



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

THE REGISTER

May - June 2008

Third Year of Air Show Program Kicked Off with the Andrews AFB Joint Service Open House

In the third year of its air show program, Selective Service kicked off the season with the Andrews Air Force Base 2008 Joint Service Open House, held May 16 – 18. This event set the perfect backdrop for promoting Selective Service registration message in the nation’s capital, where on-time registration compliance rates for Washington, D.C., and Maryland are failing. Virginia rates, on the other hand, are at the top due to state legislation supporting registration.

Based on statistical compilations of Calendar Year 2007, Washington, D.C., rated the third lowest in the country for on-time registration compliance at 40 percent. At 56 percent, Maryland also fell way below the national average compliance rate of 68 percent. Virginia rated at nearly 100 percent. The ratings for Washington, D.C., and Maryland have dropped significantly since Calendar Year 2006.

The air show venue offers an opportunity for the general public to see, firsthand, what the United States Armed Forces are doing to protect their rights and freedom, a virtue sometimes lost and forgotten. Air shows are among the venues Selective Service is using to spread the agency’s message to young men. In this patriotic setting, Director William Chatfield is able talk with the public and clarify Selective Service’s mission. He responds to questions and concerns regarding registration and a future draft.

“Many of the young men most in need of the benefits tied to Selective Service registration will find doors to a better future closed to them,” Director Chatfield said. “That’s a tragedy, and I’m personally committed to getting the word out.”

It was a beautiful weekend. Navy’s Blue Angels and Army’s Golden Knights were present as in past years. According to an air show participant, the Air Force’s newest and world’s most advanced fighter jet provided more maneuvers than the 2007 show.



AIR SHOW PROGRAM — Director William Chatfield (left) talks with 2006 Blue Angels pilot, Major Stefan Mueller, U.S. Marine Corps (second from right). Deputy Director Ernest Garcia (center) was also in attendance.

This year was the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift (1948 – 2008), with commemorations throughout the weekend. Survivors and German dignitaries were there to express their thanks to the United States for supplying Berlin with food during those tense times.

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Air Show Program Kicked Off (Cont. from cover page)



The highlight of the air show was a demonstration flight by the new F-22 Raptor stealth fighter, which flew in public for the first time.

In between aerial demonstrations, thousands of air show visitors walked among the rows of exhibition booths where they had

the opportunity to stop by Selective Service's booth to learn more about the registration requirement from the Reserve Force Officers. Young men were even able to register at the booth site.

Seven air shows were selected for 2008, specifically in high priority markets with lower registration compliance rates. The air show platform is an attempt to give Selective Service the means to register on-site as many eligible

young men as possible, educate the influencers and mentors, and engage in dialogue with air show audiences about the agency's mission.

Eighteen-year-old men in Washington, D.C., and Maryland have the option to register with Selective Service when applying for driver's licenses. However, Maryland has not yet implemented data transmission. Virginia has a law in place that requires men 18 through 25 years old to be registered with Selective Service before being granted a state driver's license, as well as two other laws supporting Selective Service registration: an educational requirement for men to comply with registration to be eligible for state student financial assistance, and a job ordinance that requires registration or exemption as a precondition for state employment.

"We still have much work to do here in the Washington, D.C., area to get the word out," Mr. Chatfield added, "and to make sure young men don't jeopardize their futures." At Andrews AFB Joint Service Open House, it was indeed a great kick-off for the 2008 registration awareness program. SSS

Everett Bonner Honored with Distinguished Service Award

Louisiana State Director Everett Bonner was presented the Selective Service Distinguished Service Award with Gold Medal by Director William Chatfield for his outstanding service to the agency and the people of Louisiana.

Bonner was noted for having cultivated a strong relationship with the Louisiana Governor, which, in turn, resulted in exceptional staffing and training of Reserve Force Officers and board members in Louisiana. Bonner was also commended for assisting with the passage of driver's license legislation requiring registration with Selective Service versus the original legislation that only provided for an option to register with Selective Service when applying for a state driver's license. The award citation concludes these distinctive accomplishments reflect a strong commitment and true dedication by Bonner to his position as state director for Louisiana. SSS



RECIPIENT OF THE GOLD — From left to right are Region II Director Keith Scragg, Director William Chatfield, and Louisiana State Director Everett Bonner with his wife, Kaye.

