OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN

FOR THE

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

(Version 1.0: February 4, 2010)

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

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As part of its contribution to increasing transparency in the federal government, the Selective Service System has initiated an Open Government Plan to improve public access to vital information. Under this initiative, the Agency has already taken steps to expedite the flow of Registration Status Information Letters, the most common type of information requested by the public. In addition, Selective Service's Open Government Plan ensures that nine new datasets of information is being made available for the first time to the public, while enhancing access to information already available. This Plan addresses:

- **Expediting Status Information Letters**. Selective Service has already allocated money for overtime and additional full-time personnel to shorten the waiting times for Status Information Letters needed by men applying for any of the benefits or privileges connected to the registration requirement. Further, Selective Service continues its effort to remind schools of cases where Status Information Letters are not necessary: (a) men who can prove they entered the United States as non-citizens at the age of 26 or older; (b) men covered by valid visas even though residing in the United States while eligible by age to register; (c) veterans providing DD Form 214s; and (d) men born before January 1, 1960.

- **Publishing Raw Registration Data Sets by Age and State**. Selective Service is making publicly available for the first time its raw registration data. This data is the basis for compliance statistics reported in the Agency's Annual Report to Congress. The information is being made available on the new Selective Service System Open Government Website (www.sss.gov/open) as machine readable downloads as required for all Open Government websites. These data sets cover the previous calendar year for every registration age group (18 through 25) and every state and/or territory. This information will be updated every year. For example, in April of 2010, Selective Service will provide the registration totals for Calendar Year 2009. The information will be available in XML format. These datasets will be integrated with Data.gov which allows the public to search datasets available throughout the government.

- **Public Feedback Mechanism.** In accordance with guidelines of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Selective Service System Open Government Website will allow the public to request additional data sets.   These could include, for example, further breakdowns of registration data by counties. The Agency's Information Technology and Public Affairs Directorates will monitor this public input and respond appropriately.   Internal representatives from all areas of the Agency will meet quarterly to review the data provided to the public and analyze every possible way to maintain transparency and the ease of access for the public to relevant data. This review will include the relationship between the Agency's official web site and Open Government web site, thus enhancing public use of both tools.

- **Maintain Effective and Efficient Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) Procedures**. In addition to providing information on its official homepage of the Agency's mission and organizational structure, Selective Service has made available its FOIA regulations, FOIA Annual Reports, and a link to its Government Information Locator System (GILS), a list of major information and record locator systems.   Finally, Selective Service provides, when needed, a small FOIA reading room, available upon written request.

- **Monitor and Enhance Existing Public Portals**. Selective Service has in place an "Information Box" email system to receive, track, and respond to public requests for information.   In addition, the public may use the Agency's Online Verification, prominently visible on its official website. In addition to its FOIA link, Selective Service will continue to update and provide public access to its Annual Reports, Human Capital Surveys, Strategic Plan, Budget Justifications, and Performance and Accountability Reports.

- **Identifying the Agency's Field Structure**. Selective Service will gather and publish information addressing its board members and state directors.   This will include requirements for becoming board members, duties of board members, and the counties they represent.