



# The REGISTER

## Selective Service System

THE REGISTER

September - October 2010

### Registration Awareness and Outreach Efforts to Boost Compliance

As part of readiness, Selective Service registers young men 18 through 25. But because there has not been a draft since 1973, many people believe, innocently but incorrectly, that they no longer need to register. This misconception is still widespread across the United States. Every year men miss out on opportunities and benefits linked to the registration requirement.

The agency responds with an active registration awareness program to get the message out to men who are required to register. Selective Service has various awareness programs and initiatives in place: volunteer high school registrars networking with registration-age men; additional mailings and reminders sent to men living in states having the lowest compliance rates and highest registrant population potential; liaison with United States Postal Service to supply registration forms; outreach efforts, including participation in national conventions targeting educational and community leaders and service groups; and the mailings of Selective Service high school kits to name the major efforts.

In addition, the Directorate of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (PIA) staff participates in focus groups conducted by the local public relations firm which designs posters and produces radio spots targeting 18- and 19-year-old men. Focus groups are held in cities where registration compliance is below the national average, with the highest registrant potentials. Demographic factors and lack of driver's license laws requiring registration with Selective



*FOCUS GROUP STUDIES — Scott Ward (left) leads the focus group process of 17-, 18-, and 19-year-old men from Albany, NY, who were high school juniors, seniors, recent graduates, and some who dropped out of all of mixed ethnicities.*

Service limit compliance in these areas. Only if there is a high compliance with the federal law will a future draft be considered fair and equitable.

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## Selective Service Draws Global Interests

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Director Romo hosted a visit by representatives of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington to National Headquarters. Counselor for Defense Cooperation (Technology) Alexander Dudde and Assistant Defense and Naval Attache Captain Ralf Schmitt-Raiser were most interested in all aspects of the Selective Service missions and programs: registration, compliance, verification, classification, induction, claims, and appeals. The major differences between our German ally and the U.S. are that Germany does have conscription up and running today, registration of its young men is at birth, and its alternative service program is now operating. The lively discussion continued over lunch – wunderbar!

Primarily driven by budget trimming,



a commission is examining reform options for the Bundeswehr (Armed Forces). Germany has already shortened its mandatory military service (draft) for young men from nine to six months. It also shortened



the duration of the social service men can do as an alternative to military service. By law all German males must serve either in the Bundeswehr or do social work, mostly after high school. Germany is likely to

abolish conscription in 10 years in a bid to save money and have armed forces fully professional (volunteers) to better deal with anticipated threats. At that point our NATO ally will be closer to what we have currently in the U.S. SSS

### José Rivera, Region II Program Assistant

Region II Headquarters would like to introduce its newest program assistant, José Rivera.

Rivera transferred to the Selective Service System from the VA Health Administration Center after five years as a program support assistant with the Meds by Mail – Dublin, GA, Division. Before working with the VA, he worked for five years as a civilian employee with the National Security Agency as an engineering specialist, and seven years with the Department of the Army as a secretary for the Directorate of Public Works, O&M Division, Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico.



We look forward to working with José and know he will be a great asset to Region II. SSS

## Thank You and Farewell to Former Vermont State Director For His Dedicated Service

After 37 years of service, Colonel David C Pinkham, Army Reserve National Guard (Ret), departed Selective Service on October 26, 2009.

Colonel Pinkham joined Selective Service on August 15, 1972, and served during the early years while the agency was mobilized. At that time, Colonel Pinkham led and managed a staff of approximately 15 compensated employees across the state and personally signed the induction orders after a registrant's board actions were complete.

In the late 1970s, he was called to National Headquarters after Selective Service ceased inductions to assist with the backlog of paperwork associated with registrants whose conscientious objector processing had not been completed. Again in 1980, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he was ordered to active duty to reinstate the local boards in Vermont.

Colonel Pinkham served as a Reserve Force Officer and Detachment Commander for the state's National Guard Detachment. His active and spirited leadership enabled the Detachment to accomplish its mission while undergoing severe military staffing cuts, leaving the State of Vermont with only one assigned officer.


As the most senior state director in Region 1, which now includes the old Region 3, he personally recruited the majority of today's members on the state's local boards, and attended every initial board member training session and most of the continuation training sessions.

Colonel Pinkham invested countless hours of his own time in the pursuit of driver's license legislation in Vermont, talking to state legislators and testifying before legislative committees. His close contacts with the Governor's Office allowed the agency to receive board member nomination letters in minimal time.



*SELECTIVE SERVICE HONORS FORMER VERMONT STATE DIRECTOR — Left to right: Vermont Governor James Douglas, Colonel David Pinkham, and Vermont State Director William Cody.*

He was active in his community as a past president of the Montpelier Rotary Club and continues to remain an active member.

Colonel Pinkham was awarded the Selective Service Distinguished Service Award upon his departure. His support of agency programs and initiatives will definitely be missed by all personnel. Thank you, Colonel Pinkham. 



# Joint Service Open House and Air Show

## Selective Service Sports an Exhibit Booth at the Joint Services Open House

The Joint Services Open House Air Show was held at Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, MD, on May 14 – 16, 2010. The Air Show featured the Blue Angels, the Army Golden Knights parachute team, and the F-22 Raptor. Visitors enjoyed prepared exhibits as well as planes that are parked on the flight line.

One such exhibit was the Selective Service booth in Hangar 2. Staffed at various times throughout the weekend by Maryland State Director Gorham Black III, Major Brian Kim, Major John Moran, Captain Jamin Foster, Pat Schuback, and Ms. Mary Neely, the booth enjoyed a steady stream of visitors.

