



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

THE REGISTER

September / October 2005

Amended Oklahoma Driver's License Legislation: Into The Electronic Age

Deputy Director Eric Benson and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia traveled to Oklahoma for the governor's ceremonial signing of the latest amendment to Oklahoma's original driver's license legislation supporting Selective Service registration. The ceremony took place at the state capitol on August 11, 2005.

The original state driver's license legislation, which required that Oklahoma men 18 through 25 years old be registered with Selective Service to obtain a state driver's license or permit, was signed by former Governor of Oklahoma Frank Keating on June 1, 2000. On April 19, 2002, Governor Keating signed a rider to authorize the electronic transmission of data beginning on November 1, 2004. The implementation date was moved four months later to March 1, 2005, to resolve decryption problems.

The legislation was signed by Governor Brad Henry on June 14, 2005. A ceremonial signing was held on August 11 to give official credit to those involved for their hard work and dedication.

The amended legislation allows for the electronic transfer of data from the state's digital driver's license system. The transmission of the driver's license applicant data to the Data Management Center is accomplished electronically through an existing arrangement each state has with the data sharing system of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. (See side bar on page 4.)

Typical state driver's license legislation is simple and inexpensive to implement. It instructs the state's Department of Public Safety or Department of Motor Vehicle to include a consent statement on all applications or renewals for driver's permits, licenses, and identification cards. The statement tells the applicant that by submitting



CEREMONIAL SIGNING—Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry signs the amended driver's license legislation authorizing electronic transmission of the driver's license applicant data to Selective Service's Data Management Center. Selective Service participants include from left to right: Deputy Director Eric Benson, Oklahoma State Director Monte Barnhill, Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia, Region III Director Debby Bielanski. The bill's sponsor Oklahoma Representative Danny Morgan is standing behind Governor Henry.

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State of the Regions Conference

On July 27, 2005, directors from Region I, II, and III convened at National Headquarters for a “State of the Regions” conference, en route to the Reserve Officers Association National Convention in New York City representing the Hershey (Selective Service System) Chapter.

Each region director gave a briefing on the state of affairs within their respective region, followed by briefings from each of the directorates at National Headquarters: Mobilization, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Support Services, Financial Management, and Information Technology.



STATE OF THE REGIONS CONFERENCE—Region Directors and top officials at National Headquarters discussed the current state of affairs and future plans.

This meeting was the first in three years since the directors last met and exchanged information and ideas. It was also an opportunity to share with Director William Chatfield, Deputy Director Eric Benson, and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia, the challenges, accomplishments, initiatives, and goals within each region. At the same time, it was an opportunity for the directorates to talk about what they can do here at National Headquarters to support the regions, highlighting current and future programs, resources, and services.

The conference was a chance for Mobilization to paint a picture of field activation from an electronic mobilization program perspective – including discussions on the Time Phase Response and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. In addition, the Alternative Service Program was covered, with an explanation of contingency plans and public outreach initiatives.

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs brought forth a two-foot stack of audio, video, and print material for public and internal use. This stack was compared to an on-going speech-kit project to produce a simple CD and DVD with all the items digitized. On the Intergovernmental side, the latest updates on the Hill were addressed.

Support Services highlighted the efforts to streamline procedures and make good use of existing resources. Support Services discussed recent changes to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual regarding telework, a new pilot program for the “4-10” compressed work schedule, and the Agency’s first ever training plan and health services program. The new Headquarters Notice Form, new Retention Allowance Program, and the new government-wide identification card were also discussed. The Human Capital Survey, completed in June, is being analyzed and compared to the previous year’s survey. New credentials and badges are being supplied to senior management and officials. The recently instituted hiring freeze was discussed in relation to how the Agency will proceed in filling future vacancies.

Financial Management addressed the reserve force officer funding and staffing levels, local board member payment processing for initial board member training and continuation training, staffing and funding of state directors. In addition, e-travel was discussed.

IT reviewed its initiative to restructure and modernize all information systems on a single application platform.



REGION BRIEFINGS—From left to right: Scott Campbell, Information Technology; Ed Blackadar, Support Services (in the foreground); Director William Chatfield; and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia (in the background).


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DIRECTORATE BRIEFINGS—From left to right: Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia; Region III Director Debby Bielanski; Region I Director Tom White; and Region II Director Keith Scragg.

An integral part of this initiative is a central registrant processing portal now being developed to consolidate all separate systems and applications required during mobilization into a centralized web browser-based system.

