



# The REGISTER

## Selective Service System

THE REGISTER

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### Thinking Beyond Conventional Means

When country singer Michael Peterson visited National Headquarters, October 5, 2005, he came with a mission. He wanted to learn more about Selective Service and see how he could help get the word out to young men about their civic duty to register along with the advantages and benefits linked to compliance.

At the round-table discussion, Peterson expressed his thoughts how through his life's journeys and tours he first encountered the "us vs. them" attitude of many Americans toward their government. His goal, he said, is to help create a sense of togetherness, to get government bodies to pull together and act as our Founding Fathers intended, "We the people of the United States..."

He shared his interpretation of various marketing books on transforming the way we do business, changing the way people think, and understanding how people get the message today. Peterson stated conventional means are no longer as effective as they once were.

Peterson proceeded to explain how he envisions government bodies can work together. He gave examples of creative mergers where government officials initially stated that it couldn't be done. He added that he would like to work with this Agency in reaching out to the men in our country, expanding the programs currently in place to register men.

Director William Chatfield stated that people like Michael Peterson help create the synergy that he likes to see working in our government. He shared with Peterson some of the ways Selective Service is working to reach young men, to remind them of their civic responsibility. By registering they are not only complying with federal law, but also they remain eligible for benefits and programs offered by the federal and some state and local governments. Furthermore, maximum compliance would ensure that any future draft would be fair and equitable. "We want to keep the playing field level for all young men," the Director said. The mission of Selective Service is to help "provide for the common defence," as



*COMMON GOALS — Michael Peterson, country singer and inspirational speaker, met with Selective Service officials to discuss possible coordination in spreading the message of Selective Service's mission.*

quoted in the U.S. Constitution, in the event of a national emergency and to be ready to administer an alternative service program, in lieu of military service, for men classified as conscientious objectors.

As part of his philanthropic efforts, Peterson is currently coordinating with various government agencies in spreading their message. Selective Service is open to any private organizations and individuals who are interested in helping reach young men. SSS

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## New Year Message from the Director

It's been just a little over a year since my appointment as Director. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for your hard work and dedication in 2005. It has been a rare privilege to lead our unique team into the future, despite the challenges of tighter budgets, expanding workload, and technological evolution. I've had the pleasure of getting involved with many fascinating people, both within the Agency and without, while pursuing the Agency's mission and increasing public awareness of Selective Service programs.

At the moment, beyond the ongoing conflict in Iraq, our country has taken a hard hit recently from last year's hurricanes followed by week-long rains this year. You became an "everyday hero" when you contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), helping those in need. According to our CFC Vice-Chair and campaign manager, Carlo Verdino, this campaign continues to be the largest and most successful employee workplace "giving" campaign in the world and is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. I thank you for taking the time and thought to look through the *2005 Catalog of Caring* and giving what you could.

I and Deputy Director Eric Benson and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia enjoyed seeing many employees at our Christmas lunch on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Our activities committee did a super job and it showed! The event was a great gathering, sharing the good spirit of the season. Your activities committee is busy again, planning various fund-raising events to help offset some of the cost of the annual Christmas luncheon and picnic in the spring / summer. When you participate and support these events you not only give something back to yourself, but you also give something to your co-workers. This is another reason why I am honored to be your Director.

I wish you all much success in 2006!

*William A. Chatfield*  
WILLIAM A. CHATFIELD



## Selective Service Goes Abroad

For eight days at the end of August, Dick Flahavan, associate director for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Cassandra Costley, head of the Alternative Service Division, were deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were satisfying a European Command / Joint Staff request from the host nation to be briefed on the U.S. "draft" model for providing manpower for the U.S. Armed Forces during an emergency. Emphasis was upon the structure and laws governing conscription, database procedures, registration requirements, and the concomitant compliance program to identify and solicit the registration of men ages 18 through 25 for the U.S. Armed Forces.

The seminar was composed of 32 officers and senior enlisted personnel representing the Ministry of Defense. The Selective Service team had to be flexible in two areas: pre-submitting its PowerPoint briefings to be translated into Serbo-Croatian and its briefings were simultaneously interpreted. "It took a bit of adjustment to get used to putting on a headset whenever we were asked a question," noted Costley.

