



the Register

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The Newsletter of the Selective Service System

Director Coronado Testifies On Capitol Hill About Fiscal Year-2000 Budget

Selective Service Director Gil Coronado testified March 3, 1999, before the House Appropriations Subcommittee (VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies) to defend the Agency's Fiscal Year-2000 budget request. The President's Budget proposes funding for the Agency at \$25,250,000.

The Director kept his opening remarks brief to provide ample opportunity for Committee members to ask questions. Responding to a question about registration compliance rates, the Director pointed out that the rate for draft-eligible men (ages 20-25) has declined slightly, and is now at 94 percent, while overall compliance of men 18 through 25 years old has declined to 89 percent.

The Director discussed the need for registration improvement blitzes. He said two factors determine which areas are targeted for blitzes: Increase in immigration and higher than average high school drop out rates. "There is a lack of knowledge and lack of information about registration," the Director said.

In response to a question from Rep. James T. Walsh (R-N.Y.), the Committee chairman, about how much additional funding is needed to correct the downward trend in registration, the Director explained that the Agency is spending about \$3.70 per registration and that additional funding of \$1.00 per registration could help correct the problem.

Upon further questioning, it was stated that an increase of approximately \$2 million for registration improvement activities during Fiscal Year 2000 would help stem the downward trend. The Director stated that primary emphasis would go to increasing awareness of the registration requirement in five key states with low compliance: New York, California, Texas, Florida, and Illinois.

The estimated "universe" of young men is growing annually, the Director reported. "Mr. Chairman, the irony is we are registering more men every day. There are 41 million active registration records since 1980. We're running hard but we can't score the touchdown because the goal posts keep moving."

The Director praised Selective Service registration via the Internet, pointing out that young men are the most computer-savvy in the nation. "It's a perfect marriage between on-line registration and America's youth," he said. He added that cost savings from on-line registration "can be diverted to other customer services."



Chairman Walsh (l.) speaking with Director Gil Coronado following the Director's testimony.

Another issue raised by the Committee was the Agency's efforts to tackle the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The Director pointed out that he was confident the Agency would be equipped to handle the transition to the new millennium, but said the Agency has a "manual back-up plan" in place.

The Director concluded his testimony before the Committee by noting that Selective Service registration gives young men access to benefits not afforded those who refuse to register. "The beauty of our country is living the American dream," he said. "But they can't have that if they don't register with Selective Service. Registration allows them access to the American dream."

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Rear Adm. Edward Hunter (l.), Lyle Wilkes (c.) and Lt.Col. Glen Ford

New Great Lakes Commander Visits Region I Headquarters and the Data Management Center

Rear Adm. Edward Hunter, named Commander, Great Lakes Naval Training Center in October 1998, recently visited Region I Headquarters and the Data Management Center (DMC) to learn more about regional registration activities. As Base Commander, Hunter is responsible for all Navy activities throughout a five-state area: Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio.

DMC Director Lyle Wilkes briefed Hunter on the DMC's operations while Region I Director, Lt. Col. Glen Ford, explained the Region's mission and field structure. After the briefings, Ford presented Hunter with a tee shirt displaying the Selective Service System's Internet Web site address. Hunter said he would wear the shirt during his daily workouts at the gym.

Ford and Wilkes characterized the visit as a success. As Ford put it: "The DMC and the Agency have a new friend. Adm. Hunter pledged to assist us in any way possible." Wilkes pointed out that Hunter gained a better appreciation of the Agency's mission. "He was impressed that we could accomplish so much with so little," he added.

"Register" Your Opinion!

The Register welcomes editorial contributions from readers. Please submit items of interest about the Selective Service System and its employees to Ben Cromer, Editor, via e-mail (bcromer@sss.gov) or to Selective Service National Headquarters, 1515 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425. The deadline for the next issue is April 20, 1999.



Selective Service Receives Legislative Support in the CNMI

The Senate and House of Representatives in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) have passed legislation that links eligibility for student financial aid and government jobs in the Commonwealth to Selective Service registration, similar to existing federal law. Governor Pedro P. Tenorio of the CNMI has indicated he will sign the legislation.

In February, Director Gil Coronado visited the CNMI to meet with elected officials to garner their support for Agency initiatives to improve on-time registration. Director Coronado visited the CNMI because registration rates in the Commonwealth are below average.

