



the Register

November-December 1999

The Newsletter of the Selective Service System

CONGRESS REACHES ACCORD ON SSS FUNDING FOR FY-2000

The Selective Service System received its Fiscal Year 2000 budget on October 20 when President Clinton signed into law H.R. 2684, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill. The President's action ended months of uncertainty as a result of an earlier Congressional stalemate between House and Senate versions of the bill. A House-Senate Conference Committee met in early October to resolve differences between the two chambers, agreeing to provide the Selective Service System with a Fiscal Year 2000 budget of \$24 million and strike out language from a House Report that called for the Agency's termination.

The Conference Committee Report became the final version of H.R. 2684, resolving a long budget process that began in July when the House Appropriations Subcommittee for VA, HUD and Independent Agencies and the full House Appropriations Committee voted to slash Selective Service's budget to \$7 million and terminate Agency operations. House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman James Walsh (R-Va.) stated that, without a draft, Selective Service was no longer needed.

An amendment to H.R. 2684, sponsored by Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.), was introduced on the floor of the House in September. The amendment sought to fund the Agency at the Fiscal Year 1999 level of \$24.5 million but failed by a margin of 45 votes.

The Senate VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee did not include the termination language in its version of the bill on September 15. The full Senate Appropriations Committee confirmed the Subcommittee's action the following day and included Agency funding at the level requested by the President, \$25.5 million. The Senate passed the bill September 24.

Because each chamber passed different versions of the same bill, a Conference Committee Report was required to iron out the differences. The House Conferees receded to the Senate's position and the Conference Committee agreed to fund Selective Service at \$24 million. The House adopted the Conference Committee Report on October 14 with the Senate passing the report the following day. The bill was then forwarded to the President for his signature. The Agency's final Fiscal Year 2000 budget is \$1.25 million lower than the amount recommended by the President and \$426,000 under the Fiscal Year 1999 appropriation.



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Region II Takes Registration Message to Georgia Education Officials

Region II Headquarters demonstrated its commitment to improving on-time registration by meeting with school administrators, principals, and other education leaders during the 25th annual statewide conference of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL).

"It was an excellent target for the Selective Service's registration improvement initiative," said Col. Roy Yelton (USAF-Ret.), Georgia State Director for Selective Service. Yelton, who also is Assistant Superintendent of the McDuffie County school system, secured a booth at the conference to display Selective Service literature, posters, and other materials.

Georgia State Coordinator Rene Haney and Reserve Forces Officer 1st Lt. Sonya Pass, a member of Detachment 2-7, designed the display. Haney and Pass also spoke with conference participants who dropped by the booth to explain Selective Service's goals for improving on-time registration by 18-year-old men. The display included a laptop computer, provided by the Georgia National Guard, that was used to demonstrate on-line registration.

"We collected contact information from several people who were eager to participate as State Resource Volunteers," Pass said, adding that they also targeted high school principals and school superintendents to get the word out that registering with Selective Service is the law. For her part, Haney said it was "fun to demonstrate on-line registration."

The State of Georgia has zealously sought to improve registration by implementing legislation linking Selective Service registration to eligibility for state student financial aid and state jobs. Men who do not register also are not eligible for the state's HOPE Scholarship that is available to students who maintain a "B" average and who attend a college affiliated with the University System of Georgia. By participating in the GAEL Conference, Region II hopes that Georgia education officials will become enthusiastic supporters of Selective Service and help to improve on-time registration.



Rene Haney (l.), Georgia State Coordinator, 1st Lt. Sonya Pass (c.), from Detachment 2-7, and Col. Roy Yelton, Georgia State Director, take a break during the conference.

Agency Official to Receive Medal of Honor



Alfred V. Rascon

Alfred V. Rascon, Inspector General of the Selective Service System, will be awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for his valor during the Vietnam conflict. Congress and President Clinton have approved the measure granting Rascon the Medal of Honor but no date had been set at press time for the award ceremony.