Director Visits Hawaii to Boost Public Awareness

Director William Chatfield travelled to Hawaii to visit Selective Service's board members and Reserve Force Officers at the Honolulu detachment. He also gave a speech at the spring conference of the Naval Reserve Association and met with the local media regarding the federal registration requirement.

According to Selective Service's statistics, Hawaii reportedly fell behind most of the country in Calendar Year 2007 with only 60 percent of its young men registering on time with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. The average national compliance rate for 18-year-old men was 68 percent in 2007. Hawaii ranked 36th, while Florida and Delaware led the country with nearly 100-percent in compliance. New York was at the near bottom with 44-percent compliance rate.

Director Chatfield met with Hawaii's local board members, who are unpaid volunteers, and field officers. He wants to renew efforts to talk with counselors and registrars in the islands' 84 high schools to help get the Selective Service message out to the young men. He said one of the reasons for the low compliance rate could be that many of Hawaii's men leave the islands after high school for college or other reasons.

By the time these men turn 26 years old, 90 percent of the eligible Hawaiian men 18 through 25 comply with federal law; the national average for this age group is 91 percent. This is largely attributed to the fact that Hawaii has a law in place that requires Selective Service registration as a condition for receiving a state driver's license. This law became effective in 2002.



SELECTIVE SERVICE DETACHMENT OFFICERS IN HAWAII — Director William Chatfield is flanked by Lieutenant Colonel Ling (right), Honolulu Detachment Commander, and Lieutenant Commander Jodie Yim.

Reserve Force Officer (RFO) Lieutenant Commander Jodie Yim reports from the field detachment that Director Chatfield “graciously sat down with us for a couple of hours to discuss national, regional, and local issues. He listened to our concerns and suggestions.”

As a unit, she states, “our main focus is local duties; so, it is enlightening to understand the big picture and how changing circumstances affect us all. For example, the national budget affects how we conduct local training - in person versus self-study packets by mail.” Other Selective Service topics discussed included the agency's joint structure, the different laws among states, and the current national outlook.

“The time flew by. Meeting with Director Chatfield encouraged this RFO to continue the great job we were doing as a unit,” concluded Lt. Cmd. Yim. SSS

Selective Service Goes on the Road

As more and more of Selective Service registration awareness programs and initiatives get cut due to dwindling funds and shifting priorities, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs sought to make the most of this year's outreach and focus group efforts with Widmeyer Communications, the agency's public affairs consulting firm.


Selective Service aims its outreach efforts in cities where they are needed the most. Demographic factors and absence of laws linking driver's licenses to Selective Service registration limit compliance in several states.

During the first two weeks of June, senior public affairs specialists Pat Schuback and Dan Amon traveled to Los Angeles and Philadelphia to participate in focus group research and visit various organizations that service the men Selective Service is trying to reach with its registration message.

One immediate observation made was even though L.A. is considered to be market-savvy, its area men are still not getting the message, and only a few of the organizations visited truly understand the registration requirement. Misperceptions of the Selective Service System and its mission persist. For instance, Selective Service is commonly thought to be a part of the Department of Defense.

Most organizations exist to help their community youth get access to education, citizenship, jobs, and job training. Yet, there is very limited recognition that Selective Service registration ensures eligibility to those same benefits. Selective Service attempts to form a partnership with such organizations to create a win-win relationship.

During the L.A. trip, Schuback and Amon filled their days meeting stakeholders who influence the male population that Selective Service wants to reach. They spent one evening observing focus groups of young men. The outreach team made a similar visit to Philadelphia and a future trip to New York City is planned.

At the L.A. meetings, Schuback and Amon emphasized to hosts the mutual interest in reaching young men who most need the benefits and privileges connected to registration. Meetings were held, for example, with Los Angeles Urban League, Neighborhood Youth Association, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Youth Network, South Los Angeles WorkSource Center, Bresee Foundation, Asian Youth Center, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Junior Achievement, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, and YMCA. 



OUTREACH AND FOCUS GROUP — Top photo: Pat Schuback (far left) briefs a service organization on Selective Service's registration requirement and what it means to young men. Center photo: Focus group of mixed ethnic group of 18- and 19-year-old men listen to a number of radio spots. Bottom photo: A focus group of 18- and 19-year-old African-American men respond to a series of questions posed by a Widmeyer associate.