Selective Service CNMI State Director Joe Reyes coordinated the Director's visit, including a meeting with Gov. Tenorio. During the meeting, the governor and legislators pledged their support for legislation linking Selective Service registration to certain government benefits in the CNMI.

"The Commonwealth's elected officials deserve praise for their unqualified support of Selective Service registration," said Director Coronado. "Their demonstration of solidarity for our registration initiatives was apparent and is indicative of their unwavering patriotism, something I experienced throughout my visit to the CNMI."

Time for Auld Lang Syne ...

Fiscal Year 1998 ended September 30, 1998. For the Selective Service System, however, 1998 was not really over until the Annual Report to the Congress of the United States was completed. You can find a copy of the Report on the Agency's Web site at www.sss.gov.

Selective Service Says “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”

Harold “Charlie” Brown, a repository of knowledge about Selective Service in West Virginia, has retired as West Virginia State Director after the serving the Agency in one capacity or another for 45 years. Under Brown’s watch, West Virginia led the nation in registration compliance of 18-year-old men.

Brown began his full-time career with the Agency in 1953 when he was named Assistant Clerk of Local Board 37. In 1957, he was promoted, transferring to the Operations Division at West Virginia State Headquarters in Charleston.

In 1973, after serving as Deputy State Director, Brown became West Virginia State Director and continued in that position until his retirement from full-time federal service in 1977, the year Selective Service went into “deep standby” mode. Brown continued to serve as State Director on an intermittent basis until December 1998. Jack Yeager replaced Brown as West Virginia State Director.

Brown was an Army inductee in 1950, serving in major campaigns in Korea as a battalion sergeant major in the 25th Infantry Division. Along with various service ribbons and medals, he was awarded the Bronze Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and three Presidential Unit Citations. He also was awarded the Selective Service Meritorious Award (bronze, two awards), the Exceptional Service Award (silver), and the Distinguished Service Award (gold), which is the Selective Service System’s highest recognition for civilians and military officers.

In 1993, he received the West Virginia Meritorious Medal from the West Virginia Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Skaff. Three years later, he received the Distinguished West Virginian Award by West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton for his contributions to the state. Brown is a Kentucky Colonel, an Admiral in the Cherry River Navy, an Honorary Mountaineer Brigadier in the West Virginia State Militia, and an Honorary Brigadier General in the West Virginia National Guard. After leaving federal service, Brown joined the West Virginia Division of Personnel as a Senior Personnel Specialist in the Employee Information/Payroll Audit Section. He is married to the former Betty Lou Keeney; they have one daughter, Kathryn.



Former West Virginia State Director Charlie Brown (second from left) with Region II Director Keith Scragg (far left), Maj. Gen. Allen Tackett, the West Virginia Adjutant General (near right), and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Yeager, the new West Virginia State Director.

Salute:



Mark L. Eutsler

Mark L. Eutsler, a Member of Indiana Local Board 17, has been appointed to Indiana’s Proficiency Statements Overview Committee for the Fine Arts. The Committee advises the Indiana Department of Education on educational proficiency for students in such disciplines as music, theatre, dance, and the visual arts.

Eutsler, program manager of Arts Indiana Magazine in the Classroom, is a member of the Arts Council of Indianapolis Educators Task Force and chairs the Ivy Tech State College Business Administration Advisory Committee. He holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Purdue University.

On the Web ...

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



Local Board Member Training in Arizona Provides New Perspective on the Military

Arizona Board Members from Tucson Area Office 6 and Phoenix Area Office 7 got a close-up view of the military's might during their annual Local Board Continuation Training (LBCT), held in February at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson.

The location of the training gave Board Members a new perspective on the military's strength and reinforced Selective Service's role during a national emergency. They viewed rows of F-16's, B-52's, and other aircraft stored, maintained, reclaimed, and refurbished at AMARC. The desert is an ideal location for AMARC because the low humidity helps preserve the aircraft and the hard, concrete-like soil makes a perfect parking lot to store the planes.

Arizona State Director Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Victor Schwanbeck said all training sessions are designed so that Board Members will be able to stay abreast of the military's changing needs. Addressing the Board Members, Schwanbeck thanked them for their service to Selective Service and to the nation.

