



# The REGISTER

*Selective Service System*

THE REGISTER

May / June 2005

## Eric Benson Appointed Deputy Director of Selective Service

Eric Benson was appointed Deputy Director of the Selective Service System by Director William Chatfield, and sworn in on March 7, 2005. As Deputy Director, he is second in command of Selective Service.

From National Headquarters, Mr. Benson oversees the registration and mobilization programs, as well as a broad variety of administrative, operational, personnel, public affairs, and technology programs affecting hundreds of full- and part-time SSS employees and more than 10,000 volunteer SSS board members throughout the United States.



Previously, Mr. Benson was Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. During this assignment, he directed the operation and maintenance of 120 national cemeteries and managed other memorial-related programs. Additionally, he directed the development of policy and operating procedures for a full range of Veterans Affairs programs and services while serving as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Benson retired as a captain from the U.S. Navy in 2001, after 28 years of active duty flying fighter aircraft. He commanded Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA, the world's largest tactical air base. He logged more than 5,000 hours and over 1,000 carrier landings. A combat veteran, he flew 44 combat missions during *Operation Desert Storm*.

Mr. Benson is a 1973 graduate of Oklahoma State University where he earned a B.S. degree in agriculture and was selected as a distinguished alumnus in 2000. He earned master's degrees in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and from Salve Regina College. He is also a graduate of the Naval War College. [SSS](#)

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# Ernest Garcia Named Chief of Staff

Ernest E. Garcia reported for duty as Selective Service's Chief of Staff at National Headquarters on April 22, 2005. He is the senior staff officer who acts as the principal advisor to the Director and coordinates the activities of the various staff sections under the Office of the Director.

Before becoming Chief of Staff, Mr. Garcia served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. In August 2003, he was called to active duty in support of the global war on terrorism. During his activation, he served as an operations officer with the II Marine Expeditionary Forces at Camp Lejeune, NC; Director of Civil Affairs for the Combined Joint Task Force-Haiti; and, most recently, as a Civil Affairs officer for the 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit in Iraq. Mr. Garcia is also a *Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm* veteran.

Since July 2001, Mr. Garcia had served as the Kansas State Director of the U.S. Selective Service System.

Prior to active duty in 2003, Mr. Garcia served as the senior assistant to the city manager of Wichita, KS. He was previously Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of Research & Development Laboratories, a Department of Defense contractor.

In 1985, Mr. Garcia was nominated by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and confirmed as the 27<sup>th</sup> Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. In that capacity, he was the Senate's Chief Operating Officer and Chief Protocol Officer. As the Senate's chief law enforcement officer, Mr. Garcia also served as Chairman of the Capitol Police Board and member of the Senate Management Board.


Prior to his Senate experience, Mr. Garcia served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. He also worked in the White House as Special Assistant to President Reagan.

A highly decorated Marine reserve officer, Mr. Garcia's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, and



the U.S. Selective Service System's Distinguished Service Gold Medal.

Born in Garden City, KS, Mr. Garcia holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in sociology and public administration from the University of Kansas. He also completed Wichita State's University Center for Management Development MBA program.

Mr. Garcia and his wife, Amy, reside in the Washington, DC, area, with their two sons, James and Kenton; a third son, Phillip, is married and lives in Wichita. 

# Outreach Efforts Focus on SSS Registration

## March and April Outreach Trips

Selective Service aims its outreach efforts where they are needed the most. Demographic factors and the lack of driver's license laws that highlight the registration requirement, together, limit compliance in several states.

In March, personnel from the Public and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Mobilization directorates traveled west to Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. They filled their days meeting stakeholders who influence the male population Selective Service wants to reach.



*MAKING THE NEWS* — Oregon State Director Gary Lockwood answers questions from a CBS-affiliated station reporter on low registrations.

They filled their evenings meeting focus groups of young men. The outreach team made a similar visit in April to Boston, MA. Selective Service uses focus groups to gauge public awareness and the effectiveness of its communications.