The seminar attendees were interested in what the U.S. was doing since it went to an all-volunteer force back in the 1970s. "Bosnia-Herzegovina presently has a military draft but wants to go to an all-volunteer approach," observed Flahavan. "The nation has several challenges with this preference, not the



*SELECTIVE SERVICE ABROAD* — Associate Director of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Dick Flahavan and Alternative Service Division Head Cassandra Costley stand in front, at the left and right, respectively, in this photo taken during their trip to Bosnia.

least of which are very limited resources to devote to its armed forces."

All in all, the foreign seminar was highly successful. The subject matter was well received, as demonstrated by the number of questions, comments, and the interest expressed in many of the handouts by the participants. The local people were friendly, helpful, and first-class hosts. And, yes, Costley did accomplish some evening shopping! SSS

# NHQ Visits Region I and DMC

## Visiting Region I and Data Management Center in Chicago

Dan Amon and Jennifer Burke, the two newest public affairs specialists in the Public and Intergovernmental Affairs office at National Headquarters, had the opportunity to visit Region I and the Data Management Center in Chicago. The public affairs specialists were received by gracious hosts, who provided an overview briefing and a tour of their respective areas. Although it was a quick, up-and-back trip, it was an opportune time to learn more about Region I and the Data Management Center. In addition, they were able to meet the people behind the scenes who make things happen and with whom they will coordinate.

## Data Management Center

Established in 1981, the Data Management Center (DMC) is the heart of the Selective Service System. It is Selective Service's registration data processing center and call center for the entire nation. Located north of Chicago, its strategic location is conducive to provide adequate space for the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command in the event the draft is reinstated, as well as the existing central location for Selective Service and the Joint Computer Command Center.

The DMC is primarily responsible for processing all Selective Service registrations and maintaining the computer operations to support the Agency and its mission. This includes sending mail-back reminders, registration acknowledgment cards, compliance postcards and letters, and status information letters; updating change of addresses and other record fields in multiple databases; and researching and performing error corrections, to name a few of the major day-to-day tasks supporting peacetime registration and mobilization readiness.

Bill Delaney, then director of the Center, noted that the DMC's success is attributable to its hard-working, dedicated people. "From the general public's point of view, the DMC is the Selective Service System. And, every person at the DMC recognizes the importance of accurate and timely processing of registration information and the need to provide quality service," said Delaney.



*PROCESSING INCOMING MAIL—Registration forms and corrections sent by mail are sorted daily for processing.*



*DATA MANAGEMENT CENTER — One of the many functions at the DMC is processing and sending Registration Acknowledgment Cards, listing the man's Selective Service registration number and date of registration.*

A long-time Selective Service employee, Mr. Delaney served as the DMC director from 2000 until his recent retirement in October 2005. He joined the Selective Service staff in 1982 as a computer programmer. As DMC director, he was responsible for the overall administration of the data center and coordination of operations with other segments of the Selective Service System and with other agencies.

Delaney's deputy director and right-hand staff member, Sue Cappo, helped him with the day-to-day operations. She also manages the Administrative Branch, which is responsible for the facility security, telecommunications support, local area network administration, and maintenance of the high school registrar program, among a myriad of support functions.

The largest branch at the DMC is the Registration Information and Research Branch. Pat Miller manages this crucial hub, which is responsible for operating the Agency's call center, responding to registrant correspondence, editing and correcting data on registrant forms, resolving errors on registration transactions, analyzing and processing requests for status information letters (for individuals who are too old to register and are applying for benefits linked to the registration requirement). One of their biggest jobs is providing responses to telephone inquiries and incoming correspondence for registrants. According to Daisy Santiago, a DMC supervisor, "We stay very busy. It's not uncommon for an agent to receive a new call immediately after hanging up."

The Mail and Logistics Branch, headed by Beverly Ladd, is responsible for the receipt, control, preparation, microfilming, storage, and destruction of registration source documents. This group prepares the microfilm records

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# News from the Front

## From the Diary Pages of a Selective Service Reserve Force Officer Deployed to Afghanistan

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The photos and story on this page were passed along by Capt. Matt Pintur, a Selective Service Reserve Force Officer (RFO) who was with the Elgin, IL, Springfield Detachment 1-2. During his deployment to Afghanistan, he sent many photos and wrote often of his experiences. This is the last "documentary" in a series covering his tour in Afghanistan. Capt. Pintur has since returned from Afghanistan and is currently serving active duty with Central Command (CENTCOM) in Florida.

