



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

THE REGISTER

July/August 2001

A Message from Director Rascon: The Dawn of a New Era

A change in leadership is usually accompanied by a temporary increase in organizational uncertainty and stress, but I am hopeful that my taking the oath of office on May 24 was welcomed by most employees. After all, even though I am freshly aboard as your new Director, I have a very familiar face, having served alongside you for many years. We shared in the pride of many Agency and personal accomplishments, voiced the same frustrations, struggled to get around many of the same workplace obstacles, had similar pet peeves, and all the while cherished our friendship and camaraderie.

Because I retired as Agency IG only a short time ago, I am reasonably up-to-date on SSS activities and am being brought up to speed on current events. I already know that we serve a superb Federal agency and that we are dedicated men and women doing terrific work, but I also know there is always room for improvement.

President Bush selected me for this job because I know how the Selective Service System operates. I understand its importance to national defense readiness as America's only proven defense manpower insurance for a major crisis. I stand ready to defend the SSS budget and the Agency's necessary existence as a key component of national defense readiness, both on Capitol Hill and on the anvil of public opinion.

Hopefully, you will consider it the dawn of a new era at Selective Service. I know we can work together to preserve the best aspects of a proud Agency with a distinguished 61-year history, while making improvements to operational efficiency and boosting



Director of Selective Service Alfred V. Rascon

morale. There is no time to look back or stand still. We must look to the future and help each other reach our goals through integrity and honesty. **SSS**

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Selective Service Reports Registration Increase at News Conference

At a May 22, 2001, news conference, the Selective Service System (SSS) reported a 4 percent increase in state-by-state registration compliance rates for men born in 1981 who had registered through calendar year 2000.

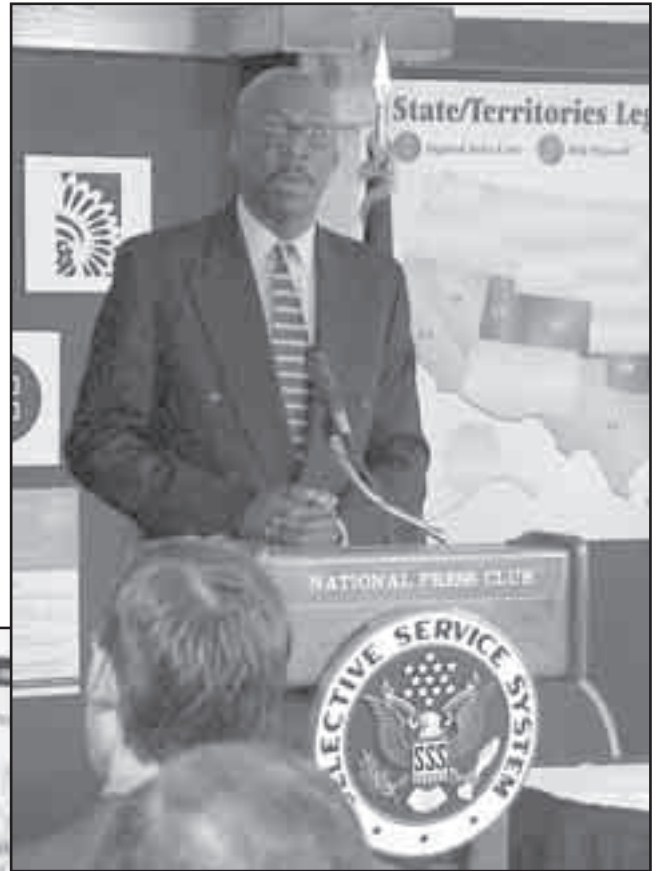
This second annual SSS Progress Report showed that 87 percent of men turning 20 in calendar 2000 had registered with Selective Service, up from last year's 83 percent of men born in 1980 who were registered in 1999. Numbers were up in almost every state, with some achieving an increase of as much as 8 percent.

"We are extremely excited because the registration compliance rate increase indicates that more young



Lew Brodsky, Director of Public and Congressional Affairs.

men are ensuring their futures by complying with the law and staying eligible for important benefits on the federal, state, and local levels," said Selective Service Director of Public Affairs Lew Brodsky, who along



Willie L. Blanding, Jr., Deputy Director of Selective Service.

with Deputy Director Willie Blanding, Jr., spoke for the Agency during the news conference. "But we still have much work to do," Brodsky continued. "Compliance is still too low in our inner cities and our southern border states, meaning that young men there risk losing out on a college education, good jobs, job training, and for immigrants, the chance to become U.S. citizens."

At last year's news conference, the Agency announced partnerships formed with the education community. This year the Agency announced partnerships with community-based organizations. Organizations in attendance at the news conference

included: Greater Washington Urban League, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Congress of American Indians, and Organization of Chinese Americans (representing Pan-Asian cultures). These partner organizations have pledged their long-term support to the Agency's effort to reach young men by promoting the Agency in their respective newsletters, and on Web sites.



Dr. Maudine Cooper, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League.

