



the Register

July-August 1999

The Newsletter of the Selective Service System

Director Coronado Urges Conference Attendees to Reach Out to America

The Honorable Gil Coronado, Director of Selective Service, urged attendees at the Agency's biennial National Training Conference in San Antonio to step up their efforts to "tell the Selective Service story to America." In his keynote remarks at the conference, held June 27-30, Coronado outlined four ways participants could help increase registration awareness: Reach out to young men in the community who are unaware of the registration requirement; meet with legislators at the state and local levels to help pass laws supporting registration; contact local media outlets to "help the media get the story right"; and reach out to High School Registrars to encourage them to get the word out to young men still in school.

"All of us must communicate to young men, legislators, and the media that registering with Selective Service is critical to our national readiness," he said.

More than 200 attendees, representing all elements of the Selective Service's diverse work force, took part in "round robin" sessions covering a variety of training issues, including the Health Care Personnel Delivery System and Time-Phased Response mobilization plan. Other conference speakers included the Honorable Mickey Ibarra, Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House, and General Robert T. Herres, USAF (Ret.), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of San Antonio-based USAA.

Moreover, Arnold Spielberg, the father of famed film director Steven Spielberg, was honored with the Meritorious Service Award. The elder Spielberg inspired "Saving Private Ryan," his son's movie about World War II. [See story on page 2.] The National Training Conference also was the ideal setting to highlight the success of on-line registration, a service launched December 2, 1998. Fittingly, the 100,000th registration via the Internet

"All of us must communicate . . . that . . . Selective Service is critical to our national readiness."

occurred shortly before the conference, so the Agency took a moment to thank 18-year-old Derek Gordon of Brooklyn, N.Y., the 100,000th on-line registrant. [See story on page 2.]

In his remarks, Coronado cited a number of challenges confronting Selective Service, including the feasibility of adding 12 extra funded drills for Reservists and the large exodus of trained Local Board Members who must retire because of the mandatory retirement rule. Thousands of Board Members appointed in 1981 who are still serving will reach their 20-year service limit in 2001.

Coronado also described his vision of a Selective Service System that works in tandem with other federal agencies and nonprofit organizations such as America's Promise to help solve society's problems.

"Our vision is for Selective Service to be a positive resource for all of America," he said, returning to the theme that America needs to know about Selective Service. "I challenge all of you to help make this vision a reality. Reach out today and tell the Selective Service story to America. And tell it again and again."



More than 200 participants from all elements of Selective Service attended the four-day National Training Conference in San Antonio.

Special Issue



National Training Conference
June 27-30, 1999

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Director Coronado (r.) presents Arnold Spielberg with the SSS Meritorious Service Award at the Agency's National Training Conference in San Antonio.

Arnold Spielberg Receives Meritorious Service Award

Arnold Spielberg, father of famed Hollywood film director Steven Spielberg and the inspiration for his son's film "Saving Private Ryan," has received the Agency's Meritorious Service Award. The award was presented to Spielberg by Director Coronado during the National Training Conference in June.

Director Coronado honored Spielberg, a veteran of World War II, for his patriotism and devotion to his country, sentiments the younger Spielberg wanted to capture in "Saving Private Ryan."

"Arnold Spielberg represents an entire generation of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who proudly served their country, whether they were drafted or enlisted," said Coronado in announcing the award.

"Mr. Spielberg's patriotism inspired in his son an appreciation for the courage and dedication it represented," Coronado added. "As a result, history will have this wonderful film to commemorate the efforts of the World War II generation, men and women who realized that freedom is not free." Spielberg participated in a number of assignments during World War II as a member of 490th Bombardment Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Serving as its communications chief, Spielberg was later promoted to master sergeant. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his communications achievements during the war.

A video tribute to Spielberg, prepared with Steven Spielberg's cooperation, was shown prior to the award ceremony. Spielberg's daughter, Anne, also attended the ceremony. She read a congratulatory statement from her brother, Steven, and her two sisters who were unable to attend the event.

On-Line Update: 100,000 and Counting . . .

The Selective Service System reached another milestone in June when it logged its 100,000th registration via the Internet. Derek Alan Gordon, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was recognized as the 100,000th on-line registrant by Director Coronado during the National Training Conference in June.

"This is further proof that Internet registration is a huge success, and growing," said Coronado as he announced the milestone. He also pointed out that this achievement was reached in only six months.

In registering on-line, Derek, with help from his brother, simply logged onto the Selective Service's Web site at www.sss.gov, keyed in some basic information, and received his Selective Service registration number. Approximately 4,000 Internet registrations are recorded each week. Even so, 30,000 to 40,000 completed registrations still arrive via the U.S. Postal Service at the Agency's Data Management Center in Palatine, Ill. Men also can register at any U.S. Post Office by completing a mail-back card. Additionally, registrations via touch tone telephone are now accepted from men who receive a reminder card in the mail.