### Farmers Training in Kapisa Providence, Afghanistan:

JUNE 29, 2005 – Here are a few photos from the farmers training yesterday. Two were taken in a room where a group of farmers were watching one of the movies about integrated pest management and hearing a follow-on discussion. The other photo shows what my security guys were doing outside while I was roasting inside. (Gee, it is so nice to know they are comfortable in the shade; heads have rolled.) I can't leave the room or my guests lose interest; so I sit and watch the movies with them.



*TRAINING IN SESSION — Farmers from Kapisa Providence, Afghanistan, watch a training video on integrated pest management. Capt. Matt Pintur (right, on his side), a former SSS Region I Reserve Force Officer, led these training sessions during his tour in Afghanistan.*

One interesting experiment is just watching and hearing about their reactions to the different topics presented in the movies. The lectures are all in Dari, produced in cooperation with Kabul University School of Agriculture. And, naturally I can't understand most all of it; but, after seeing them a few times and sitting through an English explanation, one is able to pick up the concepts.

By watching these farmers, you notice that a certain percentage will not listen, get bored, and walk out. Some that walk out come back later. Once one goes, three or four will then have the nerve to follow. Those that stay say that the ones who leave have small minds. Well, thinking about that, these farmers

know what they know, which basically is "how to" info passed down through the generations. As an example, the grape vines they manage are, in many cases, over 75 to 100 years old. They trim them back at the end of each season.

Moreover, with war still fresh on everyone's mind, the bigger challenge is to get them to think about their future where as they currently think day to day. They want immediate results in the form of pesticides to be given to them by the U.S. or their government.

In the past, the agriculture and veterinarian services were provided for free, results of years of communism. The new clinics will start to charge for their services.

We talk with them about the dangers of just using chemicals, a final solution they wish to try first. They are told in the pest management movie that these products can cause cancer and poison the water supplies they drink, threatening everyone for years to come.

There is a large cicada problem getting worse and the solution is still far away. The cicadas eat the roots of the grape bushes. The movie suggests that beetles can be used as a natural predator and that the cicada actually like mulberries more than grapes. But for them, thinking about this safer, long-term solution is a huge challenge. We try to explain these dangers from our point of view as we faced the same issues in our own countries; chemicals in our food, poisoned water run off.

Today, I switched the start time for the training in a different village. We started in the afternoon so the farmers had time to work in the morning.

On Saturday, I'm trying a different approach by showing these movies to the senior-level students at a school we just finished building in nearby Qarah Bagh. The headmaster suggested just having the students sit in the hallway, as there will be too many to fit in one room.

The student concept, I hope, will have better results as these kids are used to being lectured to and will have open minds to some progressive ideas about farming. Plus, they are the ones working in the fields anyway. The older farmers / parents I

spoke with today said they would listen to their kids if they came home with new ideas.



*PEST MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION* — Sitting among local farmers, Capt. Pintur (right) listens to the interpreter's translation during a follow-on discussion on pest control and management.

I was in a heated discussion yesterday with an older grape farmer over growing grapes by bush or growing on trellises (discussed in the "Planting Techniques" movie). They felt the winds here are too strong and they will blow the trellises down. Besides the side note about opening a windmill farm, trees were suggested to help block harmful winds from damaging their fields. The farmer didn't answer after that point.

I showed some pictures of a trellising system taken in Italy and explained that this system is very popular and proven to be very productive in many parts of the world. My [interpreter] said that some of them actually looked like they were thinking about how to employ some of these ideas.


Working with the 'old dogs' will take some time. I'm hoping for some help from Roots of Peace and another International Farming Non Governmental Organization (NGO) to follow up with some tangible assistance in the way of fertilizer and seed. These are things somewhat more doable; naturally the farmers want new tractors and other equipment.

