



## PUBLIC COMMENTS

[The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) has solicited input from the public about the topics under its mandate since January 2018. Individuals have shared their views by posting comments on the Commission [website](#), emailing [info@inspire2serve.gov](mailto:info@inspire2serve.gov) or [national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil](mailto:national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil), submitting comment cards at public events, or mailing letters. These public comments supplement research efforts and are one of many factors under consideration as the Commission deliberates its recommendations to the Congress, the President, and the American people.

The Commission is committed to transparency and openness with the public. With that in mind, the Commission will be posting comments received from the public on its website at regular intervals. This document covers all public comments received during the month of November. Future comments will be released on roughly a monthly basis.

There are a few facts about these comments that are important to understand.

- Public comments are posted in the order received with the most recent comment being listed last.
- The comments may address questions or topics posed by the Commission. The views expressed in comments reflect those of the individual or organization who commented and do not represent the official views of the Commission or the federal government.
- Comments are not nationally representative. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of comments a single individual or organization may submit.
- Although the Commission's initial request for comments published in the Federal Register expired (September 30, 2018), the Commission extended the submission of comments until December 31, 2019.

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service posts comments received in their entirety. The Commission applies redactions in limited circumstances to personally identifiable information, such as personal email address and phone numbers. The Commission reserves the right to redact language that poses a threat to individuals. Posting of public comments does not constitute an endorsement of any views expressed therein or of the content of any external links that members of the public have included in their comments.

The Commission welcomes comments from the public on any aspect of the Commission's mission and feedback on the staff memorandum released prior to the Commission's public hearings. Please submit your comments at <https://inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 31, 2019.

Date	Text of Response
11/5/2019	<p>Good day. I lead the national defense research effort at the Heritage Foundation. I am inspired by your mission, and want want to offer some thoughts concerning service.</p> <p>1) The service provided should both benefit the nation and the individual. Service of one year in the military is not enough to deliver a benefit to the nation. It is too short a period to make a contribution worthy of the investment.</p> <p>2) Compelling service in the military will result in a less able/less ready force. History is replete with examples of motivated volunteers beating conscript forces [Revolutionary war, Greek/Persian wars]</p> <p>3) As your interim report suggests, the key is more information available and also more emphasis at national level. Military recruiting efforts are currently siloed by service, by component, and thus sub-optimized. National spokes-people are needed to better make the case for military service [think General Dunsford, ex.]. There are no such voices today.</p> <p>4) It is fine to create a norm for service, but compelled service or service where every American of a certain age must participate is emotionally attractive, but likely not in America's best interest.</p> <p>sincerely Tom Spoehr LTG(R), US Army The Heritage Foundation [REDACTED]</p>
11/7/2019	Tutelle
11/7/2019	<p>"The word 'registration' to young people is code for 'draft,' an idea that evokes painful memories of Vietnam for many and an idea that has always seemed alien in a democratic society." Ronald Reagan 1980</p> <p>I basically agree with former president Ronald Reagan. Compulsory military or national service is an alien and inappropriate practice in a free and democratic republic such as the United States of America.</p> <p>If the government is unable to make a case for voluntary service then the government needs to rethink and restructure its case, not force citizens to comply.</p> <p>In terms of what could be done to encourage young people to volunteer for military service - the Pentagon should be run like a free enterprise business - hiring and firing employees as needed to meet goals. Compulsory service or dictatorial institutional methods and protocol should be eliminated.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting my comments on these subjects.</p>
11/8/2019	<p>I think service to the country is a very good thing for people to do, but it should not be mandatory. Public service could be encouraged and people should be educated about the need for public service and the positive aspects for those who serve.</p>