Overall recommendations were given to ensure mobilization readiness and public awareness. With looming budget reductions across the board, all procedures, projects, and programs are being streamlined to be made more economical, effective, and efficient. In sum, all efforts are being made with a “can do” attitude to support the Agency’s mission, improve operations, and expand customer service. 

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the application, he is consenting to his registration with the Selective Service System, if so required by federal law.

In an effort to ensure compliance among young men, many states have enacted legislation which links Selective Service registration to possession of a driver’s license or state identification card. As a result of such legislation, in May 2002, the State of Delaware, which enacted the driver’s license legislation in 2000, became the first state to reach nearly 100% registration compliance since the Agency began compiling this data. In that same year, seven other states increased their compliance rates by 3% or more after enacting similar driver’s license legislation.

Maintaining high compliance rate is of concern to officials at Selective Service because it means that any future draft instituted by Congress and the president in a national emergency would be fair and equitable. Also, men who fail to register with Selective Service are not eligible for certain programs and benefits that Congress and 30 state legislatures have linked to the registration requirement. They include student loans and grants for college, most government jobs, job training, and all background security clearances. Additionally, immigrant men residing in the U.S. who failed to register when they are at least 18 years old, but not yet

26 years old, may be denied U.S. citizenship by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. State driver’s license legislation creates a win-win situation for all.

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Deputy Director Eric Benson (left) presents the Selective Service Eagle award to Governor Henry in recognition of substantial contribution to the Selective Service System. Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia (right of Mr. Benson) and Rep. Danny Morgan (behind Governor Henry) witness this special presentation.

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Following the ceremonial signing of the Oklahoma amendment, Deputy Director Benson, Chief of Staff Garcia, Region III Director Debby Bielanski, and Oklahoma State Director Monte Barnhill presented special recognition to those outside the Agency. The Selective



EAGLE PRESENTATION—At the conclusion of the ceremonial signing of the amended driver's license legislation, Selective Service presented the Eagle Award to commend substantial contribution to Selective Service by the governor and the legislative sponsor. Pictured from left to right: Governor Brad Henry, Deputy Director Eric Benson, Rep. Danny Morgan, and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia.

Service's Honored Patriot Award and the presentation of the Eagle was presented to Governor Brad Henry, as well as to Representative Danny Morgan, who sponsored the amendment; Representative John Nance, who sponsored the original legislation and then arranged for Rep. Morgan to attach the amendment; and Mr. Lonnie Jarman, director of the Driver Licensing Services of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. Mr. Jarman is regional chair of the Financial Responsibility and Insurance Committee of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which led the successful implementation of the electronic transmission of data. In addition, a mounted "Certificate of Appreciation" was presented to Ms. Eva Goeringer, Staff Assistant to Rep. Morgan.

After the event, Jay Marks of *The Oklahoman* interviewed Mr. Benson who reiterated the current administration's position on a military draft and noted that driver's license legislation "provides three-fourths of our registrants." SSS

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) developed and maintains a number of information systems facilitating the electronic exchange of information between jurisdictions, one of which is Selective Service Registration (SSR). The SSR application provides an automated means for motor vehicle agencies to transmit information on males who apply for or renew a driver's license, driver's permit, or identification card, and who qualify for Selective Service registration. The application consists of one transaction to Selective Service from a jurisdiction's motor vehicle agency. Selective Service returns a confirmation message if all data sent is correct or returns an error message if data is missing or in an incorrect format.

Selective Service asked for the creation of this application to facilitate the implementation of state laws that link acquiring a driver's license, renewal, or identification card to Selective Service registration. States are passing such laws because

many individuals who are required to register with Selective Service are unaware of the requirement. It is often after men pass the maximum age of 25 and attempt to collect certain benefits or seek federal employment that they are turned down based on their failure to register. Furthermore, over half of the jurisdictions have passed legislation requiring registration with Selective Service before individuals may collect benefits and qualify for employment with the state government.

The SSR was piloted by the State of Hawaii, after testing the application with AAMVA's Operations Department. It is now available to other jurisdictions.