Derek, who is 18 years old, and his mother, Joanne Gordon, attended the National Training Conference as guests of the Agency. At the conference, Derek became an instant celebrity, garnering several media interviews and receiving numerous pats-on-the-back from conference attendees. "Derek represents the best spirit of America's young men," Coronado said. "When men like Derek register with Selective Service, they help guarantee America's strength through their responsibility, commitment, and patriotism."

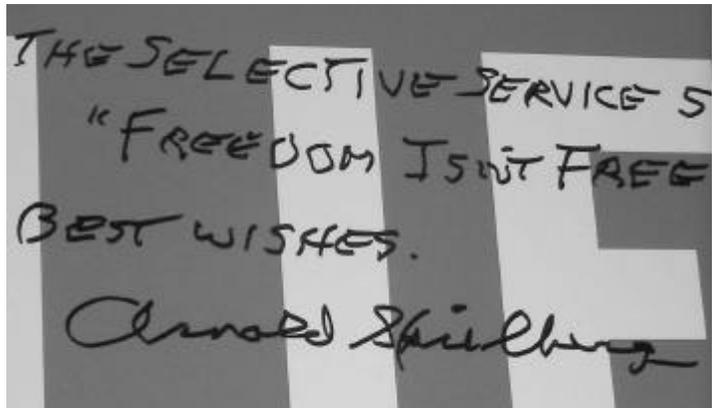
Derek's hobbies include building and racing dirt bikes and NASCAR racing.



Director Coronado (l.) congratulates 18-year-old Derek Gordon, the 100,000th man to register on-line. Derek's mother, Joanne Gordon, is at right.



Region III Training Program Analyst Kenneth Bing relaxes during a break in the action in San Antonio.



Arnold Spielberg, father of film director Steven Spielberg and recipient of the SSS Meritorious Service Award, signed an enlarged copy of "Life" magazine with an article about both men.



Maj. Lyndon Worden of Detachment 3, North Dakota, proves that all (Internet) roads lead to www.sss.gov.

Postcards From San Antonio 

Selective Service's National Training Conference, held in San Antonio in June, was a success on a number of levels: The conference saluted on-line registration, explained training initiatives, and honored patriotism. These "postcards" remind us that the four days in San Antonio, while encompassing substantive material, included a few lighter moments as well.



Col. Justo Gonzalez, Jr., Director of Operations, receives the Legion of Merit Award from Director Coronado. Gonzalez' wife, Martha, is at right.



Lt. Col. Robert Stacy, Senior Operations Officer with Region III, displays his souvenir from the four-day conference.

Willie L. Blanding, Jr., Promoted to Deputy Director

Willie L. Blanding, Jr., was recently promoted to Deputy Director of Selective Service and received an appointment to the Senior Executive Service. Director Coronado announced the appointment at the Agency's National Training Conference in June.

Blanding has served as the Agency's Executive Director since July 1996. In his new position as Deputy Director, he will advise Director Coronado on a wide range of issues, including Agency policy and personnel.

Prior to joining the Selective Service System, Blanding served as Director of Human Resources and Administration for the White House Communications Agency. Moreover, he has more than 25 years of service with the U.S. Army, earning the Legion of Merit for his service to the nation.

A native of Philadelphia, Blanding holds a B.A. in English and Education from South Carolina State University, a Master of Public Administration from Troy State University, and a Master of Education from Boston University. He also graduated from several senior military service schools and colleges.



Deputy Director Willie L. Blanding, Jr. (r.), accepts a Senior Executive Service flag from Director Coronado (l.) during a ceremony announcing his new appointment. Blanding's wife, Madeline, looks on.

DMC Employee of the Quarter

The Data Management Center (DMC) has named June Endres as the DMC Employee of the Quarter for the period ending March 31, 1999. DMC Director Lyle Wilkes presented the award to Endres at a recent staff meeting.

Endres, a management assistant at the DMC, said she was "... flabbergasted" when she heard about the honor. "I've been here many years and was never even nominated before this," she said. "I'm very happy."

Endres, one of nine original DMC employees still working at the Center, joined the DMC in 1981 as a secretary. She moved to the DMC's Office of Information Management in 1986, and was reassigned to her current position in 1992. From 1992 to 1998, she helped administer the High School and Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) registrar programs.

In 1998, following the retirement of a program analyst, Endres was given oversight responsibility for registrars in the Farm Workers' Opportunity Program. She also trained the Agency's statistician who now administers the program.

