

QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS

The FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), section 555(d), provides that “not later than [December 5, 2017], the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, and such other Government officials, and such experts as the President shall designate . . . shall jointly transmit to the Commission on Military, National, and Public Service and Congress:

- Recommendations for the reform of the military selective service process; and
- Recommendations for the reform of military, national, and public service in connection with that process.”

To that end, the <Commission, DOD, someone else?> requests the following agencies respond to this survey <list the agencies > with the following definitions in mind.

- “Military Service” means active service in one of the uniformed services.
- “National Service” means civilian employment in Federal or State Government in a field in which the Nation and the public have critical needs.
- “Public Service” means civilian employment in any non-governmental capacity, including with private for-profit organizations and non-profit organizations (including with appropriate faith-based organizations), that pursues and enhances the common good and meets the needs of communities, the States, or the Nation in sectors related to security, health, care for the elderly, and other areas considered appropriate by the Commission.

Please note ALL responses should be coordinated with your Department’s front office for clearance purposes.

GENERAL AGENCY INFORMATION:

1. Name of Agency, Department, or Organization, including point of contact (POC) and email/telephone information.

Since this questionnaire seems to be intended for agencies other than the Selective Service System, “yes” or “no” answers do not adequately address SSS issues.

Selective Service System

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2. Does your Agency, Department, or Organization have a requirement in in statute or Executive Order to use Selective Service registration information as part making a determination regarding a benefit or for another reason tied to your agency mission? If yes, please describe and provide a citation or copy.

MSSA states that all men must register within 60 days of their 18th birthday (30 days prior, to 30 days after their 18th birthday).

The Selective Service System provides verification services for proof of registration to organizations such as the Department of Education (Pell Grants), Federal Agencies (for federal employment), Department of Justice (failure to register), Social Security, Department of Defense, etc.

5 U.S.C. 3802 (Registration)

32 C.F.R. 1615 (Administration of Registration)

E.O. 9979 § 611 (Duty and Responsibility to Register)

3. Does your Agency, Department, or Organization routinely check an applicant's Selective Service registration information as part of your agency mission – Federal Job training, citizenship, etc. If yes, please describe and provide the citation or a copy of your agency's policy or regulation.

The SSS maintains registration numbers and produces those numbers of proof that a man is in compliance with the requirement to register. SSS provides this information to other federal Departments and Agencies as part of their mission to determine eligibility for benefits linked to registration requirement. As a federal employer, SSS does check for SSS registration for all current and potential employees.

4. Does your Agency, Department, or Organization routinely check an applicant's public service history (as defined above) as part of your agency mission – Federal Job training, citizenship, etc. If yes, please describe and provide the citation or a copy of your agency's policy or regulation.

No.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE REFORM OF THE MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE PROCESS:

1. If your Agency, Department, or Organization existed during a period in which the Nation implemented a draft, what role, if any, did your Agency, Department, or Organization play in implementing the draft?

Historically, the SSS implemented and conducted the draft, including administering a classification system and alternative service program.

The Selective Service System would mobilize from our standby operating environment to a national structure, conduct the lottery, call drafted persons, and deliver untrained and trained manpower to the Department of Defense per the Military Selective Service Act. Additionally the Agency would initiate a program of alternative service and establish the local, district and national appeals board process, and implement a national alternative service employment network for inductees validated as conscientious objectors.

2. Does your Agency, Department, or Organization administer any benefits or programs for which participation/registration in the Military Selective Service Process is a prerequisite to eligibility or entitlement?

Other than eligibility for initial employment, no. However, several federal benefits hinge on compliance with the MSSA and registration with SSS such as eligibility for federal grant money for education, driver's license (in some states), and federal employment.

3. Would your Agency, Department, or Organization play a role in the implementation of a draft were one to be ordered today? If so, what role would it play?

Yes. The Selective Service will implement the draft process per the MSSA.

4. Would your Agency, Department, Organization, or your ability to execute your mission, be affected in any way in the event of a crisis that might warrant a draft? If so, what would be the effects?