Rascon was a 17-year-old immigrant from Mexico when he convinced his parents to sign a waiver allowing him to enlist in the U.S. Army. In 1965, he went to Vietnam as a medic with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

In 1966, Rascon's reconnaissance platoon was pinned by enemy gunfire. During the ensuing fight, he constantly put himself in harms way by covering other soldiers with his own body. He also retrieved an abandoned and badly-needed machine gun with ammunition. Moreover, on two separate occasions he used his body to shield soldiers from incoming hand grenades. In the end, he suffered multiple gunshot and grenade fragmentation wounds and is credited with saving the lives of two soldiers.

After a second tour of duty in Vietnam, Rascon joined the federal government, working for several agencies before joining the Selective Service System in 1995.

Although members of Rascon's platoon recommended that he receive the Medal of Honor, the paperwork got lost in the bureaucracy. Now, more than 30 years later, Rascon's heroics are finally being recognized.

"Al Rascon's heroism is indicative of how immigrants contribute to our society in ways that are not always visible," said Selective Service Director Gil Coronado. "It's an honor that's long overdue."

Adjutant General Profile:

Brig. Gen. David Harris



Brig. Gen. David Harris, recently appointed as the 35th Adjutant General for Illinois, is no stranger to Selective Service. From 1987-89, Harris served as a Reserve Forces Officer with Illinois' Selective Service National Guard Detachment, successfully spearheading legislation through the Illinois legislature supporting Selective Service. He also served as Detachment Commander before being named the Adjutant General for Illinois.

A native of Reading, Penn., Harris earned a B.A. in Government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. His military education includes courses at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in residence, as well as the Military Police Officer advanced and basic courses.

A 20-year veteran of the Illinois National Guard, Harris entered military service in 1971. He earned his commission through Officer Candidate School, U.S. Army Infantry School, at Fort Benning, Ga. In addition to his service with the Illinois National Guard Selective Service Detachment, he served as the Commander of the 44th Rear Area Operations Center and as the Commander of the 933rd Military Police Company.

Additionally, Harris was Senior Vice President for Government Relations for the Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association (IHHA). At IHHA, he was the chief spokesperson on health care issues at the state and federal levels and was responsible for governmental affairs and lobbying activities. Moreover, he served 10 years in the Illinois House of Representatives, gaining respect for his knowledge of state fiscal matters, and was a member of the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission and the House Revenue Committee.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed Harris to serve as chairperson for an Intergovernmental Advisory Council. Harris also was a member of the White House staff for President Reagan's trips to London in 1982, the Far East in 1983, and the Bonn Economic Summit in 1985.

General Harris' military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Selective Service Meritorious Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Illinois Military Medal for Merit, and Illinois Long and Honorable Service Medal.

His civic affiliations include membership on the Board of Visitors of the Georgetown Graduate Public Policy Forum, the American Society of Association Executives, and the Development Board of Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. He is a Life Member of the National Guard Association of the U.S. and the National Guard Association of Illinois. Harris is married and resides in Arlington Heights, Ill., with his wife and two sons.



Director Coronado (l.) presents an Honored Patriot Award to Irma Martinez.

Agency Celebrates Cultural Diversity During Hispanic Heritage Month

Selective Service culminated its month-long recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month with an Oct. 13 luncheon at National Headquarters that featured Irma Martinez, Special Assistant to White House Cabinet Affairs Secretary Thurgood Marshall, Jr. Martinez gave an inspirational talk that paid tribute to her parents, Mexican immigrants, and others who came to America seeking a better way of life. Martinez said that the diversity of this nation is at once a strength and a weakness, pointing out that while Americans from diverse cultures are often separated by diversity, we share common goals that ultimately unite us as Americans.



President Clinton with Latino appointees during Hispanic Heritage Month in 1998.



Selective Service Says Thanks!



Selective Service recognized the efforts of Texas Lt. Gov. Rick Perry for his role in the production of a registration reminder video to be distributed to high schools. Perry (c.) received an Honored Patriot Award from Claude Hempel (l.), Texas State Director, and Lew Brodsky, the Agency's Director of Public and Congressional Affairs.



State Rep. Bob Hunter (l.) of the Texas House of Representatives was presented with a Selective Service Plaque for his role in helping to pass legislation supporting Selective Service. The plaque was presented to Hunter by Texas State Director Claude Hempel.



Florida Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan (l.) received an Honored Patriot Award for his role in the production of a new public service announcement. Lew Brodsky, the Agency's Director of Public and Congressional Affairs, presented the award on behalf of Selective Service Director Gil Coronado.