Board Member Alvarado Knows How to Spell (Disaster) Relief

Rudy Alvarado, a District Appeal Board Member from Little Rock, Ark., demonstrated service to the community in another way in January: He met with victims of the January 21 tornado in Pulaski County, Ark., as an employee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Alvarado was a member of one of eight FEMA disaster relief teams that provided timely information about federal disaster assistance programs to residents of the storm-ravaged area.

A member of the Eastern District Appeal Board 506 in Little Rock since 1992, Alvarado served nearly eight years before that as a Board Member of Area Office 5, Local Board 15. He attends all Selective Service training exercises in Arkansas and received Director Coronado's formal appreciation for participating in the MOBEX-93 Exercise. MOBEX-93 resulted in a 14 percent increase in participation by Appeal Board Members compared with MOBEX-91. A native of McAllen, Texas, Alvarado is a World War II and Korean War veteran. In addition to his 15-year employment with FEMA, he has worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Las Vegas Student Hits the Jackpot with Selective Service Registration

December 2, 1998, was a banner day for a Las Vegas high school student. That day, Mike Munding achieved two major milestones: He became the first man from Cimarron High School to register with Selective Service via the Internet and he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The ceremony was one of many held at various locations around the nation to inaugurate Selective Service registration via the Internet (for details on this event, see the special Winter 1998-99 edition of *The Register*). A Reserve Force Officer, Lt. Col. Ben Wright, who helped coordinate the event, cited Cimarron High School Registrar Curtis Hall for his key role in boosting Selective Service registration at the school. Wright also talked with military recruiters to enlist their support.



From left, student Mike Munding with Lt. Col. Ben Wright, Sgt. James Rogers, Naomi Dannan of Cimarron High School, Staff Sgt. Michael Meyers, and Terri Corrado, Vice Principal of Cimarron High School.

Michigan Board Member Aids On-line Registration

Historians are enamored with the idea that every era has to have a catchy name, be it the "Ice Age," the "Age of Reason," or the current moniker, the "Information Age." Today, it seems everyone is "surfing" the "Net," making endless calls on cell phones, and sending e-mail by the bushel. But not everyone is participating equally in this glorious new age. Indeed, not everyone has access to the Internet, or even has a computer to use on a regular basis.

That fact was not lost on Mark R. Lindke, Director of Veterans Services for the Washtenaw County, Mich., who found an innovative method to help young men register with Selective Service via the Internet. Lindke, the Vice-Chairman for Selective Service Local Board Number 340 in Ann Arbor, developed the idea with Local Board Chairman Michael DuRussel, who serves as a Washtenaw County Commissioner. Under the plan, a man can visit the Washtenaw County Employment, Training and Community Services Service Center to register using computers supplied by the Veteran Services department. Lindke was honored by Selective Service National Headquarters in 1998 with the Informed Patriot Award.



Mark Lindke (r.) receives an Informed Patriot Award from Director Coronado during a visit to Selective Service National Headquarters.

In the special Winter 1998-99 edition of *The Register* we acknowledged the efforts of Board Member Harry Shovlin, a teacher at George Mason Middle School in Falls Church, Va. Shovlin helped organize events at the school to coincide with the Agency's national press launch of on-line registration. However, the photo we included with the profile of Shovlin was of Michigan Board Member Mark Lindke (see story above), not Shovlin. The correct photo is at right. We regret the error.



Harry Shovlin

Region II Interpreter Receives "Muchas Gracias" for Her Efforts

Mechi Trammell, the informal Spanish interpreter for Region II Headquarters, has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Region for her multi-lingual abilities. Trammell was born in Puerto Rico and speaks Spanish fluently so she translates correspondence sent to the Region from Puerto Rican men. Region II Headquarters oversees registration activities in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the southern United States.

Trammell is a full-time employee of the Defense Logistics Agency, which has offices in the same building as Region II Headquarters. She assists the Selective Service System on a volunteer basis. Keith Scragg, Region II Director, presented the award to Trammell in February.



Mechi Trammell (r.) confers with Bettie Ann Longstreet of Region II Headquarters about correspondence received from men in Puerto Rico.

Region II Flies High with Registration Improvement Blitz in Florida

Region II wasted no time in getting its 1999 Registration Improvement Program blitz activities off the ground by holding its first blitz of the year at 33 Miami area high schools in February. During the three-day blitz, phase one of a two-phase blitz effort in Florida, Region II Headquarters secured 2,054 new registrations.