Chief of Staff Visits Region I

In April 2008, Selective Service's newly appointed Chief of Staff William Christian traveled to Region I in North Chicago to make the introductory round with the region and field staff. The timing of the trip served a dual purpose. Chief Christian attended Selective Service's training and professional development course for new officers and state directors. He experienced first hand what is involved in this required training for new field officers. SSS

REGION I VISIT — New officers and state director training participants, from left to right: First Lieutenant Richard St. Laurent, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Everett, Captain Matthew Poole, Lieutenant Commander Lori Crumbie, Lieutenant Commander Mark Blumstein, Commander Joel Hulett, Captain Kelvin Dixon, and Chief of Staff William Christian.



A Special Memorial Honoring a Soldier

Lieutenant Colonel Julie Spanton, Commander of Selective Service's Chicago Detachment, shared a personal note. She informed Selective Service staff of a memorial garden outside the Illinois State University ROTC building that was created as a tribute to her husband's life.

Her husband, Colonel Dirk Spanton, U.S. Army, died over a year and half ago (October 14, 2006), less than four months after he received a diagnosis of terminal cancer. He had just returned from a 32-month tour of duty in Iraq.

The memorial garden was not built as a showplace or shrine, Lt. Col. Spanton said. She described the garden more as a place where cadets can sit and talk. It features boxwood, pansies, and yellow rosebushes surrounding a flagstone and brick walkway and bench on the western lawn of the building. The garden is also set with shrubs, flowers, and grasses. Next to the pathway is a large

boulder with a plaque dedicating the space to the well-respected colonel from Bloomington, IL.

Survivors include his wife and the couple's five children, who at the time of his death ranged in age from 9 to 25.

Sons Ken, Randy, Derek, and Craig and daughter Megan joined about 100 others in the Bone Student Center's Prairie Room and listened to Lt. Col. Spanton share stories about her husband's life. Derek joined the National Guard, and Randy is a cadet in the ROTC. SSS



MEMORIAL GARDEN — Outside the Army ROTC building on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal, IL, family members gather at the memorial garden dedication for U.S. Army Colonel Dirk Spanton, husband of Selective Service detachment commander, Lieutenant Colonel Julie Spanton. (Reprinted with permission from Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA).



FAMILY AND FRIENDS REMEMBER THEIR SOLDIER — Julie Spanton (left), Lisa Spanton (center), and Derek Spanton (right) talk while looking at memorial bricks as part of the memorial garden dedication for Col. Dirk Spanton. (Reprinted with permission from Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA).

Region I Conducts Initial Board Member Training

An important component of the Selective Service System is its citizen volunteers who make up Selective Service local, district, and national appeal boards. Local and district appeal board members are appointed by the director of Selective Service after being recommended for their respective positions. National appeal board members are appointed directly by the President of the United States.

All new board members undergo initial board member training, dedicating time to study Selective Service law, regulations, and procedures. They are uncompensated volunteers, committed to serving and attending to board affairs, willing to fairly and uniformly apply the regulations and procedures in the event of a future draft.


The three Selective Service region headquarters conduct initial board member training periodically. Region I held its training May 3, 2008, in Sterling Heights, MI. Five board members were trained during this session. Training included watching a video with remarks from Director William Chatfield, listening to Reserve Force Officers from the field give an overview of Selective Service regulations and procedures, and role-playing scenarios they may encounter as board members in a future draft.



INITIAL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING CLASS — Back row, from left to right are Reserve Force Officer Lieutenant Colonel James Ramsey; board members Ian Coffey, John Eddings, Gilbert Moorman; and Reserve Force Officer Lieutenant Colonel Dan Kloc. Front row, left to right, are board members Clarice Squillace and Joanne Niedermeier, and Reserve Force Officer Captain Lynn Smith-Tucker. Reserve Force Officer Major Anthony Lee, who also assisted in the training and is not pictured, was the photographer.

No matter who appoints these board members, they are all chosen according to a set of specific guidelines. They receive training from Selective Service to ensure that they can interpret and apply the regulations fairly in the event of a draft.

Individuals who are interested in becoming members of a Selective Service board, other than the national appeal board, must apply for the position and be interviewed before they are considered for appointment. Interested individuals may go to the Selective Service's Web site: <https://www.sss.gov/localboardmembers/bminquiry.asp>.