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11/10/2019	<p>1. Public service certainly can hold lasting value so long as the mission and goals have to do with something other than killing (ie: CCC, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps).</p> <p>2. To increase interest, the government needs to fund clever television and computer related media films much like it has done for the military for decades. Also, stop funding all military recruitment propaganda.</p> <p>3. One of the barriers to service in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps is the crushing student debt which is now required. To solve this, the government should offer \$20,000 per years loan forgiveness on top of the other incentives.</p> <p>4. See answers 2 and 3.</p> <p>5. No. Stop the war. Sell off the rights to many of the more than 800 foreign bases. Cut military expenditures by 75%.</p> <p>6. Do away with the selective service system.</p> <p>7. It is valuable. See answer 1.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
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11/11/2019	<p>NOT OUR DAUGHTERS. There are still millions of us who are Biblicist Christians who home school, and train our daughters to first fulfill their calling as wives, mothers, and home keepers. We firmly believe that this in itself is a far greater contribution to American life, society, and security than our daughters ever being either forced or coerced to leave their homes for some so-called national service.</p> <p>To remove females from the homes, single, young mothers, etc. is to hollow out the core of family life, and this is actually detrimental to the overall security of the United States. By training our daughters in their first role, their Biblical role, we are helping to build solid family life. If solid, nuclear families are of little importance, then what may we ask is being defended by our Armed Forces?! What do we have left to defend, except geologic territory, if the very center of our historical distinctions and heritage is empty, excavated out for this idea of national service?</p> <p>For our Christian daughters to see their God-given roles, to become godly wives and mothers, to raise in their sons the next generation(s) of statesmen and national leaders, jurists, pastors, Gospel evangelist and churchmen, military officers and soldiers, physicians and scientists, entrepreneurs and industrialists, philanthropists and charity builders, and on and on, is a very fine avenue of national service, and contributes greatly to our national security.</p> <p>With love for our country, and by virtue of our love of Christ and our country, we will strongly and forthrightly resist any attempts to remove our daughters and granddaughters from their Christian homes.</p>
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11/11/2019	<p>I am the Director of the National Coalition to Protect Student Privacy, <a href="http://www.studentprivacy.org">www.studentprivacy.org</a> a non-profit that works to pass legislation and administrative changes in how states and their various jurisdictions handle the military's request for a wide variety of sensitive student information on under-age youth. I have been working on this issue in all 50 states for 15 years.</p> <p>Selective Service registration is closely linked to military recruitment, particularly in the nation's high schools. The Selective Service System provides the names of all registrants to the Joint Advertising Marketing Research &amp; Studies (JAMRS) program for inclusion in the JAMRS Consolidated Recruitment Database. The names are distributed to the services for recruiting purposes on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>I see this as an egregious violation of the 4th Amendment to the Constitution which says in its abbreviated form that "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."</p> <p>I know from speaking with thousands of parents over the years that many are not happy to learn that their child's personal information is sent to the DOD without their knowledge or consent. The SSS data, when merged with the illegally gathered information from students as a result of the passage of Section 8025 of the "Every Student Succeeds Act," (ESSA), provides the basis from which the DOD builds its database on the nation's youth. Parents must go through hoops to "opt-out" of having their child's private information from being sent to the DOD's recruiting services and the JAMRS system.</p> <p>Many of us have been fighting a losing battle across the country. To provide a sense of the struggle, we have managed to pass legislation in Maryland that places this so-called opt-out language on the mandatory emergency contact form parents must complete yearly. The form simply asks, "Do you want your child's information sent to military recruiters?" Overwhelmingly, parents say no. Similarly, the state passed a law almost ten years ago that requires parental consent before children are given the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, (ASVAB) - the military's entrance exam during school hours. That's different than, say, Kentucky which opens a child's entire academic record to military recruiters and requires children in many schools to take the military exam without parental knowledge or consent.</p> <p>I see the Selective Service System as aiding and abetting this unconstitutional framework. The massive dataset provided by the Selective Service System to neighborhood recruiters provides a starting point for the Pentagon's vicious and unconscionable recruiting program. See my book, "Military Recruiting in the United States for more on that. <a href="http://www.counter-recruit.org">www.counter-recruit.org</a></p> <p>Thank you, Pat Elder [REDACTED] Lexington Park, MD [REDACTED]</p>
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11/11/2019	<p>STAFF MEMORANDUM: Expanding Selective Service Registration to All Americans.</p> <p>I am in favor of expanding the Selective Service Registration to All Americans. This expansion is necessary, valuable and is feasible. The policy leaders must be bold and lead our nation towards improved equality and readiness. I say improved equality because there is not now, nor has there ever been, a justifiable reason to exclude the value of half of the population based on gender alone. There is a gradient of capability and skill across all Americans that we should proudly ask to serve.</p> <p>By limiting the Selective Service Registration to men it further indicates state sponsored sexism. Women have demonstrated valuable service contributions to our Nation since its inception though often quietly or unacknowledged. By opening the SSR to all Americans the action not only deepens the pool of registrants it sends a clear message that ALL US Citizens have value. The burden of national security should not fall on only a portion of our society. When I turned 18, I would have gladly participated in the SSR. By not being allowed to register, I did not feel "off the hook" rather I was left feeling excluded. When one registers to serve the nation when needed there is an added sense of responsibility and purpose. Registrants might also have more reason to pay attention to and participate in national elections and public policy making since they now have a little more "skin in the game."</p> <p>It is time to dust off untrue and out dated sexist notions and open the SSR to ALL Americans. National Service is honorable and should be open and required of ALL.</p> <p>Thank you, Jenny Knoth, Ph.D.</p>
11/14/2019	<p>I oppose a draft of anyone for military or non-military service. Requiring anyone to do anything against their will (except for short term situations where the police must direct people or compulsory evacuations) is slavery. If people are drafted into what is supposed to be non-military compulsory service that could be switched to military or military support at the whim of the government. I would be in favor of expansion of non-compulsory civilian service opportunities as a way for the unemployed to earn money and job skills (so long as they are paid a fair wage for their work) and credit toward college tuition.</p>
11/14/2019	<p>If someone decides they no longer want to serve they should be able to leave without facing prison time. Modern militaries around the world have exit mechanisms that are not punitive with a felony. People are not going to sign up for service at 18 if they know it is four years of there life gone pretty much no matter what. That's ,for some, like electing for a possible prison sentence. This generation is too smart for to gamble that.</p>
11/14/2019	<p>I oppose expanding the military draft to women! Call for the end of the draft for all genders. The military - industrial complex wants perpetual war. That is anti-peace. It's beyond time for peace.</p> <p>I support the CodePink : Code Pink: Women for Peace (often stylized as CODEPINK) is an internationally active NGO that describes itself as a "grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end U.S.-funded wars and occupations, to challenge militarism globally and to redirect our resources into health care, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities". In addition to its focus on anti-war issues, it has taken action on issues such as drones, Guantanamo Bay prison, Palestinian statehood, the Iran nuclear deal, Saudi Arabia, and Women Cross DMZ.</p>
11/15/2019	<p>Selective Service: Mobilization</p> <p>I firmly believe in national service for all Americans, to be chosen by individuals. This could be military or civil service up to 2 years upon reaching the age of 18.</p>