Region II Headquarters personnel visited 11 adult education centers and 8 private schools, resulting in the recruitment of 8 new registrars. In Dade County, the recruitment of High School Registrars has been so successful that Dade County now has a Registrar in every public high school.

During the blitz, Selective Service personnel visited all 52 high schools, presenting each High School Registrar with a Certificate of Appointment. They also met with computer and social studies instructors at many area high schools to solicit their assistance in publicizing and demonstrating on-line registration. Some high school officials went even further by adding links from their school's Internet home page to the Selective Service System's Web site. As a result of Region II's outreach, one large high school will dedicate a computer solely to Selective Service registration while other schools pledged to make monthly announcements over the public address system reminding men to register.

"This blitz would not have been possible without the dedication of the many individuals involved to get the job done no matter how many hours it took," said Col. Keith Scragg, Region II Director.



Braddock High School student Antonio Gutierrez (seated) registers with Selective Service during the Florida blitz as State Director Doug Maddox (l.), teacher John Bernabei (c.) and High School Registrar Charles Leo (r.) look on.



Col. McDonald (l.) with Director Coronado.

Former Region III Director Receives Fond Farewell

Col. Wayne McDonald, immediate past Director of Region III, received a fond farewell from Director Coronado, members of National Headquarters Senior Staff, Region III Headquarters Staff, State Directors, and Detachment Commanders at a reception in Denver in January.

The Director presented McDonald with the Selective Service System Exceptional Service Award and the U.S. Air Force Legion of Merit. McDonald is returning to the private sector and will reside in Denver. Col. Sam Thiessen has assumed McDonald's post as Region III Director.



The SSS will observe its 59th birthday on Sept. 16, 1999.



Maj. Edward A. Strosky is congratulated by New York State Sen. Pat McGee after receiving his award.

Edward Strosky Receives New York State Conspicuous Service Cross

Maj. Edward A. Strosky, Executive Officer of New York Detachment 1-9, has received the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. New York State Sen. Pat McGee and Mary Ann Domenico from the Department of Veterans Affairs presented the award to Strosky in November at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Silver Creek, N.Y.

New York Detachment Commander at Home in Rarified Surroundings

In politics, it helps to have connections. Just ask Jack Young, the Commander of New York Detachment 1-8. He was the Navy SEAL platoon leader of Jesse "The Body" Ventura, the new governor of Minnesota. For Young, now executive director of the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, N.Y., his connection to Governor Ventura paid dividends when he received invitations to the governor's inauguration and to a private party at the governor's mansion. In fact, the invitation-only party included so many former Navy SEALs, Young said they easily out-numbered Governor Ventura's bodyguards.



Governor Ventura (c.) with Jack and Ellen Marie Young.

Region Headquarters Offices Participate in Blitz Analysis

All three Region Headquarters offices recently took part in an analysis of registration improvement blitz activities, a task organized by the Widemeyer Baker Group (TWBG), an Agency contractor. A team from TWBG met with several State Directors, Reserve Force Officers, and Region Headquarters staff members in Chicago, Atlanta, and Denver. The meetings in January were designed to determine the needs of the field, analyze previous blitz activities, and develop a strategic plan for future action.



Maj. Dianna Cleven from Region I Headquarters discusses blitz activities with Capt. Bob Beatty from Ohio Detachment 1-11 in Cincinnati. Cleven and Beatty took part in a meeting in Chicago organized by the Widemeyer Baker Group as part of its analysis of the Region's blitzes.

Internet Links Demonstrate Popularity of Selective Service System's Web Site

Anyone who "surfs" the World Wide Web of the Internet is aware of the seemingly infinite number of links between Web addresses. For instance, if you log on to the Selective Service System's Web site (www.sss.gov) you will see links for other government Web sites, including the military services. Of course, anyone who logs on to the Internet also can reach the Selective Service System's Web site via links from other Web sites. Interestingly, the most frequently visited Web "page" on www.sss.gov is the one people see when they link to our Web site from the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Web site. In fact, during the week of February 14-20, 1999, more than 5,000 "hits" of this page were recorded, about 1,000 hits more than the second most popular page: on-line registration.



Maj. Pelayo R. Lorie, Puerto Rico Detachment Commander, helps his son, Ricardo J. Lorie, register on-line with Selective Service. The on-line registration page is the second most popular page on the Selective Service System's Web site.



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