Around mid-day on Saturday, Director Lawrence Romo and Deputy Director Edward Allard came to the air show and spoke to some of the people visiting the booth about Selective Service.

Some of the visitors to the booth included men in their 30s checking their registrations, lots of parents



PROMOTING REGISTRATION AWARENESS — Director Lawrence Romo (left) and Deputy Director Edward Allard meet and greet the public.

with younger children, as well as teenagers, men in the registration-age group, and several foreigners with questions about registration. [SSS](#)



ANDREWS AFB AIR SHOW — Blue Angels aircraft, a Boeing F/A - 18 Hornet, 56 feet in length, 15.3 feet in height, with a wingspan of 40.4 feet (with missiles).



REGISTERING — Edwin Gomez completes a Selective Service registration form at Andrews AFB Air Show, May 2010.



*AIR SHOW — Sky soldiers aerial demonstration.*



*SELECTIVE SERVICE PROMOTES HANDS-ON AWARENESS — Above photo: Selective Service's exhibit booth draws attention of all influencers to spread the word to young men. These young women will be able to tell their brothers, boyfriends, and male acquaintances about the registration requirement.*




*Left photo: Maryland State Director Gorham Black*



## Another Record Broken!

Since partnering with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management two years ago in its annual “Feds Feed Families” program with the Capital Area Food Bank, Selective Service National Headquarters has again surpassed its goal in voluntary donations. Betty Lou Wingo, assistant to Director Lawrence Romo, orchestrated the National Headquarters campaign during June through August 2010. The goal was set at 125 pounds for the 50 employees assigned. But under her very able leadership, National Headquarters achieved a stunning 336 pounds over 2-1/2 times the goal!

All non-perishable food items, hygiene and paper products, and beverages are distributed to food banks and shelters within the metropolitan DC area. While it is satisfying to achieve a goal and have our agency publicly recognized, the real benefit is aiding our neighbors in the local community who are experiencing real needs. Economic downturns affect everyone, regardless of race, gender, social status, age, or background.

We thank all who participated in making this annual record-breaking good work a National Headquarters tradition. 



*FOOD BANK — The warehouse from which not-for-profit food banks and meal programs of various churches and community activities are supplied.*



*FOOD DRIVE — A sampling of non-perishable items collected from Selective Service employees and delivered by Betty Lou Wingo and Dick Flahavan.*



## Director Romo Attends Michigan Board Member Training

Michigan Detachment 1-6 hosted two board member training sessions in Clinton Township, MI, attended by Director Lawrence Romo.

In May, Director Romo participated in an initial board member training session attended by four new board members, and a continuation training session which was attended by seven local board members and one district appeal board member. The sessions were conducted in the community rooms of Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace, which is a well-known shopping establishment in the area.



*MICHIGAN INITIAL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING—Selective Service Director Lawrence Romo (sitting up against wall) listens to Lieutenant Colonel James Ramsey role play with Board Members Darin Stark, Charles Lorenz, and Thomas Petee.*

Lieutenant Colonel James Ramsey, Michigan 1-6 Detachment Commander, and Captain Brian McDonald began the initial board member training session in one room, while Captain Lynn Smith-Tucker conducted the continuation training for the other members, assisted by Lee Holton, Region I state programs manager, and Lieutenant Colonel Andrea Sting, 1-MI Detachment Commander. In the morning, Director Romo moved between the two sessions and participated in a board deliberation on the hardship to dependents role play during continuation training. The board's decisions varied among the groups in continuation training, but were a great learning tool.

After the continuation training session, everyone joined the initial board member training session. Following a short lecture, all board member trainees participated in two role plays. Director Romo sat in as a board member and was an active participant while trainers and other attendees performed the role plays on conscientious objection. The exercises were well received and there was a lively discussion about the decisions of the boards.

Director Romo addressed each of the groups during the sessions, and thanked them for their service to our Nation. He explained about post office visits and how they assisted our agency in getting young men registered. Romo additionally thanked the board members who had completed some of these visits already.



*ROLE PLAY—Lieutenant Colonel Andrea Sting (facing forward) acts as witness while the others and Director Romo ask questions regarding a registrant.*

The initial board member training session concluded with the presentation of training certificates. The recipients were honored, both by receiving a certificate and lapel pin from the Director. SSS




## Focus Group Studies

This year, PIA staff has traveled to San Antonio, Austin, Los Angeles, New York City, and Albany to conduct focus group studies and to visit and establish network relationships with 65 community service organizations working directly with the same men Selective Service is trying to reach: immigrants, disadvantaged and low-income men, and high-school dropouts. These are the men most likely to miss the registration message. They are the same men who years later are stumped by regulations barring them from federal financial aid, jobs and job training, and U.S. citizenship for immigrants.

In each of the metropolitan areas visited, Selective Service's outreach teams met with individuals from as many as service organizations as time permitted. These individuals are considered "influencers," or role models of the male population, who provide service to minority or disadvantaged youths, or who have a proven track record of reaching a large number of young men.

Focus group meetings varied in each city. Each location had two meetings with either a mixed, multicultural group

and a Hispanic or African-American group of 17-, 18-, and 19-year-old men. In addition, some men were non-high school graduates, others recent graduates, and some were even recent high school dropouts. The almost universal participant response California and New York was very limited awareness of the Selective Service registration requirement. In Texas, men were aware of the registration requirement; however, many discounted its importance and most had indicated that they had not registered. It is interesting to note that both Texas and New York had driver's license legislation and yet registration rates remain quite low.

Members of PIA and the public relations firm personally pick the posters and radio spots they think will be most effective, and every year the young men surprise the team. The very success of Selective Service public awareness campaign is derived from the valuable insights learned during these studies and outreach meetings. 



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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.