Also, fertilizer problems were discussed; it was not living up to what the rep says it is; the farmers blame inferior Pakistani products. We can't answer those issues because it could be caused by a supplier diluting what he buys or the result of another country trying to maintain the imbalance.

The later thought concept is not discussed. Though, there is much history regarding neighboring countries attempts and ruining industries here in Afghanistan in favor of protecting their own market shares; i.e., the Chinese dumping on the silk markets to shut down the competition from Afghanistan; it worked.

Well, it's a good thing I don't know anything about farming beyond learning about regurgitated hay on a weekend overnighter to a farm during my 30-day Boy Scout career, a great many years ago. In the long run it helps to just know what requests can be done and what are too far out in the stratosphere...separating the wheat from the chaff (sorry, couldn't help the farming reference as the local nationals are harvesting wheat right now)...Then, taking some notes about issues that seem solvable or ones that the GOA Ag Ministers need to know about; i.e., the cicada issues and the need for reputable fertilizer dealers.

After this, I can get guidance from Kabul University School of Ag Dean and Faculty along with other NGOs and follow-up with the farmers on some concepts for them to work.

By bringing ideas like these to them and following up on the reasonable problems, we make the connections that their efforts will result in an increase in their own productivity and later their profit, hope. With constant reference to the Minister of Ag for the GOA along with KU School of Ag, we build faith in their elected government, productive secure future. 



*SECURITY SUPPORT* — Thanks to Capt. Pintur's efforts, while he hosted a training session inside a hot building for local farmers in Afghanistan, his security force waits outside in the cool shade of the surrounding trees, talking with the local nationals.

Matt Pintur  
CPT TC  
TF Eagle  
Bagram Airfield  
Afghanistan

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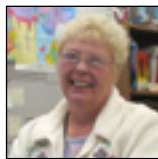
for shipment to various federal records centers across the country. In addition, the branch prints, assembles, and mails computer-generated postcards and letters to registrants and potential registrants.

A third branch, the Computer Support Branch, is led by Richard Templer. This branch is responsible for maintaining the production application environments; controlling production processing; providing statistical reports to SSS management; providing analysis and programming in support of Registration, Compliance, and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. Computer support also responds to special requests for data processing support, provides technical support to other SSS offices, and maintains a disaster recovery capability by having a continuity of operations site for computer processing. The Data Entry Section, supervised by Mary Overbey, also is under the purview of the Computer Support Branch, and currently inputs over a million manual transactions (establishing and maintaining records of multiple databases) each year with a staff of only four employees.

Some general "annual" processing statistics include over six million postcards and letters produced and mailed, 2.4 million registrations added to the database, 1.5 million telephone inquiries answered, 800,000 registrant records updated, plus over 15 million records processed through computer matching agreements with state Department of Motor Vehicle offices, Department of Education, and other sources. Since 1980, over 53 million registrants have been added to the database.

### Region I

The next stop was Region I, down the hall from the Data Management Center. Upon entering the door, there was a sign welcoming Dan Amon and Jennifer Burke and a metallic butterfly balloon flying from the desk of Linda Carl-Winer, the Region secretary. As the first person who greets visitors, she escorted the National Headquarters employees into the office of Region Director Tom White. The windows of his office were cracked open. A gentle breeze from the Great Lakes created an inviting atmosphere.



Under Tom White's leadership, the Region is comprised of 18 states, to include the nation's capital and New York City, extending from the Midwest through the northeast. The states include Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

With a staff of less than 10 employees, the Region is responsible for the board member programs and the staffing and training for 724 local boards and 30 district appeal boards. The Region staff is also responsible for providing

support, guidance, and training for their state directors and Reserve Force Officers, as well as their driver's license legislation initiatives, the registration compliance program, the high school registrar and public awareness programs.



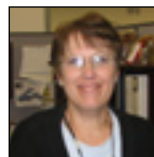
Working closely with lawmakers and politicians in Region I, the Region Headquarters office and its staff are the link between Selective Service and the general public of its Region. Referring to the few remaining states that do not have driver's license legislation and ensuring that all boards are fully staffed and trained despite a significant reduction in Reserve Force Officers, White stated, "These are tough challenges to overcome; but, we have a top-notch staff who are up to these challenges and an outstanding group of state directors and Reserve Force Officers who are working overtime to get the job done."