If you have any questions regarding legislation your jurisdiction may have to pass to use this application, or any legal questions about this application, consult with Selective Service directly. SSS

Director Addresses American Legion

Director Chatfield Speaks of Devotion to Duty and Country

Director William Chatfield was a guest speaker at the 87th American Legion National Convention, held in Honolulu, HI, August 19 – 25, 2005. He spoke before an audience of 5,100 Legion members in attendance on the Selective Service System and its mission. He thanked the delegates for their patriotic service and strong support of the Selective Service System. From the podium, Mr. Chatfield said, “I am inspired and grateful for what the Legion and each of you have done, for what you contribute to defense preparedness today, and for what you will continue to do in the months and years ahead. ... I know our Agency can count on your continuing support. And, this is critical in today’s budget trimming climate. Keeping the Selective Service System in its current standby mode costs very little—about \$26 million per year. Maintaining a viable System is not a budget issue, it’s a national security issue, and it is a key component of ‘eternal vigilance.’” SSS



Director William Chatfield addresses the American Legion at the 87th American Legion National Convention held in Honolulu, HI.

The American Legion

The 2.7 million-member American Legion is the nation’s largest veterans organization today. They associate themselves together for the following purposes: “To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.” SSS



Pictured left to right are Region II Director Keith Scragg, Associate Director for Mobilization Willie Blanding, award recipient DiDonato; Region I Director Tom White, and Region III Director Debby Bielanski.

Jim DiDonato Presented Honored Patriot Award

Chief Warrant Officer Fourth Class (CW4) Jim DiDonato, a National Guardsman from Delaware’s Detachment 1-DE, was given the Agency’s Honored Patriot Award for his outstanding support in staffing the Selective Service System / Gen. Lewis B. Hershey Chapter, Reserve Officers Association, booth for several years. This booth, pictured left, was set up at the Reserve Officers Association convention in New York City, July 27 – 29, 2005. The Honored Patriot Award is a special Selective Service award honoring those Selective Service associates who demonstrate exemplary, courageous, and extraordinary performance in supporting the Selective Service System and its mission in the spirit of American patriotism. SSS

Debby Bielanski Named Region III Director

Debby Bielanski was appointed to the position of Region III Director on March 6, 2005. The official recognition of her appointment took place during a "state of the regions" briefing at National Headquarters, July 27, 2005. Prior to her appointment as Director, Mrs. Bielanski was the operations manager and acting director of Region III.

Mrs. Bielanski entered the U.S. Air Force in 1972, and served as an administrative officer, WAF (Women in the Air Force) squadron commander, and information officer. Later, she left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve and was the information officer for the 315th Military Airlift Wing Reserve.

In 1980, Mrs. Bielanski transferred to the Selective Service System and was an area office coordinator (AOC) in Chicago, IL. Then, she moved to Region II where she was the AOC for Charleston, SC, prior to moving to Colorado in 1984.

As a member of the Colorado Detachment 3-7, Mrs. Bielanski became the AOC for the Colorado Springs area, and served as the Detachment commander for five

years. She was promoted to the rank of colonel in June 1999, and retired from the Air Force Reserves in April 2003, with 30 years of service.



REGION III DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT – Director William Chatfield (right) and Associate Director Willie Blanding, Mobilization, flank Mrs. Debby Bielanski, the newly appointed Director of Region III, with the official certificate of appointment signed by the Director.

Mrs. Bielanski has a bachelor's of science degree in journalism and communication from the University of Florida, and a master's of science degree in education and counseling from Southern Illinois University. In addition, she is a graduate of the Air War College and Squadron Officer School.

Mrs. Bielanski is a recipient of the Joint Service Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Selective Service

Exceptional Service Award (Silver), and the Selective Service Meritorious Service Award (Bronze).

Mrs. Bielanski's husband, Allan, is a retired Air Force reservist and is a pilot for United Airlines. They have two sons: Chris, who is a pilot for Continental Express and married to Judy, also a pilot for Continental Express; Rob, who recently graduated from pilot training and will be flying F-16s for the Colorado Air National Guard. SSS

Former State Director Honored for Service

Selective Service Chief of Staff and former Kansas State Director Ernie Garcia was presented with the Selective Service Exceptional Service Award by Director William Chatfield at National Headquarters on July 27, 2005.

A highly decorated U.S. Marine Corps Reserve officer (Ret.), Mr. Garcia served as Kansas State Director from March 2002 to April 2005. The state director provides the liaison between the Selective Service System and the state governor's office and represents the governor and the Director of Selective Service on Selective Service matters within the state.

On April 22, 2005, Mr. Garcia joined the executive office as Chief of Staff at National Headquarters, where he acts as the principal advisor to the Director and Deputy Director. In addition, he coordinates the activities of the various staff sections under the Office of the Director.

