still counting as late registrations continue to be received.

#### **REGISTRATION RESULTS:**

As of 22 August, 1980, 3,593,187 registration had been received against a base population of 3,880,000 for a 93% compliance rate. That figure will grow over time as late registration continue to be received.

14.77% of registrants checked the box requesting information about opportunities win the Armed Forces.

On a random sample of 1,500,000 forms, checking 1-in-700 at all keypunch centers, 1.8% of registrants indicated "registration under protest" or "conscientious objections".

The net error rate - representing forms in the file which may still contain invalidating errors - is .96%. Of that, the majority are date-of-birth errors (i.e. the registrant was too old and did not need to register); .09% are sex errors (an estimated 3,200 women turned in registration forms, although Selective Service does not have legal authority to complete such registrations); the remainder represent problems with names and address.

Our population estimate are based upon Bureau of Census data - an update of the 1970 census, published January 1980. From that, we subtracted Census estimates of the "institutionalized" population, and those men already on active duty in the Armed Forces.



## Contributors



Anne Basa  
Michelle Cebula  
Thomas Devine  
Yudidian Georges  
Felicia Hall  
Nicole Harris  
Jennifer McClanahan  
Pam Miller  
Richard Ogniewski  
Carlos Perez  
PIA staff  
Steven Valdez



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**Editor: Betty Lou Wingo**

**Design and Layout: Dominic Lizambri, Art-Z Graphics, Inc**

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