Brig. Gen. Vernon G. Sills (c.), Mississippi State Director, presents plaques to State Resource Volunteer Hilton Vance (l.) and Mississippi State Rep. Ray Rogers recognizing their role to secure state legislation supporting Selective Service. The legislation mandates proof of Selective Service registration before a man can be eligible for state jobs in Mississippi.

Selective Service Honors Dr. Henry Williams with the Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Henry N. Williams, who retired in October as the Counselor and General Counsel for the Selective Service System, has received the Agency's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. The Award was presented to Williams by Willie L. Blanding, Jr., Deputy Director of Selective Service, on behalf of Agency Director Gil Coronado at a ceremony October 22. The event also included congratulatory messages from other senior Agency officials as well as the presentation of a letter of recognition from President and Mrs. Clinton.

Williams, who had more than 50 years of federal service, joined the Agency in July, 1970, after stints with the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Army. Williams is a life member of the American Law Institute, a member of the American Bar Association, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Federal Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Cambridge Society in Great Britain.



Dr. Henry N. Williams



Dr. Henry Williams is congratulated by Deputy Director Willie Blanding, Jr., after receiving the Agency's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.



Dr. Henry Williams is all smiles as he discovers a prank on his final day: yellow police tape surrounds his desk. Williams retired in October with more than 50 years of federal service.

The Register welcomes editorial contributions from readers. Please submit items of interest to Editor, *The Register*, Selective Service National Headquarters, 1515 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425. **Deadline for the next issue is December 28, 1999.**



Gil Coronado

A Message from Director Gil Coronado

Selective Service has a Y2K (Year 2000) problem but, unlike the well-known Y2K computer bug, this one is not computer related. Under current law, Local Board Members serve 20 years before relinquishing their board positions. Because many board members were appointed in 1980, the year the Agency moved from deep standby to active status, they will end their tenure as Board Members next year.

After many Local Board Members expressed an interest in maintaining links with Selective Service, we initiated the State Resource Volunteer (SRV) program so that these individuals can continue to assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. Under the program, former compensated and uncompensated civilian or military employees help the Agency by providing assistance with registration awareness and compliance through visits to high schools and post offices and by recruiting new local board members.

In addition to retired Local Board Members in good standing, virtually anyone who has an interest in volunteering with Selective Service can become an SRV. For more information or to apply for the program, contact the closest Region Headquarters office of the Selective Service System.

DMC News

REGISTRATION VIA TOUCH-TONE PHONE IS A RINGING SUCCESS

More than 35,000 men have registered with Selective Service since June by using a touch-tone telephone, making registration as easy as ordering a pizza. Telephone registration is possible because of an upgraded phone system at the Agency's Data Management Center (DMC) that features a new interactive voice response (IVR) system.

Registration by phone is available to men who receive the newly-designed Registration Reminder Mailback Card. To register, men dial a special toll-free phone number listed on the Card, enter their Social Security Number, their date of birth, and their personal identification number (PIN). After the registration is accepted, a man receives his Selective Service number over the phone and later receives an acknowledgment card in the mail.

"Although process is simple, it required extensive coordination to implement," said DMC Director Lyle Wilkes. The project's coordinator, DMC Senior Analyst Mike Gonski, added: "It was a challenging project, one that wouldn't have happened without the support and assistance of many Agency elements."

Gonski and Rick Delph, formerly with the Office of Information Management, developed the project outline while DMC Administrative Manager Sue Cappo worked with Col. Rick Moore and Cam Burke from the Registration Division in the Office of Operations to update the Registration Reminder Mailback Card. Moreover, Computer Specialist Linda Michalek wrote and tested programs for printing personalized data on the new cards.

The new phone system was installed in January, 1999, providing immediate improvement in call management at the DMC Call Center. In addition, the system provides a 24-hour line to process inquiries from hearing impaired persons through a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). The new system even accepts registrations in Spanish. DMC Call Center personnel, including Manager Pat Miller, Supervisor Daisy Santiago, Lead Contact Representative Anna Primus, Contact Representative Karen Bishop, and Research Assistant Luz Diaz provided expertise to the system designers, ensuring the IVR system and call flow would meet the Agency's needs.