While in a standby mode, the agency is significantly challenged to ensure full readiness and compliance across the spectrum of our responsibilities in a national emergency due to a small, dedicated staff in peacetime that addresses primarily registration and compliance responsibilities. The Agency assumes substantial risk in readiness, capability, and capacity to reinstitute the full complement of mobilization requirements should the President and Congress expect a national mobilization. The physical security and cyber protection of an expansive data base in expensive and a ubiquitous requirement that absorbs significant focus in steady state (peacetime) operations. Risk is assumed in the significant efforts required to meet DoD expectations for 100,000 inductees in the 205 days following notification of induction. Revival of the lottery, call and deliver process, and the program of alternative service, is truly a national decision that will require Congressional approval and support.

5. If your Agency, Department, or Organization plays a role in the current Military Selective Service Process OR would play a role in a draft, should your Agency's role be modified in any way?

The SSS conducts the draft in accordance with the MSSA. The mobilization timeline and agency SOP to conduct the draft may change in accordance with any new legislation affecting the MSSA. If the President and Congress order the conscription of "trained" manpower, the MSSA would have to be revised to order the registration of specified professions, licenses, and certifications. The SSS would then have to conduct a draft on that pool of registrants.

6. Does the current Military Selective Service Process pose any problems for your Agency, Department, or Organization? If yes, please describe.

No. However, there may need to be a more detailed definition for the term "National Service" that can help determine what type of service would be appropriate for "Alternative Service". Currently, the NDAA, the CFR and the MSSA have different definitions for "National Service". Depending on the outcome of the Cabinet recommendations, the agency may need to create a program of Alternative Service for those rare cases of inductees who are granted contentious objector status to National Service.

ENHANCING A GREATER ETHOS OF MILITARY, NATIONAL, OR PUBLIC SERVICE:

1. How does your Agency, Department, or Organization currently foster an ethos of military, national, and/or public service?

The regional offices within the SSS conducts public outreach with the support of the Office of Public & Intragovernmental Affairs at NHQ. These campaigns tend to appeal to the patriotism of young men, but ultimately capitalize on the warning of the potential loss of federal benefits.

2. What changes would your Agency, Department, or Organization make to current processes to engender a greater likelihood that those who influence youth (e.g., their parents, teachers, clergy, coaches) would recommend military, national, and/or public service?

In order to ensure a fair and equitable draft in a national emergency, it is imperative that as close to 100% of eligible men are in fact registered for Selective Service. One change that would be productive could be a widely expanded, interagency-driven national outreach that addresses all of society (registrants and influencers) with particular attention on a broad array of “At risk” youth, undocumented persons, and elements of society that are not impacted or influenced by automatic registration processes (Drivers License Legislation, Alaska Permanent fund, federal employment etc.) A fair and equitable induction process through a lottery system requires full participation by the nation’s eligible citizens. The Selective Service System should be funded and staffed at a level more consistent with its mobilization end strength, versus being reliant on contracted focal point outreach or marginalized and non-recurring investment strategies. Registration is the law; the nation should back this up by investing in citizenship activities, to include registration for Selective Service. There should be a consequence, other than loss of some federal benefits, for failure to register. That requires an investment in outreach.

3. How might the execution of a draft change your Agency’s, Department’s, or Organization’s ability to foster a greater ethos of military, national, and/or public service?

To make it more likely that those who influence youth would recommend military, national, and/or public service we could put links on our public website to national service/or public service organizations such as the corporation for national and community service (CNCS), and include their information our outreach programs for registration awareness.

Historically, involuntary induction into the Armed Forces has been controversial, has initiated public dissent and protest. With the agency’s more modern approach to claims, boards, and reclassification; the SSS can advertise a more fair and equitable system to call inductees to service. Current military conflicts have only involved a small portion of the U.S. population, the all-volunteer force. A modern-day draft, if marketed carefully and cleverly, could foster patriotism via the investment of every family in the nation. A greater involvement of the population to include National (nonmilitary) Service could reach every social demographic within the U.S.

4. What metrics does your Agency, Department, or Organization use to assess the current ethos of military, national, and/or public service?

The SSS uses registration compliance rates throughout the United States and the Territories down to the county level to assess an ethos for service. Although many factors can influence fluctuation of registration rates, low registration compliance rates may reflect elements of society that do not have an incentive to serve, or exposure to the value of National or public service. Although many young men fail to register because they are unaware of the requirement (high school dropouts, immigrants, isolated communities), some populations and communities may be averse to service by religious conviction, moral perspective, or social pressures.