Mr. Garcia was commended for giving his time and talents supporting all Selective Service programs while he served as Kansas State Director. He was noted for having met the challenges of the reduction in personnel and significantly increased requirements. The award

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Former State Director Honored - continued from previous page

citation explains, "...his exceptional ability to lead and motivate resulted in Kansas exceeding all Agency goals for readiness, training, and registration improvement."

Mr. Garcia was instrumental in the passage of state legislation requiring Kansas' men under age 26 to be registered with Selective Service as a precondition for eligibility for a state driver's license. This, in turn, resulted in Kansas registration compliance rate of 99 percent.

The citation concludes, "...Colonel Garcia's foresight and continued, dedicated commitment to the people of Kansas and the defense of his country will qualify Kansas' young men for benefits associated with Selective Service registration. These distinctive accomplishments by Colonel Garcia in service to his country culminate an outstanding career and reflect great credit upon himself, the State of Kansas, the Selective Service System, and the United States of America."

Mr. Garcia received a standing ovation by his colleagues and staff. Director Chatfield and Deputy Director Eric Benson thanked Mr. Garcia for a job well done. **SSS**



Director William Chatfield (right) presents the framed Selective Service Exceptional Service Award certificate and medal to former Kansas State Director Ernie Garcia, who is now the Selective Service Chief of Staff at National Headquarters.

Capt. Brown Presented Meritorious Service Award

During a meeting held at National Headquarters, July 7, 2005, Director William Chatfield presented the Selective Service Meritorious Service Award to Capt. Maurice Brown, a U.S. Marine Corps program officer from the Pentagon's Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies Office. He was nominated by Sue Cappo, Deputy Director of the Data Management Center.

The Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies (JAMRS) is an official Department of Defense program for joint marketing communications and market research and studies. JAMRS public programs help broaden people's understanding of Military Service as a career option, while JAMRS internal government programs help bolster the

effectiveness of all the Services' recruiting and retention efforts.



Director William Chatfield presents the Selective Service Meritorious Service Award certificate to Capt. Maurice Brown.

Ms. Cappo explained, "I nominated him because he shows so much interest in the SSS and our business. He truly seemed to care about what we do and why we do it."

Capt. Brown was noted in the citation as having "...distinguished himself by outstanding and continuing support to the Selective Service System from June 2001 through June 2005.

"He is one of the most dedicated people I have ever worked with at JAMRS. He always had the Services best interests at heart and wanted to give them the best information he could," Ms. Cappo added. **SSS**

Members of the Buddhist Association Visit NHO

Two members from a Buddhist association visited National Headquarters, July 5, 2005. Mr. Dick Flahavan, Associate Director of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Ms. Cassandra Costley, head of the Alternative Service Division, met with the guests. This was the first time Buddhists met with Selective Service officials at National Headquarters.

Mr. Flahavan briefed the Buddhists on the Selective Service System, its mission, and the current Administration's position regarding the draft. He added that rumors of dates when a draft was supposed to start have passed, and Congress' latest vote on a bill to reinstate a military draft was defeated, 402 to two.

Ms. Costley explained that conscientious objectors who are opposed to serving in the military will be placed in the Selective Service Alternative Service Program. She stated that this program matches conscientious objectors with local employers.

Many types of jobs are available, however the job must be deemed to make a meaningful contribution to the maintenance of the national health, safety, and interest. Examples of alternative service include jobs in conservation, caring for the very young or very old, education, and health.



Mr. Dick Flahavan (right), Associate Director of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Mr. Bill Aiken, Director of Public Affairs for the Soka Gakkai International – USA, a Buddhist association located in Washington, D.C.

Soka Gakkai International (SGI)-USA is an American Buddhist association that promotes world peace and individual happiness based on the teachings of the Nichiren school of Mahayana Buddhism. The members reflect a cross section of America's diverse society, representing a broad range of ethnic and social backgrounds. [SSS](#)


Celebrating Til Slagle's Birthday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY—The Executive Office at National Headquarters celebrated Til Slagle's birthday July 8, 2005. Ms. Slagle is the staff assistant for the Director of the Selective Service System. Fellow employees were invited for a cake-and-coffee social in honor of her "special" day. Director William Chatfield (left) and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia enjoyed a moment with Ms. Slagle. [SSS](#)