Selective Service is always looking for men and women in the community who would be willing to volunteer as a local board member. 



ROLE PLAYING — Reserve Force Officers, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Kloc and Captain Lynn Smith-Tucker, conduct a role-play session during initial board member training.

Selective Service Bids Farewell to Dedicated Contractor

Selective Service sends best wishes to Scott Ward, a former employee of Widmeyer Communications. Ward recently left to start his own business.

Ward began his relationship with Selective Service in 1999, as the lead program manager. Selective Service contracted with Widmeyer Communications to provide solutions to the agency's communications challenges. Over the years, Widmeyer has successfully delivered effective strategies and services the agency needed to advance its registration message.

For nearly 10 years, Ward and his team from Widmeyer Communications have crafted effective Selective Service public service announcements, forged lasting relationships, successfully launched new branding images, advanced issues and ideas, and helped individuals within Selective Service get their messages out in the most economical way feasible.

Ward and his team at Widmeyer Communications provided Selective Service with creative and effective PSAs, including radio and TV spots, posters, and collateral publicity materials. In addition, Ward coordinated focus group studies and outreach meetings with service organizations that work with the very men Selective Service is trying to reach. He orchestrated two national media conferences for Selective Service at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Upon his retirement announcement, Ward stated, "As I traveled across the country with representatives from Selective Service, reaching out to community organizations, I had the privilege of meeting some of the most remarkable individuals imaginable. Those are the men and women who have literally dedicated their lives to helping young men, who otherwise might be overlooked by the system, have a chance to succeed.



DEDICATED LONG-TIME SERVICE — Scott Ward often spoke to management about the necessary approaches to get Selective Service's message out in the most effective way by using the most economical means.

"I'm proud that, in some small way, I contributed to that important work."

The future looks bright for Scott Ward. He has nearly 20 years of professional experience in all aspects of communications, including advocacy communications; news media; social marketing; communications training; risk and crisis communications; national, regional, and local media relations; event planning and marketing; message development and testing; media buying; stakeholder outreach; graphic design and desktop publishing; and writing and editing. Scott is frequently called upon to sit on panels, run workshops, conduct organizational capacity-building exercises, and provide staff- and executive-level communications training. He is the founder of Fifth Estate Communications and is an adjunct professor at American University.

The Selective Service System will remember Scott Ward fondly. 

Hail and Farewell

The following is the list of new Selective Service employees and employees who have left for other jobs or retired, from August 2007 through April 2008.

National Headquarters

New Hires

Regina Dougherty, Accounting Officer, April 28, 2008.
Craig Martin, Management Analyst, April 14, 2008.
William Christian, Chief of Staff, February 3, 2008.
Karnett D. Davis, Human Resources Specialist, January 20, 2008.

Transferred

Salim Balbed,
 Ops/Network Systems Division, last day was April 4, 2008, after 21-1/2 years at National Headquarters. Moved to Houston, TX.
Gustav Jakowitsch,
 Ops/Training Division, last day was February 15, 2008, after nearly 8 years at Selective Service. Transferred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.
Carl Boggs,
 Office of the Director, last day was February 7, 2008.
Eric Persons,
 Ops/ Planning Division, last day was November 9, 2007. Transferred to the Department of the Army.
Taria McAfee,
 Support/Logistics Division, last day was August 31, 2007.

Farewell

Kendra Hogan, Accounting Officer, October 1, 2007.

Retired

Jacqueline Yearby-Wade,
 Retired from U.S. Air Force, March 2008.

Region II

New Hires

Debra Rondem,
 State Director, Georgia, November 13, 2007.

Retired

Thomas Barber,
 Program Assistant, Retirement date: February 29, 2008.

Region III

Farewell

Lynn Ashcroft, State Director, Oregon, October 26, 2007.

Retired


Deborah Bielanski,
 Region Director, retired March 31, 2008.

DMC

New Hires

Thomas Coleman, Contact Representative, March 2, 2008.
Stephan Winston, Contact Representative, March 2, 2008.
Edith Sawyer, Contact Representative, March 2, 2008.

Transferred

Evangelene Montgomery,
 Contact Representative, last day was February 1, 2008. Transferred to the Department of Navy. 



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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.