Dr. Maudine Cooper, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League, enthusiastically expressed her organization's support for the Agency's outreach efforts during the news conference. "I will tell you that this effort is fully supported by the National Urban League and our President, Mr. Hugh B. Price. I stand here today representing our League President and the


Urban League movement consisting of more than 100 Urban League chapters in 34 states and the District of Columbia."

Cooper confirmed that it is a lack of awareness of the requirement that prevents young men from registering. "...I have done my own information gathering about what people know about the

requirement to register for the draft.

I have asked Urban League Presidents, staff and friends. I have asked young and old men. I have asked teachers and parents. Most say, 'I thought the draft had been eliminated.' Some say, 'I see the TV commercials, but I didn't think it was mandatory.' My unscientific findings coincide with the Selective Service focus groups assertions...we must get the information out to young men."

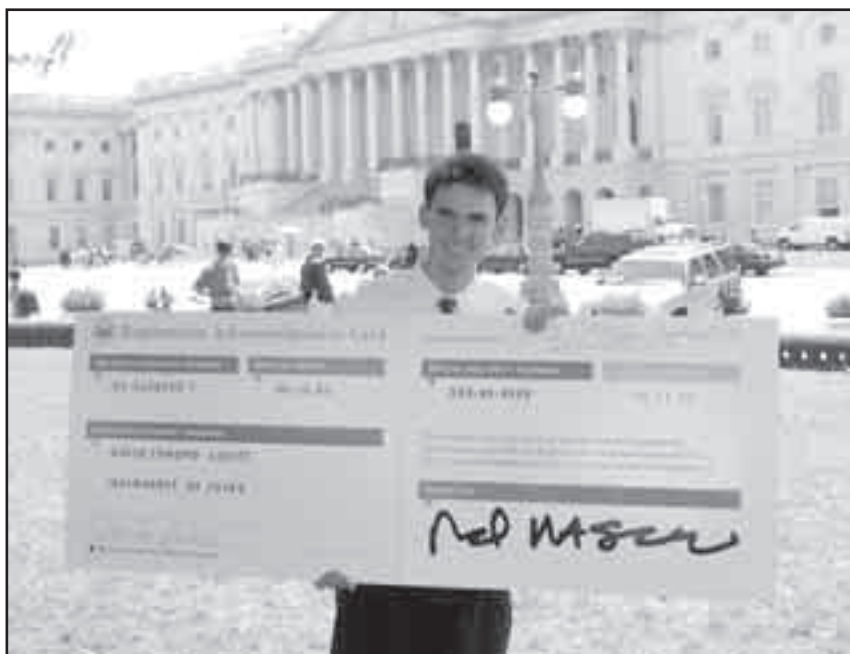
Together with the community-based partner organizations, the Selective Service System hopes to reach the more than 5,000 young men who turn 18 every day. "The partners that have gathered here today represent the beginning of what we intend to be a growing outreach effort over the next several years," Brodsky said. "With the support of these individuals and organizations, with our plans to increase our outreach

into other communities, and with continuing efforts on the state, local, and national levels, we will ensure that all young men are aware of their responsibilities and benefit from all of the opportunities due them." 

Millionth Man Registers On-line with Selective Service

Almost exactly one month from the minute David Edmond Lucitt of Haymarket, Va., used his home computer to register on-line with the Selective Service

Hosted by Selective Service Director Alfred Rascon, Lucitt had a morning meeting at the Pentagon with General Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the afternoon at the U.S. Capitol, Lucitt was honored by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va. He received a commemorative plaque from Director Rascon, and signed a large version of his Registration Acknowledgment Card, measuring 2 X 5 feet. This "world's largest Registration Acknowledgment Card" is ordinarily a wallet-sized "proof of registration" card that each new registered man receives in the mail.



David E. Lucitt, the millionth on-line registrant, holds his giant-sized Registration Acknowledgment Card at the U.S. Capitol.

System (SSS), he was standing in front of the U.S. Capitol being honored by members of the Congress. On June 11, 2001, the 18-year-old home-schooled Eagle Scout candidate became the millionth man to register with SSS via the Internet. The Agency had inaugurated the on-line registration program in December 1998, and the number of men choosing to register by computer has grown steadily since, with more than 52,000 men registering by that method in June. Lucitt seemed nearly overwhelmed by the attention he was receiving, simply for doing what every man has to do when he reaches age 18.


"David Lucitt represents the best spirit of America's young men, men who guarantee America's strength with responsibility, commitment, and patriotism," said Rascon.



Left to right: Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; David E. Lucitt; and his parents, Phyllis and Mark Lucitt.

Lucitt plans to attend college in Fall 2002. Like thousands of young men every day, Lucitt simply logged onto the Selective Service web site at www.sss.gov, keyed in some basic information, and instantly received his Selective Service registration number. Men can also register at any local post office by completing a registration card, or they may fill out and return a card they may get in the mail. Currently, Internet registration is the easiest and fastest method for young men to register. In addition to the Internet registrations, almost 30,000 other registrations arrive at the Selective Service Data Management Center in Illinois every week.