Postal Service Exhibit to Register Men

New Selective Service Registration Exhibits Designed to Draw Attention of Postal Officials

New exhibit boards were designed to draw postal service officials to the Selective Service booth at a recent Postal Service convention. Marie Jones, a program analyst in Mobilization's Call and Deliver Division, stands beside the two exhibit boards informing the U.S. Postal Service that they play an important role in helping young men register with Selective Service, comply with federal law, and stay eligible for college loans and grants, government jobs, job training, and U.S. citizenship for immigrants. At the booth, Ms. Jones goes over the Selective Service materials available to the U.S. Postal Service and explains how to order Selective Service items from the U.S. Postal Service's Topeka, KS, Materiel Distribution Center. 




NHQ Welcomes Sheila Taylor Aboard

When you call the Deputy Director or Chief of Staff of Selective Service, the friendly voice who answers the phone belongs to Sheila Taylor, the newest member of the Selective Service staff at National Headquarters. She came aboard on June 13, 2005, to fill the position of the executive secretary for the Deputy Director.

Ms. Taylor brings nine years of experience as an executive secretary at Maryland Occupational Safety

and Health (MOSH). During her tenure at MOSH, she was the coordinator for the regional secretaries, as well as for those secretaries at its headquarters. Ms. Taylor developed various databases for the regional secretaries. In addition, she developed and maintained the Maryland database on smoking and worked with Farm Labor, Maryland Center for Environmental Training, and Southern Maryland College which provided training and educational assistance.

Before working at MOSH, Ms. Taylor worked within her family's masonry business for 14 years. They do home-improvements jobs, which include the laying of stone, brick, block work, and flagstone walkways and building patios and fireplaces.

A graduate of Thomas Stone High School, MD, Ms. Taylor has college training in computers. She was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in White Plaines, MD. Ms. Taylor currently lives in Calvert County, MD, and has three children: Tiffany, Joshua, and April. This year, Ms. Taylor will be a grandmother of three girls Tatiana, Karissa, and Abriella, who is expected to make her appearance the day after Thanksgiving. 



Employees Recognized for over 200 Combined Years of Federal Service

On June 15, 2005, National Headquarters personnel convened for an all-hands meeting called by Director William Chatfield. Every seat was filled and others stood along the back wall of the room. The sound of casual chatter between fellow co-workers created a buzz that hovered in the air. Before too long, the buzz slowly quieted, Deputy Director Eric Benson and Chief of Staff Ernie Garcia had entered the room followed by the Director.

Director Chatfield greeted the Agency employees and gave a brief report on the latest news regarding the Selective Service System. Then, he moved on to acknowledge and commend those employees within National Headquarters who have served many years in the Federal Government. Beginning with the 15-years-of-service recognition, Tracey Holloway, of Information Technology, was called to the front of the room by Director Chatfield. He read aloud the Length of Service Recognition Award citation and presented her with the certificate. Next, a 25-year award was presented to Mr. Carlo Verdino, Special Assistant to the Office of the Director, Inspector General, and EEO Officer. The 30-year club included Mr. Edward

Bonnie Anderson has worked nearly half of her federal career with the Selective Service System. She came to Selective Service in January 1989, from the Department of Health and Human Services. She is known by many co-workers as a “dedicated, efficient employee who always has a helping hand to anyone in need.”

Sue Durrance is noted among those at National Headquarters as a truly dedicated and remarkable co-worker. She has been with the agency for many years and has gained a vast knowledge base during her tenure. When asked a question, Ms. Durrance gladly stops to take the time to share her experience and understanding of the Agency’s operations. With only four months to go, she will be retiring from Selective Service.

Ed Blackadar came to the Agency in April 2004, from the U.S. Coast Guard where he was involved in running the claims shop for the \$1 billion Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Prior to that, Mr. Blackadar completed a 22½-year career with the Coast Guard, focusing on maritime search and rescue, law enforcement, and aids to navigation, as well as oil spill response and running



Blackadar, Associate Director of Support Services; Ms. Verona Ballard, Head of the Human Resources Division; and Ms. Vanessa Allen, of Information Technology’s Office Automation Systems Division. Ms. Sue Durrance, of Mobilization’s Reclassify Division, was the recipient of the 35-year recognition certificate. Ms. Bonnie Anderson of Support Services’ Logistics Division was presented with the 40-year recognition award. In addition, Ms. Anderson received a standing ovation upon the Director’s presentation of the Selective Service Eagle Award. The Eagle is awarded by the Director to an Agency employee or citizen who has made a substantial contribution to Selective Service.


the National Response Center, the only nation-wide Federal 911 for environmental incident reporting. Since joining Selective Service, Mr. Blackadar stated that he has enjoyed the challenges that spring up each day. “In the human resources and logistics fields, there is never an end to the issues that need resolution. Whether it’s updating old processes and improving procedures or finding new ways to save time and money, I am ‘still having fun’ here at SSS,” he said.