11/15/2019	As a current federal employee, I can understand why young Americans are not looking at public service. The rules for hiring, promotions and career development are crazy. I have a BA and I am in the process of completing my MPA; however I am stuck in my career field because of the way the hiring system works. I am probably the most over qualified secretary in my building. Why come and work for the government if you are only going to do the same type of job and have no career progression?
11/18/2019	Increasing opportunities for national service: Create equity in federal employment opportunity benefit across service categories such that whatever non-military categories exist, members who participate receive equal benefit to comparable military service. Right now, Peace Corps members must be hired by federal agency within 1 year of ending their service , whereas military veterans (and their spouses!) receive life-long hiring preference.
11/18/2019	Selective service: Remove requirement for selective service registration for all genders, and increase participation of all genders in skills relating to non-violent options for increasing security for nations world-wide, eg. through inclusiveness initiatives and engaging in ways to slow down/halt and adapt to climate changes that threaten everyone. Gender equality is not enhanced by decreasing choices for all.
11/18/2019	Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.
11/19/2019	1) Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women. 2) All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties. 3) National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society  We have fought too many unnecessary wars after being lied to by our leaders. They often have not been beneficial for the other countries or our own country and have been very expensive diverting funds that could be put to better use and causing much human mental and physical devastation. We need to spend more on learning how to make peace. The military tends to attract people with limited funds and people of color who have limited options. Well off people are often able to get out of serving.
11/19/2019	Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.
11/19/2019	Docket 05-2018-01  Please end the US military draft and all penalties pertaining. It hasn't been used in decades and no one should be forced. It's time to learn how to settle our differences without resorting to killing.



11/19/2019	I consider an ongoing peacetime registration for the draft an unwelcome and unnecessary intrusion on Americans' freedom .
11/19/2019	Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.
11/19/2019	Draft registration started during the Carter administration so it is been in existence for forty or so years. With a volunteer armed services I cannot figure why draft registration is needed. The only thing that comes to mind is that draft registration is there for some yet not determined war. We have enough wars already and do not need anymore We also do not need draft registration thank you
11/20/2019	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes. Directly the participant learns things and helps others. Indirectly it strengthens the bonds of citizenship within our country.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? I think service should be mandatory. Once that is established, campaigns can go on the appeal to patriotism, highlight the direct positive results (see #1 above), all similarly to past recruitment campaigns in wartime.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? A lack of education and political will in our leaders.</p> <p>4. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation? See #2 above.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? I think service should be mandatory. Assuming that mandatory service includes both the draft and alternative service -- with full deference to conscientious opposition to war -- then the draft is necessary.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It should be modified to become a system of mandatory national service. It should apply essentially to everyone, i.e., regardless of gender.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes to all three questions. On value, see #1 above.</p>

11/20/2019	<p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>- Without a doubt, yes. Now that all facets of military are open to females, to require draft registration of males only is egregiously discriminatory. With equal opportunity and access comes equal responsibility and obligation. Particularly when men are not eligible for student aid, federal employment and can be subject to fines and imprisonment if they don't register.</p>
11/20/2019	<p>Dear Commission:</p> <p>The need for mandatory registration with the selective service has passed.</p> <p>Resources should be focused on how we can remove the profit motive in our relationships with other countries, so that the need for tension is reduced.</p> <p>Thank you, Rich C. [REDACTED]</p>
11/20/2019	<p>I'd like to submit my views on the draft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women</li> <li>2. All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties</li> <li>3. National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you, ~Bruce Dobson</p>
11/21/2019	<p>I'm a male who's been working and paying taxes all my life. I've always supported women's rights. I've donated to breast cancer awareness. I watched my veteran father die sick and troubled by his experiences. I've listened to society talk about how men discriminate against women and what a bunch of depraved animals we supposedly are. No one gives a damn about prostate cancer, the men who buried their friends and the innocence of their youth they never got to enjoy. It seems to me that if women want equality with men, they need to pay the same price, unless they are insincere and only want what's convenient for them. Let them register for the draft and serve on the front lines like men have always done. Let them bury their friends and innocence like men have always done. Why are men's lives worth less than women's? Especially if they're black men getting gunned down. Make them sign up and serve and be ready to die for America or be insincere in their beliefs. It's time to pay the bill and shut the hell up.</p> <p>Stephen Anderson Michigan</p>

11/22/19

We as members of the Mennonite Congregation of Boston are offering our strong support for your efforts to establish a coordination of service opportunities under a Commission of National Service. As Mennonites, an integral aspect of our faith has been to dedicate our lives in service to the needs of others and to foster communities of peace that can diminish those walls built by nationalism, racism, sexism and economic disparity. A significant number of our congregation have served in voluntary service programs to provide for material relief needs as well as medical, educational and other critical services within the United States and in many foreign countries. We can all attest to the satisfaction of having met some of these needs as well as the lasting effects on the growth of our personal lives in regard to our responsibilities in this world of such diverse peoples and their circumstances. As Mennonites we have historically maintained a peace and non-resistance position and would recommend that many of the voluntary service programs would also qualify as an alternative service option for those who choose conscientious objector status in times of military conscription. We also recommend that these voluntary service programs be placed under civilian rather than military administration. We would suggest that the National Service Commission eventually release a coordinated service program through all manner of social and printed media. A significant effort should be made to explain the personal and public benefits of voluntary service. We would further emphasize that those voluntary service programs should provide room, board, travel, a minimal stipend, educational loan deferment and mentoring support so that those with limited means, experience and training will not be excluded. The value of voluntary service, especially among young people, can certainly provide a long lasting unifying effect among our various levels of social and intellectual levels particularly in these times as global diversities are increasingly affecting us more directly. Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions. Bruce Bradshaw, Pastor Mennonite Congregation of Boston [REDACTED] Cambridge, MA [REDACTED]