Stakeholder meetings are sought especially with groups servicing minority or disadvantaged youths, or having a proven ability to reach large numbers of young men.

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## Director Visits Board Member Training Group



*TRAINING SESSION* — Left, Director William Chatfield (right) speaks with new board members at the Initial Board Member Training session.

On April 2, 2005, Director William Chatfield spoke at the Initial Board Member Training session held in McKinney, TX. Newly appointed board members are given eight hours of training, which includes lecture, videos, and role playing. Director Chatfield gave a briefing on the important role Selective Service and board members play in our national defense readiness. 



*NEW BOARD MEMBERS* — Director Chatfield (fourth from the left, front row) with new SSS board members from Texas.

# Photos From RFOs Deployed to Iraq


*EDITOR'S NOTE: To date, over 20 Reserve Force Officers (RFOs) have been deployed overseas. Many photos were passed along by an RFO deployed in Iraq. The photos on this page of various Baghdad sites and a Baghdad hotel, were taken in November and December 2004. It was noted that not all sites were totally destroyed by the war and the Iraqis are in the process of restoring their national landmarks. Lt. Col. Edward Strosky, serving Joint Area Support Group-Central, from the Buffalo Detachment, also forwarded photos taken March 18, 2005, of Iraq's version of the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" on the next page.*



# Monument of the Unknown Soldier

According to a Web-based encyclopedia, the origin of the “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” evolved from World War I. A huge number of soldiers died during this war without their remains being identified, which then led to the practice for nations to have a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that represented those unidentified soldiers. These tombs are also used to commemorate the unidentified fallen of later wars. In Iraq, such tomb, the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, was built in 1982, signifying one of the later monuments to be erected honoring a fallen unknown soldier.



The Iraqi Monument of the Unknown Soldier is said to be inspired by the glorification of a martyr from the Iran-Iraq war. Global Security’s Web site describes the monument as what looks like, to many, a flying saucer frozen in mid-flight, representing a traditional shield dropping from the dying grasp of an Iraqi warrior. The monument also houses an underground museum. The artificial hill is shaped like a low, truncated cone of 250 meters in diameter. It is surrounded by slanting girders of triangular section that are covered with marble. Red granite, stepped platforms of elliptical form lead to the dome and cubic sculpture. The steel flagpole is entirely covered with Murano glass panels fixed on stainless-steel arms and displaying the national flag colors. The cantilevered dome is 42 meters in diameter and follows an inclination of 12 degrees. Its external surface is clad with copper, while its inner surface features a soffit finished with pyramidal modules, alternating in steel and copper. The promenade is covered by a semi-circular, flat roof supported on a triangular steel bracing. The roof is covered with a copper sheet, and the soffit displays V-shaped panels of stainless steel and Murano glass. 




# Outreach Efforts

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At the meetings, outreach team members emphasize 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 refugee assistance groups, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and a variety of other ethnic groups, the Urban League, church-affiliated groups, Big Brother/Big Sister Associations, YMCAs, and other youth organizations. One of the highlights of the western trip was making the lead story of the 11 p.m. news on KOIN-TV, the CBS affiliate in Portland, OR.

SSS State Directors Billy G. McCoy of Nevada, Gary E. Lockwood of Oregon, and Verne M. Pierson of Washington, joined the outreach team on the western trip. In Boston, Lt. Col. Thomas Merigan, Jr., of Detachment MA1-4 represented Brig. Gen. John

M. Bissonnette, Massachusetts State Director, who was out of town. Selective Service state directors and regional staff frequently join national headquarters personnel at outreach events, and are encouraged to assist by maintaining the partnerships and developing others in their communities. Outreach trips are organized by Widmeyer Communications, the Agency's public affairs consulting firm. 