Verona Ballard joined the Selective Service System in November 1999 to fill the position of manager of Human Resources. She had served 15 years in various

human resources positions within the U.S. Department of State, prior to her coming to Selective Service. Ms. Ballard notes that since she has been in the field of human resources for the majority of her career, it is one area of her work that gives her the greatest sense of accomplishment. She added, “It takes a special kind of person with lots of understanding, commitment, determination, and ‘tough toes’ to carry out the day-to-day operations of human resources work. It feels good when we can, among other things, meet the needs of managers and ensure that all employees receive the pay and benefits that they are entitled.”

Ms. Vanessa Allen came to work with Selective Service in 1992, after a tour of excepted service with the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution under Chief Justice Warren Burger. She initially reported to work in the Alexandria office before the Information Technology Directorate moved to National Headquarters. Ms. Allen said, “The computer gurus were very friendly and team players. They showed me the ropes and heaven must be like this. SSS has a special place in my heart. It’s my ‘hero’

my new assignment.” A native of Benevento, Italy, Mr. Verdino grew up in Queens, New York. He is fluent in Italian and also speaks Spanish.

Tracey Holloway was 19 when she first started working at Selective Service, having briefly worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Ms. Holloway said, “What I love most about National Headquarters is being able to learn something new each day that will help me to advance further in my career, as well as the friendships that I have forged over the years with so many pleasant people.” 



because I was unemployed and they opened up the doors of employment to me. For that, I am grateful.”

Since joining Selective Service in May 1997, Carlo Verdino has served as the Agency’s special assistant to the Director, Inspector General liaison, Equal Employment Opportunity director, and chief financial officer. Mr. Verdino previously worked more than 22 years in financial management, personnel and manpower management, auditing, management analysis, and accounting positions with federal and state governments. Mr. Verdino said, “I enjoy working with the new administration and the challenges I face in



In Memoriam

Richard Thomas McKeon, Jr.

Lt Col. Richard T. McKeon, Jr., commander of Selective Service's New Hampshire National Detachment 1NH, died of a massive heart attack, July 28, 2005. He was 52 years old.

Lt. Col. Rich McKeon was assigned to Selective Service on August 5, 2002. As Selective Service officer and detachment commander, he was responsible for all aspects of selecting, recruiting, training, and managing of numerous uncompensated, presidential-appointed local board members, senior enlisted personnel serving as area office augmentees, and assigned officers in the State of New Hampshire. He was responsible to assume command and total responsibility for the establishment of geographically defined area offices in the event of mobilization or national emergency. He served as the primary liaison with each separate Armed Service, federal, state and local authorities. Within 24 hours of being mobilized, he was to initiate operations in providing untrained manpower or qualified medical professionals to the Department of Defense. He would manage and direct board member staffing and all board member continuation training programs in area offices covered by his detachment. In coordination with Region I Headquarters, as the detachment commander, he would plan and conduct initial board member training and continuation training for local and district appeal board members. He would coordinate,


schedule, and manage allocated annual training and drill time for Selective Service mission support activities in support of board member recruitment and training.

Born July 5, 1953, in Yonkers, NY, Lt. Col. McKeon was the son of the late Richard T. and Marion McKeon. He graduated from Nyack High School in New York, in 1971, and became an Eagle Scout. He was also a Boy Scout Master for many years.

Lt. Col. McKeon was an avid runner and ran 35 marathons. He was a coach for cross-country at Portsmouth Christian Academy and also coached track at Oyster River High School.

He worked in research and development for major shoe companies, Fila, Converse, New Balance, and Saucony. He was recently a teacher Portsmouth Christian Academy.

He served in the Air Force and had served with the Army National Guard for 29 years.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley McKeon, and their son and daughter, Christopher and Julie McKeon of Lee, NH, and a step-brother and wife and a step-sister, Thomas and Cathy Collins and Janet Hosking, of NY. 



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.