11/22/19	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>Rochester Friends (Quaker) Meeting (Church) approved the enclosed statement to the The National Commission at our business meeting on November 10,2019, Thank you for the opportunity to have input.</p> <p>Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business, November 10.2019</p> <p>Rochester MN Friends Meeting</p> <p>Ginny Johnson Clerk</p> <p>Rochester Friends Meeting</p> <p>██████████</p> <p>Rochester, MN ██████████ A Response to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service</p> <p>Nonviolence is a basic guiding principle of the Religious Society of Friends [Quaker]. Consequently, any recommendations we offer will have as their ultimate goal the elimination of war and related military escalation. In that light, Rochester (MN) Friends Meeting offers the following points (followed by supporting rationale) for consideration by the Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elimination of the current Selective Service System</li> <li>2. Strengthening of provisions for Conscientious Objectors</li> <li>3. Significant reduction of the military budget</li> <li>4. Promotion of voluntary public service</li> </ol> <p>Supporting rationale for the above points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elimination of the current Selective Service System</li> </ol> <p>The purpose of the Selective Service System (SSS) is to prepare for war, and modern warfare is nothing short of mass killing, something Friends believe is both wrong and unnecessary. Killing is a denial of our common humanity. War and the nearly worldwide extent of United States militarism is a threat to our very existence. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said on the eve of his assassination, "It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world, it is nonviolence or nonexistence. That is where we are today." We oppose conscription for war, thus we do not favor conscription or a draft.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Strengthening of provisions for Conscientious Objectors</li> </ol> <p>Should mandatory conscription be implemented, it should include an option for conscientious objectors. Freedom of Religion is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Conscientious Objection is part of the religious belief of many religious</p>
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	<p>traditions besides Quakers. Further, in <i>United States v. Seeger</i>, 380 U.s. 163 (1965), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that one can also be a conscientious objector without a religious belief in a Supreme Being.</p> <p>Those with religious beliefs that prohibit them from registering with the SSS face significant punitive consequences; e.g., loss of eligibility for some college loans and grants, government jobs, job training, citizenship, and in some states, driver's licenses or state IDs. We believe these facts challenge the truth of SSS Director Donald Benton's insistence that "the current system seems to work well; ... and we believe that there's no reason to allow people to opt out before there is a need for them to show that they are a conscientious objector." We believe any proposed mandatory conscription must include an option for conscientious objectors.</p> <p>3. Significant reduction of the military budget</p> <p>We recommend that a large portion of the current military budget be diverted to develop alternative jobs for those in military-related industries and to study and implement known methods for nonviolence to resolve conflict. Chenoweth and Stephan, in <i>Why Civil Resistance Works</i> (Columbia University Press, 2011), demonstrate that nonviolence is twice as effective as violence in effecting regime change. Diverting military funds to nonviolent strategies makes economic sense.</p> <p>4. Promotion of voluntary public service</p> <p>We recommend that voluntary public service be encouraged; that it be made available as an alternative option to military service with the same benefits as those who serve in the military, supported by the military budget. One previous model is the Civilian Conversation Corps (CCC) from 1932 to 1942. Women could be included. Many other volunteer organizations need workers: Peace Corps, World Teach, Habitat for Humanity, AmeriCorps, and Global Community to name a few of the dozens available. Think if we had as many volunteers doing public service as we have military worldwide what that would do for the u.s. public image.</p>
11/22/19	Make sure voter engagement & reducing barriers to vote can be included in any possible way!
11/22/19	Please partner with media literacy orgs NAMLE+others on incorporating media literacy ed into civics ed, starting in grade schools.