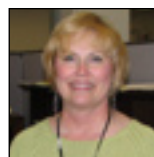
He introduced the visitors to his right-hand man and operations manager, Ron Meilstrup. Meilstrup is a seasoned veteran of 24 years with the Agency who is responsible for the Operations Programs Section of the Headquarters and works closely with White in managing field operations across the Region.



Meilstrup has three members in his Operations Programs Section with a fourth position currently unfilled. Mary Neely is one of Meilstrup's Readiness Program managers and is his most senior team member with 24 years experience with the Agency, including a stint with the Data Management Center. Neely is responsible for board programs in half the states in the Region. She also has responsibilities in a number of other areas, including the Registration Improvement and Legislative Affairs programs.

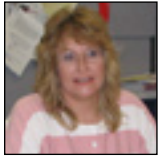


Lee Holton is the Readiness Program manager responsible for the other half of the states. Holton has over 25 years Federal Civil Service, including the last seven years with Selective Service. She also is the Region's computer specialist.



Connie Nance is the third Operations Programs team member and is the Registration Improvement Program / Military Personnel / Reserve Force Officer coordinator. Although Nance has only been with the Agency two years, she has 12 years Federal Civil Service. She works closely with the Region's 32 detachments providing them logistics support. She has other responsibilities, including board program support and awards programs.

## NHQ Visits Region I and DMC - continued from previous page



Mary Hamrick is the Region's administrative officer and has three other members of the staff to assist her in these responsibilities. Hamrick has been with the Agency for 11 years and has a total of 28 years Federal Civil Service. As administrative officer, she is responsible for the Region's budget, as well as providing administrative and logistics support to the Headquarters, its 18 state directors, 32 detachments, and 122 Reserve Force Officers.



Rob Grinton is the Headquarters' management services assistant and works closely with Hamrick in providing the administrative and logistics support to the Headquarters, state directors, and Reserve Force Officers. Grinton has been with the Agency 10 years serving much of that time with the Data Management Center.

Margaret "Midge" Stilke also works on the administrative support team as program assistant and has been with



the Agency for five years. Stilke's responsibilities include answering telephone inquiries, working with the daily processing of the Region Headquarters' mail, and supporting the Board Program.



Program assistant Yulana Floyd rounds out the administrative team. Floyd has been with the Region since July of 2000, and, like Stilke, her duties include handling the daily telephone traffic as well as the Region Headquarters' mail. She also works daily in support of the board program.

At the conclusion of the Chicago trip, Amon and Burke discussed admirably the amazing achievements accomplished by dedicated, hard-working Selective Service employees who took the time out of their busy days to talk with them and share their experiences. It is because of the people like these that Selective Service is a terrific place to work. SSS

## Mobilization on the Road

On September 29, 2005, Jennie Nash, head of Mobilization's Reclassify Division, and her staff member, Sharon Toon, traveled to Region III Headquarters and briefed the entire staff on the Continuity of Operations Program. According to Carol Mills, of Region III Headquarters, "They delivered an

informative and thought-provoking emergency preparedness presentation." The two from Mobilization had visited the other two region headquarters earlier in the week. National Headquarters will be briefed on the program in the near future. SSS



*MOBILIZATION TEAM GOES ON THE ROAD — Region III Director Debby Bielanski is flanked by Jennie Nash (right), head of Mobilization's Reclassify Division, and Sharon Toon, a staff member from the Reclassify Division, who briefed the three Selective Service region headquarters on the Continuity of Operations Program.*

## Public And Intergovernmental Affairs Moves at NHQ

### No Matter How Short the Distance Any Move is Still a Big Move

Boxes were piled up along the walls, boxes were stacked up in rooms, and boxes were crammed into every corner. They came with the Public and Intergovernmental Affairs move from the fourth floor of National Headquarters, to the fifth floor because the Agency is downsizing its office space allocation. Although the move was just one floor up, it proved to be a big task. Shelves had to be purchased and mounted; supplies had to be reorganized to maximize storage; historical records and files, books, and video tapes had to be put aside until the furniture could be moved into place. Surrounded by boxes, public affairs business continued, calls were answered, and actions completed. It is never an easy process, but any move can be a productive opportunity to clean house, reposition work areas for functionality, and most importantly, promote team spirit. SSS



*BOXES GALORE* — Boxes were stacked along the walls, stuffed anywhere there was space, and temporarily shoved aside until shelves and furniture could be set up or repositioned into place. These boxes shown here were moved from the old Public and Intergovernmental Affairs offices on the fourth floor.