"I especially like working with the Registrar Program, because it keeps me busy, and presents constant challenges," Endres explained.

During the award period, Endres helped write letters to registrar sites to promote on-line registration and update database records. She also revised several forms for the program.



DMC Director Lyle Wilkes (l.) presents June Endres with the DMC Employee of the Quarter award.

Sue Cappo, Endres' supervisor, called her "... very conscientious. Because of her attention to detail, programs run as smooth as possible."

Col. Richard Moore, manager of the Registration Division in the Office of Operations at National Headquarters, praised Endres for her contributions to the Agency.

"I've depended heavily on June since the retirement of Heidi Hein," Moore explained. "I frequently ask for her advice, and appreciate her efforts."

One of 12 children born in northwest Wisconsin, Endres married and had several children before she joined the Agency in 1981.

For more DMC news, turn to page 5

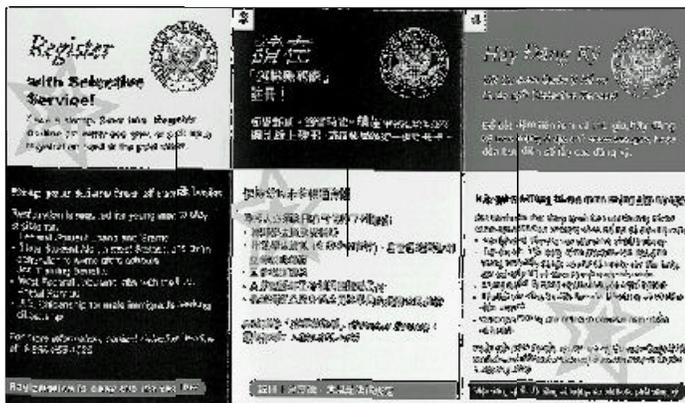
Region II Employee Revisits Her Hometown Roots to Register Men On-Line

When Jeanice Young, a Program Assistant with Region II Headquarters, visited four high schools in her hometown, Bartow County, Ga., in May, she planned to meet with High School Registrars to present them with the Director's Certificate of Appreciation. But during her visit to Woodland High School, she also convinced two young men to register on-line. In the photograph at right, Young (far right) thanks students Jonathan Bowley (center left) and Josh Holley (center right) after registering on-line with Selective Service. Barbara Bentley (far left), Registrar at Woodland High School, looks on.



Selective Service Unveils New Registration Benefits Card

The Selective Service System unveiled a new Registration Benefits Card in May that describes the benefits of registration in five languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. The card, pictured below, is one of several new promotional tools being launched in 1999. For copies of the card, contact the closest Region Headquarters.



Col. Robert Brittin, Former Region I Director, Dies

Col. Robert W. Brittin (Ret.), former Region I Director, died March 7, 1999 in Springfield, Ill. Col. Brittin was on active duty with Selective Service from 1965 to 1976, and served the Agency on several extended active duty assignments at National Headquarters from 1976 to 1981. In August 1981, he was recalled to active duty with Selective Service, serving as Senior Operations Officer and Region I Headquarters Director until his retirement in September 1987. He is survived by his wife, Donna, of Springfield, Ill.; a son, Lt. Col. William Brittin; and a daughter, Linda Brittin.

SECOND OPINION



Dear Editor:

I just read The Register (May-June 1999) story about Army Secretary Louis Caldera not using the Selective Service System to fill Army vacancies. I was drafted doing the Cold War and learned that I liked the military and reenlisted for three years for a total of four years in the Army. I feel that the draft should be used to fill vacancies in the Armed Forces or fill the vacancies in the reserves. This would be an ace that we could fall back on, just in case. I ask the Honorable Louis Caldera to reconsider his position toward the draft. Thank you.

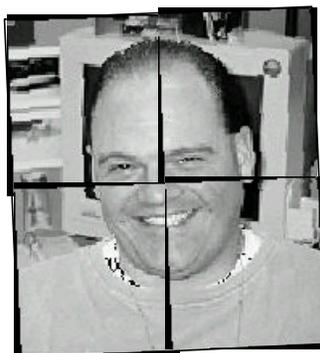
Frank Mills, Local Board 91, Galveston, Texas

Note: Views expressed in this column do not represent official Agency policy. To provide your comments on articles in The Register, please send an e-mail message to Ben Cromer, Editor (bcromer@sss.gov). All letters are subject to editing for clarity and appropriateness.

DMC News

New Faces at the DMC

The Agency's Data Management Center (DMC) in Palatine, Ill., has welcomed several new employees in the past six months.



Registration Made Easy!