11/22/2019	1. Yes. Service connects us to a purpose outside ourselves. 2. Connect young Americans with the desire to serve by drawing them into the experience new generations crave experience.3. Lack of understanding. Seek to challenge and educate.4. Profile specific tendencies and skill sets then recruit accordingly and regroup according to those specialties as early as possible in training.5. Yes 6. . Yes include women ERA should include draft. 7.
11/22/2019	If you join the military you are an accessory to murder. Murder is worse than pedophilia. <a href="http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/52109-c.htm">http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/52109-c.htm</a>
11/23/2019	I served in the Air Force 1960-1964. For me it was a way out of a dysfunctional family. I saw from my time in the service that everyone should have either civilian or military time serving the country. It provides another way for kids to find their way in the world. College is not the same. I attended after the service on the GI Bill. Some of the questions posed are beyond my capacity to discuss intelligently. But they are all worth considering. There should be a draft! Everyone should be in the game. Thank you for considering these important issues.
11/23/2019	Registration for the draft should be ended, permanently. All penalties for not registering should be eliminated, even for those who avoided registering for the draft while it was still the law. Having a draft -- or even requiring registering for it -- is completely inconsistent with the goals of a free country which America aspires to be.
11/23/2019	1. I do not believe that military service per se constitutes anything more of value than to provide for the country's defense, which does not include interventions overseas nor aggressive "preemptive" situations. The act of killing is murder no matter how it is done or by whom and against the laws of God as well as an affront to Humanity. Killing is the business of the military. Those who oppose killing should not go anywhere near the armed "services". They should not be forced to against their will. Murder is illegal in our society, so what makes killing in war a desirable thing for "civilization?" 2 The desire to create more veterans is to dishonor the veterans who have gone before, whose best honor is to make less veterans. 3. None. You like to get 'em young, don't you. 4. Individual with critical skills should stay away from becoming trained murderers. 5. Definitely not. Wars should only be fought by those willing to kill or be killed. 6. the selective service should be abolished, period. &. No and not only that, such slavery is illegal under the Constitution.
11/24/2019	To me there is no purpose, need, justification or morality in a military designed or used for aggression. The only purpose is as "peace keepers," and that involves limited deployment in clearly identified situations where military presence is needed to deter aggression. Given that such a force would not need to be very large, and given that it would be service that would attract and inspire dedicated, principled people, there should be no need for a draft. Such people would want to join, and the military would have all the recruits it might need. But given the fact that our military is used for aggression, and given that the "volunteer" military is really a "poverty draft" military, our society is separated from the actions of our military and the price they pay in terms of unnecessary casualties. It would be better to restore the draft and start drafting rich, white kids. When their lives are on the line, they will rise up in opposition to war.
11/25/2019	Nice Blog and Very Informative thank you for sharing us.,
11/25/2019	The draft is basically state sponsored slavery. No involuntary draft should ever be re-instituted in this country. I oppose it for men and women. Voluntary service works and works better.
11/25/2019	Please do not extend the draft to women or try to require mandatory service of all high school graduates or drop outs at a certain age. Indeed, end the selective service system altogether.

11/25/2019	Abolish draft registration for everyone.
11/25/2019	The draft is as evil as is slavery. The founders recognized the individuals right to self ownership. The right to be free of government control. But over time the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have been destroyed by the actions of the federal government as the existence of this commission makes clear.
11/25/2019	The Selective Service has no inherent value in a free society. Citizens, especially young people, will be more motivated to serve in the military AND to serve our country/society in many other productive ways if they feel they are working toward the goal of freedom. But it is hard to feel like one is working to preserve our freedoms when one is forced to serve. Many people I know serve their communities and this country in many ways without anyone forcing them to do so. The only ethical way to increase "participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation" in a free society is to make it a society that values liberty, so it will be worth serving. The US can otherwise encouraged service by offering reasonable compensation/benefits to compete with every other job/service choice a person has. The military draft or draft contingency is NOT necessary for national security. Citizens have ALWAYS been willing to fight in just wars to protect the rights of our country. Looking at our history shows time and time again citizens step up when they feel like there is any threat to the United States. No one needed the draft to get recruits after the 9/11 attacks. The Selective Service should be abolished and no one should be compelled to enlist in the military.
11/25/2019	I enlisted in the US army in 1967 in lieu of imminent draft. I knew I was being drafted but received counsel from a WWII vet that I should get the guaranteed MOS training at the time for the additional year commitment. I would not have dodged the draft. I think it is important that we continue the Selective Service registration and work with the armed services to help young people understand what it means to serve and defend our great nation. We should even consider compulsory service that reduces student debt and gives young people usable skills. Too many youth today have been "spoiled" and history is not taught with proper importance or it is altered by educators who put their political views ahead of our Constitution, what it means to serve, and the real meaning of our history. We should invest in public service announcements nation-wide and on college campuses. How do we induce young Americans? Proudly tell our history and get politicians to keep us out of unnecessary wars with no clear plan/outcomes and rules of engagement designed to win wars not continue them through attrition. Serving in the US Army gave me character, purpose, and increased my sense of patriotism even during the unpopular Vietnam War. I was proud to serve my country nonetheless. Offer state of the art training in the military and keep the GI Bill very generous so those who served are not burdened by heavy student loan debt. Let recent veterans tell their stories to young people as a means to motivate them to serve with honor.
11/26/2019	End the draft
11/26/2019	With military service and any other help provided the nation by its citizens, the goal or purpose will inspire participation. Inspiring leadership, and convincing facts, will cause citizens to come forth. The alternative of legal induction is immediately recognized by all as legalized slavery or imprisonment. It immediately shows a totalitarian country. Whenever our ethics are twisted and made hypocritical, usually with lies and distortions, we are less a democracy. To make individual choice illegal betrays our democracy. Everyone in a position of authority should have this quotation of Henry Thoreau posted where they will see it everyday: "There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and indecent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats the individual accordingly."
11/26/2019	I just send a message that a bad typo in a quote from Thoreau: "indecent" should have read "independent." "There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats the individual accordingly." – Henry Thoreau