## Ergonomics - A Win-Win Situation for All

Common sense will tell us it may not be the computer workstation components that are causing the pain in our back or neck and shoulders, but rather how we sit and use these components that are crucial factors for creating a low-risk work environment. It is how we sit in our chairs; where and how we position our keyboard, monitor, and mouse; and where we view our documents that need to be considered when setting up an ideal ergonomic workstation.

Selective Service employees attended a workshop, sponsored by the Computer / Electronic Accommodations Program, to learn how to make good ergonomics decisions. Tony Biafore, president of a resource company that specializes in improving ergonomics in the computerized environment, gave a dynamic presentation where he discussed each of the major components of a computer workstation and explained the correct positioning and use of each component.

Ergonomics, also called human engineering, is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely.” Biafore progressed through five steps demonstrating how to improve the ergonomics of your workstation: 1) achieve and maintain correct posture alignment sitting in your chair; 2) position the keyboard correctly and use a wrist pad effectively to keep the wrists neutral and to minimize twisting and bending; 3) position the mouse within an elbow’s swivel reach without having to reach out; 4) adjust the monitor to the right height and distance to the computer user seated correctly and reduce the glare; and 5) position the working document in front between the keyboard and monitor or at the same height and distance as the monitor.

The bottom line with ergonomics, concluded Biafore, is using the right components and using them correctly to maintain and sustain improved posture as an integrated whole, helps to achieve low-risk working environment, which in turn reduces injuries. Understanding and applying ergonomics in the work environment creates a win-win situation for both employers and employees. SSS



*BEFORE AND AFTER ERGONOMICS — Tony Biafore demonstrates the before and after effects of ergonomics. When properly used in a typical computer workstation, ergonomics improves spinal posture and neutralizes the wrists as clearly seen in the bottom photo.*

### The Computer / Electronic Accommodations Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) established the Computer / Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) in 1990 to eliminate employment barriers for its employees with disabilities. In 2001, CAP was expanded by Congress to serve as the government’s centrally funded program to provide free assistive technology and services to federal agencies that have a partnership agreement with CAP. Since its inception, CAP had filled over 45,000 requests for accommodations for individuals with visual, hearing, dexterity, communications, and cognitive disabilities with DoD and the Federal Government. For more information, contact the CAP Office at (703) 681-8813 (V), (703) 681-0991 (TTY). Additional information is also available on the CAP web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/cap>. SSS

# Selective Service New High School Kit



In November, Selective Service sent almost 32,000 publicity kits to high school registrars and to principals where there were no school registrars. These kits contained posters, flyers, public address announcement scripts, clip art for school's newsletter, and supporting material featuring an important message for young men turning 18 years old to register.

## Reserve Force Officers Drilling with Selective Service

Selective Service Reserve Force Officers from New Jersey Detachment 1 studied readiness training guidance outlines during drills in September 2005. New Jersey Detachment 1, commanded by Col. Wyniaco Thomas, Army National Guard, drills at Fort Dix, New Jersey. In addition to studying training guidance outlines and performing readiness exercises, officers assigned to Selective Service recruit and train volunteer board members, conduct registration improvement activities, and maintain Selective Service readiness in their respective areas. [SSS](#)



RESERVE FORCE OFFICERS — U.S. Air Force Reserve officers, Maj. (S) Heather Roberts (left), and Maj. Kimberly Jamison, review training guidance outlines.

## Reserve Officer Responds to Katrina Relief Efforts

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Reserve Force Officer (RFO) Phil Bernier, a member from Selective Service's Connecticut Detachment 1, joined the American Red Cross for two weeks in September in support of Katrina disaster relief efforts. The following is his story.