The DMC's Richard Templer developed mainframe computer programs to process new registrations and database inquiries with DMC Deputy Director Bill Delaney adapting general processing programs and approving the system's design. Secretary Lori Alcorn defined administrative call flow for the DMC while Barbara Rooney and Mary Hamrick in Region I helped ensure the system met Region I Headquarters' requirements.

"This is only the beginning," said the DMC's Cappo. "We plan to expand the IVR to process early submission of registrations and to allow telephone registration for men who receive compliance letters. In addition, we have a few other ideas up our sleeves."





Mother Goose and friends help kickoff the Combined Federal Campaign at Selective Service National Headquarters. From left to right: Annie Boyd, Maggie Lam, Renee Miller, Sue Denison, Jerry Klotz, Debora Taylor, and Janet Matchett.

Selective Service Employees Demonstrate the Value of Giving at CFC Kick-Off Event

Employees at Selective Service National Headquarters demonstrated their creativity during a ceremony to kickoff the Agency's participation in the 1999 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). CFC is an annual fund-raising drive conducted each fall by federal employees that is similar to the United Way Campaign. Federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars every year through CFC, benefitting thousands of charities. At the event, Selective Service employees, dressed as Mother Goose and her friends, demonstrated how giving helps improve the lives of others, and benefits the giver as well. This year's CFC Campaign concludes December 17, 1999.



Detachment Commanders Keep It All in the Family

For the first time in its history, the Selective Service System has a husband and wife serving concurrently as a detachment commander. Lt. Col. Richard Little is the Detachment Commander of Colorado Selective Service Reserve Detachment 3-7 while Lt. Col. Susan Little is Detachment Commander of Colorado National Guard Detachment 3.

Susan Little has completed her first year with Selective Service while Richard Little has more than 11 years with the Agency, having served in both the Guard and Reserve Detachments in Colorado. Both Littles love their jobs, pointing out the advantages to their current arrangement: they get to spend more time together.

"We always had to drill at different locations, and often on different weekends," Richard Little said. "Now, we drill together. It even makes preparing for drills easier because we can readily compare notes just before a drill."

Susan Little, when asked how she was able to adjust to Selective Service so quickly, said, "being married to Richard and being a National Guard Officer certainly helped with the transition." She added that Col. Debby Bielanski, the former Reserve Detachment Commander who is now Region III Operations Officer, was as a mentor during this period. "The entire staff at Region III Headquarters is wonderful to work with," she said.

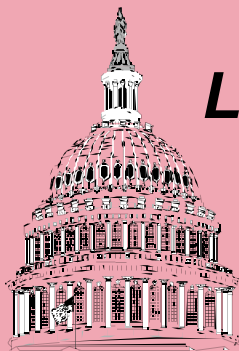
In civilian life, Susan Little is a school nurse for Overland High School in Aurora, Colo., where her Selective Service training comes in handy: she encourages 18-year-old men to register and recruits High School Registrars. Richard Little is National Sales Manager for Convenience Stores at Coors Brewing Company in Golden, Colo.



Susan and Richard Little

On the Web ...

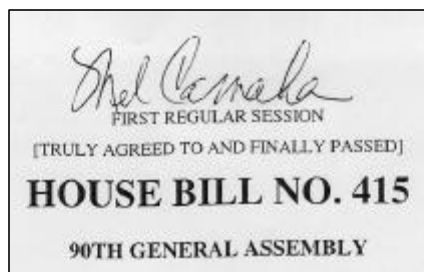
Visit the Selective Service System's Web site on the Internet: www.sss.gov.



Legislative Action

'Show Me' State Leads by Example

Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan has signed into law the Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act. The act requires men to register with Selective Service to remain eligible for state government jobs and student financial aid and educational scholarships. In the photo below, at left, Rep. Carl Vogel and Rep. William Gratz, co-sponsors of the Bill, watch as Gov. Carnahan (c.) signs the legislation. Also observing the ceremony, at right, are Rep. Joe Maxwell, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Rutherford from Detachment 3-MO, Missouri State Director Don Haitte, and Lt. Col. Ralph Schroeder (ARNG-Ret.), past Commander, Detachment 3-MO.



*A copy of the Bill signed by
Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan.*



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