11/27/19	<p>To the members of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:</p> <p>We understand that your commission has been charged with making recommendations on the Selective Service and Draft Registration. We are adding our support to the statements, recommendations, and requests submitted on September 19, 2019 to your committee by representatives of 13 Mennonite and related denominations.</p> <p>We are also writing to express our own opinions, strongly held beliefs, and recommendations for your considerations. Below are several reasons for our recommendation that the Selective Service Registration should be ended. If it is continued, we ask for continued consideration for people of conscience who object to military participation.</p> <p><b>Costly</b></p> <p>The full cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget. Schools have the burden of verifying registration compliance for students. Various state laws requiring registration compliance for state benefits add costs to state's budget with no return on investment. Extending the registration to women would increase those costs.</p> <p><b>Unreasonably and Inequitably Punitive</b></p> <p>The current system is unreasonably punitive to men, who fail to register unintentionally or intentionally. Gil Coronado, the former director of Selective Service said in the 1999 annual report, "If we are not successful in reminding men in the inner cities about their registration obligation, especially minority and immigrant men, they will miss out on opportunities to achieve the American dream. They will lose eligibility for college loans and grants, government jobs, job training and for registration-age immigrants, citizenship. Unless we are successful in achieving high registration compliance, America may be on the verge of creating a permanent underclass." [i]</p> <p><b>Failed System</b></p> <p>Selective Service registration is a failure. When given a choice, most men don't register. The SSS reports only 88% compliance with registration meaning millions of men are permanently burdened and punished by failing to register.</p> <p><b>Unnecessary</b></p> <p>Registration is unnecessary. In times of "emergency," such as after 9-11, the military had more than enough volunteers. Activating the draft was never seriously considered.</p> <p><b>Alternatives</b></p> <p>In the event of a true national emergency requiring more military personnel, it would not be a challenge, with today's technology, to generate a pool of names for a potential draft. It would certainly be less costly than maintaining the current registration.</p> <p><b>Provisions for People of Conscience</b></p> <p>We as members of a historic peace church have strong conviction that would apply to any implementation of a Selective Service registration. We believe that there is always a better way to solve disputes than to resort to violence. In particular we believe that killing violates the teachings of Jesus and is fundamentally immoral.</p> <p>Any selective service system must provide a pathway for people to register as Conscientious Objectors. Doing so would enable people of conscience to both be in compliance with the law and true to their conscience. If a draft ever implemented those registered as conscientious objectors could be assigned to alternative service for the peaceful benefit of others.</p> <p>Though failure to register is a felony, the government has not prosecuted anyone since 1986. Almost all who had been prosecuted were conscientious</p>
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	<p>objectors who publicly asserted their non-compliance as a religious, moral, or political statement. As a result of this public witness, non-compliance with registration actually increased. By allowing people to register as conscientious objectors, the government may come closer to reaching its goal of increased compliance.</p> <p>Because of the selective prosecution of people of conscience who have chosen not to register in the past, we believe that their lifetime punishments should be overturned and all other penalties eliminated.</p> <p>In Peace,</p>
11/27/2019	END DRAFT REGISTRATION

11/28/2019	<p>1. Service does have inherent value. The majority of those who have served go away with a feeling of pride and accomplishment.</p> <p>2. Make furthering their educational opportunities more attractive. A great number of volunteers do so because a higher education is not within their grasp. Medical training should be highlighted.</p> <p>3. There are barriers in physical strength. I saw intelligent recruits sent home because they physically could not make the grade as a combat soldier.</p> <p>4. Get your success stories out with television and print recruiting ads. Give an example of every day recruits telling their stories of how much their service molded them into more proud and productive individual. Real life stories and not phony actors. Do locally successful examples. Make the recognized as patriots.</p> <p>5. Yes. It should be mandatory. The public has to be educated on what this obligation can do in developing young citizens, male and female. It should be looked at as a sense of national pride and obligation to one's country. You will get a lot of resistance from wealthier parents who want everything in life but don't touch my precious child to help protect this country. If these younger generations do not learn the need for military stability then the country as a whole is lost. Service also levels the playing field for learning first hand diversity whether you like it or not.</p> <p>6. As stated above. Mandatory for gun ho warriors and not so warriors. You have to include married citizens as well. You must have a mandatory early age draft or you once again will lose out on a great number of potential recruits.</p> <p>7. Mandatory YES. Valuable YES. Feasible NO. At least not now under the rules of the wealthy and privileged. The billionaires offspring have no clue as to what it takes to build a democracy. They have to be shown. Somehow a sense of national pride has to be developed.</p> <p>My name is William Dodds and I am a Proud Vietnam Veteran.</p>
11/28/2019	<p>1. Service does have inherent value. The majority of those who have served go away with a feeling of pride and accomplishment.</p> <p>2. Make furthering their educational opportunities more attractive. A great number of volunteers do so because a higher education is not within their grasp. Medical training should be highlighted.</p> <p>3. There are barriers in physical strength. I saw intelligent recruits sent home because they physically could not make the grade as a combat soldier.</p> <p>4. Get your success stories out with television and print recruiting ads. Give an example of every day recruits telling their stories of how much their service molded them into more proud and productive individual. Real life stories and not phony actors. Do locally successful examples. Make the recognized as patriots.</p> <p>5. Yes. It should be mandatory. The public has to be educated on what this obligation can do in developing young citizens, male and female. It should be looked at as a sense of national pride and obligation to one's country. You will get a lot of resistance from wealthier parents who want everything in life but don't touch my precious child to help protect this country. If these younger generations do not learn the need for military stability then the country as a whole is lost. Service also levels the playing field for learning first hand diversity whether you like it or not.</p> <p>6. As stated above. Mandatory for gun ho warriors and not so warriors. You have to include married citizens as well. You must have a mandatory early age draft or you once again will lose out on a great number of potential recruits.</p> <p>7. Mandatory YES. Valuable YES. Feasible NO. At least not now under the rules of the wealthy and privileged. The billionaires offspring have no clue as to what it takes to build a democracy. They have to be shown. Somehow a sense of national pride has to be developed.</p> <p>My name is William Dodds and I am a Proud Vietnam Veteran.</p>