Federal law requires virtually all men to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. All U.S. male citizens, no matter where they reside, as well as male non-citizens residing in the U.S., are required to register. Although late registrations are accepted, a man cannot register once he reaches age 26. Moreover, Selective Service registration is linked to many benefits such as eligibility for federal student loans and grants, training programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), federal jobs in the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, and jobs with the U.S. Postal Service. More than half of the states have enacted legislation that links benefits such as state tuition assistance and eligibility for state jobs to registration. Also, 11 states have enacted legislation connecting Selective Service registration with a man's application for a driver's license. Additionally, male immigrants who are in the U.S. when they are 18 through 25 years old may be denied U.S. citizenship if they fail to register.

Millions of young men have registered since registration was reinstated in 1980, but none has been drafted. By having the names and addresses of men 18 through 25 years old on file with the SSS, America remains ready to face any threat. The SSS estimates that currently 88 percent are registered. The last draft ended in 1973. 



Left to right: Rep. Frank R. Wolf, R-Va., Sen. John Warner, R-Va., David Lucitt, and Alfred Rascon, Selective Service Director.

Data Management Center News

Rivera is DMC Employee of the Quarter

The Data Management Center (DMC) recently named Paula Rivera the DMC's Employee of the Quarter for the period ending March 31st. DMC Director Bill Delaney presented the award to Rivera at a staff meeting.

Rivera joined the DMC as a data transcriber in 1986 and quickly mastered the position. Her work was so impressive, she earned her first Employee of the Quarter award just months after joining the DMC. "I was very surprised and happy," Rivera said about receiving the award a second time. "I just couldn't wait to call my husband and tell him the good news."

In 1994, Rivera married and moved with her husband, who was in the Army, to North Carolina. She was employed as a medical records technician at Behavior Health Care of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville. Rivera's exemplary work habits apparently impressed her employers there because in 1997, she was named the hospital's Employee of the Year.

Rivera and her family returned to Illinois after her husband retired from the Army. The DMC jumped at the opportunity to rehire her. "I was ecstatic when I learned Paula reapplied to work here," said Rivera's supervisor, Mary Overbey. "She is a wonderful person, plus her work production in the past was consistently equivalent to over four entry level employees. With the small staff we have, her addition would dramatically increase our output."

During the award period, Rivera averaged over 14,300 keystrokes per hour, with an accuracy rate of 9,998 correct strokes per 10,000. She personally processed 76,000 registrations plus 34,000 other



William Delaney (left), DMC Director, and Paula Rivera, DMC's Employee of the Quarter.

transactions in this span. Computer Support Manager, Richard Templer stated, "Paula's value to the Agency goes well beyond her measured output. She is highly dependable, well-liked and respected, and heightens esprit de corps. Such attributes are critical in a Section of only five employees."

Rivera is very glad to be back at the DMC and although Rivera was granted one of the DMC top awards, she still feels a little 'rusty' after a five-year hiatus from the DMC. She established a goal to increase production to 16,000 strokes per hour by Christmas.

Rivera and husband, Victor, live in Zion, Ill. They have three sons, Marcus, Victor Jr., and Ernest. Rivera enjoys gardening and stays busy with children's activities. She attended the College of Lake County and earned a business certificate in data processing. **SSS**

Gil Coronado Says "Good-bye"

To All SSS Personnel:

There is an old Selective Service training film that General Hershey made in 1956. It is called "Time to Go."

Like the film's title, after nearly seven years as Director, it was time for me to depart as the Agency welcomed new leadership under the Bush Administration.

I departed SSS with a great deal of gratitude and a deep sense of fulfillment. I have the satisfaction of looking back with infinite pride on many, significant Agency accomplishments knowing that together we did great things. We faced challenges but always "passed the exam." I hope that you thought of our accomplishments when the one millionth Internet registration was processed. Remember our years together when registrants use a PIN number with a touch-tone telephone, or when a man is automatically registered when he applies for a driver's license.

Every minute spent as your Director was a great honor for me. I am confident that Director Rascon will guide the Selective Service System with wisdom along with the loyal support from everyone of you working to keep America strong and free.

If any of you might happen to be in San Antonio area, please stop in or give me a call. My home address



Gil Coronado

and telephone number are: 309 Gladiola Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78213; (210) 341-4491. Also my e-mail address is: gilcoronado@aol.com.

My wife, Helen, joins me in wishing you good health, happiness and a rewarding future. Keep up the good work and remain forever dedicated to the Agency's goals. America deserves the very best and you are the best!

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The **Register** welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Deadline is the 20th of the month, 1 month prior to publication.

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Viewpoints herein do not represent official policy.



Happenings at National Headquarters



Pictured above: Maggie Lam (left), Computer Specialist in the Office of Information Management, explains Selective Service registration to a young man during Public Service Recognition Week on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Pictured below: Lt. Col. Tom Hinrichsen (left), Acting Training Division Manager, and Mary Ellen Feldcamp, former Training Division Program Analyst, hold the Communicator Award, which was presented to the Agency for its FY 2001 Local Board Continuation Training Video during the 2000 Videographer Awards Ceremony. The 3-vignette training video was developed by Feldcamp.



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