We worked hard; but, if we were doing it for pay, it probably wouldn't be worth it. It was nice and hot, quite humid, and there were millions of these little bugs called love bugs that screwed all day and stuck to your sweaty bodies. Good thing they don't bite, but what a mess they make on the cars. We met thousands of unfortunate people. I got to see a lot of the damage first hand where I was staying in Tylertown, MS, and then on a tour of New Orleans and several Gulf towns.

Our Red Cross center, with approximately 45 volunteers, provided some cash for families and comfort and food supplies. We were not a shelter. Within three days of my arrival, I was appointed as the bulk distribution supervisor responsible for ordering food, water, cleaning materials, and personal hygiene and comfort items, and running a distribution point, servicing about 700 families per day. I got to coordinate with FEMA, Red Cross, and several other relief organizations. We worked about 12- to 14-hour days.

One thing I'm evaluating: was my trip just a short-lived adventure or was I truly experiencing an overwhelming need to help our country and the unfortunate people affected by Katrina.

I hope to return and do more through my trip to Mississippi and Louisiana. I know beyond a doubt that this natural disaster will plague our people and our country beyond our lifetime. What impressed me the most about my journey is the compassion I saw in all the volunteers I met and the spirit of so many survivors involved in the cleanup, relief, and rebuilding effort. Everyone wants to rebuild!

I still have mixed feelings on the rebuilding of some areas. I think we should learn lessons from history not to make the same mistakes over again. We definitely need to do things better and all, but I wouldn't want to rip the hearts and souls of these folks by standing in their way and saying, "No, you can't go back."



*KATRINA DISASTER AREA — RFO Phil Bernier stands among one of many devastating sites seen off the Gulf.*

I got my pictures developed today [October 4, 2005]. I have so many fond memories of so many people and things. And, now I can share them with my friends here. Some friends of mine sponsored an oldies dance to raise money for Katrina victims. I wish all my friends could have been there and a part of you were. I met with the DJ to run some of the pictures while the music played and had a chance to talk about my experience and to help raise more money. sss

## Initial Board Member Training Held in North Chicago

Newly appointed board members from Illinois attended Initial Board Member Training in North Chicago on September 17, 2005.

Board members are given eight hours of initial training, which includes lecture, videos, and role playing. Thereafter, they participate in annual training in which they review sample cases similar to real-life situations.

These board members are citizen volunteers who play a vital role in our national defense. In the event of a draft, they decide who among the registrants in their community will receive deferments, postponements, or exemption from military service based on the registrant's circumstances and beliefs. Today, over 11,000 volunteers nationwide are trained in Selective Service regulations and procedures so that if ever a draft is reinstated, they will be able to fulfill their obligations fairly and equitably. sss



*BOARD MEMBER TRAINING — Ms. Barbara Slanec and Dr. Miguel Velazquez go over local board member training materials.*


## NAACP Annual Convention

Selective Service was one of many exhibitors at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 96th Annual Convention in Milwaukee, WI, July 9-15, 2005. The annual convention hosted more than 8,000 members, delegates, and visitors at the Midwest Airlines Center.

Dennis Courtland Hayes, NAACP Interim President & CEO, said the theme for this year's convention, "Conscience of a Nation," was especially apt in describing their traditional and continuing role as an advocacy organization. "The NAACP will continue to right the course of our nation toward fairness and equality for all people," he concluded.

As part of its public awareness campaign to spread the word on the fair and equitable purpose of the registration obligation, Selective Service sets up a booth at major conventions such as NAACP's to reach young men and their influencers. The fairness of a future draft depends upon high compliance with the federal law: men born on or after January 1, 1960, must register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Selective Service Region I Headquarters stated they were very fortunate to have Maj. Demetrius Benion, U.S. Air Force Reserve officer, staff the Selective Service booth during the NAACP convention. He is proactive in talking with young

people and their influencers, explaining the Selective Service registration process and what happens when men do not register before turning 26 years old. Maj. Benion has been assigned to Selective Service for more than 15 years, and is currently assigned to Indiana Detachment 1-3. 



*TALKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE — Maj. Demetrius Benion (right) explains the registration obligations and benefits with young visitors at the Selective Service booth during the 96th Annual NAACP Convention.*



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*The Register* welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Send article submissions to Editor, *The Register*, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209-2425.