11/28/2019	<p>Hello. I was subject to the draft in 1972, with lottery number 21, so I have seen the process firsthand. I was in the service for about 3 years starting in 1972. My comments relate more to the process of the Selective Service than the discussion of should service be required or not. First, given all the data the government maintains, it is a question as to whether yet another database needs to be maintained. Given technology today, it is hard to imagine that the government could not extract a list of eligible citizens from all the rest of its databases in fairly short order if needed. Second, if this database is to continue, it should include all citizens of the appropriate age; excluding some classes of citizens is inconsistent with the attempt at inclusion for all citizens in all areas. I do feel that the discussion of mandatory service, exclusive of the database part, is a valuable thing in itself. Thank you.</p> <p>████████████████████</p>
11/29/2019	<p>I have long felt that we should institute a national policy ( law?) that mandates that EVERY American boy &amp; girl will serve the nation for two years upon reaching the age of 18 or upon graduating from high school whichever occurs last.</p> <p>That service can be in one of the 5 branches of the military, the Peace Corp., or a number of other NGO's to be listed after further study.</p> <p>It will give the youngsters a chance to mature before entering college or the workforce, will give them a far greater appreciation of their country and will give the nation an important force for good.</p> <p>I would encourage the Congress to get going on this as soon as practical.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Ross Rowland, Sackets Harbor, NY.</p>
11/29/2019	<p>I appreciate this opportunity to present my opinion on the Selective Service Draft. In 1966 I was drafted while enrolled in engineering at the Univ. of TN. I had been alternating sessions of school with sessions of part time work, for economic reasons (poor kid) and, frankly, to avoid the draft. In August 1966 my draft board clerk outfoxed me and I was drafted. At the Armed Services Entrance Station, I was tested, excelled in electronics, and was artfully snookered into a 4 yr. volunteer Regular Army enlistment with the ASA. Long story short: It was the best thing that ever happened to me, insofar as it built my self discipline, team appreciation, and self worth. I believe that a draft system should not only be preserved, but be mandatory for all citizens, male and female, with some refinements, such as (after mandatory basic training) Peace Corp, Park Service, or other public services, with periodic military "refreshers", such as the NG summer camps. I speak from the enlisted experience of 2 years in Vietnam, with a year in Washington DC between the assignments. In Nam I was awarded the BZ star and ARCOM medals (Tet &amp; Cambodia w/ 25th Inf). I say "awarded", because while being extremely proud of those medals, I look at the accomplishments of the other men I served with, and that forever gives me humility. After 4 yrs of service, I returned to civilian life, pursued my education on the GI bill, married, had a family, and pursued a successful career in electrical contracting. Along the way, I was able to open a few doors through the "Helmets to Hardhats" program. Not all the returning Vets I helped panned out, but most of them excelled. Now I'm retired, financially secure, good health for my age, and thankful that I was drafted. It's been said that adversity doesn't build character, it only reveals it. Whatever character I have was incubated in the conflict of the military.</p> <p>But, the MOST important reason for the draft is that it insures the concept of the Citizen soldier, as opposed to the all- professional volunteer soldier. A drafted soldier never 100% buys into the idea that he/she is a willing militant. That's important, as a moral reluctance to useless slaughter is needed to</p>

	<p>provide a balance. It's less likely the My Lai massacre would have been exposed if all the attackers had been "professional" lifetime career soldiers.</p> <p>SP5 Adams</p>
11/29/2019	<p>I believe that the Selection Service System should be abolished. I oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. I do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion. There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. SSS registration should be discontinued. It is especially egregious to have this program continue without a choice to declare oneself a conscientious objector. Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a driver's license, or to qualify for financial aid in advanced education or governmental employment. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to public education, health care, infrastructure, and fulfilling the needs of a modern society.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mary-Frances O'Connor Tucson, AZ</p>