In the photo at right, Data Management Center (DMC) employee Frank Overton helps his son, Shannon (far right), register on-line at Region I Headquarters. Looking on is Lt. Col. Glen Ford, Region I Director, and Lt. Col. Tom White (center) also from Region I Headquarters. The DMC has processed more than 100,000 registrations received via the Internet since on-line registration began December 2, 1998. To register, a man simply logs on to www.sss.gov, clicks on the icon for on-line registration, and follows the instructions.

Registrations also are accepted via touch-tone telephone from men who receive reminder cards containing a PIN (Personal Identification Number).



Profile:



K.V. Kumar

Volunteerism, caring, and dedication describe Arizona Board Member K.V. Kumar of Scottsdale, Ariz. Along the way, Kumar has overcome several setbacks caused by a serious automobile accident. The accident took Kumar out of action, causing his business to fold and a foreclosure on his home. Those setbacks, however, only strengthened his resolve to serve his community and the nation.

Kumar, who suffered head injuries in the accident, dedicated himself to helping others with similar injuries. He has since been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association.

A native of India, Kumar became a U.S. citizen as a child growing up in the Washington, D.C., area. As an adult, he founded several banking and computer industry firms and served on numerous boards and committees. Today, he lives in Scottsdale with his wife, Vijaya, and two sons, Sanjay and Vishnu.

High School Student Informs Fellow Immigrants About Registration Benefits

Amrik Singh does not want others to make the same mistake he made: He did not register with Selective Service. Singh, a high school student who attends a Sikh temple in Renton, Wash., now publicizes the benefits of Selective Service registration through an information sheet he distributes at the local Sikh temple and at businesses where Indian immigrants work. The flyer is printed in English and Punjabi.

Singh discovered the importance of Selective Service registration when he tried to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. His citizenship was delayed because he had not registered with Selective Service. A copy of Singh's flyer is reproduced below.

IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR SIKH MEN!

Have you registered with the Selective Service?

All immigrant males living permanently in the USA either legally or illegally are required by law to register with the U. S. Selective Service System between the ages of 18 through 25. Failure to register when eligible can result in the denial of citizenship, financial aid for college and government jobs.

Selective Service registration does not mean you would be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by a random lottery number and year of birth. You would be examined for mental, physical and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces-

You cannot register for the selective service once you are 26 years old. Age 26 is too late. If you apply for citizenship and have not registered you will have to explain to the U.S. I.N.S. why you did not register. Ignorance of the law is not a good enough reason. You must be able to demonstrate why you were ignorant of the law and prove that you did not willingly and knowingly avoid registering when you were eligible to do so. If you cannot explain yourself, you will be refused U. S. citizenship.

Selective Service registration applies to legal and illegal permanent residents between the ages of 18 through 25. You can register at any U. S. Post Office or on-line via the Internet at www.sss.gov.

If you are now over age 26 and did not register I strongly recommend you call New Americans of Washington at 425-869-2885 and ask for help, especially if you are applying for citizenship or college financial aid.

The law requires you to register. The consequences are serious if you do not. Register today!

On the Web...

Visit the Selective Service System's Web site on the Internet: www.sss.gov.

Calling All Readers!

The Register welcomes contributions from its readers. Please submit items about the Selective Service System and its employees to Ben Cromer, Editor, via e-mail (bcromer@sss.gov) or via Selective Service National Headquarters, 1515 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425. The deadline for the next issue is August 15, 1999.

Director Coronado Ends National Training Conference with Focus on Key Challenges Ahead

Director Coronado ended the National Training Conference by asking conference attendees to focus on several key challenges facing Selective Service. Citing the national registration blitz in November, 1999, Coronado asked for grassroots support in the field to make the event a success.

"Get the word into the schools and increase the number of registrars," he said. "Our goal is to have Selective Service registration become a routine part of the school year."

Coronado also challenged attendees to increase the compliance rate of 18 through 25 year old men to 94 percent within 2 years. Moreover, he asked conference participants to help him realize his vision of a Selective Service System that would act, in partnership with other government and non-profit organizations, to help solve society's ills.

"You must take up the President's challenge to become more involved in your communities," Coronado said. "Help move our nation and all its people forward to even greater prosperity, good health, ethnic harmony, and improved quality of life for all Americans – native born and immigrant alike."



Director Coronado makes a point during the awards banquet at Selective Service's National Training Conference in San Antonio.

Coronado reiterated the conference's theme that America needs to know what today's Selective Service System is doing for America. He concluded his remarks by asking attendees to become missionaries for Selective Service.

"Believe in what you do and convert others to the cause," he said. "Because America needs to know."



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