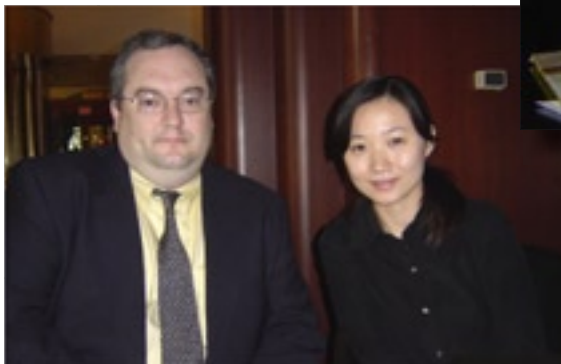
*TEST GROUP — Marty McGough, right, researcher for Widmeyer Communications, watches the reactions of young men to a Selective Service video during a Boston focus group meeting.*



*OUTREACH IN ACTION — Above, Nevada State Director Billy G. McCoy, center, explains the Selective Service mission to David Mansfield, right, of Youth with a Mission in Las Vegas. Marie Jones, left foreground, of Mobilization, and Anne Marek of Widmeyer Communications also attended the meeting.*



*EXPANDING PUBLIC AWARENESS — The "Alpha" outreach team in Boston was led by PIA's Pat Schuback, above, left, talking to Regala Gonzalez of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); and Widmeyer Communications' Scott Ward, left, pictured with Carrie Tang of World Chinese Daily.*



# Board Members Honored For Service

## Board Members Receive 20-Year Certificate of Appreciation

In April 2005, Kansas board member, Mr. Kip Kubin, and California board member, Mr. Glenn Sprott, were presented Certificate of Appreciation for 20 years of service with the Agency. [SSS](#)



*KANSAS – In the photo above, former Kansas State Director, currently Chief of Staff for Selective Service, Mr. Ernie Garcia, presented the 20-year Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Kip Kubin on April 2, 2005, during an Initial Board Member Training session held in Kansas City, MO. Mr. Kubin is shown here (holding his certificate) with his family in attendance, standing beside former State Director Garcia.*



*CALIFORNIA – On April 8, 2005, Mr. Glenn Sprott received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of serving 20 years as a board member from Maj. Reynaldo Pulido, a Reserve Force Officer for the CA 3-2 Detachment. Shown here, from left to right, are Maj. Pulido; Mr. Sprott; Mr. Sprott's son, Malcolm Sprott; and State Resource Volunteer Chief Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Paul Gedling.*

## Status of State Driver's License Legislation

### Did you know . . .

As of April 15, 2005, 34 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia have enacted driver's license laws supporting Selective Service registration. They are: (1) Enacted and Implemented — Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia; (2) Enacted But Not Yet Implemented — Maryland, Minnesota, and Montana. [SSS](#)



# New Employees to National Headquarters

## Marion Hines is new Supervisor of the Human Resources Division

Marion Hines was appointed as the Agency's Supervisor of Human Resources Division on March 20, 2005. In this capacity, Mr. Hines is principal advisor to the Agency's Human Resources Officer, Ms. Verona Ballard, and is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Human Resources Staff. He acts on all matters pertaining to procedural and processing of personnel actions to include providing expert human resources advisory service to mid-level and senior management; making recommendations on agency position management; performing position classifications, staffing and placement, training and development, and employee relations along with many other human resources related activities.

Previously, Mr. Hines served as a human resources specialist, principally responsible for staffing and classification at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at Bethesda, MD. In addition, Mr. Hines is an adjunct instructor at Park University, teaching undergraduate-level courses in the field of management and human resources management.



Mr. Hines is a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. His honorable service included 13 permanent party assignments that took him from coast to coast in the continental United States, as well as assignments in the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters.

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## Jennifer Burke is new to the Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Staff

New to Selective Service System is Jennifer Burke, who succeeds Alyce Teel-Burton in the Public and



*Mr. Dick Flahavan, Associate Director of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, instructs Jennifer Burke on answering the Agency's mailbox.*

Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate at National Headquarters. She comes to SSS from the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), the Navy's corporate laboratory located in southwest Washington, DC, with 22 years of Federal Service.