11/29/2019	<p>In 6/ 1941, my father was drafted and was on the Bataan Death March and prisoner of the Japanese for 3.5 years, wounded 3 times - one was a bayonet wound. I was drafted 2/ 1966 in the Marines and was wounded twice in Vietnam. Selective Service is a vital component of the "citizen soldier's" duty as an American outlined in the US Constitution.</p> <p>Currently, the draft is being back-doored by the state's national guard. This is only OK during "emergencies" and on a temporary basis until the draft can raise and train a professional military force.</p> <p>The Draft has always been controversial because of the deferments offered. No president since GHW Bush has served in the full-time military. This made gave legitimacy to dodging the draft, a major cultural shift. The military is an integral part of the American ethos and everyone, male and female, should be eligible for mandatory conscription to offer rich/ poor, white/ black/ Hispanic a melting pot for equality. The military was the first to offer equal pay and diversity to everyone.</p> <p>I believe in Universal Service and mandated service after high school in the military, peace corps, job corps and national park service for 2 years. The State's National Guard belongs in the state for natural disasters and emergencies for wildfires, floods, hurricanes, etc. The NG is not trained or equipped for combat or long-term deployment. It not only puts neighbors and relatives together in combat but employers and employees. It's a disaster.</p> <p>I fear that because of ethnic differences and cultural changes few would now be eligible for the draft because of obesity, opioid addiction, diseases and the lack of education.</p> <p>My county in NY is 99% white/ non-Hispanic. The first time I ever saw a black person was in the Marines. Now, several of my best friends are black and Hispanic. Areas of the country are solid black and have very little positive exposure to whites or Hispanics.</p> <p>The only way to integrate America intended by the Constitution is through mandatory service for all: rich and poor, white and black. The Marine Corps has no color.</p> <p>As a caveat: Selective Service requires every male between 18-26 to register, even illegal immigrants. Citizenship cannot be offered to those who do not register. Registrars (18-26) must carry their draft card at all times. 54% of the military should be female. Believe it or not, females are equal to males. Who serves when all do not?</p> <p>Ronald A. Parsons  <div style="background-color: black; width: 70px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Glens Falls, NY <div style="background-color: black; width: 35px; height: 20px;"></div></p>
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11/29/2019	<p>Conscription should be continued for all genders but given 3 options to start:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Military Service</li> <li>2) VISTA</li> <li>3) college or vocational training</li> </ol> <p>If 3 is option then at conclusion of training / Education choices should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Military Service</li> <li>2) Peace Corp</li> <li>3) VISTA</li> </ol> <p>I was drafted and proudly served in VietNam.          But I believe the choice of Military only was too narrow.          I do not believe we would have had the numbers flee if there had been another way to serve our country.</p>
11/29/2019	<p>With regards to military service by all. I was told by a local recruiter that my name was going to be or/was posted as coming up on the draft and it may be best for me to join or if I wanted to wait and get drafted. The recruit came to my home to tell me it. Time frame was about October -November 1961. I joined and selected and qualified for the MOS I wanted.</p> <p>My feeling if it would help the commission is we should require all high school graduates, female and male to seriously consider joining the military for a period of 3-5 years. After the complete their tour, our country should give them ( as long as they qualify) a full four year free tuition to the college they are accepted and qualify. This would include trade schools for mechanics, plumbers, electricians, IT developers etc. Having had military training, these students would more than appreciate and be more mature as to what their goals may be. By them joining given a great incentive the military 'may' be able to better gage its needs.</p>
11/29/2019	<p>I was drafted in Aug 1967 and was assigned to MACV Team 56 in the delta in 1968 as a combat radio operator. I recently found out that my promotion to E-5 was declined by major ( An Academy Graduate of West Point) who despised draftees. I also discovered that there were quite a few officers who hated working with draftees. So I got out after 2 years duty. Got tired of being treated as a second class soldier. PJG</p>
11/30/2019	<p>Roe v Wade renders the military draft an unconstitutional violation of the right to privacy and personal autonomy. Using the force of law to compel a man or woman to use their body against their will is a violation of his or her physical autonomy and decisional freedom—which the Constitution does not allow.</p>
11/30/2019	<p>Feb. 21st, should universal service be mandatory?</p> <p>Yes. Nonpartisan patriotism has plummeted. Cory Booker is about the only presidential candidate I've heard who strongly advocates compassion and bipartisanship. In order to revive the sort of spirit embodied by the likes of John McCain, we need national service involving everyone. It could be the military, as I did, the Peace Corps, to which I applied but was not accepted, or many other national avenues such as Americorps/Vista or Red Cross, etc. Let us together build a nation of people devoted to the ideals of our Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.</p>
11/30/2019	<p>I BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A DRAFT AGAIN. I WAS DRAFTED IN 1966 AND MARRIED AND SENT TO VIETNAM. AS A YOUNG MAN YOU LEARN THE VALUES OF LIFE. YOUNG MEN DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WANT TO DO WITH THEIR LIFE, THE MILITARY GIVES THEM A BASE TO START AND HELP THEM GROW THEIR VALUES AND APPRECIATE LIFE.</p>

11/30/2019	The Selective Service should be abolished. Forced servitude, whatever the purpose, is still slavery. Additionally, not all people would be subject to the draft if it were to be reinstated: the rich kids (e.g., Donald Trump with his bone spurs) will always find a way out--it's the poor and working class who always bear the greatest costs, which often extend for a lifetime. If a war is not popular enough to maintain a volunteer military then it is not a war we should be involved in.
11/30/2019	<p>On Friday, I submit my story, about experiences in Vietnam. In part 2, I will talk about the usefulness of the DRAFT. The draft should be reinstated without any deferments. The draft should be fair and cut along all social lines. The draft should attempt to involve all 18 &amp; 19 year olds and should be for 2 years. Unless the person joins the military, the training after basic should not be longer than 8 weeks.</p> <p>Respectfully Bob Rabe</p>
11/30/2019	<p>Conscription is slavery, no matter by Barbary pirates or Yankees. It is immoral in all cases. As moral beings, we must oppose fed despots enslaving our young countrymen regardless of the color of cotton they might pick., Thus the answers to questions one and seven are, "No.", Questions two through five are consequently moot.</p> <p>The proper answer to question six is "YES!" Immediately dissolve the selective service. Never talk of it again.</p>