Jennifer was the editor of the in-house, biweekly newsletter for NRL, a position she held for over 10 years. She brings with her a vast knowledge of and experience in desktop publishing and visual/layout design, using various computer platforms.

She began working at the Laboratory in November 1984, as a computer programmer writing user-interface code for a series of fluid dynamics programs. Shortly thereafter, she worked in the Central Computing Facility as the electronic help desk "expert," and later transferred to the publications group coordinating the annual NRL

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## Selective Service's 2003 Annual Report Wins Top Communicator Award

On April 19, 2005, Selective Service was notified by Communicator Awards that the "Annual Report to Congress FY 2003" won the 2005 Crystal Award of Excellence in the annual report / government category. In addition, Selective Service's ad entry, "Citizens Helping Heroes – An Inaugural Event," won an Honorable Mention.


The Communicator Awards is an international awards competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communication field. Entries are judged by industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talents exceed a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry. Over 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries were submitted in the Communicator Awards 2005 Print Media competition.

The Communicator's prestigious Award of Excellence is presented to those entrants whose ability to communicate places them among the best in the field. About 13 percent of the entries won this award. The 2005 Crystal Award of Excellence winners are listed on



*WINNING TEAM — From left to right, Laurie Zaleski, Alyce Teel Burton, and Neal Dallmer during a press sheet inspection for the Annual Report to Congress.*


the Communicator's web site at [www.communicator-awards.com](http://www.communicator-awards.com).

Winners come from advertising and public relations agencies, corporate communications departments, educational institutions, government entities, designers, writers, video production professionals, broadcast and cable operations, and other businesses and individuals throughout the country. 

## New at National Headquarters

*(cont. from pg. 8)*

### Marion Hines —

Born in Huntsville, AL, Mr. Hines is a graduate of S.R. Butler High School. He completed an associate of arts degree in logistics management from the Community College of the Air Force; he is a graduate of Park University with a bachelor of science degree in management/human resources. He also earned a master's degree in management from Troy State University. 

### Jennifer Burke —

Fact Book, as well as a variety of brochures. Jennifer was detailed to the Public Affairs Office at the Lab to fill the position of the previous editor.

Jennifer graduated from George Washington University in 1984, with a bachelor of business administration degree in management information science.

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# New at National Headquarters (cont. from pg. 9)

Born with a severe hearing loss, Jennifer's residual hearing eventually dropped to the point where hearing aids were no longer sufficient. Jennifer was then implanted with a cochlear device in early 1990. She is deaf, but with her implant she can hear normal speech. In addition, she has to read lips to supplement her hearing and speaks very well. Jennifer converses easily on a one-on-one basis; however, she does not use the telephone to communicate. She uses e-mail to communicate with those outside of her office. You can contact Jennifer at Jennifer.Burke@sss.gov.

## Personal note from Jennifer Burke —

On March 21, 2005, I began my first day at National Headquarters after working at the Naval Research Laboratory for over 20 years. I am very excited to be working with fellow employees at Selective Service System, here at the Headquarters and in the region offices. Since one of my assignments is coordinating our in-house newsletter, I encourage everyone to share with me any stories or articles that would be of interest to other

Selective Service personnel, along with any accompanying photos or visuals. I plan to get our newsletter posted on our web site on a bimonthly basis. I am truly honored to be working with all of you at Selective Service. Everyone I have met to date has been very helpful and gracious in welcoming me aboard. [sss](#)

## Days ahead to remember:

**Memorial Day, May 30**

**Flag Day, June 14th**

**Father's Day, June 19**

**First Day of Summer, June 21**



*The **Register** is an unofficial publication of the Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209. Viewpoints herein do not represent official policy.*

***Editor:** Jennifer Burke, **Layout/Design:** Laurie Zaleski and Neal Dallmer.*

*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.*